

Fountain Valley School District
Superintendent's Office

ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

10055 Slater Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

December 8, 2011

MINUTES

President Judy Edwards called the annual organizational meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:30pm. **CALL TO ORDER**

The following board members were present: **ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Judy Edwards	President
Mr. Ian Collins	President Pro Tem
Christine Allcorn	Clerk
Sandra Crandall	Member
Jimmy Templin	Member

Motion: Mr. Collins moved to approve the meeting agenda. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Second: Mrs. Allcorn

Vote: 5-0

There were no requests to address the Board prior to closed session. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Edwards announced that the Board would retire into Closed Session. No action was anticipated. The following would be addressed: **CLOSED SESSION**

- Personnel Matters: *Government Code 54957 and 54957.1*
Appointment/Assignment/Promotion of employees; employee discipline/dismissal/release; evaluation of employee performance; complaints/charges against an employee; other personnel matters.
- Negotiations: *Government Code 54957.6*
Update and review of negotiations with the FVEA and CSEA Bargaining Units with the Board's designated representative, Mrs. Cathie Abdel.

The public portion of the meeting resumed at 7:03pm.
Mrs. Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

In December 2011, the District is losing an exceptional manager to retirement. Mr. McMahon was joined by Mrs. Edwards and Dr. Ecker in celebrating Mrs. Dedra Norman’s nearly 18 years of service to the children and staff of the Fountain Valley School District and over 35 years as an educator. They all wished her a wonderful retirement.

RECOGNITION OF
RETIRING
ADMINISTRATOR
DIRECTOR, FISCAL
SERVICES, DEDRA
NORMAN

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Trustees conducted a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public input on the proposed 2011-12 agreement between the Fountain Valley School District and Fountain Valley Education Association. Public input was welcomed. There were no requests to address the Board and the public hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED
CERTIFICATED
AGREEMENT FOR 2011-
12

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Templin enjoyed the Fresh and Easy fundraiser. He also attended the CSBA Annual Education Conference and noted that it was an amazing experience. He noted that he attended a session focusing on the search process for shopping for a new superintendent and explained that the process for picking a superintendent will be a big process and one that he is already nervous about. He thanked those that invited him into their homes and emailed to share their opinions on school closure noting that up until tonight, this topic has been the focus of what he has been doing.

BOARD REPORTS AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Allcorn enjoyed attending the CSBA Annual Education Conference in San Diego for one night, attending the State of the State and final closing session. She noted the guarded optimism about the budget; that perhaps cuts would be only to transportation funds which would affect the Fountain Valley School District less. She noted though that what she walked away with this year is that this year is bad and next year is worse. The whole system of funding schools is so deeply flawed that it has kept us from getting funds we otherwise would have received, noting that one side of the legislature wants no new taxes while the other side doesn’t want to touch public services. She explained that no one is advocating for public education specifically and so we have taken a higher percentage of the cuts than any others. She noted that she was glad that she was able to attend some of the conference this year.

Mr. Collins enjoyed the Newland play, *Turkeys Go on Strike*, noting that it was funny and clever. He also attended the ACSA superintendents' workshop on finance, noting that it was interesting to talk to the aspiring superintendents and listen to the presenter. He noted that the Children's Task Force for the City of Huntington Beach is partnering with Barnes and Noble and accepting donations for education. He explained that the committee was asked to distribute these donations to public schools in Huntington Beach and they were very pleased with the results. He also enjoyed the CSBA conference including the President's workshop. He thought the general session speakers were all inspirational and enjoyed the Navy Seals base visit. He also attended the Corporate Committee meeting for the Educational Foundation and noted the new ideas and new ways to do things. He also met with Dr. Ecker and Mr. McMahon regarding the boundaries. And he commended the district on its recognition as the #8 workplace in the Top Workplaces program conducted by the *Orange County Register*.

Mrs. Crandall congratulated Ms. Silavs for the OCDE grant awarded to the district for administrator training. She also commended Mrs. Edwards for her service as President this year and thanked her for her guidance. And she commended the district for achieving the #8 position in the Top Workplaces program. She attended the CSBA Annual Education Conference and noted that with 154 workshops offered, it was difficult to choose but that she was able to attend 9, ranging from professional development to new ways to introduce instruction, win-win bargaining and what constitutes an effective board. She enjoyed the GATE training at the district presented by Dr. Krough, noting that 25 teachers attended. She noted that the materials presented are realistic within the demands of teacher's day but still thought provoking. She also enjoyed the Tamura tour with visiting Chinese educators and commended Ms. Adams for putting together a highly organized day and maximized visit.

Mrs. Edwards enjoyed attending the CSBA Annual Education Conference in San Diego and the Delegate Assembly. She noted the continued doom and gloom over the State budget but also that she enjoyed the workshops offered on special education, particularly autism.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

3 members of the Moiola community addressed the Board of Trustees on the possible closure of Moiola School.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Collins moved to approve Item 3A Close one school effective July 1, 2012.

Second: Mrs. Allcorn

RECOMMENDATION
OF SCHOOL
BOUNDARY AND
CLOSURE
COMMITTEE

Mr. Templin noted that before voting he wanted to share some thoughts. He noted that he struggled throughout this process, as the thought of closing a school didn't feel right. He struggled with such issues as to whether or not we cut enough, unique learners, CDE guidelines, etc. But he also noted that throughout all this, he has learned a lot about the district, himself and the amazing families in district. He noted being reminded to think of the 86% of the community without students in our schools and explained that while he appreciates this, he noted for him it is more about the 6200 students that we serve and doing what is best for them. To those who have emailed him, the families who have allowed him to meet with them, to his nephews who attend Moiola, he expressed that he is truly sorry, and as much as it pains him to say, as he does feel that closing Moiola at this time is the best thing to do for this great district. He explained that while he is at peace with this decision, we will all miss Moiola and will need to support one another as we prepare for it to close. He explained his plan in the event that Moiola does close; he will continue to research the K-8 option or an alternative 6-8 option and will closely monitor the effect of the closure, noting that if we are wrong in this decision and enrollment spikes, he will actively look to reopen the campus. He supports those students and families impacted, noting his desire to take an active role in seeing how to best use the land with the least effect to the surrounding homes.

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mrs. Edwards move to approve Item 3B Pursuant to the school Boundary and Closure Committee's recommendation, Fred Moiola School will be the school closed.

Second: Mr. Collins

Mrs. Crandall noted that here we are, after a committee of 20 individuals invested 270 hours to bring the Board facts as to whether or not to close a school, and if so, which school. She

noted that their time, effort and thoughtfulness are most appreciated. She also noted that 27 families provided public comments, and 68 emails were received, all allowing the public to provide their input. She noted that the decorum of communications was very respectful, noting that she expected nothing less of the families of Moiola. She explained that easy decisions are made when alternatives represent a right premise versus a wrong premise. She explained that this is a challenging decision because it is a moral dilemma; this is a right versus right dilemma. She explained that it is right that each of our sites expect the effective delivery of instruction done by nurturing and caring professionals in a safe and welcoming environment. Those that have given their input found these characteristics at Moiola School. She noted though that it is also right of our school communities and community at large to expect efficient operations of schools, for board members to consider all of the facts and to be good stewards of revenues. She noted that she was privileged to work shoulder to shoulder with the staff at Moiola for the last 19 years of her career and was honored to serve the extraordinary parents and students of Moiola over all of those years. She also noted that many of her fellow board members may not even know that her oldest grandson also attends Moiola and so in a sense, she could be on the other side of the dais. She explained that as she comes to her final decision, it is with a conscious sense of vision for our district and knowledge that right versus right is at the heart of the toughest decisions we have to make.

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mrs. Crandall moved to approve Item 3C File a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the closure of Fred Moiola School.

Second: Mrs. Allcorn

Vote: 5-0

Mrs. Edwards noted that this is one of the toughest things that the Board has had to do.

Motion: Mrs. Allcorn moved to nominate Ian Collins for President for 2012.

ELECTION OF
BOARD PRESIDENT
FOR 2012

Second: Mr. Templin

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mrs. Crandall moved to nominate Christine Allcorn for President Pro Tem for 2012.

ELECTION OF
PRESIDENT PRO TEM
FOR 2012

Second: Mrs. Edwards

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Templin moved to nominate Mrs. Crandall for Board Clerk for 2012.

ELECTION OF
BOARD CLERK FOR
2012

Second: Mr. Collins

Vote: 5-0

Mrs. Edwards opened for discussion the selection of representatives to County committees and councils and District committees. The board discussed and reached consensus on the following selections:

SELECTION OF
REPRESENTATIVES
TO COUNTY
COMMITTEES AND
COUNCILS AND
DISTRICT
COMMITTEES

1. Representative to the Nominating Committee on School District Organization:
Mr. Templin and Mr. Collins as alternate.
2. Representative to the Orange County School Boards' Association Political Action Committee:
Mrs. Crandall and Mr. Templin as alternate.
3. Representative to the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation:
Mrs. Crandall.
4. Representative to the Ad Hoc Committee for the City of Fountain Valley:
Mr. Collins and Mrs. Crandall as alternate.
5. Representative to the Quarterly Meeting with the City of Huntington Beach:
Mr. Collins.
6. Representative to the ACE Committee:
Mrs. Allcorn with Mr. Templin as alternate.
7. Representative to the District Audit Committee:
Mrs. Crandall with Mrs. Edwards as alternate.

- 8. Representative to the Superintendent Parent Council:
Mrs. Edwards with Mr. Collins as alternate.
- 9. Representative to the Outstanding Service Award Committee:
Mr. Templin with Mrs. Allcorn as alternate.
- 10. Representative to the Fountain Valley Education Committee
(FV Chamber of Commerce):
Mrs. Crandall.

Motion: Mr. Collins moved to approve the selection of representatives to County committees and councils and District committees.

Second: Mr. Templin

Vote: 5-0

After discussion, the Board reached consensus on the proposed Board meeting dates with the following changes: the March meeting will be scheduled for March 8th instead of March 15th; the July meeting will be scheduled for July 12th instead of July 26th; and the October meeting will be scheduled for October 18th instead of October 11th.

SELECTION OF
BOARD MEETING
DATES FOR 2012

Motion: Mr. Templin moved to approve the 2011 Board Calendar of board meeting dates.

Second: Mr. Collins

Vote: 5-0

After discussion, the Board agreed that there were no names it was interested in submitting as nominations to the CSBA Delegate Assembly and so, no action was taken regarding Item 9: CSBA Delegate Assembly Nominations.

CSBA DELEGATE
ASSEMBLY
NOMINATIONS

Mr. Collins asked Mr. McMahon for a summary explanation of Item 10K: Resolution 2012-12: Refinance of Certain Certificates of Participation. Mr. McMahon explained that there are two ways for a district to finance long term debt one being a General Obligation (GO) bond which requires voter approval to tax themselves. The basis of paying back this debt is the tax basis that voters have approved. The other way is a Certificate of Participation (COP), which is what the district did in 2004 to

CONSENT
CALENDAR/
ROUTINE ITEMS OF
BUSINESS

finance the modernization of our schools. The district received a portion of the money from the State for modernization and had to borrow the rest to finish the projects. As districts only receive funding on an annual basis, there is Education Code that states a district cannot take on debt any longer than their approved budget is for; ours being a yearlong budget, we cannot take on debt that isn't voter approved for more than one year. The way allowed for municipalities to get around this is a lease agreement where a separate entity owns the debt and we agree to pay them back, while also putting up something as collateral. Once the debt is paid back, we get back the collateral, in our case, Fulton Middle School. COPs are not voter debt and are paid from the regular income that the district gets every year and are therefore an obligation of the budget on an annual basis. We currently have a 3.5% interest rate on our 2004 COP and will be refinancing to 1.3% interest rate; paying off the old loans and refinancing at a lower rate while saving the district money in the process. There is no lengthening of the time of debt, and lease payments will be reduced for the next two years. He noted that this is the best arrangement and if the district wants to pay off the debt at the end of the 3 years, we can do so. Mrs. Crandall noted that when we looked at \$12,000 service fees several months ago, Mr. McMahon worked hard to save the district an additional \$3200 on these service fees as well.

Motion: Mr. Collins moved to approve the Consent Calendar.

Second: Mrs. Allcorn

Vote: 5-0

The Consent Calendar included:

- Board Meeting Minutes from November 17th regular meeting
- Personnel Items (Employment Functions, Workshops/Conferences, and Consultants)
- Donations
- Warrants
- Purchase Order Listing
- Budget Transfers
- Approval of Renewal of Annual Membership in the Fountain Valley Rotary Club in the amount of \$600
- Approval of Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement between FVSD and FVEA
- Approval of Special Education Settlement Agreement

- Approval of Confidential Settlement Agreement
- Adoption of Resolution 2012-12: Refinancing of Certain Certificates of Participation
- Approval of Agreement with Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Company, LLP.
- Approval of 2011-12 First Interim Report
- Approval of Administrator Training Program
- Approval of Consultant Agreement with Evalumetrics
- Non-public Agency Contracts

Non-Public School/Agency	100% Contract Cost	Effective Dates
Cornerstone Therapies	\$200	2/1/11 to 2/28/11
Robin Lee Morris, PsyD., LMFT	\$3,300	9/6/11 to 6/30/12
HealthBridge Children’s Hospital	\$1,300	11/9/11 to 6/30/12
Oralingua School for the Hearing Impaired	\$42,501.80	2/3/11 to 6/15/12

NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Mrs. Allcorn Noted that she is proud of everyone on the Board and that it is a privilege to work with them. She noted that in good times, it is easy to work as a board but on tough issues, we show who we are. She noted her appreciation of the sincere comments from Mrs. Crandall and Mr. Templin tonight, and her understanding of how personal and truly difficult this was. She expressed her hope that we were able to share with our constituents that this was not personal, not rushed into, and all of our hearts are broken for the families and the community. She noted that she is proud and feels blessed to be a part of this group.

Mr. Collins Noted that all of the board members did their due diligence regarding this decision and it was not done lightly. He noted that alternate funding has been looked at deeply and that it is not easy to make the decision to close a school. He explained that some on the committee say that we should close two schools. He noted in his experience, kids adjust quickly to change, while parents do not. He explained that although a hard decision, he believes that it is one that we needed to come to. He expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Edwards for the great leadership and mentoring she has shown, noting that her leadership of all of the

stakeholders will not go unnoticed. He noted his hope that he can continue with the same dedication that she has shown. He explained that in governance, each of us must come to care about everyone else's children and recognize that the welfare of our children and grandchildren is linked to that of all other children. He explained that this is not only a great place to live, but also an amazing school district. He wished everyone a happy holiday.

- Mrs. Edwards Passed the gavel to Mr. Collins, noting that while it is not the best of times, under his guidance it will still be a good year. She thanked the board noting that it has been a difficult year, the toughest year that she has ever experienced. She explained that the students of the district are all our kids and we went through rough times with our own kids as parents in the past and therefore understand where the parents are coming from. She explained that this is not an easy job but the board has to think of all 6200 students of the district.
- Dr. Ecker Congratulated Mrs. Edwards, agreeing with Mr. Collins and noted on behalf of the Board that it has been a difficult year and one of the toughest decisions a board can make but that he can't think of better leader than Mrs. Edwards. He thanked her for her leadership and the chance for all of us to lean on her veteran shoulders.
- Dr. Ecker Congratulated Mr. Collins and our newly elected officers noting his belief that the board's constituents will be well served by this leadership.
- Dr. Ecker Noted the district's receipt of the *OC Register's* Top Workplace recognition, noting that we were the only school district included and during a very difficult time it was our employees that surveyed us anonymously and this recognition is a very noteworthy thing.
- Dr. Ecker Noted that Tamura, Oka and Newland all

- Dr. Ecker received gold medal honors based on academic performance and other factors as recognized by the *OC Register*. He noted that many other schools were ranked silver or bronze as well. Noted that he is proud of the Board, knowing that this is a difficult year and a very difficult decision. He noted that there were many questions and all did their due diligence in an extraordinary fashion. He noted at a recent FCMAT meeting (a group intended to oversee much of the financial crisis in our schools) the discussion of making these difficult decisions for districts. He noted that the districts that have gone under or found selves in financial strains in most cases did not make these difficult decisions as it relates to school closure when they needed to. Most that get in that situation don't get there immediately but over time. He noted that he felt proud to work with a board that had the courage to take on these difficult decisions.
- Dr. Ecker Thanked Mr. McMahon for this process noting that it was open, accessible and well done and all participants did all that they could do for the children of the district.
- Dr. Ecker Noted to the Moiola community, that he is proud to be in a district that they are a part of, noting that he was proud to see them speak passionately about their school as it speaks volumes of their character as it relates to the school that they love and their feelings on the education that their children receive. He pledged on their behalf that the transition plan to be put in place will be designed to mitigate the impact on the families, and that we will do everything we can to make that change one that gains them greater friends while they lose none.
- Dr. Ecker Wished everyone a happy holiday season and encouraged them to enjoy time with family and friends.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Collins moved to adjourn the meeting at

8:24pm.

Second: Mrs. Crandall

Vote: Unanimously approved

/rh