

**FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**125 East Bidwell Street**  
**Folsom, California 95630**

October 15, 2009

MINUTES

Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
Mills Middle School  
Cafetorium  
10439 Coloma Road  
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ed Short, President  
Teresa A. Stanley, Vice President  
JoAnne Reinking, Clerk  
Richard Shaw, Member  
Roger Benton, Member  
Adaeze Nwakobi, Student Member

October 15, 2009

Board members present: Ed Short, Teresa Stanley, JoAnne Reinking, Roger Benton, Richard Shaw, and Student Adaeze Nwakobi

5:00 p.m. – Open Session                      CALL TO ORDER (Held in Room 3)  
President Short announced items to be discussed in closed session.

5:05 p.m. – Closed Session                      (Held in Room 3)

6:00 p.m. – Open Meeting                      (Held in Cafetorium)

Meeting convened at 6:03 p.m. President Short called the meeting to order. P.J. Shields student teacher Jennifer Blake led the flag salute.

**REPORTING OUT CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS**

Assistant Superintendent Martin Baumann reported out on routine action taken in closed session regarding certificated and classified personnel.

**PERSONNEL MATTERS** (Approved in Closed Session)

**CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

SHAW/BENTON MOVED TO APPROVE routine certificated personnel items.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Rehired one with Temporary status
- Hired two with Probationary status
- Approved a change of assignment for one
- Approved leave of absence for two
- Ratified the resignation and fixed the last date of employment for one
- Approved voluntary reduction in assignment for one
- Approved the reclassification as Tenured for five

**CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

SHAW/BENTON MOVED TO APPROVE routine classified personnel items.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Approved employment of twelve
- Approved reassignment of twelve
- Ratified the resignations and fixed the last date of employment for three
- Approved the termination of Probationary status for one

### **BOARD PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT**

None

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

- **Horticulture at Mills Middle School, Sutter Middle School, and Mather Youth Academy**

Assistant Superintendent Janie DeArcos introduced representatives from the three schools. Mather Youth Academy Principal Rolando Rojas talked about the vegetable garden at MYA and the plans for next year to expand it to include a pumpkin patch. Sutter Middle School teacher Heather Linsley explained that this year, due to a late start in preparing the beds, seeds were planted late and would be late to harvest. Students still learned from the experience. Mills Principal Peter Maroon talked about how excited Mills students were to see their efforts come to fruition, and that some were amazed that “green beans grow on vines.”

- **Architectural Presentation – Education Services Building & Cordova High School Modernization**

Director of Facilities Matt Washburn opened the presentation by introducing Teri Jamison of Rainforth Grau Architects, and acknowledging the work of Geri Wickham from the Facilities Department. Ms. Jamison talked about the upcoming projects under Measure N at Cordova High School. In a PowerPoint presentation, she explained the changes to come including a performing arts building, a culinary and arts building, a music building, cafeteria renovation, and an auxiliary gym.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

SHAW/STANLEY MOVED TO ADOPT the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **0910-090 – Public Participation**

No one came forward.

### **0910-091 – REPORTS OF DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS**

Student Advisory Board – Adaeze Nwakobi:

- The next SAB meeting is on Tuesday, October 20, 2009.

PTA Council:

- No report.

California School Employees Association – Acting President Rick Willis:

- No report.

Folsom Cordova Education Association – President Stevan James:

- According to ESPN and *USA Today*, the Folsom High School varsity football team is 8<sup>th</sup> in the state.
- Spoke about the recommended closure of Cordova Lane and Riverview Elementary Schools. Feels there are valid reasons not to close Cordova Lane and asked if community members had been surveyed.

Folsom Cordova Administrators Association – President Joan Jarman:

- Reported on the leadership training held at the Folsom Community Center over the last two days. Thanked the Board, assistant superintendents, and especially Maureen Burness for the training that everyone felt was outstanding. She read some quotes from people who attended.

**AGENDA CONSENT ITEMS**

STANLEY/REINKING MOVED TO APPROVE agenda consent items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**0910-092 – Administrative Matters**

- A. Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2009

**0910-093 – Business Matters**

- A. Accept Donations: To Acknowledge Receipt of Donations to the District  
B. Warrants and Payroll: Monthly Ratification  
C. Approve Notice of Completion: Gary Doupnik Manufacturing, Inc. – Kindergarten Building – Cordova Villa Elementary School  
D. Approve Notice of Completion: Gary Doupnik Manufacturing, Inc. – Classroom Building – Cordova Villa Elementary School  
E. Approve Notice of Completion: Gary Doupnik Manufacturing, Inc. – Student Care Relocatable – Empire Oaks Elementary School  
F. Approve Notice of Completion: Sutter Middle School Asphalt Project

**0910-094 – Instructional Matters**

- A. **Expulsion Recommendations:** Case Numbers: 0910-9(S), 0910-10(S), 0910-11(S), 0910-12(S), and 0910-13(S)

0910-9(S)

Expel through the end of the fall semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend any accredited educational program outside of FCUSD through the end of the fall semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; upon reinstatement, educational placement will be determined by the District Hearing Officer; individual counseling to address substance abuse and decision-making skills; student must submit a “clean” drug test upon request for readmission to the comprehensive programs of the District.

0910-10(S)

Expel through the end of the fall semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Academy through the end of the fall semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student must successfully complete at least one semester at the Mather Youth Academy in order to be considered for return to a comprehensive program of the FCUSD; individual counseling to address substance abuse decision-making skills; student must submit a “clean” drug test upon readmission to the comprehensive programs of the District.

0910-11(S)

Expel through the end of the fall semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Academy through the end of the fall semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student must successfully complete at least one semester at the Mather Youth Academy in order to return to a comprehensive program in the District; individual counseling to address assaultive behavior and decision-making skills.

0910-12(S)

Expel through the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Middle Academy through the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student must successfully complete at least two trimesters at the Mather Youth Middle Academy in order to return to a comprehensive program in the District; individual counseling to address assaultive behavior and decision-making skills.

0910-13(S)

Expel through the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; suspend expulsion order; student is to attend the Cordova Lane Opportunity Program through the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; individual counseling to address decision-making skills.

- B. Approve Extended Educational Field Trip Request: Folsom High School’s Jazz Band to Reno Jazz Festival in Reno, Nevada  
C. Approve Waivers Related to Passage of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

## **DISCUSSION**

**0910-095 – Preliminary Report:** School Closures and Attendance Boundaries, Rancho Cordova  
Superintendent Godwin stressed that this is a discussion item only and announced that public forums for community input will be held on October 19 and November 2, at Mills Middle School. He explained the reasons why the District is considering school closures in Rancho Cordova, and also noted that a study for closure of Folsom schools will be held in 2010/2011, with implementation in 2011/2012. Each school closure will save the District about \$300,000. He noted that, initially, the idea was to close one school, but it was found during the study that the District may want to consider closing two. The study was done with a great deal of thought. He asked that people put aside how this recommendation feels and pay attention to the numbers, logic, and rationale behind it. The District is in desperate shape because of the budget crisis and will face further cuts of \$10 million next year. Tonight's PowerPoint presentation and the study will be on the District website tomorrow. A ConnectEd message about the public forums will go out tomorrow as well.

Director of Facilities Matt Washburn explained that a study of schools south of Folsom Boulevard showed that enrollment has increased over the last 10 years, while a study of schools north of Folsom Boulevard showed a decline in enrollment of 828, K-6 students over that same time frame. Because of those findings, schools south of Folsom Boulevard were excluded from the study. He reviewed the seven school closure scenarios and said that staff is recommending Scenario G, which would close Cordova Lane and Riverview. The study also suggests a boundary adjustment for Mills and Mitchell Middle Schools within the White Rock Elementary attendance area.

President Short asked for comments from the Board. Discussion was held regarding:

- Feasibility of selling the sites
- Non-use fees that would have to be paid if sites are not used for seven years
- Finding the easiest ways to make the transition of students and staffs so that exemplary programs are not lost
- Possibility of charter schools moving in
- Why the expenditure of Measure N money on the sites was stressed so much
- Possibility of studies being inaccurate and a surge in enrollment in the area north of Folsom Boulevard leaving a lack of room for growth
- Who would be responsible for maintenance costs if the sites are leased
- Where the Measure N money not spent on the two sites would be allocated

Mr. Washburn and Ms. Bettencourt answered questions from the Board. Notably, the deadline for charter school applications is passed, and none would be able to open in 2010/2011; Measure N money would go back into the contingency fund and could be reserved in case the two schools were opened again; and the District would not sell the sites.

## **Public Comment**

Larry Ladd

- Thinks Cordova Lane would be ideal for a teen center. Suggested long-term leases be avoided.

Conrade Mayer

- Knows that 368 homes have been sold in that area over the last 30 days and expects more to be sold. Could affect projections. Might be wise to have a realtor on the committee.
- Most teen centers have gyms, so not sure a teen center would be viable.
- Suggested that Kinney High School be closed, students moved to Cordova High, and the facility be sold.

Michael Itkoff

- Is concerned about charter schools and asked if the closed sites are leased, could a charter school “trump” a lease and move in?
- Ms. Bettencourt responded, “No.”

Kara Huddleston

- Feels as though parents have been excluded from this process and thinks closure of Cordova Lane and Riverview is already decided.

Sharon Turley

- Questioned moving students to Rancho Cordova Elementary since she believes classrooms are small and can only fit 20 students.

Susan Range

- Is a school choice parent with a student at Cordova Lane and does not want the school closed.

William Thurston

- Doesn't think the expenditure of Measure N money should be a factor in considering which schools to close.

Leanne Osborne

- Has a school choice student at Cordova Lane and will not send her student to another school.

Christy Elder

- Everything she heard tonight makes sense from a dollar standpoint, but she is “furious” that parents and the community only have 30 days for discussion.

**Final Board comments**

Mr. Shaw

- Programs at Cordova Lane are magnets that draw people to that school. Parents should have some involvement in where those programs go and how we successfully continue them should Scenario G be chosen.

Ms. Stanley

- Hopes people will keep in mind that the teachers, programs, and services for students are the reasons for sending students to certain schools; the walls are not important. The Board will make every effort to make sure those programs survive even if between different walls.

Mr. Short

- Hopes everyone will attend the forums that will give parents and the community an opportunity to be heard.
- Excellent job by the facilities department.

Ms. Stanley

- This is the first time the Board has heard this presentation, and she is not convinced the recommendation is the best, but staff had to make a recommendation. She wants to hear what the community has to say and is willing to listen. Would like staff to look at an option involving closing Williamson.

## **REPORTS**

### **0910-096 – Reports to the Board of Education**

A. Superintendent Godwin:

- No additional report this evening.

B. Correspondence to the Board

C. District Committees

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **0910-097 – Board Business**

A. Board Communication

Ms. Nwakobi.

- No comment

Mr. Shaw

- Attended the RTI training today and was very impressed.
- Read an article about 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores, which seem to have plateaued over the last few years. Would like to see, over the next five years, if larger 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes make a difference on our 4<sup>th</sup> graders.
- When he became a Trustee, he had a goal of ensuring equal representation on the Board between citizens of Rancho Cordova and Folsom. Wants to have that dialogue again and asked the superintendent and staff to research models from other districts in terms of equal representation.

Mr. Benton

- No comment.

Ms. Reinking

- No comment.

Ms. Stanley

- Also read an article on 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores. Data is showing that part of the problem goes back to parents and families who are accepting mediocrity in math and science to a greater extent than used to be the case. Maybe we need to come up with a prong that involves parents in teaching kids how to reach to achieve more and not accept basics from them.
- Congratulated Mr. Benton for completing a half-marathon race.
- Will be reading to students at Natoma Station's "Fall into Reading" tomorrow.

Mr. Short

- Met with the Rancho Cordova City Council and park district. The boundary study was discussed.

B. Pending Board Requests

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**INFORMATION**

**0910-098 – Modernization and Construction Projects Update – Rancho Cordova**

**0910-099 – Tentative Agenda:** The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2009, at Folsom High School, 1655 Iron Point Road, Folsom, California, 95630.

Record of meeting schedule for October 15, 2009:

Open Session	5:00 p.m.
Closed Session	5:05 p.m.
Open Session	6:03 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at	8:15 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Godwin, Executive Secretary to the Board

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JoAnne Reinking, Clerk of the Board