

**FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**125 East Bidwell Street  
Folsom, California 95630  
November 19, 2009**

MINUTES

Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
Cordova High School  
Gymnasium  
2239 Chase Drive  
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

November 19, 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 gymnasium)  
President Short announced items to be discussed in closed session.

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

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

Meeting convened at 6:02 p.m. President Short called the meeting to order. City of Rancho Cordova Mayor Dan Skoglund 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**

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

- Hired 1 with temporary status
- Approved a change of assignment for 2
- Approved a change of status for 1
- Approved tenure status for 1
- Ratified the resignation and set last day of employment for 1

**CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

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

- Approved classified employment of 8
- Approved reassignment of 2
- Approved unpaid leave of absence for 1

- Ratified resignations and fixed the last date of employment for 2
- Transferred 1 employee to the 39 month re-employment list

**Short-Term Employees**

BENTON/SHAW MOVED TO APPROVE routine short-term employee items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Approved short-term employment of 50 coaches and 3 cheer advisors

**BOARD PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT**

President Short noted that there were many people in the audience tonight and many wished to speak on a very controversial subject. He asked that respect be shown for one another. Because of the state’s startlingly low funding of schools, the Board is faced with making very painful decisions. No one wants to combine schools, but logic and data are compelling. It’s important to keep in mind that people are what make education happen, not brick and mortar. We will get through this together.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

None

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

SHAW/BENTON MOVED TO ADOPT the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**0910-116 – Public Participation**

Rod Borba

- Invited the Board to attend the Cordova Community Council’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Christmas tree lighting on Sunday, November 29, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**0910-117 – REPORTS OF DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS**

Student Advisory Board – Adaeze Nwakobi:

- The last SAB meeting was on November 17 at Sutter Middle School. Director of Food Services Crayton Yelverton spoke on the nutritional value of school lunches. Students decided on “Pennies for Patients” as their district-wide service event. Budget concerns were tabled until the next meeting on January 26 when Ms. Bettencourt will speak to the students.

PTA Council:

- No report.

California School Employees Association – Acting President Rick Willis:

- No Report.

Folsom Cordova Education Association – Vice President Stevan James:

- Reported on a very successful student canned food drive.
- Thanked Cordova High School band director Kevin Sims for the invitations to see the band perform.

Folsom Cordova Leadership Association – President Joan Jarman:

- Spoke on the amount of passion shown by the community members of Rancho Cordova.
- Thanked the Board on behalf of FCLA for their hard work and commitment to the FCUSD students and families.

## **AGENDA CONSENT ITEMS**

SHAW/BENTON MOVED TO APPROVE agenda consent items with the exception of Item 0910-119A.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **0910-118 – Administrative Matters**

A. Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2009

### **0910-119 – Business Matters**

A. See below.

B. Warrants and Payroll: Monthly Ratification

C. Accept Sacramento County Office of Education Williams Review Annual Report

D. Approve Lease/Leaseback Preliminary Services Agreements: Mills Middle School and Cordova High School

### **0910-119 A – Accept Donations: To Acknowledge Receipt of Donations to the District**

Ms. Reinking pulled this item to acknowledge the large donations made by Intel.

REINKING/BENTON MOVED TO ACCEPT and acknowledge receipt of donations to the District.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **0910-120 – Instructional Matters**

A. Expulsion Recommendation: Case Numbers: 0910-21(S), 0910-22(S), 0910-23(S), 0910-24(S), 0910-25(S), 0910-26(S), 0910-27(S), and 0910-28(S)

#### 0910-21(S)

Expel through the end of spring semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Academy through the end of the spring 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 decision-making skills.

#### 0910-22(S)

Expel through the end of the spring semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend a Mather Youth Academy or any accredited education program outside of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District through the end of the spring semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; upon reinstatement, educational placement will be determined by the District Hearing Officer; individual counseling to address decision-making skills.

#### 0910-23(S)

Expel through the end of summer session following the spring semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Academy through the end of summer session following the spring semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student must successfully complete at least one semester and summer session at the Mather Youth Academy in order to return to a comprehensive program in the District; 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.

#### 0910-24(S)

Expel through the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Middle Academy through the end of the 3<sup>rd</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 decision-making skills.

#### 0910-25(S)

Expel through the end of the spring semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend Mather Youth Academy or any accredited educational program outside of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District through the end of the spring semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student must successfully complete at least one semester at Mather Youth Academy in order to return to a comprehensive program in the District; individual counseling to address decision-making skills.

#### 0910-26(S)

Expel through the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; suspend expulsion order; student is to remain at White Rock Elementary School through the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; individual counseling to address assaultive behavior and decision-making skills.

0910-27(S)

Expel through the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; suspend expulsion order; student is to remain at White Rock Elementary School through the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; individual counseling to address assaultive behavior and decision-making skills.

0910-28(S)

Expel through the end of the spring semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Academy through the end of the spring 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.

- B. Approve Extended Educational Field Trip Request: Folsom Middle School's Jazz Band to Reno Jazz Festival in Reno, Nevada

**DISCUSSION**

**0910-121 – Multi-year Budget Projections**

Deputy Superintendent Debbie Bettencourt presented the budget information and PowerPoint presentation that was given at the last Board meeting on November 5, 2009, outlining the fiscal conditions of the state and the District. She noted that we face difficult choices ahead and not because of choices the District has made, but because of the state and the economy. We face at least a \$10.6 million deficit for 2010/2011. This could swell by \$4 million if the state does not pay back the \$250 per student that they owe us. She also reviewed some budget reduction ideas and revenue-generating ideas that are being discussed and noted that this is just an "idea" list; nothing has been decided.

**Public Discussion**

Blaine White

- Updated the Board on counselor activities and noted that there are many questions on counselors' and students' minds regarding electives, a shortened school day for juniors and seniors, etc.
- Would like to see budget decisions made sooner rather than later because of the effects on staff and students.

Laurie Theis

- Addressed the Board in support of District counselors.

**0910-122 – Parcel Tax Survey Results**

Superintendent Godwin said that in looking at revenue-generating ideas, a parcel tax was considered. He asked Ms. Bettencourt to present this item.

Ms. Bettencourt said the parcel tax survey was given to the 2,000 people with the highest propensity for voting, grouped by Rancho Cordova and Folsom. The District wanted to see the strength of a parcel tax without doing further voter education. If there wasn't support at the time of a survey, it is unlikely voters could be convinced to change their minds. The tax would be \$60 per parcel for seven years and would require a 2/3 approval of voters. Parcel tax funds could be used for operating costs; general obligation bonds can only be used for construction. Following are the question and the results:

*To offset severe state budget cuts to our schools; to protect the quality of education; to enhance English, math, science, and career technology education; to supplement music, arts, and library services; and to maintain lower class sizes: shall Folsom Cordova USD be authorized to implement a **\$60 annual parcel tax for seven (7) years**, with an available exemption for senior citizens, with independent citizen oversight, without administrative salaries, and with every dollar staying in our local schools?*

- ▶ Folsom
  - Yes (definitely; probably): 49%
  - Probably No: 7%
  - Definitely No: 33%
  - Undecided: 11%
- ▶ Rancho Cordova
  - Yes (definitely; probably): 45%
  - Probably No: 10%
  - Definitely No: 35%
  - Undecided: 10%

Results of the survey indicated the parcel tax would not be successful, and the recommendation is not to build it into the plan for 2010/2011, but work toward a future vote.

Ms. Reinking

- Announced that if anyone would like to support district schools, watch for information coming from the Folsom Cordova Foundation.

Mr. Shaw

- Thanked Ms. Bettencourt for all her work on this. Not the results he was looking for, but would urge that we not give up on the idea. The results indicate a 55% approval, and we would have to get to 67%. Public education might get us there.

Ken Cooley, Vice Mayor, Rancho Cordova

- Suggested the District was not working with the City of Rancho Cordova on this issue.
- Mentioned that thousands of homes will be built in Rancho Cordova.
- Feels that a parcel tax voted for solely by Rancho Cordova residents and designated for Rancho Cordova only would likely succeed.
- Suggested parcel tax could be crafted in some way with limits on how funds were spent. Feels that City leadership might be able to bring the community onboard.

Ms. Stanley

- Clarified the difference between parcel taxes and bonds and noted that keeping schools open is an operational issue; a parcel tax could be used to continue with operations. A parcel tax is not set up to split the funds between communities. She noted that City council members were at the monthly meetings when this was discussed, and these concerns were not brought up during those meetings.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**0910-123 – Approve Boundary Changes and School Closures**

Superintendent Godwin stated that as sad as it is to combine schools, it is sometimes a better choice than completely eliminating programs. Students will be served well at a new school, teachers will travel with them, and a team will be formed to mitigate impacts of the move. He asked Facilities Director Matt Washburn to review the process implemented to reach the recommendation.

Mr. Washburn explained that in addition to Plan G, which was to close Cordova Lane and Riverview Elementary Schools, three other scenarios were studied further: closing of Riverview and Cordova Lane, Riverview and Williamson, or Riverview and Cordova Meadows. After further consideration, the recommendation to close Cordova Lane and Riverview stands.

Ms. Stanley

- Given the emails she has received and what she's heard about the Board not working with the leadership of Rancho Cordova, if the City were to find a way to come up with the \$300,000 to keep a school open for another year, how soon would they have to have the money before the point of no return?

Mr. Godwin

- Indicated the deadline would probably be March 1; anything after that would impact other decisions the District has to make. It is important to note, however, that it is an ongoing commitment...\$300,000 per year.

Ms. Reinking

- The Foreign Language Elementary School (FLES) Program that has been mentioned as a pro and a con is a collaboration of students from all over the District. It is a program that can be moved and, in her opinion, shouldn't be considered a pro or a con.

### **Public Comment**

The following people addressed the Board regarding the closure of Cordova Lane and Riverview

- Rev. Christine Leigh Taylor spoke regarding the Safe Harbor program offered to Lane students by her church.
- Kristy Elder, parent, said this is the first night parents heard that \$300,000 could save Cordova Lane.
- Linda Budge, City Council Member, feels the public process has been flawed, and the recommendation is flawed. Asked the Board to not make a bad decision. Also suggested the study and master facilities plans do not match.
- Dan and Pam Skoglund suggested a delay in a decision until some other entities might be able to assist in finding a solution. Thinks Ms. Stanley's question about the City raising \$300,000 is "not right."
- Mark Schultz, President FCEA, said their executive council met and couldn't agree on which schools should be closed; however, they did agree upon the need for a process.
- Dallas Bennett and Cheyenne Bennett don't want any schools in Rancho Cordova to close and asked for the opportunity to come up with the money to keep the schools open.
- Jamie Emerick, Williamson teacher, talked about the value of Williamson Elementary and would welcome students from other schools.
- Rod Borba, community member, asked the Board to consider a study of the capacity of combined schools.
- Leslie Lewis, community member, is disgusted because she feels the community has had so little time to adjust.
- Ken Cooley recommended not closing any schools in Rancho Cordova during 2010/2011. Initiate budgetary conversation in Rancho Cordova and Folsom to see where to go next. Thinks the issue is poor management. Accused the District of a lack of foresight and planning.
- Kathryn Dettner, parent, feels they have the ability to raise the \$300,000 if given a chance. They need time.
- Stan Jennings, Riverview parent, would like more time to raise the money. Thinks Folsom schools should face closure at same time.

Mr. Godwin

- Took strong exception to being accused of not seeing ahead. Asked how you can predict a budget when the governor cuts your budget on May 12, and you only have 30 days left in the fiscal year. Have heard over seven hours of public input on school closure. The District has to move forward. We are in the hands of legislators and a governor who can't solve the problem. Thanked staff for

their diligence, creativity, and hard work. Staff has worked diligently to come up with every idea possible.

Mr. Shaw

- Do we keep a school open and eliminate high school sports and electives affecting thousands of students? Shorten the school day? Lay off counselors? Close all libraries? If we vote to combine schools, we have the responsibility to make new schools better for all involved. In August, things will look the same for the students. Curriculum will be identical to that in their old schools. There will be new opportunities. Kids are resilient. The community elected the Board to make difficult choices. This is one of them. We need to keep this district solvent in the coming years.

Ms. Stanley

- Understands Ms. Budge's statement about the difference between the master plan and the study. When the facilities plan was last updated in 2008, we were not in the same situation. We were thinking about the potential of closing small schools at some point, but didn't want to do that. Making three rounds of cuts has forced a decision.
- When education is 40% of the state's budget, what does that mean for us? We are going to be on the cut list. It is not an issue where the District has failed to plan. We have planned marvelously given the circumstances we've been faced with.
- Closing two schools in an area where we've lost 800 plus students doesn't really take anything away from kids except the four walls they sit in. We're not losing teachers, not losing the FLES Program, not talking about losing the drama program, not losing anything going on inside the walls.
- If we have to find the \$600,000 elsewhere, we're taking away elective opportunities from 5,000 to 6,000 students in favor of saving four walls. To take away counselors, increase class sizes...those things are far less fair than moving kids from one school to another. Kids will be okay.
- The reason she asked the question about a timeline for coming up with the money is that she heard people say they have solutions if the Board will work with them, solutions like corporations, but corporations are strained now too.
- Would like the Board, after making a final decision, to commit to continue looking for a way to reopen schools, if there is a way. Also need to commit to ensuring maintenance of any facilities that are closed in the event the student population swings in the other direction.

Ms. Reinking

- Commended staff's effort in trying to get the word out. Believes the community has had ample opportunity to have their voices heard.
- Applauds the efforts of the Cordova Lane community to come together and understands the emotions they must be going through. Hopes they bring that passion to the new schools.
- Whatever happens, will bend over backward to accommodate whatever transitional needs will have to be met. All schools in the District have programs to be most proud of.

Mr. Benton

- We've seen other districts shut down schools and said it would never happen here. It is going to happen to us. Not something we ever imagined. Instead of disrupting the educational process for other students, we're going to be moving some to a different school.
- Staff was insulted tonight. This staff is second to none in this region and has gone above and beyond their jobs. Insulting them will never happen again.

Mr. Short

- Thanked staff. They are unbelievable and do care. Thanked Mr. Godwin who has been a leader in the education community second to none. He is committed to a transparent and collaborative environment.
- The transition team is key right now to make sure our kids come first.
- This is not something anyone wants to do, and, from the bottom of his heart, he is sorry.

REINKING/SHAW MOVED TO APPROVE the boundary changes affecting Mills and Mitchell Middle Schools and the closure of Cordova Lane and Riverview Elementary Schools and directed staff to form a transition team of parents, staff, and students to begin working on the transfer of students, staff, and programs. While the process for closing the schools will commence, each of the two school communities does have the opportunity to raise \$300,000 by March 1, 2010, to keep the school open for the 2010-2011 school year.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

**Meeting recessed at 9:15 p.m.**

**Meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m.**

**0910-124 – Approve Date of Annual Organizational Meeting:** The Annual Organizational Meeting of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District Board of Trustees is set for Thursday, December 10, 2009, 6:00 p.m., Folsom High School, Folsom, California

REINKING/STANLEY MOVED TO APPROVE the annual organizational meeting to be held on December 10, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at Folsom High School.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **0910-125 – 2010 California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly Nominations**

President Short opened nominations.

SHAW/REINKING MOVED TO NOMINATE Teresa Stanley for the CSBA Delegate Assembly.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

No further nominations were made.

President Short closed the nominations.

#### **DISCUSSION**

#### **0910-126 – Proposed Dates, Times, and Places of Regular Board Meetings for January 2010 – December 2010**

Mr. Godwin reviewed the draft meeting dates noting the changes from the usual first and third Thursday format in January and April 2010, and only one meeting in February 2010.

#### **REPORTS**

#### **0910-127 – Reports to the Board of Education**

A. Superintendent Godwin:

- Vista del Lago High School completed their WASC process with an extremely positive report. The committee chairperson indicated a six-year accreditation. He is proud of the staff and leadership of that school.

B. Correspondence to the Board

C. District Committees

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **0910-128 – Board Business**

A. Board Communication

Ms. Nwakobi.

- Happy to see all parents here tonight.
- Tonight brought out Folsom/Rancho Cordova competition. She was surprised to hear it.

Ms. Stanley

- Commented on an article regarding a focus on affording districts the opportunities to raise revenues locally. Should be a key piece of this century's lobbying.
- She and Mr. Short met with the City of Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County today. After all the talk about making a walking pathway from Mather to Navigator, sounds like there is something we can do.
- Participated in a focus group for the Vista del Lago WASC meetings. Was the first time she has done that. There was no end to the commendations the committee gave.
- Was disappointed to hear some talk directed at staff tonight. Mr. Benton and Mr. Godwin addressed the comments well while the crowd was still here. This Board supports the superintendent 100%; he has done an excellent job. Doesn't like negativity when it is directed at staff when they've had the foresight to do what had to be done, and we're not left in a position like some of our neighboring districts that are cutting all sports, counselors, etc.
- After some of the more difficult issues have been handled, she is going to ask that we reopen the issue of our policy on releasing students without parental notification. Two districts recently were brave enough to implement policies supporting families and parents.
- Wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Benton

- He learned a lot tonight, especially about passionate parents.

Mr. Shaw

- Worked on a focus group for the Vista del Lago WASC – this is the first time he has ever seen a school get a six-year accreditation in their first evaluation.

Ms. Reinking

- Also sat on a focus group. As a Board member, was interested in hearing parents talk about the District and high school.
- Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Short

- Thanked everyone for their hard work; we will get through this together. Lucky to have such great people like those in this room and community.
- Happy Thanksgiving.

B. Pending Board Requests

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

**INFORMATION**

**0910-129 – Modernization and Construction Projects Update – Rancho Cordova**

**0910-130 – Tentative Agenda:** The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2009, at Folsom High School, 1655 Iron Point Road, Folsom, California, 95630.

Record of meeting schedule for November 19, 2009:

Open Session	5:00 p.m.
Closed Session	5:05 p.m.
Open Session	6:02 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at	9:40 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