

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

December 10, 2009

MINUTES

Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Folsom High School
Library
1655 Iron Point Road
Folsom, California 95630

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

December 10, 2009

Board members present: Ed Short, Teresa Stanley, JoAnne Reinking, Roger Benton, Richard Shaw, and Student Adaeze Nwakobi (Benton late for Closed Session)

5:00 p.m. – Open Session

CALL TO ORDER (Held in Library)

President Short announced items to be discussed in closed session.

5:05 p.m. – Closed Session

(Held in Library)

6:00 p.m. – Open Meeting

(Held in Library)

Meeting convened at 6:04 p.m. President Short called the meeting to order. Eagle Scout Tejas Pradeep led the flag salute.

CLOSED SESSION

Assistant Superintendent Martin Baumann reported out on routine action taken in closed session regarding certificated, classified personnel, and short-term employees.

He also read a short bio on Rogene Cortright, district counselor, who retires in January with 24 years of service to the District.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Approved in Closed Session)

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

SHAW/STANLEY MOVED TO APPROVE routine personnel items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Benton absent)

- Rehired 1 with temporary status
- Hired 1 with temporary status
- Approved a change of assignment for 1
- Approved leave of absence for 1
- Ratified the retirement and fixed the last date of employment for 1

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

SHAW/STANLEY MOVED TO APPROVE routine personnel items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Benton absent)

- Approved employment of 6
- Approved reassignment of 2
- Ratified the resignation and fixed the last date of employment for 1

SHORT-TERM EMPLOYMENT

SHAW/REINKING MOVED TO APPROVE the routine short-term employment.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Benton absent)

- Approved short-term employment of 37 secondary coaches

BOARD PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

President Short thanked fellow Board members and staff for the honor of serving as President of the Board. He said we are privileged to have the type of district we have and thanked everyone for all their hard work, especially in these dire times.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (0910-131)

A. Election of Officers for 2010

President Short explained that Vice President Stanley would open the nominations for President of the Board.

Vice President Stanley opened nominations for President of the Board.

Mr. Shaw nominated Ms. Stanley.

No other nominations were made. Nominations were closed.

Teresa Stanley was elected President of the Board by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Stanley took this moment to thank the Board for electing her as their president. She also presented Mr. Short with a plaque of appreciation for his dedicated service to the staff and students of Folsom Cordova Unified School District.

President Stanley opened nominations for Vice President of the Board.

Mr. Benton nominated Mr. Shaw.

No other nominations were made. Nominations were closed.

Richard Shaw was elected Vice President of the Board by a unanimous vote.

President Stanley opened nominations for Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Benton nominated Ms. Reinking.

No other nominations were made. Nominations were closed.

JoAnne Reinking was elected Clerk of the Board by a unanimous vote.

President Stanley opened nominations for Board Representative to the Sacramento County Board of Education.

Mr. Benton nominated Mr. Short.

No other nominations were made. Nominations were closed.

Ed Short was elected Board representative to the Sacramento County Board of Education by a unanimous vote.

B. Dates, Times, and Places of Regular Board Meetings for January 2010 – December 2010

BENTON/SHORT MOVED TO ADOPT the proposed calendar of Board Meetings for January 2010 through December 2010

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

C. Volunteers for Committees

Staff Committees

~~Elementary Curriculum Advisory Committee~~: This committee was removed from the list.

Secondary Curriculum Advisory Committee: Shaw/Stanley

Fiscal Advisory Committee: Shaw

Audit Committee: Reinking/Short

Education Specs Committee, Rancho: Shaw/Short

Parent District Advisory Committee: Reinking/Shaw

Student Advisory Board: Reinking/Shaw

School Health Advisory Committee: Benton/Reinking

Community Committees

Cordova Recreation & Park District: Short

Folsom Parks & Recreation District: Shaw

Cordova Community Council: Benton/Reinking

District Healthy Start Community Collaborative Committee: Shaw

PTA Council: Reinking/Short

Liaison to City of Folsom Joint Coordination: Stanley/Shaw (Reinking alternate)

Liaison to City of Rancho Cordova Joint Coordination: Stanley/Shaw (Short alternate)

Liaison to City of Folsom Planning Commission: Reinking/Stanley

Liaison to Rancho Cordova Planning Commission: Short

Liaison to Folsom Chamber: To be determined by the Chamber

Liaison to Rancho Cordova Chamber: To be determined by the Chamber

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

SHAW/BENTON MOVED TO ADOPT the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (0910-132)

Heather McGowan, President of Folsom Cordova Education Foundation

- Updated the Board on the activities of the foundation, including fundraising drives to be held in February or March, May, and in the fall.

Gina Bamberger, District teacher

- Expressed concern about talk she has heard regarding possible furlough days for next year. Also feels there is no plan for acknowledging/addressing teachers' needs.

Teri Riave

- Addressed the Board regarding her concerns about school site personnel, teacher ratios, and electives. Suggested eliminating administrators at the district office.

Blaine White, District counselor

- Updated the Board on recent counselor activities including counselors at Folsom High School who offered support to their students after the tragic death of senior E. J. Shaw.

REPORTS OF DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS (0910-133)

Student Advisory Board – Adaeze Nwakobi reported on the following:

- The last SAB meeting was cancelled due to finals. The next meeting will be on January 26 at Folsom High. Ms. Bettencourt will join them.

PTA Council – Assistant Superintendent Leslie Faust:

- A meeting was held last Thursday at Mitchell Middle School. Mitchell was highlighted.

California School Employees Association – Acting President Rick Willis:

- No report.

Folsom Cordova Education Association – President Mark Schultz:

- No report.

Folsom Cordova Leadership Association – President Joan Jarman:

- No report.

AGENDA CONSENT ITEMS

SHORT/BENTON MOVED TO APPROVE agenda consent items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

0910-134 – Administrative Matters

A. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2009

0910-135 – Business Matters

A. Accept Donations: To Acknowledge Receipt of Donations to the District

B. Warrants and Payroll: Monthly Ratification

C. Approve Budget Revisions: General Fund and other Funds

D. Adopt Resolution No. 12-10-09-20: Withdrawing from Schools Excess Liability Fund (SELF)

E. Adopt Resolution No. 12-10-09-21: Authorizing Employees to Sign Transmittal Sheets

F. Approve Notice of Completion: Empire Oaks Student Care Building - Landmark Construction, Inc.

G. Approve Notice of Completion: Cordova Villa Elementary School Modernization - Landmark Construction, Inc.

H. Approve Notice of Completion: Cordova Villa Elementary School Multipurpose Building - Bruns Belmont Construction, Inc.

0910-136 – Instructional Matters

A. Expulsion Recommendations: Case Numbers: 0910-29(S), 0910-30(S), 0910-31(S), and 0910-32(S)

0910-29(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 substance abuse and decision-making skills; student must submit a “clean” drug test upon request for readmission to the comprehensive programs of FCUSD.

0910-30(S)

Expel through the end of the spring semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; suspend expulsion order; student to attend Walnutwood High through the end of the spring semester of the 2009-2010 academic year; 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 FCUSD.

0910-31(S)

Expel through the end of the 3rd trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Middle Academy through the end of the 3rd 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 substance abuse and decision-making skills; student must submit a “clean” drug test upon request for readmission to the comprehensive programs of FCUSD.

0910-32(S)

Expel through the end of the 3rd trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Middle Academy or any accredited educational program outside of FCUSD through the end of the 3rd trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year; student must successfully complete at least two trimesters at the Mather Youth Middle Academy in order to be considered for return to a comprehensive program of the FCUSD; individual counseling to decision-making skills.

- B. Approve Extended Educational Field Trip Request: Folsom High School’s Wrestling Team to Reno Wrestling Tournament at Reno, Nevada
- C. Approve Extended Educational Field Trip Request: Mitchell Middle School’s Social Science Students to Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York

DISCUSSION/ACTION

0910-137 – Approve 2009/2010 First Interim Financial Report, Period Ending October 31, 2009

Superintendent Godwin introduced Deputy Superintendent Debbie Bettencourt. Ms. Bettencourt reviewed the status of the state’s budget crisis and the District’s subsequent budget crisis. She indicated the information presented tonight, including the list of “brainstorming” cuts, is essentially unchanged from that presented at the last two Board meetings. Her recommendation to the Board was to again file “qualified” with the county.

BENTON/SHAW MOVED TO APPROVE the 2009/2010 First Interim Financial Report certifying that Folsom Cordova Unified School District will be able to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the 2009/2010 fiscal year and two subsequent years with budget cuts effective July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011.

Public comment

Teri Riave

- Asked for clarification of “unaudited actuals.”
Ms. Bettencourt responded.

Michael Itkoff

- Expressed concern about the new practice of shutting down computers and monitors after a certain time of inactivity.

Gina Bamberger

- Asked about the “brainstorming” list, how it is generated, and said it seems to her that Board members are not familiar with some of the items on the list.

Ms. Stanley assured Ms. Bamberger that the lists are seen by Trustees on a regular basis. The lists have been presented over and over again at Board meetings and online on the District’s website.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

0910-138 – Adopt Draft Handbook: Board of Education Governance Roles and Responsibilities
Mr. Godwin reviewed the purpose of a governance handbook and noted that suggested revisions from the Board have been incorporated.

BENTON/SHORT MOVED TO ADOPT the Board of Education Governance Handbook.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

DISCUSSION

0910-139 – California School Employees Association 2009-2010 Proposed Contract Openers to the Board of Education and Announcement of Public Hearing Scheduled for the First Regular Board Meeting in January 2010 (date to be determined at the December 10, 2009, Board meeting)

Assistant Superintendent Marty Baumann reported that CSEA has chosen to open the following articles for the Comprehensive Unit for the 2009-2010 school year:

Article IX – Other Terms and Conditions of Employment

Article X – Compensation

Article X11 – Leaves

CSEA has also chosen to open the following articles for the Transportation Unit for the 2009-2010 school year.

Article X – Compensation

Article XI – Hours of Employment

Articles XII – Leaves

The public hearing will be held at the January 14, 2010, Board meeting.

0910-140 – Update on the Process for Selecting a New Superintendent

Superintendent Godwin noted that the Board heard the advantages and disadvantages of an inside versus outside search at the November 5, 2009, Board meeting. Mr. Short subsequently received 14 letters from the community expressing opinions, with some indicating qualifications that should be considered.

Mr. Short

- A common thread throughout the letters he received was concern about the cost of an outside search. Some letters included qualifications to look for, and some expressed concern that the search would include only district office administration.
- He thinks we have qualified candidates inside and thinks we should look within.

Mr. Shaw

- Other Board members he spoke with at the recent California School Boards Association (CSBA) conference indicated there will be several superintendent vacancies in this area. He tends to doubt that an outside search would net candidates who could compete with folks we have inside. A search requires quite a bit of time and money, both of which are critical now. Thinks we should look within.

Ms. Reinking

- Agreed that we do have superb talent in-house, but doesn't see the harm in seeing what's out there. This is also an opportunity to do some revamping of the existing organizational chart. Strongly feels the search should include outside candidates.

Mr. Benton

- Agreed that we should stay inside.

Ms. Nwakobi

- Thinks staying inside would be fine, but asked for clarification about what that would include.

Ms. Stanley

- We could place an ad in *Ed Cal*, but we would still need help with required qualifications and the screening process. She's not convinced we'd get better candidates by doing that, and we wouldn't get the benefits of a search. Suggested the Board needs to set up a process for staying inside.

Mr. Godwin

- The Board might want to establish a date by which people could submit a brief letter of interest to the Board president, maybe a deadline of December 21. Trustees could review the letters and decide on interviews by the first meeting in January. If, by then, no inside candidates appear to be strong enough, and the Board wants to look further, a search could be started in early January with time to complete the process by July 1.

Discussion ensued regarding desired qualifications of candidates. Mr. Godwin offered that the Board could trust two things...the process of self-selection and the fact that not a lot of people will apply unless they have training. And, just because they apply, doesn't mean they have to be interviewed.

Public comment

Tyler Johnstone, teacher

- Feels that by staying inside only, we are limiting ourselves; there are qualified people outside the District.

Joe Scales, counselor

- Would like to be informed of the criteria to be used to determine who will be interviewed.

Gina Bamberger, teacher

- Believes FCEA and CSEA should be allowed input so they feel they have a say in the process. Doesn't think the District communicated very well regarding the first request for letters to the Board president.

Mr. Godwin responded that at a public meeting, people were invited to send letters to the Board president, and the request was posted on the District's website.

Dave Werra, teacher

- Asked if Mr. Short and other Trustees had received emails as well as letters.

Teri Riave

- Wants to insure that it doesn't have to be someone with district office experience. Feels it should be someone who knows and has dealt with kids. Hopes this isn't a "done deal."

Ms. Stanley

- Has been through four superintendent searches, and said we will not find one person to meet all the criteria. Is confident we have people in this district to lead this district. If the Board is confident we have people on staff to effectively handle the position and handle it well, we don't need to spend the extra money for a search.

Ms. Reinking

- Thinks we should also solicit letters of interest from the general public. Doesn't see any harm in "putting out feelers" that FCUSD is looking for a superintendent.

Mr. Godwin

- The Board first has to decide whether to stay inside or go outside. If both, then there is a full process because we do not know anything about outside candidates. They will have to submit a full packet, including a resume, etc. Without that, there is no way to measure them against inside candidates. Thinks highly-qualified candidates may be unwilling to submit just a letter of interest. People only apply for a superintendent position when serious and serious about the process. Many will only respond to a search team. He needs direction tonight regarding which process to take.
- Suggested that the Board:
 - Keep the process inside and invite letters of interest from within the District
 - Instruct the superintendent to draft a list of qualifications
 - Schedule interviews between the January 14 and January 28 Board meetings

Mr. Shaw

- Thinks we should solicit letters of interest from District staff, however, require some basic qualifications such as five years of administrative experience either as a principal or district office administrator. Doesn't think opening it up to everyone would be a reasonable use of their time and efforts.
- Would like to direct the superintendent to advise our employees that we're seeking letters of interest, with a basic requirement of at least five years of administrative experience. Letters should be received by December 21. The Board may decide in January to do a search if they feel no one inside is qualified.

After some discussion, Trustees agreed to solicit letters of interest with a deadline of December 21, and that a minimum of five years of administrative experience, either school site or district office, should be required.

Ms. Reinking

- Agreed to go along, but is not convinced we can't go outside without spending \$50,000 to \$80,000, and will continue to research what other districts are doing.

Regular Board Meeting recessed at 7:50 p.m.

I. Call to Order

President Stanley called to order the annual meeting of the Folsom Cordova Schools Financing Corporation at 7:50 p.m.

II. Approve Minutes of the December 11, 2008, Meeting

SHAW/BENTON MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the December 11, 2008, meeting.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Status Reports of Projects

Superintendent Godwin reported: No new status reports.

IV. Public Comments

No one came forward.

V. Corporation Officers

President Stanley stated that the bylaws provide that the officers remain the same as the Board of Education, and let the record reflect the following officers are:

President Teresa Stanley, Vice President Richard Shaw, Clerk JoAnne Reinking, Member Roger Benton, and Member Ed Short

VI. Other Business

No new business.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 7:52 p.m.

0910-141 – Reports to the Board of Education

A. Superintendent Godwin reported.

- He was asked to testify at an Assembly Education Hearing on ABX5 8, Race to the Top. Explained that there is dissension in the legislature over the Assembly Bill and the Senate Bill that were submitted, but expects some synthesis soon. Staff is keeping up on this, and for us to apply for Race to the Top funds, a memorandum of understanding must be submitted by January 19.
- Recently attended a breakfast with Assemblywoman Alyson Huber. She indicated that it looks like more cuts to come, and there doesn't appear to be any talk about revenue adjustments or borrowing.

B. Correspondence to the Board - None

C. District Committees - None

BOARD OF EDUCATION

0809-142 – Board Business

A. Board Communication

Adaeze Nwakobi

- Thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the CSBA conference; she learned a lot.
- Congratulated newly-elected officers.
- Merry Christmas to everyone.

Ms. Reiniking

- Thanked her fellow Trustees for indulging her in the discussion regarding replacement of the superintendent. She appreciates their willingness to help her understand the process, and she feels it isn't something to be taken lightly.
- Wanted everyone to know that there is a perception out there in the community that things are "done deals." She can't stress enough that they are not done deals, and she gets frustrated with that misconception.
- Feels confident that the community will not allow drastic changes to the secondary education system. Thinks the solution has to come from everyone working together to get those cuts off the table.
- Congratulated Peter J. Shields and Sandra J. Gallardo Elementary Schools for receiving applications to file for California Distinguished School status.
- Urged everyone to take time during the holiday season to appreciate the wonderful community we live in and come back prepared to solve our problems together.
- Happy Holidays to everyone.

Mr. Short

- Reported on highlights from the CSBA conference recently held in San Diego. The common thread was budget problems.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Shaw

- At the CSBA conference, there was a lot of talk about money and 2011/2012 being the worst year to come.
- A recent report indicated that, based on standardized testing, 15% of charter schools are doing better than public counterparts, but 30% are doing worse.
- With regard to the Race to the Top, CSBA believes that whatever California comes up with by January 15 will “closely resemble a train wreck.”
- Doesn’t want us to give up on the idea of a parcel tax. A southern school district did a parcel tax by mail-in votes only. They delivered ballots on an off year only to people who vote and did massive phone-banking. It passed overwhelmingly.
- Merry Christmas to everyone.

Mr. Benton

- Sorry he couldn’t make the CSBA conference this year.
- We’ve had some bad years in this district, both fiscally and emotionally. Sometimes you think it’s never going to get better, but you realize tomorrow is a day you’re looking forward to. Just when everything seems to be getting him down, he only needs to see a picture of his new little granddaughter to realize that all is good. “Enjoy your holidays and families.”

Ms. Stanley

- Expressed sympathy to the family of E.J. Shaw. Staff did an excellent job of handling the needs of kids during a very tough time for them.
- She understands that a memorandum of understanding for the Race to the Top must be submitted by January 19; however, even if the District doesn’t get the grant, it will still have to comply.
- Thanked Ms. Reinking for standing up for what she believes. Sometimes people get the impression that the Board is a group of sheep just following along, and it’s important to note that Trustees do have differences of opinion.
- A *Los Angeles Times* article said the way the state doles out money to K-12 education is insane and completely disconnected from reality. The same regulatory scheme applies to all districts no matter the size.
- It appears other districts in the state are “looking outside the box” for solutions. Lodi shelved their summer school program in favor of online work for kids needing to make up credits, and Lake Elsinore moved their driver education courses online.
- A national education survey found that just 9% of high school teachers say their primary mission is to prepare students for college, while 48% of students and 42% of parents say college preparation should be the chief focus of high school. Seems there is a disconnect between what students want out of high school and what teachers focus on.
- Commented on the flyer created by Ms. DeArcos regarding the multiple pathway approach to secondary instruction. Well done.
- Merry Christmas to all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

INFORMATION

0910-143 - Next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2010, at Folsom High School, 1655 Iron Point Road, Folsom, CA, 95630.

Record of meeting schedule for December 10, 2009.

Open Session	5:00 p.m.
Closed Session	5:05 p.m.
Open Session	6:04 p.m.
Recessed for Financing Corporation	
Annual Meeting	7:50 p.m.
Reconvened	7:52 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at	8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Godwin, Executive Secretary to the Board

JoAnne Reinking, Clerk of the Board