

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

Revised 8/16/11

August 4, 2011

MINUTES

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Richard Shaw, President
Teresa A. Stanley, Vice President
Ed Short, Clerk
Zak Ford, Member
JoAnne Reinking, Member
Mark Sohl, Student Member

August 4, 2011

Board members present: Richard Shaw, Teresa Stanley, Ed Short, Zak Ford, JoAnne Reinking, and Student Mark Sohl

5:00 p.m. – Open Session

CALL TO ORDER (Held in the Library)

President Shaw announced items to be discussed in closed session.

5:05 p.m. – Closed Session

(Held in the Library)

6:00 p.m. – Open Meeting

(Held in the Library)

Meeting convened at 6:09 p.m. President Shaw called the meeting to order. Student Board Member Mark Sohl led the flag salute.

REPORTING OUT CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS

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

She also congratulated the following personnel on their reassignments: Chris Aland to Principal of Folsom Middle School, Joseph Piazza to Principal of Mitchell Middle School, and Karen Knight to Director of Human Resources.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Approved in Closed Session)

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

STANLEY/SHORT MOVED TO APPROVE routine certificated personnel items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Approved the administrative reassignment of three.
- Approved the rehired with tenured status of twenty-seven.
- Approved the rehired with probationary status of five.
- Approved the rehired with temporary status of two.
- Approved the employment of four.
- Approved the leave of absence of two.
- Approved the voluntary reduction in assignment of one.
- Ratified resignation and fixed the last date of employment of five.
- Ratified retirement and fixed the last date of employment of two.
- Approved the tenured status of twenty-one.

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

SHORT/STANLEY MOVED TO APPROVE routine classified personnel items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Approved the employment of nine.
- Approved the reassignment of six.
- Approved the unpaid leave of absence of two.
- Ratified and fixed the last date of employment of ten.
- Accepted the classified retirement of three.

SHORT-TERM EMPLOYMENT

SHORT/FORD MOVED TO APPROVE the short-term employment.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Approved the short-term employment of seventeen secondary coaches.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None

INSTALLATION OF STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

President Shaw issued the Oath of Office to Mark Sohl, a senior at Cordova High School.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

REINKING/SHORT MOVED TO ADOPT the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

1112-001 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Susan Tate, new SELPA Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair

Is looking forward to working on the CAC Committee and with the new Director of Special Education.

Andrea Hess, parent of District student

Spoke on behalf of parent participation in the special education process.

Bob Hess, parent of District student

Feels parents are hitting brick walls with special education and are forced to hire attorneys to advocate for students. Parents need to be involved in the special education study. Looking forward to working out some of the issues.

1112-002 – REPORTS OF DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS

Student Advisory Board – Mark Sohl:

- No report.

Folsom Cordova Education Foundation – Vice President of Fundraising, Sarah Aquino

- FCEF will have a strategic planning meeting on August 14.
- Currently finalizing talks to update website for classroom support.
- A “friendraiser” event to kick off corporate partnerships will be held on September 30 at Vintner’s Cellar. Tickets can be purchased at www.sageapple.org.

Ms. Stanley shared that the City of Rancho Cordova would like FCEF to attend one of their council meetings and provide information regarding the foundation’s role and activities.

PTA Council – Assistant Superintendent Janie DeArcos:

- No report.

California School Employees Association – Communications Officer Rob Thomas:

- Thanked Superintendent Bettencourt for the recommendations of restorations and encouraged the Board to approve.

Folsom Cordova Education Association – President Michael Itkoff:

- Happy to see the long list of people rehired. Wished there was a different process, but glad to be able to bring staff back.
- Congratulated Cathy Runnels and Karen Knight on their new positions.
- Looking forward to good year.

Folsom Cordova Leadership Association

- No report.

AGENDA CONSENT ITEMS

STANLEY/REINKING MOVED TO APPROVE agenda consent items with exception of Items 1112-004 B and 1112-006 B.

A revised 1112-003 A, Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes: June 23, 2011, was provided at the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

1112-003 - Administrative Matters

- Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes: June 23, 2011
- Approve Special Board Meeting Minutes: June 23, 2011

1112-004 – Business Matters

- Accept Donations: To Acknowledge Receipt of Donations to the District
- See below.
- Adopt Resolution No. 08-04-11-01: Authorizing GASB 54 Fund Reporting and Classification of Fund Balances in Governmental Funds
- Adopt Resolution No. 08-04-11-02: Authorizing Employees to Sign Checks on the Revolving Cash and Clearing Accounts
- Approve the Sale or Disposal of Surplus/Obsolete District Furniture, Equipment, and Portable Classrooms
- Approve Lease-Leaseback Agreements: Mather Heights Elementary School Asphalt Project with JB Bostick Inc.
- Approve Lease Agreement with Cordova Meadows Ltd. For FCUSD State Preschool at Sierra Madre
- Adopt Resolution No. 08-04-11-03 Resolution of Intent to Grant an Easement at Blanche Sprentz Elementary School

1112-005 – Instructional Matters

- Approve 2011-2012 Elementary and Secondary Bell Schedules
- Approve Extended Educational Field Trip Request: Fifth and Sixth Grade Students to Sly Park Environmental Education Center, Pollock Pines, California
- Approve Extended Educational Field Trip Request: Folsom High School Cheerleaders to Cheer Camp, University of California, Berkeley, California
- Approve Renewal Contracts for Nonpublic Schools for the 2011-2012 School Year
- Approve Renewal Contracts for Nonpublic Agencies for the 2011-2012 School Year

1112-006 – Personnel Matters

- A. Approve Declaration of Need for Fully-Qualified Educators – Declaration Required Annually by Law
- B. See below.

1112-004 B – Approve Contract: Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistant Team (FCMAT) for Review in the Area of Special Education

Mr. Shaw pulled this item and deferred to Ms. Bettencourt. Ms. Bettencourt explained several things are being done to support and improve special education services in the District, including this review. If parents would like to participate, please submit name to Pam Parsons. The result of this review will be a roadmap for the District to follow. Interviews for the Director of Special Education are taking place tomorrow and a parent will participate on the interview panel.

Public comment

Sandy Kearney, parent of District student

- Thanked the Board and Superintendent for listening to parents and taking action.
- Shared a chart she prepared of information received from the Office of Administrative Hearings and California Department of Education websites regarding the number of due process complaints against the District. Hopes the review team will take this into consideration and speak to some of the parents that have filed due process.

Laura Mulder, parent of District student

- Thanked the Board for listening to the parents. Proposed that a good cross section of parents be involved in the special education review.
- Appreciative of the teachers union for filing a complaint. Both parents and teachers are seeing things that need fixed, such as no IEPs being completed.

Zoeann Lee, parent of District student

- Spoke regarding parents needing to be involved in the decision-making authority for their children.
- Suggested the CAC minutes have been altered in the past.
- Believes parent Laura Wasco has a conflict of interest with serving on the Director of Special Education interview panel.
- IEPs have been intimidating with the District being represented by 15 people.

STANLEY/REINKING MOVED TO APPROVE the contract with FCMAT for a review in the area of special education.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

1112-006 B – Approve Job Descriptions: Director, Assistant Director, Coordinator, and Supervisor of Special Education

This item was pulled in order to table to a subsequent meeting.

STANLEY/REINKING MOVED TO TABLE this item to a meeting conducted after the FCMAT special education review is completed.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1112-007 – This number not used.

1112-008 – 2011-2012 Budget Update/Restorations

Superintendent Bettencourt introduced Chief Financial Officer/CBO Rhonda Crawford. Ms. Crawford provided an update on the California state budget. The state passed a budget on June 30 that assumes \$4 billion in additional revenue. If the revenues fall short, the budget includes a mid-year reduction trigger that could amount to 4% of the District's revenue limit and the elimination of funding for home-to-school transportation. There are now twelve 2011-2012 apportionment deferrals. Also, the state legislature passed a trailer bill, AB 114, which dictates how districts will budget revenues for 2011-2012. FCUSD's budget adopted on June 23 indicated an ongoing structural deficit of \$12 million. The 2011-2012 revised assumptions, including an additional \$11 million for flat funding, furlough days for all employee groups, and \$3.5 million restorations as a result of flat funding and furlough days, result in an ongoing structural deficit of \$7.2 million.

The Superintendent reviewed the recommended restorations of \$3.5 million and answered Trustee's questions.

Ms. Reinking

- Supports the restorations provided.
- Would like to supply support in the classrooms that have increased in class size.
- Hope we closely monitor the need for special education aides for the safety of students.

Sandy Kearney, parent of District student

- Questioned reductions in special education staffing due to declining enrollment.

Mark McDavid, parent of District student

- If unable to afford to do it, don't do it.

Zoeann Lee, parent of District student

- There were twelve special education teachers let go and none have been restored. Doesn't believe the level of enrollment results in this many special education teacher reductions.

Ms. Bettencourt

- If there is a need for a special education placement, the District is obligated to fulfill. We have worked hard to have programs to meet our student needs.
- Special education staffing needs are being evaluated now and will be reviewed the first week of school.

STANLEY/SHORT MOVED TO APPROVE the 2011-2012 budget restorations as presented.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

1112-009 – FIRST READING: Revision to Administrative Regulation 3541: Transportation Routes and Services (Business and Noninstructional Operations)

Chief Financial Officer/CBO Rhonda Crawford explained that based on review of the budget and analysis of prior year transportation routes, staff recommends changes to routes and bus stops to provide maximum efficiency in staffing and the use of buses. The proposed changes increase the walking distances for grade levels 4 through 12, resulting in a savings of \$96,267.

Ms. Crawford introduced Don Butler, Director of Transportation, to answer questions. Mr. Butler explained routes have been researched, taking into account safety concerns, and the preliminary routes are posted on the website. All bus drivers will count the number of riders the first several weeks of school and routes will be adjusted as needed.

Mr. Ford

- Thanked the parents who contacted him regarding transportation concerns.
- Asked how our services compare to neighboring districts.

Mr. Butler

- Our services are similar, but in Elk Grove USD services are more spread out.

Ms. Reinking

- Has heard from parents regarding concerns about Sutter Middle School routes and students south of Highway 50 getting to Cordova High and Mitchell Middle Schools. What do parents know about changes or cancellations of routes? If a parent calls regarding obtaining a bus pass, what are they being told?

Ms. Bettencourt

- The Transportation Department did indicate to callers that transportation services were cut, and as soon as the recommendations were made from Cabinet, the routes were posted on the website. Tomorrow there will be an Edulink message going out to parents stating there have been changes to bus routes and to check the website.
- Staff feels the need to consolidate bus services because of the threat of the state's mid-year 50% reduction for transportation.
- Transportation for general education students is not required by law.

Mark McDavid, parent of District student

- Increasing the walking distance will result in his daughter missing more classes and it is dangerous. It should be made as easy as possible to get to school, not harder. Asked the Board to consider cutting from administrator salaries instead and increasing costs to parents.

Sherri Garcia, parent of District student and manager of apartment complex

- Asked the Board to approve transportation services for students.
- Asked the Board to notify parents in the future when changes such as this happen.
- Her apartment complex is 2.2 miles to the nearest elementary school. There are no sidewalks or bike lanes, and there are 65 registered sex offenders in the area. It is a safety issue for the students to walk to school and will result in an increase in tardiness and drop outs.
- What about overflow students?

Mr. Shaw

- Not all routes are limited to the distance specified in this policy. Other factors, especially safety, are taken into consideration.
- Unfortunately, some people will be inconvenienced.

Jaidean Robertson, FCUSD student and Grandmother Jill

- Transportation services are needed from Gold Ridge Elementary School to Sutter Middle School. Willing to pay whatever the fees are.
- Thanked the Board for their good work trying to meet the needs of the public.

Ms. Reinking

- Appreciates the effort Mr. Butler put into this and is confident the safety of students was taken into consideration.
- This situation creates an opportunity for parents to get involved, such as in safe routes to schools, obtaining crossing guards, and car pooling.

- There may be federal grants available to help.

Mr. Ford

- Appreciates the parents' concerns. It is not the ideal situation, but happy we can retain portions of transportation services.

Mr. Sohl

- Just found out that my bus route was dropped. It isn't too great to be in this situation. Will have to catch a ride with neighbors, or buy a bicycle.
- It is important for us to work together as a community, and it is better to have some routes than none at all.

Mr. Short

- Has confidence that safe routes will be a priority. This is an opportunity to partner with parents, and cities to try to obtain federal grant monies for safe routes to school.

Ms. Stanley

- The District has always been mindful of providing transportation routes, such as from Mather to Mitchell Middle and Cordova High Schools.
- Concerned about the possible mid-year budget reductions imposed by the state.
- Also feels we were not good about communicating our cuts to parents. If we have mid-year cuts and need to look at reducing transportation services, parents need to be informed.
- Safety factors are important in determining routes.
- Parents can have carpool signups.

Mr. Shaw

- When the District's budget was passed in June, didn't think we would have even this much transportation services. Hopes the state revenues come in.
- Will get school open, access needs, adjust, and make it work as well as possible. It will inconvenience some people.

STANLEY/REINKING MOVED TO APPROVE the revision to Administrative Regulation 3541, transportation routes and services.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

DISCUSSION

1112-010 - Review Proposed Goals and Focus Points for 2011-2012 School Year

Superintendent Bettencourt presented the proposed goals and focus points for the 2011-2012 school year. Special education is an emphasis, as well as marketing and implementing programs.

Mr. Ford

- Glad to see an effort to improve communication and training, especially regarding special education.
- Questioned the difference between Edulink and Edline.

Mr. Jenkins

- Edulink is a communication system for phone messages, and Edline is a student/parent webpage that includes information about student attendance, grades, and other information.

Ms. Reinking

- These are some of the most specific goals seen in the last several years. Glad to see communication and Parent District Advisory Committee included.

Ms. Stanley

- Asked about First Instruction and suggested changing the name to something people could understand such as “initial instruction.”
- Questioned if bullets b. and f. under Goal 1. III should be combined under one bullet since they both relate to providing special education information to parents.
- Feels parent training should not be under professional development.
- Goal 3 relating to communication seems to be focused on the District communicating out. We need to open the door to allow parents an opportunity to communicate with us and share information on their children’s needs.

Mr. Sohl

- It is reassuring the District is writing goals to allow students to be more competitive. Glad to see we review and adjust goals and focus points annually.

Mr. Short

- Thanked Ms. Bettencourt for enhancing and improving the goals and supports the changes incorporated.
- Asked if a performance matrix could be created to show benchmarks to see how we are doing. Suggests monitoring to measure success.

Ms. Reinking

- Would like to see goals relating to elementary needs, specifically those classrooms that have had their class size increased.
- Would like to see a structure in place for creating a digital school board (paperless agenda).
- It is incredible how much we have created this year despite the budget problems, including the Gateway Academies and Global Study Program.

Mr. Shaw

- Anticipates the digital school board will be in place in the new Education Services Center.

Mike Itkoff

- Suggested taking out references to Edline and referring to as online parent webpage.

Jennifer Wong, parent representative on SELPA CAC

- Spoke regarding different tools to use in communicating with parents.

Ms. Stanley

- There is no need to delineate implementation in the goals.
- Would like to see the request for a digital school board added.
- Regarding Ms. Reinking’s suggestion about elementary needs, is reluctant to provide goals for specific groups.

Robin Vota, parent of District student

- Spoke regarding two-way communication.
- Has not seen the bullying policy addressed by schools.

Ms. Bettencourt

- Three of our schools are piloting an anti-bullying program this year.

Ms. Reinking

- Requested additional information regarding converting the Board to digital.

Changes suggested by the Board will be addressed by staff and a final draft of the goals and focus points will be brought back to the Trustees for adoption at a subsequent Board meeting.

1112-011 - FIRST READING: Revision to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5144: Discipline (Students)

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Janie DeArcos presented the recommended revisions to BP and AR 5144 to the Board for comment.

Board members discussed and provided input on the policies as follows:

- Questioned if it is always our practice for a certificated employee to monitor detention after school. Suggested changing to students shall remain under “general” supervision of a certificated employee.
- Discussed whether the disciplinary rules must be reviewed annually by schools. Suggested changing to “encourage” to review annually, but shall review at least every four years.
- Mr. Shaw suggested that for each rule, it should be encouraged to provide the strategy that should be used when the rule is broken.

Michael Itkoff, FCEA President

- Spoke regarding the difference between the use of the words “shall” and “may.”

Changes suggested by the Board will be addressed by staff and a final draft of the policy and regulation will be brought back to the Trustees for adoption at a subsequent Board meeting.

1112-012 - FIRST READING: Revision to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4040: Employee Use of Technology (Personnel)

Chief Financial Officer/CBO Rhonda Crawford asked Chief Technology Officer Joe Jenkins to present this item. Mr. Jenkins explained the increased use of social media has prompted the District to review employee use of technology. He reviewed the recommended revisions to this policy and regulation.

Board members discussed and provided input as follows:

- Is there a media that is education friendly?
- Should teachers be able to add a student as a friend on a social media site if they are not their direct teacher?
- Examples of situations where social media sites have been used effectively and were beneficial for staff, students, and parents were provided, including for field trips, PTAs, sports and school activities.
- Parents should be given the opportunity to have input on using social media as an instructional tool.
- Teachers have accepted students as friends on social media sites because they may have children that are friends with the student, may live in the same community, or may be related.
- The CSBA recommended policy has been reviewed by an attorney, but the District’s additions have not.
- Can we dictate to teachers what to do in their personal lives?

- Is it a violation of free speech to instruct teachers not to say anything to harm the reputation of a school?
- Professional behavior standards already exist in other policies.
- The policy relates to District staff, including coaches and Board members.
- Don't see in the policy where we are allowing teachers to register with the District and use social media sites for students to access for education content and purpose. Need to see the guidelines for this.
- District would have to monitor the approved social media web pages.

Mr. Jenkins

- Cautioned that social media sites can be hijacked and taken over.
- District is developing a register for District approval of appropriate social media pages. The guidelines are still being developed.
- Students want to use this type of communication, but need to be protected from harm.
- Teachers must maintain professional relationships with students. They are not friends.

Ms. Runnels

- Provided examples of legal cases that have resulted from teachers using social media sites.
- Certificated staff needs to understand they are a teacher to the students 24 hours a day.
- Teachers and students must maintain respectful interactions.
- Teachers should maintain privacy settings on social media sites to protect their jobs.

Michael Itkoff, FCEA President

- Many of the additions to this policy are covered under other District policies.
- FCEA's advise to certificated staff is not to friend any student, and to create a separate account for school use, and to not allow students to access personal information.
- Asked for further clarification on acceptable social media use by staff.
- Encouraged the Board to take time and proceed with caution on creating this policy, and to obtain input from secondary teachers that use social media sites for educational purposes.

Ms. Bettencourt

- The policy is not meant to limit freedom of speech, but meant to protect teachers. This is a personnel policy. The instructional policy related to appropriate school use of social network will be presented later in the year.

Changes suggested by the Board will be addressed by staff and a final draft of the personnel policy and regulation will be brought back to the Trustees for adoption at a subsequent Board meeting.

REPORTS

1112-013 – Reports to the Board of Education

A. Superintendent Bettencourt:

- There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the new science classroom building at Cordova High School on September 8 at 6:00 p.m.
- Management and teachers are receiving mandated training on special education legal compliance this week and next.
- Walnutwood Independent Study conducted an open house for their virtual high school tonight.

B. Correspondence to the Board

C. Robles-Wong: Public School Financing Lawsuit

BOARD OF EDUCATION

1112-014 – Board Business

A. Board Communication

Mr. Sohl

- Thanked the District and the Board for welcoming him. Looking forward to this year.
- Congratulated Joseph Piazza and Chris Aland on their new positions.
- It is great to see the restorations.
- It is difficult not having bus transportation.
- Participated on the panel for the new Vice Principal at Cordova High School. There is a lot expected of them. Wished the candidates good luck.
- Looking forward to another year at Cordova High School.
- Checked out the new science building at Cordova High School and it is amazing.
- Wished everyone a good first day of school.

Ms. Reinking

- Is excited about the wonderful things the District is doing such as the Gateway Academies, Global Studies, and Junior Kindergarten classes.
- Grateful we are having School Resource Officers again in Folsom.

Mr. Ford

- Welcomed Mr. Sohl to the Board. He is going to be a dedicated member of Board.
- Attended the summer school graduation ceremony.
- Will attend the District/Cordova Recreation and Park District 2x2 next week.
- Won third place in the Rancho Cordova 4th of July parade for float decoration.
- Coached t-ball this summer.
- Happy birthday to son Tommy and daughter Maddie, both their birthdays are tomorrow.

Ms. Stanley

- Pleased to see we are looking at bringing interest-based bargaining back.
- Thanked Mr. Sohl for contributing in a substantial way. Welcomes the student voice and appreciates the input.
- Attended the District/City of Rancho Cordova 2x2 meeting. City council members requested FCEF conduct a presentation at a council meeting to explain their mission. Items discussed at the meeting included education excellence, ideas for closing the achievement gap, new programs in the District, and new leadership at Cordova High School.
- The Sacramento Children's Museum, located in Rancho Cordova, is having a grand opening on August 25.
- The Education Services Center will be furniture ready by mid-December, with staff moving into the building in January.

Mr. Short

- Welcomed Mark Sohl to the Board.
- Had a great summer. Participated in the Rancho Cordova 4th of July parade.
- Looking forward to this year. It is a big year with his daughter starting Cordova High School.
- Looking forward to seeing the new science building at Cordova High School.

Mr. Shaw

- Welcomed Mark Sohl to the Board.
- Congratulated Karen Knight and Cathy Runnels on their new positions.

B. Pending Board Requests

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1112-015 – Tentative Agenda: Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2011, at Mills Middle School, 10439 Coloma Road, Rancho Cordova, California, 95670

Record of meeting schedule for August 4, 2011

Open Session	5:00 p.m.
Closed Session	5:05 p.m.
Open Session	6:09 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at	9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Bettencourt, Executive Secretary to the Board

Ed Short, Clerk of the Board