

GARVEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Rosemead, California

Minutes of Special Meeting
August 23, 2011

The Garvey School Board of Education met in special session on August 23, 2011, at the Education Center, Rosemead, California.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Board President M. Janet Chin.

ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were Mr. Bob Bruesch, Ms. M. Janet Chin, Mr. Henry Lo (arrived at 6:36 p.m.), Mr. Tony Ramos (arrived at 6:02 p.m.), Mr. John Yuen, and Superintendent Dr. Sandra Johnson.

Also in attendance were Mr. Genaro Alarcon, Mr. Michael Coughlin, Ms. Dolores Preciado, Dr. Mary Suzuki, and Ms. Maria De La Cruz.

VISITORS PRESENT

Present as visitors were the persons listed on the attached Register of Attendance who signed the register and whose signatures were legible and which is hereby made an official part of these minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Nancy Eng led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

HEARING OF PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE

Cecilia Losoya advised that she has turned in a Request for Public Records to obtain information on the qualifications of the two trainers in Balanced Literacy, and asked why the Board is still bringing people from out of state when there are people in California who may be better qualified to provide the training.

Ms. Losoya urged the Board to bring back the people who were recently laid off instead of paying for a consultant at \$1000 per day. She indicated that there would be no union support for re-electing Board members or an initiative for a recall.

Cathie Camacho and Gloria Lopez spoke in opposition of Action Item No. B. Ms. Camacho talked about the importance of having more than one follow-up training session. She asked Board Members to bring back the publishers, or have District coaches trained to bring back information to all teachers in the District for a better evaluation throughout the year. Ms. Lopez asked to look at the first year of learning on Treasures and bring back the publisher after two or three months for a refresher and not spend additional money that can be used to employ people in California. Ms. Camacho suggested that Balanced Literacy be introduced next year and focus this year on follow-up training for *Treasures*.

Vickie Walker addressed Action Item No. B. She asked whether bringing back this item was against Robert's Rules of Order and why there was a rush to have this item approved when teachers are busy preparing for the first day of class. Ms. Walker asked if there was enough information about the trainers from Arizona compared to the qualifications from District staff and teachers. Ms. Walker asked the Board to place this item on hold and ask the new Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services to put together training for all teachers that would save money for the District.

On a question from Janet Chin regarding reconsideration of a motion, Dr. Johnson indicated that anyone that had voted in the affirmative may ask to bring back a motion for reconsideration, and Board members asked to bring back this item for reconsideration.

Nancy Eng spoke in support of Action Item B. She indicated that in Language Arts there is always room for improvement in the District. As a parent she supports the necessary efforts that help teachers develop strong skills and to focus the training for K-3 teachers which would help students become interested and able to learn through their upper grades. Ms. Eng felt that the cost for this training is far below than the cost needed to provide Supplemental Educational Services annually by mostly unqualified providers to students who are unable to perform at grade level from not having strong reading skills the long-term benefit outweighs this immediate cost.

Michael Drange urged the Board to vote against Action Item B. He noted the cost of this training and stated that information related to District teachers not using these strategies and methods is a false statement. Mr. Drange indicated that in 2002-03 the District received a grant to provide training in Balanced Literacy and there was a cohort project for teachers to receive a Masters of Arts degree. Several teachers went through this program and received their degrees. Mr. Drange mentioned names of people from California State University who came to the District with this information. Mr. Drange asked if it would be proper to bring people from outside California and whether it would seem disrespecting to some teachers in the District.

Mr. Drange asked why there has been no conversation about this training with the Garvey Education Association to empower teachers and become a part of the bigger picture.

Ted Saulino asked Board members to vote no on Action Item B. He asked that the Board focus on the children and not on back door politics. Mr. Saulino reminded Mr. Lo on the reasons he decided to run as a Board member. He cautioned the Board on bringing this item for reconsideration and stated that when a motion dies, only the assembly can call back the motion. John Yuen commented on the recall of the tie motion. Janet Chen stated that our legal council has reviewed the decision to reconsider a tie motion.

Bob Bruesch addressed the Board as a person in the audience regarding the Balanced Literacy Program that were developed 25 years ago, and is taking this long to implement. He noted that while there are many teachers in the District trained in Balanced Literacy, it will take some time to implement it district-wide as it will not be immediately accepted. Mr. Bruesch stated he knows many people that are trained in Balanced Literacy, and he has seen many teachers in the upper grades implementing these methods and forming groups to analyze the student data. Mr. Bruesch recommended starting a Balanced Literacy Program slowly to avoid overwhelming the teachers.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the LEA Plan as presented. 1

Dr. Sandra Johnson gave an overview of the requirements for the Local Education Agency (LEA) Plan for 2011-2016, and the performance goals and requirement in very specific areas of reading, mathematics, and limited English proficiency. In addition, the District is to identify internal assessments with benchmarks. Dr. Johnson noted that the LEA Plan becomes the basis for all single plans for student achievement, as well as, the way the categorical funds are spent to ensure that the District meets the AYP requirements by addressing those weak areas identified in the plan. Changes are made annually through the addendum.

Dr. Johnson explained that surveys were sent to teachers, principals, and academic coaches and the compiled results were used as part of the plan to develop a needs assessment for the plan. There

were different steering committees that reviewed and look at various components from different perspectives. Resource teachers and others formed the District School Leadership Team to write this fluid document. The LEA Plan has eight essential program components with two new sections required at this time. One of which is the lesson's pacing guides aligned to the *Treasures* and the use of a collaborative model facilitated by the principals. The funding for this should be aimed at closing the achievement gap using research-based programs with the data. Dr. Johnson indicated that this process will take some training and support.

Mr. Bruesch noted the absence of parent training in the LEA Plan. Dr. Johnson said that this can be added to the plan, and Dr. Suzuki is already working to have a parent education program. On a question from Mr. Bruesch regarding the position for interventionists, Genaro Alarcon stated that there are 170 applicants from inside and outside the District that are being screened. There are 7 positions open that can provide the opportunity to bring back some of the laid off teachers.

Dr. Johnson talked about the development of rubrics by principals to share student information in collaboration with teachers to develop lessons and criteria for student work and to let parents know of the level of reading and classroom work. An effort will be made to help parents understand the process outlined in the LEA Plan.

Mr. Bruesch commented on certain tests that do not reflect such areas as problem solving skills. Dr. Johnson indicated that there are ways to assess these types of skills and data is collected District-wide.

On the motion of John Yuen, seconded by Bob Bruesch, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, the Board approved Action Item A as presented.

On a question from John Yuen regarding the disclosure of the LEA Plan, Dr. Johnson stated that the LEA Plan will be posted online and an Executive Summary can be made available.

- B. It is recommended that the Board of Education reconsider hiring Heather Morrison and Carol Maaske to provide four days of Balanced Literacy training for approximately fifty K-3 teachers due to reduction in expenses. 2

Tony Ramos stated that the questions he had regarding this training have been answered, and he sees many benefits for teachers and students arising from this training. Bob Bruesch spoke of the concern of having local people trained that can provide this training.

Janet Chin asked if this training can be started later during the school year. Dr. Johnson stated the importance of targeting instruction to the needs of students and that teachers can provide it from the beginning of the school year. Dr. Mary Suzuki stated that cost of this training will be much less than if it were provided by a LACOE consultant and that the funding is covered from Title I Categorical Programs to be in alignment with the LEA Plan. Dr. Johnson added that funding for teachers is from Title II which cannot be used to hire employees. Dr. Suzuki indicated that Title II also uses a portion for some salaries to support certain professional development for teachers making an impact on student learning.

On a question from Bob Bruesch regarding textbooks aligned to standards, Dr. Suzuki stated she agrees that *Treasures* is an incredible program that covers many key areas and activities for all students and by law, these textbooks have to have elements of the Balanced Literacy embedded in their programs. Ms. Suzuki indicated that in the four days of training, teachers will have an opportunity to integrate Balanced Literacy component with the *Treasures* textbook.

Mr. Lo thanked Mr. Ramos for putting out questions on this item for deliberation. He asked if the timing of the training was enough to have teachers implement it in their classrooms, and whether this has been discussed with the Garvey Education Association as part of bargaining discussion. Dr. Johnson stated that we have had teachers wanting this and have had volunteers participate in this training, understanding that it will take some time to implement new approaches.

Mr. Lo talked about the discussions on what direction the District is going and the discord that exists now. He understands that a lot of this is coming from Sacramento and Washington, D.C.; however, he asked that everyone take a little time to think what is best and the right action to take.

The Board voted to approve Action Item B as follows:

Henry Lo – No

Tony Ramos – Yes

Bob Bruesch – No

John Yuen – Yes

Janet chin – Yes

The motion carried by a vote of 3 to 2 (Bob Bruesch and Henry Lo opposed).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS: None

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE BOARD

On comments related to training and planning needs, Dr. Johnson stated that local trainers will be sought and planning will focus on having all teachers trained for Balanced Literacy to become the model for classrooms.


Bob Bruesch stated that on the Family Fun Day on September 17, 2011, books will be given out in English and Spanish that will have information for parents to help their student succeed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

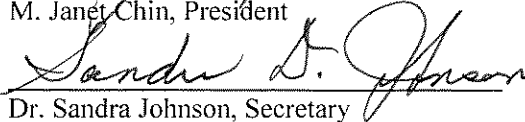
The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, September 8, 2011, at the Education Center. Closed session will begin at 6:30 p.m. with public session to begin at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.



M. Janet Chin, President



Dr. Sandra Johnson, Secretary

**REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE AT GARVEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Cathie Camacho

Michael Drange

Nancy Eng

Pat Kasababian

Cecilia Losoya

Jason Otis

Ted Saulino

Ken Tang

Vicky Walker