

GARVEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Rosemead, California

Minutes of Reorganization Meeting

December 15, 2011

The Garvey School District Board of Education met in reorganization session on December 15, 2011, at Garvey Intermediate School, Rosemead, CA 91770.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by President M. Janet Chin

ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were Mr. Bob Bruesch, Ms. M. Janet Chin, Mr. Henry Lo, Mr. Tony Ramos, Mr. John Yuen (arrived at 7:00 p.m.) 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Keno Deary, student at Temple Intermediate School, and vice president of Temple's associated student body, led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEWLY RE-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Rosemead City Council Member Poly Low administered the Oath of Office to newly re-elected Board Member M. Janet Chin.

Assemblymember Mike Eng administered the Oath of Office to newly re-elected Board Member Henry Lo.

Rosemead Mayor Pro Tem Sandra Armenta and Rosemead Council Member Poly Low presented certificates of recognition to newly installed Board Members M. Janet Chin and Henry Lo.

ELECTION OF OFFICERSElection of President

Dr. Sandra Johnson opened the floor for nominations to elect the President of the Board.

On the motion of Bob Bruesch, seconded by Henry Lo, and carried by acclamation, Tony Ramos was elected President of the Board.

Mr. Ramos assumed the position immediately as president and continued as chair of the Board meeting.

Election of Vice President

Tony Ramos opened the floor for nominations to elect the Vice President of the Board. Nominated were Bob Bruesch and John Yuen. The first vote resulted in a vote of 2 to 2 (John Yuen not present for the

vote). From results of the second vote, John Yuen was elected Vice President of the Board on a vote of 3 to 2 (Bob Bruesch and Henry Lo opposed).

Election of Clerk

Tony Ramos opened the floor for nominations to elect the Clerk of the Board. Henry Lo was elected Clerk of the Board by acclamation.

Appointment of Secretary to the Board of Education

Sandra Johnson was elected Secretary of the Board by acclamation.

Dr. Johnson presented an award of recognition to Janet Chin for her outstanding service of two years as Board President ending in 2011.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

The Rice School Rhythmax Honors Show Choir performed three choral numbers. Dr. Johnson noted that this year, the tryouts for the Honors Show Choir were open to all students in the District. Dr. Johnson thanked Ms. Marina Tahmizian for her outstanding work with the students.

COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS FROM THE BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Sandra Johnson thanked all the parents and students participating in tonight's choral performance. She announced a special concert of the Rice Rhythmax Honor Show Choir, the Monterey Vista Glee Choir and Bell Choir performances on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., at Garvey Auditorium. The concert is free of charge and all are invited to come.

Dr. Johnson shared two graphs with information on test performance and comparisons of students when they move on to high school at Alhambra Unified School District. This information will be posted on the Web pages. The graphs show Garvey students performing as well or better than students who went to middle schools in Alhambra. The mathematics Garvey scores outperformed somewhat for grades 9, 10, and 12. For science, the Garvey students outperformed in life sciences for grade 10 and in world history exams for 11th grade. Dr. Johnson congratulated all the teachers and students for their outstanding efforts.

Dr. Johnson reported on recent meetings with the San Gabriel City Manager regarding a grant for the Marshall Park. She indicated that the City is going to make sure that the District does not incur a cost for this project since Garvey is no longer using the premises. On issues related to custodial services and water payments, the City of San Gabriel will ensure that the arrangements will be beneficial to the District. Dr. Johnson stated she is pleased with the help and support from the City of San Gabriel.

John Yuen spoke in appreciation of the teachers who stayed on duty during the recent power outages due to high winds in the San Gabriel Valley. Teachers did their best for the students of parents who had to report to work.

Dr. Johnson also learned that some parents were not happy for keeping open the schools affected by the power outage. Dr. Johnson noted that some parents were really appreciative of having the schools open and that, while difficult for staff, the environment was safe. Dr. Johnson spoke in appreciation of the staff's effort during these times.

Bob Bruesch spoke of the recent California Schools Board Association discussing issues related to the State budget and a booklet presented, *CSBA Safe Schools Project*. Mr. Bruesch commended the District staff

because many of the ideas presented in this booklet, such as, school wellness, anti-bullying, etc. are things that are already being done in our School District.

Henry Lo indicated he attended the Alhambra Unified School Board Reorganization meeting yesterday, where comments were made about a possible joint Garvey-Alhambra Board meeting this year.

Janet Chin spoke of comments she heard about the Parent-Superintendent Advisory Council, and asked for further information. Ms. Chin spoke of an Education Summit she attended last week in Washington, D.C., by a national organization that is talking about where education is headed regarding teacher quality, fair funding, national report cards, etc. Ms. Chin will forward this information to the Board members next week.

Tony Ramos noted that Panda Corporation has donated 43 computers to the Garvey School District. He hopes that these computers will be put to good use. Panda also hosted this year's Holiday party inviting students from the Rosemead District and Garvey District participating in the Leader in Me Program.

Henry Lo indicated he had an opportunity to speak with students participating in the Occupy East Los Angeles College who were also alumni from the Garvey School District. The students spoke of the leadership skills taught to them in our schools. The students were protesting budget cuts and the consequences for higher education.

REPORT FROM HEAD START REPRESENTATIVE

Cindy Carter, Director of Child Development, and Connie Fu, member of the Head Start Policy Committee (PC), reported on today's PC meeting.

Ms. Carter invited Board members to an upcoming High Scope Curriculum workshop for parents on December 21-22, and January 11, 2012 that will be presented in two sessions at 8:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. The focus will be on the High Scope philosophy and goals and the daily routine, volunteer hours, strengthening the home school connection, and transition to Kindergarten. The Head Start program continues to recruit children and is hoping to build a strong waiting list. Management staff continues its work with the refunding application to be submitted on January 19, 2012. Ms. Carter indicated that at a LACOE meeting today, there was some direction given on the completion of the program's self assessment, and she invited Board members to be part of their self-assessment team.

Connie Fu, Policy Committee elected Board Liaison, reported on the enrollment summary for November 2011. There are 513 students enrolled with an average daily attendance of 92.79 percent. The Head Start Non-Federal share contribution for the PC Committee in November 2011 is 78 hours. The Head Start Classroom non-Federal share total for November is 6,171 hours.

REPORT FROM UNION REPRESENTATIVES

- **Garvey Education Foundation (GEA)**

Sanya Namboun, K-3 Area Representative, spoke on behalf of Michael Drange, GEA President. Ms. Namboun congratulated Henry Lo and Janet Chin for their re-election to the Board.

Ms. Namboun spoke about the recent power outage at three schools, Duff, Emerson and Dewey, during the recent wind storms, and the District's decision to remain open. The Association is surprised of the decision considering that it was really cold and electricity is needed to run the technology in the classrooms. Ms. Namboun talked about dark classrooms for more than six hours and dark bathrooms not being safe for 5-6 year-old children. Ms. Namboun questioned why some

parents were told that the schools were safe for the children to be in school, in spite of other school districts being closed, and agencies such as the Alhambra Police Department advising of high wind advisories. Ms. Namboun asked the Board to review these safety issues and procedures and the need to communicate with GEA during these situations.

Dr. Sandra Johnson talked about the steps taken and the decisions that were based on evaluations of the school sites with Art Reynolds at 5:30 a.m. that morning of the high winds. The school campuses were determined to be safe with no wires down, only a couple of trees down in the area, and no visible damage to any of the buildings. Dr. Johnson walked with the principal of each of the schools, except Duff School, and the buildings were believed to be in safe condition. The faculty was provided with battery powered lights and hot coffee that morning. She indicated that few parents did not bring their children to school but many parents were appreciative of the schools being open through this difficult situation. There were plans to have a generator at schools sites; however the power came on before that was accomplished. Dr. Johnson reassured everyone that safety of the children was the first and foremost concern on that day.

- **California Schools Employees Association (CSEA):** None

REPORT FROM DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

- **Garvey Council PTA**

Dr. Sandra Johnson spoke of the PTA luncheon held this week which was very enjoyable.

- **Garvey Education Foundation**

Michael Coughlin addressed the matters of the Garvey Education Foundation regarding the TGIF event on December 2, 2011. There was a net gain of about \$480. The winner of the raffle was Dr. Eric Medrano. As of today, the pledged donations are under \$2,000. Bob Bruesch stated that the planner has raised about \$500.00. The cost of the planner is \$20.00. Dr. Johnson noted that the planner includes a collection of original photos and poems by Mr. Bruesch.

HEARING OF PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE

Nancy Eng, parent of 4th grade student, thanked the Rice School staff for the beautiful student performances, and she thanked the Board, Dr. Johnson, and the District staff for the tireless work to ensure that the children receive quality education. She urged the Board to continue to focus on truly putting our children first.

Karen Bascetta addressed the Board regarding her experience as a teacher since 1972 and her family's active involvement in the District throughout the years. Mrs. Bascetta stated she was very upset and disappointed by the way the District has been run in the past few months. She stated that the teachers at Dewey experienced the loss of electrical power. Mrs. Bascetta indicated that as of 7:30 a.m. on the morning of the power outage, no information had been given to the office manager of Dewey about the situation on the loss of power; that many parents were in the office asking questions. Mrs. Bascetta talked about the number of students that were out that day and that 67 parents filled a release slip to bring their children home.

Mrs. Bascetta talked about the conditions of the classrooms and the bathrooms with no lights. She called the situation hazardous and felt that the response to questions from parents and teachers on that day of the power outage was insensitive, at a time when the District did not have the resources to keep the schools open. Mrs. Bascetta stated that the generators would only provide lighting but would not provide heat when it was also very cold that day. She indicated that at the end of the day everyone was very exhausted

and that children were crying and very upset. Mrs. Bascetta stated that people were feeling suppressed and have made comments of not wishing to get in trouble if they spoke up. She presented a petition of 75 parents who felt that the safety of students should have first priority when school conditions are potentially hazardous to our children. Mrs. Bascetta thanked Mr. Alarcon for bringing coffee to the staff on the day of the power outage.

Juan de Santiago completed a request to speak but was not present to speak.

Terry Skotnes, CTA Liaison to Alhambra, Garvey, and South Pasadena School Districts, addressed the Board regarding the comments made by Karen Bascetta as an expression of the teachers' experience during the day of the power outage on December 1, 2011. Mr. Skotnes expressed great appreciation to the staff and teachers for their efforts in keeping the schools safe under very poor weather conditions; however, Mr. Skotnes encouraged the Board to review Board policy to better prepare for situations caused by hazardous weather conditions. He stated that he was very disturbed for not being able to speak with Dr. Johnson about the conditions of the schools and the fact that other districts had sent their children home. Mr. Skotnes stated he is very concerned about the feedback from teachers saying that the decisions made on that day did not make sense. Mr. Skotnes hopes for a better year, as he has seen the District moving in the wrong direction the last few months.

Ted Saulino congratulated Board members on their election as President, Vice President, and Clerk of the Board, and hoped that Board members give this responsibility their first priority. Mr. Saulino shared some pictures of the baseball field at Rice School regarding concerns over a mound of dirt, about six feet high, placed there for about six months and the children are not able to use the baseball diamond. Mr. Saulino commented on a question made to him about why he was here. He explained that he grew up in this District, graduated, has worked and lived in the District as a taxpayer and a businessman. Mr. Saulino made some comments about Board members lateness to meetings. John Yuen commented on his reason for serving as a Board member to protect the best interest of students.

CONSENT AGENDA

On the motion of Bob Bruesch, seconded by Janet Chin, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as indicated below.

A. Board/Superintendent

1. Approval of Minutes 1
The minutes of the following meeting are submitted for approval:
Regular Meeting – November 10, 2011
Approved.
2. Conference/Convention Attendance - Revised 2
It is recommended that the Board of Education approve requests for conference and convention attendance as presented. Approved.
3. Establishment of Regular Board Meetings for 2012 3
It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the 2012 Regular Board Meeting Schedule as presented. Approved.
4. Certification of Signatures 4
It is recommended that the Board approve the following certification of signature as presented. Approved.
5. Acknowledgement of Gift 5
It is recommended that the Board of Education accept the donation of \$150 from Edison International's Employee Contributions and Campaign Match program. Information only.

6. Acknowledgement of Gift 6
It is recommended that the Board of Education accept the donation of 43 Dell Desktop computers with keyboards and mice from Panda Restaurant Group. Information only.

- B. Human Resources**
1. Personnel Assignment Report - Revised 7
It is recommended that the Board of Education approve Personnel Assignment Report No. 11-12-08 as presented. Approved.

- C. Pupil Personnel Services – No Items**

- D. Instructional Services**
1. Single Plans for Student Achievement 8
Approve as presented the 2011-12 Single Plans for Student Achievement for Hillcrest and Bitely Elementary Schools as Required by Ed. Code Sections 52853 and 52855 as presented. Approved.
2. Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Providers 9
Approve amendments to contracts with Supplemental Educational Services (SES) providers as presented. Approved.
3. Contract with RISE Educational Services 9A
It is recommended that the Garvey Board of Education approve the contract with RISE Educational Services as presented. Approved.

- E. Business Services**
1. Purchase Order Report - Revised 10
It is recommended that the Board of Education approve Purchase Order Report No.11-12-08 as presented. Approved.
2. Appropriation Transfers 11
It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the Appropriation Transfers as presented. Approved.
3. Contract with County of Los Angeles Public Health Department 12
It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the contract with the County of Los Angeles Public Health Department as presented. Approved.
4. First Interim Report 13
It is recommended that the Board of Education adopt the First Interim Report as presented.

Michael Coughlin addressed the First Interim Report and stated that the District has a positive certification, which means it is able to meet its fiscal obligations for the rest of this fiscal year and the next two years through June 30, 2014.

Mr. Coughlin addressed the “triggers” contained in the State budget to address a potential \$4 billion shortfall. The actual amount of the shortfall determines the level of cuts and the programs to be effected. In order for cuts to K-12 education to be triggered, the revenue shortfall must be at least \$2 billion. Mr. Coughlin reported that the First Interim Report includes a set aside of \$250 per Average Daily Attendance (approximately \$1.369 million dollars), as well as a set aside of 50% of the funding for Special Education Transportation

in case the maximum level of cuts took effect. This was done at the direction of L.A. County Office of Education (LACOE).

Mr. Coughlin noted that the short fall turned out to be just over \$2 billion, thus sparing education from the brunt of the cuts. Based on the continued sluggish condition of the state economy, funding challenges remain for the foreseeable future. He encouraged the Board to hold on to the funds set aside as a hedge against budget reductions that the governor may propose for 2012-13, as well as further declines in enrollment and student attendance. Dr. Johnson commented on the \$100,000 reduction built in the Interim Report for class size reductions because of the loss in student enrollment in the current year.

Bob Bruesch mentioned that the recent CSBA conference covered these budget matters and things that districts are able to do to increase revenue, such as going for a parcel tax or bond which some schools districts are banding together trying to seek legal counsel for a bond or tax issue in the next two to three years.

On a question from Janet Chin, Mr. Coughlin stated that LACOE has ultimate authority over the District's finances. It has the ability to disapprove the District's certification on an Interim Report and not approve the District's budget. In those instances, which has never happened to Garvey, the District would have to re-do the report to LACOE's satisfaction. In the most drastic situation, LACOE will do the work itself and bill the District.

Ms. Chin asked a question regarding long-term commitments. Mr. Coughlin indicated that these are primarily to cover bonded indebtedness for Measures G and Q; even though the District does not have to pay the interest or principal, the amounts are shown in the financial statements as obligations of the District. The \$50 million dollar debt will be paid over the next 25 to 30 years. The debt is paid from property taxes collected by the County treasurer. The bondholders are paid from these funds every six months. Bob Bruesch asked how this process is different from a parcel tax. Mr. Coughlin stated that a parcel tax has many fewer restrictions on how the money can be spent by the Districts. Parcel tax funds can be spent on teacher salaries, books, and materials, etc.

Ms. Chin asked for clarification on actual mandated costs and contingency estimates. Mr. Coughlin indicated that the figures are made based on assumptions and there is not a significant amount between the budgeted and the amount collected.

Henry Lo suggested that if there is a joint meeting with Alhambra, a budget item be included to find out the feasibility of moving forward in the consideration of a parcel tax.

On the motion of Bob Bruesch, seconded by Henry Lo, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, the Board approved Item No. E.4. as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS: None

On the motion of John Yuen, seconded by Bob Bruesch, and carried, by a vote of 5 to 0, the Board approved to waive the Board Bylaws and extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION: None

REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Dr. Mary Suzuki provided a demonstration on Treasures teacher/student technology accounts. She presented screen shots of what a teacher is able to access with the Treasures teacher/student accounts. 14

Dr. Suzuki explained how the use of electronic resources support student learning and allows teachers to access information that will be necessary as we transition to common core standards. She stated that teachers are thrilled with the wonderful notification readings related to Social Studies Standards available in the Treasures adoptions. Dr. Suzuki reported that teachers also have access to English language development teacher guides which include resources to use with English language learners and strategies to support English language learners. There are electronic leveled readers available online for students needing intervention, acceleration, or special education support. Students and teachers will have access to innovative resources that cover phonics, word study lessons, homework skills, and comprehensive lessons. The students have online access to the same sound spelling cards which are used in the classroom. Dr. Suzuki stated that many of our teachers will have the opportunity to use these resources on their new interactive whiteboard (StarBoards).

- B. Michael Coughlin provided a report on Electricity Cost Comparison for September, October, and November, 2010 and 2011 that measures the impact of the newly approved Board policy of eliminating classrooms appliances for the first three months of implementation. The report shows an overall reduction in electrical costs of over nine percent or \$22,000. This reduction will be ongoing and Mr. Coughlin will be monitoring it every month to show what has been accomplished. On a comment made by John Yuen about an increase for one of the school sites, Mr. Coughlin has discussed with Art Reynolds and Southern California Edison about the reason for the cost increase. 15

Dr. Sandra Johnson noted that new windows have been replaced at the District Office that should add to the energy cost savings soon.

- C. Michael Coughlin made a report on the Capital Facilities Fund activity for 2010-11. The developer fees collections have been reduced, and capital expenses continue to occur as we are obligated to spend about \$350,000 based on the list of projections related to moving portables for Marshall School and making the Dewey School ready to receive these buildings. Bob Bruesch spoke about the importance of how the District has saved money over the last four to eight years and he thanked Mr. Coughlin and Art Reynolds for setting aside money for when much of capital projects funding is diminished. 16

ACTION ITEMS

- A. A public hearing opened at 10:21 p.m. and closed at 10:22 p.m. on the Garvey Education Association's (GEA) Interest-Based Bargaining Proposal to the Garvey School District for 2011-2012. There were no requests to speak. 17
- B. On the motion of Henry Lo, seconded by Bob Bruesch, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, the Board approved the Garvey Education Association's (GEA) Interest-Based Bargaining Proposal to the Garvey School District for 2011-2012. 18
- C. On the motion of Henry Lo, seconded by Bob Bruesch, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, the Board appointed John Yuen as Representative to the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association (LACSTA) for 2011-12. 19

- D. On the motion of Janet Chin, seconded by Tony Ramos, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, the Board appointed Henry Lo as Representative to be the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization for 2011-12. 20

PUBLIC AGENDA ITEMS: None

Bob Bruesch recognized the 22 years of superior service by Dr. Cheng-Ou Chang on his retirement this month. Mr. Bruesch appreciated his many reports and explanations on statistical evidence and progress made by our children. Henry Lo asked if Dr. Chang could be one of the Foundation honorees this year.

Mr. Bruesch asked for an update on the school traffic at Hillcrest School, the status on fencing at Hillcrest School, and whether there are Rosemead Chamber fees for our submission of news articles. Dr. Johnson stated that she contacted the Chamber and sent District articles on their given deadline but there was never a mention of fees charged.

Bob Bruesch asked for a review of safety procedures or security enhancement to prevent or stop the recent rash of break-ins.

Janet Chin stated she was approached by a Chinese education liaison who proposes to bring in about 100 students for the summer from overseas into our school district and hiring our own teachers to teach A-G core subjects. The agency will bring a proposal for the teacher recruitment and facilities use in the summer months.

Dr. Sandra Johnson requested proposed agenda items with the Alhambra-Garvey joint Board meeting. Issues suggested included: Cooperation on budgeting for a parcel tax, establishment of a cohort system, piloting a program to trade teachers and/or principals, and finding better ways to prepare our students when they go to high school.

FUTURE MEETINGS

A list of future meetings and potential agenda topics were reviewed.

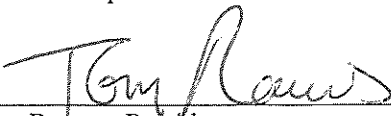
Meeting Date	Agenda Topic
January 19, 2011	

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

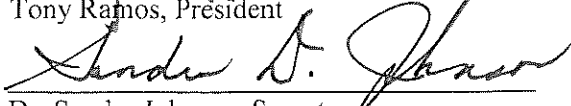
The next meeting will be a regular meeting on January 19, 2011, at the Education Center. Public session will begin at 6:30 p.m., closed session to begin at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional items, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 p.m.



Tony Ramos, President



Dr. Sandra Johnson, Secretary

**REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE AT GARVEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REORGANIZATION MEETING**

Sandra Armenta

Karen Bascetta

Robert James Boyd III

Cindy Carter

Erika Delgadillo

Nancy Eng

Laurie Hurley

Anna Marie Knight

Wendy Molina-Solis

Sanya Namboun

Connie Phoong

Jose Sandoval

Ted Saulino

Terry Skotnes

Ken Tang

Betty Tran