

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
3939 THIRTEENTH STREET • P.O. BOX 868 • RIVERSIDE, CA 92502-0868**

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 11, 2006**

**OPENING PROCEDURES**

1. Call to Order by the President

The Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Board of Education was called to order by President Colapinto at 9:01 a.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 at the Riverside County Office of Education, 3939 Thirteenth Street, Riverside.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Member Craig.

3. Attendance

a. County Board of Education Members

Mr. Gerald P. Colapinto, President, Corona  
Dr. Lisa Conyers, Vice President, Moreno Valley  
Mrs. Lynne D. Craig, Riverside  
Mrs. Betty Gibbel, Hemet  
Dr. Vick Knight, Canyon Lake  
Dr. William R. Kroonen, Palm Desert  
Mr. Adolfo Mediano, Jr., Banning

b. Secretary to the Board

Dr. David Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Monica Martinez, Secretary to the Board of Education

c. Invited Guests and Visitors

Mr. Jack B. Clarke, Counsel, Best, Best and Krieger  
Mr. Aaron V. O'Donnell, Counsel, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo  
Ms. Cindy Dickinson, Director, Lake Elsinore Unified School District  
Ms. Loraine Watts, Education Advocate  
Mr. Chris Bagley, Reporter, The Californian  
Ms. Lisa Berlanga, California Charter Schools Association  
Ms. Haran Orton, Director, Carden Academy  
Ms. Kathleen Evans, Parent  
Ms. Ginger Hitzke, Parent

d. Staff Members

Mr. Antonio Arredondo, Dr. Celia Ayala, Mrs. Cami Berry, Mrs. Patti Crawford, Mr. Rollin Edmunds, Ms. Betty Folsom, Mrs. Theresa Hyden, Mr. Rick Peoples, Dr. Sandra Schnack, Mrs. Ofelia Valdez Yeager, Mr. Kenn Young.

4. Public Comments

Pursuant to **Government Code Section 54954.3 and Education Code Section 35145.5** any person wishing to speak to any item on the agenda, or any other relevant matter, was given the opportunity to do so.

Ms. Lisa Berlanga, who works for the California Charter Schools Association in San Diego, spoke in support of the Carden Schools charter petition. Carden School has worked closely with the California Charter Schools Association in developing their proposal and has gone through their charter review process and made many changes. Ms. Berlanga shared that she has been in close contact with Ms. Haran Orton of Carden School through the charter petition process with Lake Elsinore Unified School District. She indicated that Carden School was allowed only three days to address twenty-five pages of questions and concerns of the Lake Elsinore Unified School District. These concerns have since been addressed and are part of their charter petition.

Ms. Lisa Berlanga shared that the Carden philosophy is generally available only in the private school setting and that the petitioners would like to bring the Carden philosophy to the public setting, so that public school students may have this option available to them at no cost. She believes their innovative curriculum would suit many kids and be a wonderful choice for students in Riverside County.

Ms. Kathleen Evans, parent, former Board member and former teacher of the Carden method, spoke in support of Carden School's charter petition. Ms. Evans shared that she has researched all aspects of the Carden philosophy and charter school. She believes that Carden School thoroughly prepared her children to meet academic requirements in high school and college. As a teacher, she has successfully used the Carden curriculum, teaching techniques and philosophy to increase student learning. She shared that the Carden learning environment, which consists of small groups interacting with the teacher around a learning table, empowers every student. Ms. Evans shared that as a teacher, in a multi-grade classroom, she was able to see improvements in standardized test scores as students remained with her for more than one year. As a Board member of a Carden school, she found that Carden schools serve a diverse population of students: racially, ethnically and socio-economically. Many parents made sacrifices in order to send their child to a private school with the Carden curriculum. She believes the Carden curriculum works with all students regardless of their background and feels that this time-tested educational approach encourages students to work hard and achieve their maximum potential.

She supports the petition of this charter school because it permits this philosophy to be offered to a larger student population.

Ms. Ginger Hitzke, parent of a Carden student and advocate of charter schools, is a supporter of Carden Charter School and believes parents deserve the right to have different options for their children.

5. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Member Kroonen and seconded by Member Mediano.

That the agenda for the October 11, 2006, Riverside County Board of Education meeting be approved.

7 Ayes  
Motion adopted.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**  
**Items 6-7 were enacted with a single motion.**

It was moved by Member Craig and seconded by Member Mediano.

That the Consent Calendar be approved as presented.

7 Ayes  
Motion adopted.

6. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Board of Education, September 13, 2006.

7. Personnel Services

Certification List #CL 10-06, as recommended for approval by the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools.

## HEARINGS

### 1. PUBLIC HEARING: Carden Charter Schools

Pursuant to Education Code Sections 47607.5 and 47605, a public hearing was held regarding the Carden Charter Schools, Inc. petition submitted to the Riverside County Office of Education Governing Board, on appeal, because Lake Elsinore Unified School District did not approve their charter petition.

Ms. Haran Orton, Director of Carden Academy and proposed school administrator of Carden Charter School, shared information on the history of Carden schools. She previously owned a Carden Academy, which closed in June 2006. Her goal was to bring Carden to the public sector. She shared that one of the objections of the Lake Elsinore Unified School District was that this was a conversion of a private school to a public school. After speaking with the California Department of Education, it was stated that there are four criteria for a conversion: (1) Curriculum: which would remain the same; (2) Location: the location is different; (3) Staff: there are a few staff members who will remain due to their knowledge of the Carden method; (4) Students: Parents will be required to apply. If there are openings, they will be accepted. If there are too many applicants, they will hold a lottery. She stated that in order to be considered a conversion, you must have significant factors of all four criteria, according to the California Department of Education. She indicated that there is only a significant factor in one of the criteria.

Ms. Orton explained that the curriculum that is to be used in the charter has been aligned with the state framework. They will integrate Carden methods into the state framework. She shared some of the teaching skills they use for kindergarten students.

Ms. Alexis Gibson, former teacher of Carden schools, shared information on her positive experiences as a teacher.

Mr. Kenn Young stated that the Riverside County Office of Education received the petition for the charter on Monday, October 1, 2006. He noted that Riverside County Office of Education staff met with Carden School representatives yesterday and provided them with a matrix of education code requirements that RCOE staff will be utilizing when reviewing the petition.

1. **CLOSED SESSION: Expulsion Appeal Hearing #090406E**

It was moved by Member Craig and seconded by Member Mediano.

That the decision of the Riverside County Board of Education regarding Expulsion Appeal Hearing #090406E is to affirm the decision of the Lake Elsinore Unified School District and based solely on the evidence that was presented below.

6 Ayes – Members Colapinto, Conyers, Craig, Gibbel, Knight, and Mediano  
1 No – Member Kroonen  
Motion adopted.

2. **CLOSED SESSION: Expulsion Appeal Hearing #090506E**

It was moved by Member Knight and seconded by Member Gibbel.

That the decision of the Riverside County Board of Education regarding Expulsion Appeal Hearing #090506E is to affirm the decision of the Lake Elsinore Unified School District.

6 Ayes – Members Colapinto, Conyers, Craig, Gibbel, Knight, and Mediano  
1 No – Member Kroonen  
Motion adopted.

**ACTION**

1. **Resolution No. 09-06, Red Ribbon Week**

It was moved by Member Kroonen and seconded by Member Conyers.

That the Riverside County Board of Education approve and adopt Resolution No. 09-06, in support of Red Ribbon Week, October 21-29, 2006.

7 Ayes  
Motion adopted.

2. **Monthly Compensation for the Board of Education**

It was moved by Member Gibbel and seconded by Member Knight.

That the Riverside County Board of Education approve a five percent (5%) increase in the monthly compensation, effective July 1, 2006.

7 Ayes  
Motion adopted.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. **Fiscal Report**

The budget transfers and adjustments for September 2006 were reviewed.

2. **Legislative Update**

Mr. Kenn Young provided a written legislative update from Mr. Scott Hill of the Riverside County Schools Advocacy Association.

3. **Facility Update**

Mr. Kenn Young reviewed a written facility update. The Arlington Regional Learning Center is complete. An Open House is scheduled for December 5, 2006.

4. **Introduction of Issues That May Be Addressed at Future Meetings**

Member Kroonen requested additional information on the Carden School curriculum. It was suggested that a visit to a Carden School would provide this information.

5. **President/Board Member/Superintendent Comments**

- Member Conyers shared that she will be attending the Education Summit in Indian Wells tomorrow and thanked the organizers of the event for their work.
- Member Craig share that she attended the CCBE Executive Board meeting and an Executive Director has been hired. Member Craig recently attended the Back-to-School Conference and is promoting the support of HR 5709. Member Craig also visited several school districts and promoted the Education Summit and Riverside County School Boards Association Fall Joint Conference. She also had the opportunity to attend the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum, and encouraged the Board to attend the Regional Occupational Program Countywide meeting.
- Member Knight thanked Dr. Long for the Highlights 2006 Report. Member Knight shared that he will be hosting the Ninth Annual Constitution Quiz.
- Member Gibbel encouraged the Board to study 1E and 84 on the ballot very carefully.

**Calendar of Events:**

October 12-13, 2006 – Fourth Annual Education Summit, Indian Wells

November 30-December 2, 2006 – CSBA Annual Conference - San Francisco

April 14-17, 2007 – NSBA Annual Conference - San Francisco

**Break: 9:27 a.m. to 9:35 a.m.**

**Adjournment: 11:50 a.m.**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING** - 9 a.m., **Wednesday, November 8, 2006**, Riverside County Office of Education – Board Room (fourth floor), 3939 Thirteenth Street, Riverside.

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President

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Secretary