

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Minutes

### *Special Meeting*

**April 29, 2009**

5:30 p.m.

The Board of Education of the Colton Joint Unified School District met in a *Special Session* on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the CJUSD Student Services Center, 851 So. Mt. Vernon Avenue, Colton, California.

### *Name Grounds & Amend Name*

- **Ray Abril High School**

#### Trustees Present

Mrs. Marge Mendoza-Ware    President  
Mr. Robert D. Armenta  
Mrs. Patt Haro  
Mr. Kent Taylor

#### Trustees Absent

Mr. Mel Albiso                      Vice President (Excused)  
Mr. Frank A. Ibarra                (Unexcused)  
Mr. David R. Zamora                Clerk (Unexcused)

#### Staff Members Present

Mr. James A. Downs	Mrs. Mollie Gainey-Stanley
Mr. Jerry Almendarez	Mrs. Alice Grundman
Mrs. Yolanda Cabrera	Mrs. Ingrid Munsterman
Mr. Mike Snellings	Ms. Julia Nichols
Mr. Jaime R. Ayala	Ms. Sosan Schaller
Mrs. Bertha Arreguín	Dr. Patrick Traynor
Mr. Todd Beal	Ms. Katie Orloff
Dr. Diane D'Agostino	Mrs. Chris Estrada

Call to Order: Board President Marge Mendoza-Ware called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Middle School Principal Sandy Torres led in the Renewal of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Spanish interpreter/translation services were available.

### Hearing Session

1. Public Input: Specific Agenda Item: *Approval to Name the Educational Grounds at Taylor and Main Streets in Grand Terrace and Amend the Name of Ray Abril High School.* The following persons addressed the Board:
  - a) Amanda Betten, Grand Terrace resident, thanked the Board for listening to the community and proposing a compromise that fits the community and honors Ray Abril for his service to all students and the District. "The Friends of Grand Terrace Foundation" has been established and members look forward to working with District staff relative to the new high school.
  - b) David Batyi, Grand Terrace resident, voiced personal opposition to the proposed compromise and questioned Ray Abril's education level and referenced votes cast on similar issues. He felt that Ray Abril should have declined the nomination or stepped down. While many residents may be satisfied with the change, he stated that the "war was not over."
  - c) Melinda Medina, Redlands resident and daughter of Ray Abril, stated that the Abril family is pleased and accepted the compromise and thanked the Board for honoring their father in this manner. She clarified the inaccurate statement made regarding her father by the person who spoke ahead of her. She asked persons to research the facts before making public statements that are inaccurate, i.e., her father did graduate from high school.
  - d) Sylvia Robles, Grand Terrace resident and grandmother of nine grandchildren, shared a historical account of unhappy memories and occurrences involving Colton and Grand Terrace residents. She supports the compromise and hopes that all persons will now put the past aside and "move on."
  - e) John Moore, Grand Terrace resident, stated that he felt the "compromise was fair."

Named Educational Grounds #120  
& Amended the Name of *Ray*  
*Abril High School*

Prior to action taken, Board member Armenta read the agenda item that described the specific details relative to the compromise. He shared his personal thoughts and feelings about Ray Abril and the reasons to bestow this honor on a man who provided unconditional service in the best interest of all students during his tenure on the Board.

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Haro and carried on a 4-0 vote, the Board named the Educational Grounds at Taylor and Main Streets in Grand Terrace and amended the name of “Ray Abril High School” as presented:

**Educational Grounds:** *Ray Abril, Jr., Educational Complex*  
**High School Name:** *Grand Terrace High School*  
**Full Name:** *Grand Terrace High School at the Ray*  
*Abril, Jr., Educational Complex*

Ayes: Taylor, Haro, Armenta, Mendoza-Ware

Absent: Albiso, Ibarra, Zamora

Board President Mendoza-Ware thanked Board member Armenta for drafting the proposal and applauded her colleagues and the Grand Terrace community for coming together to bring closure to the issue.

Adjournment

At 5:47 p.m., the Board adjourned to the next Regular Board of Education Meeting on May 14, 2009, at the Colton JUSD Student Services Center, 851 South Mt. Vernon Avenue, Colton, California.