



Minutes CVTC General Meeting March 19, 2015

La Crescenta Library Community Room

Meeting starts promptly at 7:00 pm

www.theCVcouncil.com

1. Call to Order & Welcome by President Battles 7:03 pm
2. Flag Salute led by Vice President Leon
3. Invocation by Father Kirby Smith of St. Lukes of the Mountains Episcopal
4. Roll Call Recording - PRESENT: Battles, Leon, Davis, Claessens, Studebaker, Barnes, Rabinov, Griffin, Dickson, Beattie late: Suh, Kang
5. Approval of Agenda for March 19, 2015 Item #11 into council business Motion: Davis, 2nd Leon, Unanimous,
6. Approval of Minutes from Feb 19, 2015 Leon, Studebaker, Unanimous.
7. First Responder's Reports
 - a. Los Angeles County Fire - evacuation drill on May 2nd and an after action event. LA Ricks (new communication system in place since 9/11/01
 - b. CHP - Public Information Officer Bejar, DUI up from last year 0 to 3, traffic collisions up 6 to 8 (month to month since 2014), CHIP for kids toy donations were up too.
 - c. CERT update - Paul Dutton, CPR Month, get training on first response
 - d. Youth Town Council - Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow April 26th
8. Land Use CUP Options for youth Councilmember Davis
 - a. Motion by Leon: Refer this matter back to Land Use Committee for the purpose of further evaluating the applicants application and CUP application in light of new information from County and Neighbors. In addition the council will immediately prepare and send a letter to the county requesting that the approval be withheld until further evaluation is completed. 2nd motion Studebaker 7 for the motion, 1 opposition, 1 abstention. The motion passes.
 - b. Public comments from residents on Mary and from people with Options for Youth
 - c. Next LUC meeting April 9th, 6:30 pm at Library.

9. Land Use Update Councilmember Davis
 - a. Met with representatives of County Planning's code enforcement and the Supervisor's office.
 - b. Planning is preparing an educational flyer in English, Spanish, Korean and Armenian which will be mailed to all Foothill Bl. commercial property owners in the unincorporated area of CV. The Chamber of Commerce and the CVTC will hand-deliver copies to building tenants.
 - c. Once the flyer is distributed, will assess compliance and determine if further enforcement efforts are necessary.

10. GUSD Candidate debate

OPENING Statement

FREEMON: History of educators, fully credentialed teacher, Kindergartener starting in the fall.

SATOORIAN: CPA, parent of son at Clark and daughter is a teacher at Rosemont Middle School, after school program

HUNT: history in GUSD from Balboa community, born and raised in Glendale

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: every voice is heard in Glendale, from Monte Vista, Rosemont and CV, Glendale PTA, Foundations, advocating for students, transparent and communicate effectively

NAHABEDIAN: current board member who has kept class sizes small and ensuring all students succeed. Protecting arts and athletics and career tech.

1. What is the biggest non-budgetary issue facing the District and what is your proposal for solving the problem you identified?

FREEMON: Communication with district stakeholders.

SATOORIAN: Common Core and implementation so teachers are ready for it

HUNT: Communication is vital, especially for students and Student Services

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: Student Services is a budgetary issue. Parent involvement is great in the Foothills but not all over GUSD. Communication is important. Implementing a Math night with regards to Common Core.

NAHABEDIAN: Kinder place in the school. Dr. Cynthia Livingston - be nice to each other.

2. As part of the current terms of the territory transfer, GUSD has promised parents and residents to maintain Mountain Ave. as a "neighborhood school" and keep the park next to the school as GUSD property. As a board member, will you continue to support GUSD's promise to the community?

SATOORIAN: Yes park should stay with Mtn Ave. Yes the school should stay with Glendale.

HUNT: Park is 1000% off the table. I will not do a deal with LCUSD with the park on the table. We need to keep Mtn Ave as a neighborhood community school. Its a jewel in the community.

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: Yes I agree with the park situation. We need to make sure we keep that park. Community school that incorporates students from Monte Vista and Fremont.

NAHABEDIAN: You have heard me cover these things at board meetings. Absolutely I stand by the proposal that we sent. Still learning new legal things about this.

FREEMON: Mtn Ave is a fantastic community school and it needs to stay that way. The traffic would be unsafe at Mtn Ave as a magnet/dual language. Yes we need to keep the park.

3. What would you like to see the Board do to improve communication with the students and the community—not just with parents?

HUNT: Communication is vital to make sure this works. Students are not communicated with directly. Do we need to text to our students? Do we develop an app for their smart phones?

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: We should be going into the schools and I will continue to do that when I'm a Board member

NAHABEDIAN: We do robo calls to parents, but don't do that with non-parents. We have gotten that message loud and clear. I hold office hours. I serve on Student Leadership Council.

FREEMON: Go to their meetings and empower them to make those decisions. Reaching out to non-profit groups in the community.

SATOORIAN: Break in communication between parents, students and teachers. Parents only go to school when there are problems.

4. What additional steps must the District take to better identify and safeguard the mental well being of its students?

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: Better student services at our school for mental health and preparing to go off to college. I sit on the LCAP and that is a major priority for us on that committee. Providing a great school environment for our kids; making kindness cool.

NAHABEDIAN: School suspensions for 5 days without any connection with the school isn't work so we are doing alternative suspensions and it has been more successful. MSW interns for our students.

FREEMON: Better training for classified staff (secretaries and admin) since they see the students first. Training for all teachers to handle things with kindness.

SATOORIAN: Culture issues between our students, different personalities. Students feel they are different and that comes from teachers and the principal. They shouldn't feel bad because they believe something different.

HUNT: School district needs to partner and support organizations like CV Alliance and Firehouse.

5. What changes or additions need to be made to the Foreign Language Academies of Glendale (FLAG) program?

NAHABEDIAN: Finally have a master plan for all Foreign Language Academies so all parents and students can know what is going to happen. There was a problem with growing pains. No intention on expanding FLAG further because we need to be able to grow into what we are doing. Franklin will move to Roosevelt.

FREEMON: The plan is not real thought out yet. The programs aren't where they should be and where it makes sense. You have a school up here where there are essentially 2 schools on the same site and that doesn't make sense. My daughter is 5th grade, leading edge of FLAG.

SATOORIAN: Teachers need to be prepared, 7 languages, we need all the books, text books. Board members need to spend more money and more time to get that done properly.

HUNT: FLAG best thing that this district offers. The pathways through the district still need to be fleshed out. Kids going from one side of town to the other side of town. Look at teachers who have the language skills, students build relationships but then their visas are up and they go back.

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: Parents are anxious about long-term plans. Questions about budget, equitable, extended K-12? We need to stay transparent and answer their questions.

6. If teacher salaries are increased will many newer teachers have to be laid off? If teachers are laid off, how will this affect class sizes?

FREEMON: Teacher salaries are based on experience and education called step and column that is done as a collective bargaining. Yes, we wouldn't do that. That would be fiscally dumb. We need to keep the class sizes in check and we need to reverse the trend of rising class sizes.

SATOORIAN: 26 students per class. If we change it to 24 students per class it will have a big effect on the budget.

HUNT: We need to be careful when we look at that.

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: We need to advocate for more funding from the state to keep that from happening. We need to go to where the money is coming from and pressure them for more money.

NAHABEDIAN: I would not give a raise to teachers at the same time as raise class sizes or lay off teachers. I know the difference between 4 more students vs 4 less students. I'm for smaller class sizes.

7. What is your opinion of the current technology in the classrooms and what needs to be changed or improved?

SATOORIAN: We are a data informational society. We still have more to do for the classrooms. Without proper data we don't know where our weaknesses are. With data we can make proper decisions.

HUNT: My goal is to get this technology into the classroom so they can provide instruction with a real technology component. Measure S modernizing our facilities.

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: Measure S was a 3 year plan that is now coming to a close. We don't know what EACH school site is getting from the Measure S. Tell at Board meetings and at school sites.

NAHABEDIAN: Use technology in a smart manner. Teach them how to be smart around technology. Grateful for Measure S opportunities. iReady is another component we are using. But when you do it you find out it may not be so great and we adjust accordingly.

FREEMON: Being a teacher at Hoover, technology for technology's sake makes no sense. How do you utilize technology well? Sometimes Powerpoint is the right tool, sometimes its not. How to use it as a tool for learning not an end to itself.

8. Do you perceive a socioeconomic achievement gap between students in the District and, if yes, what are your proposals to address the situation?

HUNT: Yes, its very obvious that they exist. High poverty rate and the key is to make sure they are getting the services they need. They don't have access to tutors. BUG (bring up grades) at Mann. Districts don't exist in a vacuum, outside service groups like Kiwanis that make these things better.

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: There is a socioeconomic issue because some schools get Title I funds and they receive more money than schools up here. We need to help those parents so they can participate, even if they work 2 jobs. Maybe we need to do something on a Saturday. We need to get parents involved to help with that.

NAHABEDIAN: GUSD has some projects like Lit for Success which have shown improvement in grades. School sites do the best jobs of figuring out what works best for them.

FREEMON: There is a gap. GHS and Hoover; 30% have those A-G requirements. CVHS and Clark 50% have those A-G requirements. Reach out to those parents through community partnerships.

SATOORIAN: Everything is based on money. We have Common Core and LCAP. Each school has been given money and gives a school attendance report card. We can see what the gap is. We

9. If voters approve Measure E, do you believe that the Board's creation of voting districts will help underrepresented areas of the District—or not.

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: Whatever they decide to do is transparent and they include the community. La Crescenta doesn't get a vote on Measure E. I would like it to be 7. I would like the entire district would vote on everything as a whole not just their areas. I would support the districts.

NAHABEDIAN: There are pros and cons to Measure E. Elected officials need to represent everyone regardless of where they reside. This needs to be done transparently. Put to the voters of all the boundaries, not just be a decision of the board of education.

FREEMON: Only on the ballot for city of Glendale. Citizens Commission to give feedback to the board. It shouldn't be solely the board. It should be a committee that can take the information back to the board.

SATOORIAN: School board has to be responsible for the whole community. Each board member has to be responsible. Parents need to know who they talk to if they have problems.

HUNT: CV feels underrepresented on the board. Having the boundaries will have a positive impact. Whatever happens it has to go to an election. Give everyone a chance to vote.

10. Will you commit to have parent input in the selection of the textbooks for common core standards?

NAHABEDIAN: Yes, and whenever we incorporate a new textbook the committee includes parents, and teachers, and administrators. Student board member pointed out that students aren't in that group. Through SSC, PTA, Open House, Back to School Night we have to continue to involve all including classified.

FREEMON: There is a process in place but clearly the entire community doesn't know about this process. We need to include them and talk to the community about it.

SATOORIAN: Common Core is a complete confusion and it is a huge challenge. Textbook should be done by professionals. Getting non professionals involved is not the time right now.

HUNT: There is a lot of confusion about Common Core, the curriculum and the standards. We need to do lots of outreach about this. We need to come to them and not let them come to us, because we have already missed the boat.

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: District requires 50% participation from parents and students on the committee. 50% of that committee should be parents and students. The committee should be parents, students, teachers, administrators and a board member.

11. Why would you be the best candidate to represent the foothills of La Crescenta and the Sagebrush communities?

FREEMON: I'm a fully credentialed teacher with a master's degree in administration. Active community volunteer. A parent of 3 kids going through GUSD. This is a unique area, we play baseball up here, we have relationships up here. I can represent this area.

SATOORIAN: I lived in La Crescenta for 15 years who graduated from CV. I'm very connected to the area. As a background with CPA

HUNT: This is my home. This is where I live and raised 4 kids who graduated from CV. Prom Plus, Montrose Christmas Parade. Poured my heart and soul into serving this community. Having a voice at GUSD is important. But I grew up on the west side of town and went to Hoover.

CORDOVA-BROOKEY: We need a leader who will stay objective and keep our kids and families first. I'm a parent from CV. This is my community. My family is in this community. You are my neighbors. I will be your voice on the school board. There hasn't been one for a while. I will listen to everything. I am passionate.

NAHABEDIAN: Experience makes a difference as we move into new fiscal choices. We are underfunded and getting new dollars. Advocate for safe schools, rigorous curriculum, 21st century education.

11. Council Business

- a. Correspondence Corresponding Secretary Davis
 - i. from an anonymous resident who said We should not be selling trees because we have no water.
- b. Budget 2015 Councilmember Studebaker Davis move to approve, Rabinov 2nd: Unanimous approval.
- c. Jan, Feb Treasurer Report by Councilmember Studebaker Battles Motion to approve with one outstanding question about AT&T bill. 2nd Beatty: Unanimous
- d. Letter supporting S.A.F.E. President Battles -- moved to next month.
- e. Earth Day Trees 15 gallon trees available for \$10.00 each Orders must be placed no later than March 25th on the CV Town Council website under Earth Day Tree Order

12. Public Comments and Community Announcements

Please submit a speaker card to the President or Vice President. Discussion is limited to items NOT a part of this agenda. Each speaker is allowed 2 minutes. Council may ask questions or respond to the speaker but there will be no debate or decision. The President may refer the matter to the appropriate committee for investigation and report.

- a. ~~Mary O'Keefe, Prom Plus and Fire House~~
- b. Leena Waller, La Crescenta Library - Sunday Hours have been very popular. Weekly story time for children. Thursday is family play date. April a 5-week session of parent/child workshop for children 0-3.
- c. Nalin Lasiewicz - important meeting on Tuesday between the two districts regarding Sagebrush (not a public meeting). That will set the timeline for the citizens petition. In the next few months she would like to make a presentation to the council. Unite LC will be making a petition to LA County because they have been doing a study of transfers that have occurred in the last 15 years.
- d. Special Olympics April 18th at CVHS
- e. Leon - Centennial year Armenian Genocide at April 12th, 6 pm at CVHS

13. Adjournment. 9:14 pm

*****Thank you so much to Todd Black from Electromotive for sound and tonight's live web feed.*****