



**C E N T E R F O R A D V A N C E D R E S E A R C H
A N D T E C H N O L O G Y**

A joint meeting of the Board of Directors of the Clovis Unified School District; Fresno Unified School District; and the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in the Theater and Room N103 located at 2555 Clovis Avenue in Clovis, California.

CART Board Chairman Fortune called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Susan Fisher, Chief Operating Officer, welcomed board members. Mrs. Fisher reviewed the format of the meeting which would include student presentations followed by classroom visitations; a brief break with refreshments; with the meeting reconvening in the Law Lab, Room N103.

WELCOME

Tiffany Robbins, Biomedicine Lab/Buchanan High School; Daniel Garcia, Forensics Lab/McLane High School; Nou Lor, Economics & Finance Lab/Roosevelt; BreeAnn Bowman, Robotics Lab/Clovis West; Victoria Wootten, Multimedia Lab/Clovis East; Rasleen Boparai, Biomedical Engineering Lab/Clovis High; and Ricardo Gonzalez, Database Design Lab/Fresno High School, shared their experiences at CART and accompanied board members to classroom visitations.

**STUDENT
PRESENTATIONS –
CLASSROOM
VISITATIONS**

At 4:25 p.m. Board members were invited by students to tour three classrooms. Upon completion of the tours refreshments were served.

TOUR

At 4:55 p.m. the Board reconvened in the Law Lab, Room N103.

RECONVENE

CART BOARD

ROLL CALL

Larry Fortune, Chairman
Richard Lake, Vice-Chairman
Michelle Asadoorian, Member
David Cash, Ed.D., Member
Michael Hanson, Member
Elizabeth “Betsy” Sandoval, Member

Absent:

Cathy Frost, Member

CUSD BOARD

Ginny Hovsepian, Member
Christopher Casado, Member
Betsy Sandoval, President
F. Scott Troescher, Member
Brian Heryford, Vice-President

Absent:

Sandra Bengel, Member
Jim Van Volkinburg, D.D.S., Clerk

FUSD BOARD

Valerie Davis, President
Michelle Arax Asadoorian, Clerk
Cal Johnson, Member
Carol Mills, Member
Larry A. Moore, Member
Tony Vang, Ed.D., Member

Absent:

Janet Ryan, Member

Susan Fisher provided a “*State of the CART*” report.

GOALS

- Increase attendance
- Increase academic achievement
- More students enrolled in higher level science
- Increase literacy
- All students graduate from high school
- Increase numbers of students who matriculate to higher education

RIGOR

All courses, except technology courses meet UC a-g entrance requirements

- AP Classes
 - ▶ AP Computer Science
 - ▶ AP Psychology [10-11]
- Unitrack with CSU Fresno
 - ▶ Environmental Research and Technology [4 credits]
 - ▶ Economics and Finance [3 credits]
- 2 + 2 Articulation with SCCCDC
 - ▶ Advanced Network Management
 - ▶ Digital Media and Graphic Design
- 55% of CART students take a higher level science
 - ▶ Chemistry
 - ▶ Physics
 - ▶ Anatomy and Physiology
 - ▶ Zoology
 - ▶ Biochemistry
 - ▶ Neuroscience
- Lab areas have a science elective focus
 - ▶ Biomedicine
 - ▶ Biomedical Engineering
 - ▶ Forensics and Biotechnology
 - ▶ Environmental Science
 - ▶ Psychology

RELEVANCE

Career Focus Areas

- Biomedicine
- Biomedical Engineering
- AP Computer Science
- Database Design
- Digital Media and Graphic Design
- Digital Video Production
- Economics and Finance
- Environmental Science
- Forensic Research
- Game Design
- Law and Policy
- Marketing and Advertising
- Product Development
- Psychology
- Robotics and Electronics
- Business Advisory Boards
- Projects that are real world – many come from industry
- Field Trips
- Mentors

- 1 ■ Speakers
- 2 ■ Job Shadowing
- 3 ■ Internships

4 RELATIONSHIPS

- 5 ■ Respect between student and teacher
- 6 ■ Small Learning Communities
- 7 ■ Block Schedule
- 8 ■ Team of Teachers
- 9 ■ Ability to customize projects, pull out small groups
- 10 ■ After school and evening tutoring available
- 11 ■ Mentors
- 12 ■ Parental Involvement

13 HIGHLIGHTS

14 2008-09

- 15 ■ 100% CART students passed the CAHSEE
- 16 ■ 100% CART seniors graduated!
- 17 ■ 95% CART seniors go on to postsecondary opportunities
- 18 ■ \$35,800 in scholarships distributed to 62 seniors
- 19 ■ CART wins Sweepstakes Trophy in Career Skills Olympics [April 2009]

20 2009-2010

- 21 ■ Tenth Annual CART Showcase attended by 2,000 people
- 22 ■ CART Tool Kit completed
- 23 ■ Three student teachers from “specialized pathway” at CSUF
- 24 ■ Mentioned in Edward E. Gordon’s book, Winning the Global Talent Showdown

25 ENROLLMENT 2009-10

26 September 1400

- 27 ■ 764 CUSD
- 28 ■ 636 FUSD

29 March 1278

- 30 ■ 728 CUSD
- 31 ■ 550 FUSD

32 APPLICATIONS 2010-11

33 March

- 34 ■ 974 CUSD
- 35 ■ 966 FUSD
- 36 ■ Total 1940 [an increase of 20 over March 2009]

37 FACILITIES

38 Awarded Three Career Technical Education [CTE] Grants in 2008

- 39 ■ Bioengineering addition – new science lab to be complete for the 2010-11 school year. Additional 1900 square feet of space
- 40 ■ Biomedicine lab remodel – teacher work space being reconfigured into a classroom
- 41 ■ Upgrade to theater audio-visual system completed in summer 2009

42 SUMMER 2010

- 43 ■ Third year for Kids Summer Academy [July 12-16, 2010]
- 44 ■ CUSD Technology Boot Camp [June 14-18, 2010]
- 45 ■ FUSD Summer Academy – Grades 6-8 [June 21 – July 2, 2010]
- 46 ■ Construction project completion
- 47 ■ Planning 10 year reunion for CART students on June 19, 2010

STAFF HONORS

- 1 ■ Bert Cantu named a finalist for the Educator of the Year Award
- 2 ■ Susan Fisher named one of Top Ten Business and Professional Women
by Marjaree Mason Center
- 3 ■ Laurie Hayes invited to present “Integrating English with Science at three
National Science Teachers Association [NSTA] conferences
- 4 ■ Jill Rossetti and Erin Andrade presented at NSTA conference in
Minneapolis
- 5 ■ Beth Wielicki and Staci Bynum presented at California League of High
schools Conference in Monterrey
- 6 ■ Susan Fisher received Outstanding Alumni Award from CSU Fresno
Kremen School of Education and Human Behaviors
- 7 ■ Craig Morrison, Technology Specialist, received Crystal Award as
outstanding employee of Clovis Unified School District
- 8 ■ Susan Fisher to be receive William Noli Outstanding Service Award
from Fresno County Office of Education

STUDENT SUCCESS

- 9 ■ Six multimedia students finalists for Addy Awards [Professional
Advertising Awards]
- 10 ■ Robotics Team placed 1st in West Hills College Competition
- 11 ■ Sweepstakes winner at Career Skills Challenge in April 2009

FUNDING

CART Foundation

- 12 ■ Circle of Promise [2009-10] direct mail appeal received less than \$1,000
in contributions
- 13 ■ No new lab sponsors
- 14 ■ 20% decrease in ROP funding
- 15 ■ Kaiser Permanente granted \$50,000 to Biomedical Engineering program
for 2010-11 and 2011-12
- 16 ■ Do more with less

TRANSITIONS

- 17 ■ Susan Fisher retiring in June 2010
- 18 ■ Position currently posted in both districts – new CEO to be named by the
19 CART Board on April 13th

20 Dr. Vang asked Mrs. Fisher to elaborate on the CART collaboration with
21 California State University Fresno [CSUF] pointing out that one of his
22 CSUF students is a student teacher assigned to CART and doing some
23 really amazing projects at CART.

24 Susan Fisher explained that part of the Rigor/Relevance/Relationships at
25 CART is opportunities to provide students credits that are transferrable to
26 CSUF. The Environmental Research and Technology course offers students
27 4 college credits for a C grade or better; and the Economics Finance course
28 offers students 3 college credits for a C grade or better.

Dr. Vang asked if in order to teach the Biochemistry course at CART the
teaching candidate had to have a major in chemistry.

Susan Fisher explained that CART has a life science teacher and a physical
science teacher and together they teach the Biochemistry course.

Dr. Vang acknowledged Mrs. Fisher for all she has done for CART and
stated that he gave her a lot of credit for the success of CART and asked,
“Can we clone you so you can stay here?”

1 The floor was opened for questions and/or discussion.

2 Carol Mills asked Susan Fisher to expand a little bit on the class size, for
3 instance during the classroom visitations students indicated that the
4 Psychology Lab has 62 in one class and 82 in another which would be
5 enormous in a regular classroom but is obviously working well at CART.

6 Susan Fisher responded that with three teachers and three hours the lab
7 partners decide how they are going to group students. Sometimes students
8 meet all together; sometimes in half; sometimes in thirds; sometimes in
9 small student groups with teachers circulating – student groups can be
10 different every day. It is a lot of students, but with three teachers in the
11 room it makes a big difference, there is more than one person to field
12 student questions; if a student is behind a teacher can pull that group aside
13 and offer extra help – it works because of the number of teachers and the
14 flexible space.

15 Chris Casado asked to what the staff attributes the enrollment loss of 100+
16 students.

17 Susan Fisher responded that CART students are just like the students in
18 every other high school. In the beginning of CART the target group was the
19 middle of the road student but the reality is that we have 4.0 students and
20 special education students – some students move; some disappear; some get
21 expelled; some change their mind; some do not have adequate
22 transportation, just various factors in their life affect their ability to attend
23 CART.

24 Larry Fortune concurred stating that the Board looks at the enrollment drop
25 every year and are unable to really put our finger on a singular cause.

26 Susan Fisher noted that the enrollment drop was worse in 2008-09 and we
27 believe a lot of the enrollment drop was due to the economy, students losing
28 housing and having to move.

29 Larry Moore stated that he noticed in going on the tour this evening the
30 mentoring program and asked if Susan Fisher could tell him a little about
31 that program.

32 Susan Fisher explained that most of the mentors are solicited by the
33 teachers in each lab. Relationships are developed by the teachers and
34 sometimes a parent of a student or a friend of a parent will show up and say
35 I heard about your program and I want to help. It is an informal process
36 dependent on how much a teacher wants to pursue mentors.

37 F. Scott Troeschler asked if there were plans on the horizon to expand the
38 programs as far as curriculum.

39 Susan Fisher responded that the staff is always watching the curriculum in
40 order to maximize student opportunities.

41 John Forbes noted that the staff development day was devoted to meeting
42 with Mike Dozier, Interim Director Office of Community & Economic
43 Development, California State University Fresno; and Blake Konczal from
44 the Workforce Investment Board discussing what the labor force predictions
45 for the next five years and the skills that can be transferred no matter what
46 the job skill set requirements are. The staff appreciated bringing that
47 relevance to their classrooms.

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Larry Fortune thanked the Board members for attending and encouraged them to attend the CART Showcase.

**BOARD
DISCUSSION,
CONTINUED**

Larry Fortune closed by acknowledging and thanking Susan Fisher for all of her accomplishments and her excellence as an administrator, stating that for the first time in ten years CART is turning students away and it is Susan Fisher’s energy that she puts into this job that has taken CART to the next level.

Mrs. Fisher responded, *“I have the best job in town – thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be part of the CART program.”*

Members of the public were given an opportunity to address the Board. There was no one present to address the Board.

**PUBLIC
PRESENTATIONS**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Fortune, Chairman
CART JPA Board of Directors

CART:3.10.09.ac

MSCU = Motion (*Board Member making the motion listed*), Second (*Board Member making the second listed*), Carried Unanimously
MSC = Motion, Second, Carried (*Board members voting NOT listed.*)
MSF = Motion, Second, Failed (*Board members voting NOT listed.*)