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**CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

A joint meeting of the Board of Directors of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART); Clovis Unified School District Governing Board; and Fresno Unified School District Governing Board was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the Theater and Room N103 located at 2555 Clovis Avenue in Clovis, California.

**CART BOARD:**

Larry Fortune, Chairman  
Richard Johanson, Vice-Chairman  
Michelle Asadoorian, Member  
Terry Bradley, Ed.D., Member  
Cathy Frost, Member  
Ruthie Quinto [for Michael Hanson]

**Absent:**

Michael Hanson  
Richard Lake

**CUSD BOARD:**

Brian Heryford, President  
Sandy Bengel, Vice-President  
Ginny Hovsepian, Member  
Betsy Sandoval, Member  
Dr. Jim Van Volkinburg, Member

**Absent:**

Richard Lake, Member  
Dr. Susan Walker, Member

**FUSD BOARD:**

Dr. Tony Vang, President  
Valerie Davis, Clerk  
Carol Mills, Member  
Cal Johnson, Member  
Manuel Nunez, Member  
Janet Ryan, Member

**Absent:**

None

**Staff:**

Susan Fisher, Chief Operating Officer, CART  
John Forbes, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction, CART  
Alice Chute, Executive Assistant, CART  
Kelly Avants, Administrator, Communications & Board Relations, CUSD  
Dr. Ginny Boris, Assoc. Supt., Curriculum Services & Innovations, CUSD  
Dr. Dan Kaiser, Associate Superintendent, School Leadership, CUSD  
Bill McGuire, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services, CUSD  
Ruthie Quinto, Associate Supt./CFO for Administrative Services, FUSD  
Dr. Janet Young, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, CUSD

**ROLL CALL**

At 4:03 p.m. Susan Fisher welcomed those present.

**WELCOME**

Susan Fisher presented the State of the CART report including the following components.

## STATE OF THE CART REPORT

### HISTORICAL REVIEW

- Unique program that opened in the year 2000 to address the need for educational reform and economic development; largest educational reform project in the United States

### GOALS

- All students pass the exit exam
- All students graduate from high school with a plan for their future
- Increase attendance; academic achievement; enrollment in higher level science; eligibility for entrance into a 4-year college; number of students going to post secondary options

### EDUCATIONAL MODEL

- Small Learning Communities
- Integrate academic core and career skills
- 3 hour block
- Team teaching
- Community involvement
- Personalized environment

### ACADEMIC RIGOR

- College prep environment
- Most classes meet UC entrance requirements
- Earn college credit while attending CART - one Advanced Placement Class - AP Computer Science; 7 classes receive Unitrack credit through California State University, Fresno; and 3 classes are 2 + 2 articulated with State Center Community College District

### RELEVANCE

- Projects that engage students in the learning process
- "Real-World" work that validates the need to know
- Community involvement - 375 community members serve as mentors, class speakers, job shadowing supervisors for CART students each yet

### EXIT EXAM

- 2005-06 - All seniors passed
- 2006-07 - 5 seniors did not pass
- 2007-08 - As of February - 36 juniors need to pass; 14 seniors need to pass

### GRADUATION RATES

- 2004-05 - 100% graduate
- 2005-06 - 100% graduate
- 2006-07 - 98% graduate

### ATTENDANCE

- Student attendance at CART about 2.5% higher than comprehensive high schools

### GRADE POINT AVERAGE

- Majority of students experience a higher GPA

### HIGH LEVEL SCIENCE COURSES

- 60% of CART students enrolled in higher level science [chemistry, physics, bioengineering, biochemistry, and zoology]

**STATE OF THE  
CART REPORT,  
CONTINUED**

STUDENTS GOING ON TO POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS

- 2004-05 - 96% seniors
- 2005-06 - 96% seniors
- 2006-07 - 92% seniors
- 100% CART applicants accepted to California State University Fresno the last three years

WHAT ARE CART STUDENTS DOING AFTER CART [2007 SENIORS]

- Community College - 273
- California State University - 105
- UC - 9
- Private University - 9
- Out of State University - 14
- Technical or vocational school - 19
- Military - 17
- Work - 17

STAFF HONORS

- Laurie Hayes  
Finalist for Educator of the Year  
Selected to present at 3 National Science Teachers Association Conferences
- Beth Wielicki  
Finalist for Cable Leaders in America Award  
Selected to present at California League of Middle Schools Conference
- Jeanne Escalera & Laurie Hayes selected to present at California League of High Schools Conference
- John Forbes to receive Doctorate degree from California State University Fresno/UC Davis in May 2008

PROPERTY UPDATE

- Annex Building  
Built early 1970's  
Not habitable at this time
  - Does not meet ADA standards
  - Does not meet Field Act standards
  - HVAC system needs to be replaced
  - Roof needs to be replaced
  - Water damage due to roof leaks
 Demolishing building is an option
- 6 acre property fronting Clovis Avenue  
Construction to start in the next few weeks

FUNDING

- Foundation  
Kaiser Permanente increased their commitment to the Biomedical Engineering Program
- Circle of Promise
- Vending Machines now a student business
- Federal Earmark approximately \$200,000 for professional development activities
- Increase in ROP money to CART

## CART AUDIT

- Change in Charter Law
- 2005-06 Audit resolved with CART held harmless
- 2007-08 waiver to operate this year
- Next step A.B. 2246 [Sponsored by Assembly Member Villines]  
Hearing April 9, 2008  
Will allow CART to continue to operate as a half day charter school with no change in funding

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2007-08

- Completed remodeling of upstairs and added a classroom for Interactive Game Design Lab
- Successfully completed the first round of competition for Career Technical Education [CTE] Grants  
Biomedicine Lab  
Biomedical Engineering Lab  
Interactive Game Design
- All student laptops have been refreshed
- Server room infrastructure has been refreshed
- Projector in theater replaced
- CART Showcase  
Attended by approximately 1800 people  
Sierra Vista Mall sponsored
- "Tools for Teams - Ensuring Student Success Workshop"  
April 10 - 4:00-7:30 p.m.  
86 educators from throughout Fresno County attending

## APPLICATIONS

	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>
CUSD	643 59%	988 51%	1053 52%
FUSD	444 41%	935 49%	984 48%
TOTAL	1089	1928	2037
ENROLLMENT	1238	1307	1400 [Estimate]

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Angel Awards  
Thursday, April 10 - 6:00 p.m.
- Senior Spotlight Night  
Tuesday, May 13  
In 2007 \$36,500 in scholarships awarded to CART 50 seniors
- Spring Showcase  
Thursday, May 22 - Culmination of student work - 6:00 p.m.

## WHAT IS AHEAD?

- Summer 2008  
Science and Technology Summer Academy for grades 4-6
- Federal Earmark  
Will allow CART to continue to provide professional development activities
- Irvine Foundation  
Interested in replicating the CART model
- CTE Grants  
Remodeling

**STATE OF THE  
CART REPORT,  
CONTINUED**

The following students gave presentations to the Board sharing their experiences while attending CART.

- Vanessa Molina, Economics and Finance Lab - Fresno High Senior
- Daniel Hernandez, Multimedia-Graphics Lab - Clovis High Senior
- Chong Thao, Environmental Science Lab - Clovis East Junior
- Braden Deisher, Networking Lab 2007-08 & Forensics Lab 2006-07 - Bullard Senior
- Maria Castro, Networking Lab 2007-08 and Psychology Lab 2006-07 - McLane Senior
- Paul Lee, Biomedicine Lab - Buchanan Senior

At 4:45 p.m. the Boards recessed. Refreshments were available.

The Boards reconvened in Room N103 at 4:55 p.m.

MSCU [*Frost/Hovsepian*] to approve the agenda for the joint board meeting as submitted.

Chairman Fortune thanked Mrs. Fisher for the State of the CART report that had been presented as well as the student presentations which were "*delightful and inspiring as always*".

Chairman Fortune pointed out to the Board members that several topics had been listed on the agenda for possible discussion and stated that the annual joint board meeting is required by the Board Bylaws. A discussion began centering on the following topics: How can CART evolve to continue to meet the needs of the student population? And comments or questions about student presentations or CART report.

Carol Mills stated that the western end of Fresno Unified School District would still like to see another campus in their area.

Chairman Fortune stated that the CART enrollment numbers were getting close to where perhaps a second CART could be discussed.

Dr. Bradley clarified the audit situation stating that he believed CART was legal from day one, but legislation had been adopted that affected all charter schools. He further explained that the school districts have been working to resolve a 15 million dollar audit issue for the past 18 months. Assembly Member Villines is sponsoring Assembly Bill 2246 which will address this issue and the school districts have received notification that the matter is on the consent agenda for review. Because of this audit issue CART has received some positive exposure with the California Department of Education and many members of the legislature so perhaps this issue actually ended up benefiting CART in the long run.

Ruthie Quinto acknowledged and thanked Bill McGuire for his knowledge of how the funding model works and his expertise and tenacity in getting the audit matter resolved.

## STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

## RECESS

## RECONVENE

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

## BOARD DISCUSSION

**BOARD DISCUSSION,  
CONTINUED**

Janet Ryan, Fresno Unified School District Board member, asked what could be done to bring CART-like programs to other high schools whose students cannot attend CART for one reason or another; that is, to replicate the successful programs at CART in the traditional high school classrooms.

Susan Fisher explained that the upcoming workshop, *"Tools for Teams-Ensuring Student Success Workshop"* which will be held at CART on April 10th from 4:00-7:30 p.m. is one way of replicating the successful programs being offered at CART. CART practices can be used anywhere. Susan Fisher further explained that it is the hope that the Federal Earmark funding will help CART provide more professional growth opportunities allowing CART staff members to continue to train teachers to replicate CART practices.

Board Chairman Fortune asked if the Clovis East Educational Center was doing this as well.

Dr. Bradley responded stating that the biology, math and language arts classes at the Clovis East Educational Center were very rigorous and relate directly to the area of agriculture. Dr. Bradley further explained that by 2009-10 the following high schools in Clovis Unified will offer specific courses with academic rigor: Clovis West - Automotive Technology; Clovis East - Manufacturing; Clovis North - Medicine, not in competition with CART; and Buchanan - Alternative Energy Resources.

Manuel Nunez asked if it is pointed out to students that the classes that students take at California State University Fresno are transferable to any other university.

Susan Fisher responded in the affirmative.

Manuel Nunez stated that classes taken at Fresno City College are not transferable to any university and are only redeemable at Fresno City College.

Manuel Nunez asked if second year CART students had to apply or were they grandfathered in.

Susan Fisher responded that second year students do complete an application indicating whether they plan to return to CART for a second year.

Manuel Nunez asked if those second year students are counted in the application total.

Susan Fisher responded in the affirmative stating that second year students are counted as applicants. CART only has a certain number of seats available and second year students are given first choice.

Michelle Asadoorian asked if students who do not pass the CAHSEE exam receive remediation at CART and at their home high school.

Susan Fisher responded stating that CART teachers offer remediation workshops in the evenings to assist students who need to pass the CAHSEE exam.

**BOARD DISCUSSION,  
CONTINUED**

Brian Heryford stated that he enjoyed the student presentations and hearing about the CART experience from the students perspective. Brian Heryford asked about the CART annex building and what the plans were for that building.

Susan Fisher explained the maladies of the annex building and informed the Boards that real estate brokers had done a walk through and agreed that the building would probably not rent or sell. The building is old and is a maintenance nightmare and the plan will probably be to demolish it.

Brian Heryford asked what would be done with the land if the building was demolished.

Susan Fisher responded that the land was currently all one parcel and could possibly be split up and parceled off.

Larry Fortune stated that there might be a back end user that didn't want to pay Sierra Vista Mall rent that might be interested in the property.

Brian Heryford asked if there would be any value to turning the annex building into an ROP construction project, where possibly the architecture lab could design and rebuild and auction off the building.

Manuel Nunez suggested the annex building be used for a student project. Chairman Fortune stated that he was hesitant to have students reconstruct the building as a student project because then you get into trouble with the construction/trade unions.

Manuel Nunez stated that the trade unions are often looking for ways to get involved in student internships and this might be an opportunity to teach students some of the trades, i.e. bricklaying, electrical, any facet of the construction trades.

Susan Fisher asked if it was being suggested that CART try to sell the annex building to a construction company.

Carol Mills stated the IBEW and the sheet metal workers have indicated that they are interested in working with students in the field of construction.

Cal Johnson stated that Fresno City College builds a house almost every year and he had never heard of any conflict with the building industry because this becomes the training ground for skilled construction labor.

Brian Heryford stated that he thought the biggest obstacle to such an agreement or project would be obtaining approval by the State.

Chairman Fortune suggested that an extensive market study should be done as well as a staff study of future needs.

Carol Mills suggested that a study of what the best use of the annex building would be, including the possibility of a student project.

**BOARD DISCUSSION,  
CONTINUED**

Manuel Nunez stated that some challenges were encountered when CART first started, that is, the then existing Grundfos Manufacturing Warehouse could not be used for classroom instruction, but Dr. Bradley discovered the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds which allowed the districts to tear the building down to the slab and reconstruct. Manuel Nunez further stated that he felt this was the same decision that needed to be made with the annex building - whether to tear it down and if torn down do we leave the foundation in order to possibly build on it again.

Richard Johanson agreed with Manuel Nunez stating that the Board's first thought was to remodel the former Grundfos Manufacturing plant, but eventually the Board realized it was advantageous to take it down to the slab and rebuild it.

Brian Heryford asked if there was any office of the City of Clovis or the State Center Community College District or California State University that would want to house a satellite program in the annex building.

Chairman Fortune responded stating that Fresno City College had leased a space in the annex building for a few years and they had vacated, and further, when he had spoken to Dr. Tom Crow about the possibility of running a program in that building he did not receive a favorable response. Chairman Fortune stated that the purchaser of the frontage property had looked at the annex building and didn't want to touch it. Larry Fortune further explained that the last tenant was paying \$3,000 per month in rent and the power bill was costing CART @ \$5,000 per month to maintain.

Manuel Nunez asked Ruthie Quinto if the Fresno Unified and Clovis Unified facilities staff could form a committee to conduct a study to determine the best course of action for the annex building, including possible implosion.

Ruthie Quinto agreed that she would get in touch with Bill McGuire's office and set up a meeting to discuss possible plans for the annex building.

Chairman Fortune stated that he guaranteed that next year the Board would have a plan for the disposition of the annex building.

Betsy Sandoval suggested that we keep the annex building and build another building to serve more children.

Ruthie Quinto suggested that if we were going to build a new building we needed to find a way to build in Fresno Unified School District and perhaps sell that parcel in order to do so.

Betsy Sandoval agreed as long as we have enough students so that we don't end up closing the existing CART site.

Carol Mills stated that she sees a second CART as being located somewhere in the western portion of the Fresno Unified School District.

Chairman Fortune stated that a campus in the western side of Fresno Unified School District might compete with enrollment at CART initially, but eventually he believed the enrollment would even out.

Brian Heryford asked what home high schools were concerned, or were requesting a new site to be located in Fresno.

**BOARD DISCUSSION,  
CONTINUED**

Manuel Nunez responded stating that it was mostly Edison High School where a student has to board a bus by 6:30 a.m. in order to arrive at CART in time for class - that is a big challenge, but I don't know what the current enrollment is of Edison students attending CART.

Susan Fisher pointed out that eighty-five students from Edison currently attend CART.

Ruthie Quinto stated that she felt what the Board was requesting is not just the high school they attend; but their actual address location.

Cal Johnson stated that his nieces and nephews attend CART but their parents transport them rather than rely on the bus transportation that is provided.

Chairman Fortune stated that perhaps in the next year a conceptual plan could be developed on what it would take to open a second campus and where to begin.

Brian Heryford asked if it was true that when we sold the frontage property the money went for the technology refresh.

Susan Fisher responded that some of the money went for the technology refresh and some for the remodel project.

Dr. Bradley clarified that there was @ \$1.5 million remaining from the sale of the frontage property.

Chairman Fortune thanked Board members for attending and asked if there were any additional questions. Chairman Fortune also invited Board members to attend the CART Showcase and to take advantage of opportunities to hear student presentations.

Dr. Bradley stated that he intends to retire as Superintendent of Clovis Unified School District in 15 months and will then be a member of the public and that he agreed with the discussion related to a second facility. Dr. Bradley further stated however that such a project would be @ \$40 million project to build because the original CART cost about \$20 million in the 1990's and the districts were also able to participate in the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds [QZAB's] at that time.

Dr. Bradley explained that the QZAB's are a zero interest bond, but the regulations related to those bonds have changed significantly. There are also major efforts underway to change the regulations regarding the manner in which school districts can sell the bonds. In order to build CART both school districts borrowed \$6 million - Clovis Unified put \$2.9 in an investment fund that eventually resulted in the \$6 million, but school districts will no longer be allowed to do that.

Dr. Bradley suggested that partners in outlying school districts be sought out, i.e. Sanger Unified School District, Madera Unified School District, to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement and share the cost of building a second site. Dr. Bradley further pointed out that there are also the operating costs - for 1400 students each district provides 15 teachers - CART is an expensive facility to operate and all these factors need to be considered before building a second site.

**BOARD  
DISCUSSION,  
CONTINUED**

Dr. Bradley clarified that he was not suggesting that it cannot be done, but only suggesting that the districts and board members face the reality of investing \$40 million on a facility + operational costs during a time when Fresno Unified School District is in a declining enrollment situation and Clovis Unified School District enrollment is not increasing as in years past; especially when the existing facility is not filled to capacity. Dr. Bradley stressed that all these factors need to be taken into consideration as decisions are made as to where and when an additional facility is built and who the partners in that project will be.

Chairman Fortune thanked Dr. Bradley for sharing his insight.

Members of the public were given an opportunity to address the Board. There were no public presentations.

**PUBLIC  
PRESENTATIONS  
ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Larry Fortune, Chairman  
CART JPA Board of Directors

CART:5.13.08.JT.BOARDMEETING.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.*)