

Visalia Unified School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

OPENING BUSINESS The meeting of July 17, 2001 was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room, VUSD Educational Office Complex, 5000 West Cypress Avenue, Visalia, followed by the determination that a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

	<u>Arrive</u>	<u>Leave</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Russ Bassett	5:00	10:00	
Niessen Foster	5:00	10:00	
Larry Jones	5:00	10:00	
Chuck Lindahl	5:10	10:00	
Milt Morrison	5:00	10:00	
Robert Stephenson	5:00	10:00	
Rick Wehmuller	5:10	10:00	
Stan A. Carrizosa, Superintendent	5:00	10:00	
Kern Smith, Student Representative	7:00	10:00	

Staff Members

Mark Fulmer, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Carlyn Lambert, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Educational Services
Kay Van Andel, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development
Elizabeth Parker, Administrative Assistant, Superintendent's Office

CLOSED SESSION

President Morrison identified the closed session agenda items listed below. He asked if there was public comment on any of the items. As there was none, the board convened into closed session.

- A. STUDENT EXPULSIONS
- B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE
 - 1. Two Positions
- C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
 - 1. Case name unspecified: Disclosure would jeopardize existing settlement negotiations
- D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
 - 1. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Government Code §54956.9: One potential case
- E. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code §54957)
 - 1. Agency Negotiator: Kay Van Andel
Employee Organizations: CSEA
VUTA

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

At 7:00 p.m. the board reconvened in open session. Mr. Morrison announced that no action was taken in closed session.

Motion No. 1

Mr. Bassett lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Bassett announced that there was an emergency resolution that needed to be added to tonight's agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Bassett to add Item 7 (F), an emergency resolution, for discussion, public comment and action relative to the Sierra Vista Phase 2 construction project. Mr. Wehmuller seconded the motion. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MINUTES

Motion No. 2

On a motion by Foster and second by Wehmuller, the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 12, 2001 (Encl. No. 1) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/

PUBLIC COMMENT

Review Revisions to Board Policies Upon Recommendations from California School Boards Association's (CSBA) March 2001 Quarterly Update - First Reading

Enclosure No. 2 included recommended revisions from CSBA to update district policies to reflect changes in the law and the Education Code. Mr. Carrizosa summarized the changes as included in the policies presented tonight for a first reading.

Proposal for District-Wide Staff Development Days

Superintendent Carrizosa introduced a proposal that the board consider adopting a calendar of dates specifically for district-wide staff collaboration time (Encl. No. 3). He said that our staffs are being asked to do many things to implement the new Public Schools Accountability Act and that there is a real need for staff time to collaborate on the issues relative to this implementation. Teachers and staff already do a lot of work in meetings held before and after school. Mr. Carrizosa said that there is a full agenda for the three state-funded staff development days. The proposed additional time would be a value added component to leverage the productivity of the existing staff development time. The time would be at more frequent intervals and more consistent over the course of the year, allowing for better continuity and follow-through as principals are working with staff to bring about actual changes in classroom teaching and learning.

Mr. Doug Bartsch reviewed the process used to arrive at tonight's recommendation. In working with the VUSD advisory Forum, it was decided that approximately 8 days, or approximately once a month, would be most appropriate for these days. Mr. Bartsch said in working with the principals to decide what days should be selected, it was decided that because of parent/teacher conferences in November at the elementary level, the elementary schools should have 7 days instead of the 8 days at the secondary level. The calendar as presented in the enclosure was coordinated for grades K-12 so that all of the collaboration days would be the same throughout the grades. By redesigning the instructional day and year, students will not lose instructional minutes. In fact, elementary students will have the equivalent of four instructional days above what the state requires. Agendas for these meetings will be developed at the site level under the leadership of the principals but in a collaborative manner with the teaching staffs. Mr. Bartsch said that the focus of the meetings will be the grade level and area level standards everyone needs to be working toward as well as how assessment data relates to the standards.

Mr. Bassett asked that a cross section of evaluations provided after each meeting be given to the board so that board members are able to see what is being accomplished. Mr. Bartsch responded that the district's Professional Development Department has a system for generating this type of report.

In response to a comment made by Mr. Lindahl, Mr. Bartsch clarified that tonight's proposal is to "bring the elementary schools along" and does not add any time to what is already taking place relative to collaborative days at the high schools.

Mr. Stephenson said that he is interested in accountability. He said that if this proposal goes forward, it would be important that the time be used in the best manner possible so that the intent of what the district wants to do is being met. Mr. Bartsch said that schools are consulting with our Professional Development Department in planning for the collaborative days. Mr. Bartsch and Mr. Sheklian will also continue to provide resources to the school sites.

Mr. Rodriguez also addressed the board and thanked the members for the staff development days approved for the secondary teaching staff this past year. He said that a huge amount of work was accomplished in the area of frameworks, curriculum alignment, integration of curriculum and in helping staff understand various data. He then reviewed the process he will use in establishing programs for collaborative days. Mr. Rodriguez asked Nancy Powell and Dan Leppek to speak to the board relative to how their sites use collaborative days.

President Morrison asked that district teaching staff be reassured and supported in their continuing efforts to do the very best job they can. He said that "we all recognize that they are doing what they can and this outside pressure and these arbitrary numbers and standards, important as they are, are not the final arbiter of whether or not they are doing a good job."

The board will be asked to vote on tonight's proposal at the August 7, 2001 board meeting.

Proposal from
Vocational Education
Focus Group

Mr. Carrizosa presented Enclosure No. 4 for discussion and public input. He said that the information was a first response by district administrative staff to the presentation made to the board at the June 26th board meeting by a group of the recently formed district Vocational Education Focus Group. Mr. Carrizosa explained that the board has had an opportunity during the last month or so to see the work the group has been doing and to review their proposal for a five-year plan for the district, the focus group and its business representatives to enter into a partnership. At the last board meeting the board was asked to consider creating resources to put into the project over a five-year period and to make the allocation of the resources contingent upon tying together the pieces of the partnership recommended in the information they provided at that meeting. Mr. Carrizosa said that the administration's recommendation is to offer a five-year enhancement to Vocational Education for the purpose of redefining the program for the new demands of today's workplace. The financial commitment will be contingent upon matching resources from local business and industry, building partnerships with local business and industry to offer apprenticeship opportunities for high school students as a part of their high school program, improving the academic achievement of students as measured by performance on the High School Exit Exam and other district and industry measures and certifications. He said that district administration is recommending that the board authorize the financial commitment and direct staff to work with the Focus Group to refine and present final details of the five-year plan. If the board approves the proposal, it is anticipated that board members will have an opportunity to review the plan and its progress mid-year and renew their commitment to the plan at the end of each year. Tonight's recommendation was that the district provide \$100,000 a year toward the program for each of the five years.

A lengthy discussion took place with board members sharing their individual and collective views and their support of the proposal. Staff will work with the focus group on the ideas shared tonight and will then present a plan to the board for approval.

**DISCUSSION/
PUBLIC
COMMENT/ACTION**

Reconsideration of
Instructional Materials
Motion No. 3

Carlyn Lambert and George Pilling presented a discussion of Enclosure No. 5. Mrs. Lambert said that the item was being brought to the board tonight pursuant to AR 1312.2(a), entitled Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials. The material under consideration tonight was Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel. It is a supplemental text used in World Literature/Advanced Composition classes taken by some 11th grade students but predominately 12th grade students. The book is on the recommended reading list produced by the California Department of Education and is part of the Advanced Placement Test. Mrs. Lambert explained the procedures that staff used as outlined in AR 1312.2(a) when a written complaint was received from parents regarding the text. She presented the Review Committee's recommendation which was to leave the novel on the supplemental list for the World Literature/Advanced Composition course. She added, however, that knowing there are reasonable objections to the book by some, instructors should implement the Review Committee's recommended procedures as listed in the enclosure when assigning the novel. The Review Committee is comprised of parents, students, teachers and administrators. A lengthy discussion by the board along with public comment was received on this item. Mr. Morrison called for a motion to accept the recommendation of the Review Committee to retain the book on the list of supplemental readings. Mr. Carrizosa suggested the motion be made to overturn or accept and support the recommendation of the staff in their procedural review of the book. In response to board comment, he added that staff's recommendation was that the book, Like Water for Chocolate, remain on the list and that two of the three points they indicated are already in place in our procedures for all books and that the third stipulation for this book in particular is that if 25% of the class or more agree that they do not like this book, then an alternative book will be selected. Mr. Stephenson so amended his motion. Mr. Foster seconded the amended motion. Ayes: Bassett, Foster, Jones, Morrison and Stephenson. Noes: Lindahl and Wehmueller. Motion carried.

Mr. Bassett said that because this book was handled differently, he would like to recommend that the "25% point" made by the committee be put on the next meeting's agenda for Board Policy to consider changing the policy to include it for consideration of other books. Mr. Morrison directed that the Board Policy Committee look at a possible statement of policy relative to Mr. Bassett's recommendation. The statement would be presented to the board for discussion and at a subsequent board meeting for a vote.

In response to a concern shared by Mr. Jones that if a student chooses to read an alternative book, books be made available immediately, Mrs. Lambert said that she would clarify the process with the high school principals at a principals' meeting.

Application for 2001-
2002 Title VI Federal
Class Size Reduction
Program
Motion No. 4

Mr. Jim Pitkin presented Enclosure No. 6, a request to seek continued Title VI funding for Class Size Reduction in Grade 4. If approved, approximately 850 4th grade students will be in a 20-1 classroom this coming school year. Mr. Pitkin said that Title VI Federal CSR funds will support the hiring of teachers and that last year the district was funded at approximately \$700,200. Eighty percent of the funds received must be used to recruit, hire or train teachers who are fully credentialed, seventeen percent of the money will be used for professional development, and three percent of the

money can be used for administrative costs. On a motion by Wehmueller and a second by Jones, the application was approved. Ayes: Foster, Jones, Lindahl, Morrison, Stephenson and Wehmueller. Mr. Bassett was out of the room for this vote. Motion carried.

Review Revised BP
4217.2 - Classified
Employee Resignation
- Second and Final
Reading
Motion No. 5

Mr. Carrizosa presented Enclosure No. 7, the second reading of a proposed revision to BP 4217.2. The word "designee" will be added, along with the Superintendent, to be authorized to accept the written resignation of any classified employee on behalf of the Governing Board. The resignation will become effective immediately upon acceptance. On a motion by Wehmueller and second by Stephenson, the revision was accepted. Ayes: Bassett, Foster, Lindahl, Morrison, Stephenson and Wehmueller. Mr. Jones was out of the room for this vote. Motion carried.

Yearly Review of the
6000's - Instruction -
First One-fourth of the
Section - Second and
Final Reading
Motion No. 6

Mr. Carrizosa reported that Enclosure No. 8, a section of the 6000's, was being presented as a second reading. Included in tonight's reading was a revision to BP 6145.5 in the first paragraph under the title "Student Organizations and Equal Access." An affirmative statement was added with regard to the board's belief in recognizing and valuing diversity of students which may be reflected in a variety of student organizations. On a motion by Bassett and second by Wehmueller, the 6000's were approved as presented. Ayes: Bassett, Foster, Lindahl, Morrison, Stephenson and Wehmueller. Mr. Jones was out of the room for this vote. Motion carried.

Memorandum of
Understanding - Visalia
Coffee Company
Motion No. 7

Dr. Fulmer explained the opportunity for a Special Education Vocational Training facility at the district's new Visalia Learning Center for retail sales of specialty coffee beverages (Encl. No. 9). Staff has been working with Mr. George Conley and Bea Soxman to develop a plan to bring in a retail vendor to support the instruction for our students and to manage the day-to-day operations of the facility. Visalia Coffee Company responded to the district's solicitation from community specialty coffee companies. With regard to the contract presented tonight, Dr. Fulmer said that the revenues from the use of its logo, and the sales of coffee and coffee additives will go to the Visalia Coffee Company. Revenue from all other sales, i.e., soft drinks, other beverages and food sales would go directly to Mr. Conley's program. Dr. Fulmer said that Mr. Conley estimates that the revenues to the district for the approximate 250 days of operation of the facility will be approximately \$60,000. Legal counsel has reviewed the agreement as presented. On a motion by Stephenson and second by Wehmueller, the MOU was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Motion No. 8

The added Item VII (F), an emergency resolution, was discussed at this time. Dr. Fulmer said that notice was received by the district from the consultants working on the Sierra Vista renovation project expressing their concern about the removal of hazardous materials during the time school is in session. Options were discussed. After talking with Mr. Micham, the current contractor on the facility, it was determined that the project could be substantially completed, including the HVAC work and the flooring, prior to the opening of school. This would facilitate full use of the building, with all of the asbestos and lead abatement completed. Dr. Fulmer said that interior painting and other finish work would still need to be done and could be scheduled on evenings and weekends. Dr. Fulmer added that Mr. Micham has made an oral commitment to complete the work within the essential budget outlines provided for deferred maintenance and the bond funded portions of the project. With board approval of tonight's emergency resolution, a contract will be secured with Mr. Micham to complete the work as discussed. On a motion by Wehmueller and second by Bassett, the emergency resolution was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**ROUTINE
ACTION/PUBLIC
COMMENT**
Motion No. 9

Board members pulled items A8 and E2 for further discussion. Mr. Morrison asked if there was any public comment on any of the items. Mr. Frank Palmer asked to address the board relative to Items A6, A7, A8, A9, A10 and A11. He questioned the need for the number of contracts for legal services. Mr. Carrizosa responded that there was a process the district used in making recommendations for retaining legal counsel. He said that different firms provide different specialties essential to the district. The firms will be used on an as needed basis only. On Item A11, Mr. Palmer asked why the district is continuing to lease the old IMC building for another year now that the Visalia Learning Center, Cruz Bustamante Building, has opened. Dr. Fulmer explained that the building will be used to store furniture and equipment purchased for El Diamante High School. Testing materials will also be kept in a secured area of the building. On a motion by Stephenson and second by Bassett, the remaining items, excluding Items A8 and E2, were approved as follows:

- A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
 - 1. Warrant List - June 16 through June 30, 2001 (Encl. No. 10)
 - 2. Budget Revision (Current Year) (Encl. No. 11)
 - 3. Monthly Utility Report (Encl. No. 12)
 - 4. Bid No. 4337 - Health Benefits (Certificated and Management Employees) (Encl. No. 13)
 - 5. DMG Maximus Contract - Mandated Claims Management (Encl. No. 14)
 - 6. County Counsel Contract for Services for 2001-2002 (Encl. No. 15)
 - 7. Agreement with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (Encl. No. 16)
 - 8. Agreement with Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard (Encl. No. 17)
 - 9. Agreement with Lozano Smith (Encl. No. 18)
 - 10. Agreement with Hurlbutt, Clevenger, Long, Rauber & Nelson (Encl. No. 19)
 - 11. 604 South Bridge Street - Lease Agreement (Encl. No. 20)
 - 12. Food Service Agreement - Liberty School District (Encl. No. 21)
 - 13. Request to Replace Three (3) High School Vehicles (Encl. No. 22)
- B. AREA ADMINISTRATOR, 7-12/ADULT
 - 1. Student Trip Request(s) as Listed with Addendum (As needed) (Encl. No. 23)
- C. AREA ADMINISTRATOR, K-6, Traditional; Year Round
 - 1. Governor's Performance Award - Union Elementary School (Encl. No. 24)
 - 2. Memorandum of Understanding Between VUSD and Pro-Youth/HEART (Encl. No. 25)
 - 3. School Site Employee Performance Bonus (SB 1667 Chapter 1) - Mineral King, Royal Oaks, Union, Veva Blunt (Encl. No. 26)
 - 4. County of Tulare Youth Adventure Camp (C.O.T.Y.A.C.) 6th Grade Week Contract Through SCICON (Encl. No. 27)
- D. CURRICULUM/EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
 - 1. State Preschool Child Development Contract (Encl. No. 28)

2. TCOE Migrant Education English Language and Intensive Literacy Program (ELILP) (Encl. No. 29)
 3. Healthy Start Grant Awards: Ivanhoe & Goshen Elementary Schools (Encl. No. 30)
 4. Youth Services Officer and DARE Officers Contract/Partnership with the City of Visalia (Encl. No. 31)
 5. Agreement with Tulare County for Special Friends Program (Encl. No. 32)
- E. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 33)
 2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 34)
 3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 35)
 4. Rejection of Liability Claim No. 010058 (Encl. No. 36)
 5. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) \$20,000 Merit Award(s) for Certified Teachers Teaching in Low-Performing Schools (Encl. No. 37)
 6. Request to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 38)

Motion No. 10 Item A8 was pulled for a separate vote. On a motion by Jones and second by Wehmueller, the item was approved. Ayes: Jones, Morrison, Stephenson and Wehmueller. Noes: Bassett, Foster and Lindahl. Motion carried.

Motion No. 11 Item E2 was pulled for correction. Mrs. Van Anandel explained that Katie Ray-Campus should have been listed on the Certificated Personnel Report as a replacement hire in the position of Director III, Special Education. On a motion by Stephenson and second by Jones, the correction was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried. Mrs. Lambert introduced Mrs. Ray-Campus and welcomed her to the district.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
PANEL RECOM-
MENDATIONS**

Expulsions On a motion by Bassett and second by Wehmueller, the Administrative Panel
Motion No. 12 Recommendations on Expulsion Case No. 02-01E, Case No. 02-02E, Case No. 02-03E, Case No. 02-04E and Case No. 02-05E (Encl. No. 39) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**BOARD AND
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

CADA Conference Kern Smith reported that Redwood High School's ASB Executive Leadership Council attended a California Association Director of Activities Conference at the University of Santa Barbara campus July 8-11. The purpose of the conference was to develop leadership skills and ways to improve school and community spirit. He said it was a great experience.

Welcome Mr. Carrizosa Mr. Bassett welcomed Mr. Carrizosa to the district.

Visit to El Diamante Mr. Foster also welcomed Mr. Carrizosa. He reported that last week he and Mr. Jones visited the El Diamante High School site to watch the construction. He said he was very pleased with the progress.

El Diamante Mr. Stephenson said that he will be visiting El Diamante this Friday.

District Energy
Management System

Mr. Lindahl said that he was pleased to see that the lights at Golden West were not remaining on at all hours of the night. He said "the new energy management system in the district is working."

Crowley Corridor

Mr. Jones commended Mr. Carlson for "staying on top of the Crowley Corridor" project. He said it looks wonderful! He thanked the students and teachers for their patience through the completion of the work there. Mr. Jones then welcomed Mr. Carrizosa to the district.

Mr. Carrizosa thanked the board members for their welcome. He reported that the dedication of the Visalia Learning Center and the Cruz Bustamante Building will be Wednesday, August 22, 2001, at 9 a.m. Lieutenant Governor Bustamante will be in attendance at the event. He said that his first two and one-half weeks in the district have been very busy. He has had many opportunities to meet with groups and individuals in the district and the community. Mr. Carrizosa will be meeting with administrative staff for two days this week planning the calendar for the year. The group will also be working on goals for this year.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE
MEETINGS/TIMELINE**

Athletic fields at El Diamante site - Jones. Dr. Fulmer said that he is working with the architect and Mr. Sorenson on this issue.

Mr. Carrizosa announced Manuel Rico, VUSD's Grounds and Custodial Supervisor, had passed away on Monday. He extended sympathy to the family on behalf of district staff and the board. Services will be this Friday morning at 9 a.m. at Millers Chapel.

In conclusion, Mr. Carrizosa reminded the board of tomorrow's special board study session at 3 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Unless otherwise determined, the next regular Board Meeting will be August 7, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the VUSD Educational Complex located at 5000 West Cypress, Visalia.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Stephenson
Clerk

Stan A. Carrizosa
Superintendent/Secretary