

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES

### OPENING BUSINESS

The meeting of January 8, 2002, 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>
Rodney Elder	5:00	11:04	
Niessen Foster	5:00	11:04	
Juan R. Guerrero	5:00	11:04	
Larry Jones	5:00	11:04	
Michael Lane	5:00	11:04	
Jim L. Qualls	5:00	11:04	
Robert Stephenson	5:00	11:04	
Stan A. Carrizosa, Superintendent	5:00	11:04	
Kern Smith, Student Representative	7:00	11:04	

### Staff Members

Mark Fulmer, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
Carlyn Lambert, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Educational Services  
Elizabeth Parker, Administrative Assistant, Superintendent's Office

### CLOSED SESSION

President Stephenson 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.

1. EXPULSIONS
2. REINSTATEMENTS
3. REVIEWS-CONTINUED EXPULSIONS
4. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR
  1. Property: Properties already owned by the district
  2. Agency Negotiator: Dr. Mark Fulmer, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
  3. Under Negotiation: Consideration of the sale of selected district parcels and possible purchase of alternate land parcels
5. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code § 54957)
  1. Agency Negotiator: Kay Van Andel
    1. Employee Organization: CSEA  
VUTA  
Management Team
6. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957)
  1. Management Team

### RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

At 7 p.m. the board reconvened in open session. President Stephenson reported that no action was taken in closed session.

Mr. Rodney Elder lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC  
RECOGNITION /  
PROCLAMATIONS  
/ ACTION**

**STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT**  
Student Achievement  
Awards

Students receiving academic achievement awards tonight (Encl. No. 1) were: Mike Villanueva (Mathematics) from Golden West; Sara Salinas (Physical Education) and Brent Melot (Mathematics) from Mt. Whitney; Jose Saenz (Physical Education) and Doug Merkel (Mathematics) from Redwood. Ashley Haun (Physical Education) from Golden West was unable to attend tonight's meeting but was also recognized.

**STAFF/PARENTS/  
COMMUNITY**

Recognition of Valley  
Oak Teacher - Brian  
Christiansen

Cliff Vasquez, Valley Oak principal, recognized Mr. Brian Christiansen, a teacher at Valley Oak, for his efforts in bringing in over \$2,000 in donations and gift certificates for the families of local National Guard, 185<sup>th</sup> (Encl. No. 2). Mr. Christiansen wanted to raise awareness that all military families need support and appreciation while their loved ones are called to duty to defend our country. Mr. Christiansen also received proclamations from Assemblyman Mike Briggs and Governor Davis at a reception held at Valley Oak for National Guard family members.

Recognition of  
Nominated Staff for the  
California League of  
Middle Schools (CLMS)  
Region 7 Educator of  
the Year

Area Administrator, Rick Rodriguez, and Green Acres Principal, Dave Tonini, recognized Ms. Shelly Null, Green Acres teacher, who was nominated for the California League of Middle Schools Region 7 Educator of the Year (Encl. No. 3). Ten middle school educators, who have demonstrated themselves to be outstanding and exemplary teachers, were nominated throughout the region. Region 7 consists of all middle schools from Modesto/Merced to Bakersfield. Ms. Null received a plaque in recognition of her nomination.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT/  
PUBLIC INTEREST  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Madeline Richardson, 1420 North Citrus Court, Visalia, addressed the board regarding her concern about the safety of children walking along an undeveloped school property on Houston Avenue between the Adult School and McAuliff Avenue. Superintendent Carrizosa thanked Mrs. Richardson for bringing her concerns forward and assured her that discussion is going on with the City regarding this area. Mr. Darryl Pyle has been in conversation with the City and will keep Mrs. Richardson informed of decisions as they are made regarding the area of her concern. Superintendent Carrizosa said that options will be discussed to address the safety of children along this pathway.

**JOINT MEETING OF  
VUSD AND CITY OF  
VISALIA**

Mr. Carrizosa reported that the district is planning to engage in a series of joint meetings with the City of Visalia. The meeting dates included in Enclosure No. 4 have been set quarterly over the next year. He said that there is a renewed interest and commitment in working collaboratively with the City. Over the past several months, the district and City have been meeting monthly to work together for ways to better collaborate on the use of City and school resources to serve the needs of the community. The first meeting is set for January 15, 2002, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

**BOARD MEMBER  
REPORTS/SUPER-  
INTENDENT'S**

## REPORT

Nation Ball Tournament	Student Representative, Kern Smith, reported that Golden West recently held a Nation Ball Tournament. He said the fun event was sponsored by ASB and that prizes were given. He also said that Golden West students are addressing the school's trash problems by having school clubs spend a few minutes after lunch to clean up the area. Kern said that there is now an outdoor PA system at Golden West for announcing bulletins and for playing music during passing periods. He said that it brings the campus closer together. USAV held a meeting in December where the students discussed campus beautification. The next USAV meeting will be Monday. The district auditor will be coming to talk with the students at that meeting. Mr. Smith concluded his report by saying that a new semester will be beginning, new ASB officers will be coming in, and finals are coming up.
PA System at Golden West	
USAV Meetings	
New Semester/ASB Officers	
FBLA Installation Ceremony/Dinner	Mr. Elder reported that he attended the FBLA Installation Ceremony and dinner on December 21. He said the event was quite impressive and that the leadership of the group is excellent. He commended those sponsoring the event. Mr. Elder also reported on a New Years Eve event sponsored by various youth pastors in the area. The pastors threw a party for approximately 700 students at the Convention Center. Bands played and pizza was served. Mr. Elder and his wife chaperoned the event. He said many of the students attending the party said it was the best they had ever attended. He commended the pastors for their efforts and added that he appreciates the support that many agencies in the community give to our youth.
New Years Event for Students	
Tour of El Diamante Board Member School Visitations	Mr. Foster thanked staff for allowing another tour of the new high school. He said the school is going up at a rapid pace. Mr. Foster said that he was looking forward to the Board President and Superintendent developing the school visitation schedule for the first quarter of this new year.
Adult School Open House/Childcare Facility Kudos to Scott Smith	Mr. Jones said that he visited the Visalia Adult School Open House and toured the new childcare facility. He said that it is a wonderful facility. Mr. Jones said that he had received a commendation from a member of the community today regarding the VUSD Website. Kudos were extended to Scott Smith, who is responsible for the website.
Adult School Open House	Mr. Guerrero reported that he also attended the Adult School Open House. He said the need for childcare facilities at the school are tremendous. He commended Caroline Casida and Adult School staff for the work they do. Mr. Guerrero then commended Dr. Fulmer for how well the new high school is coming along. He then reported that he had visited Ivanhoe Elementary and was fascinated with a student presentation there. He said the auditorium was packed with parents. Mr. Guerrero also attended a musical event at Highland Elementary and was very impressed with the students' participation. At Goshen Elementary, Mr. Guerrero was asked to join in the singing. He commended staff at the school for the excellent job they are doing. Mr. Guerrero said the excellent attendance at the FBLA event said a lot about the work being done by our teachers and staffs. Mr. Guerrero also attended the Educational Complex holiday staff luncheon sponsored by the Curriculum/Educational staff. He said that it was gratifying to see the family members of district employees who have been called to service after the September 11 tragedy included in the luncheon. He was also very impressed with the performance of the Mt. Whitney choir at the luncheon. In conclusion, Mr. Guerrero said that he had attended the VUTA reception. He added that there are "good people working with our schools."
El Diamante Progress	
Ivanhoe, Highland and Goshen Presentations	
FBLA Installations	
Educational Complex Holiday Luncheon	
VUTA Reception	
Support of Jack O'Connell	Mr. Lane shared that he supported Jack O'Connell for State Superintendent of Instruction. He then acknowledged County Superintendent of Schools, Jim Vidak, for the outstanding efforts he makes to advance our educational goals in Tulare County.

Redwood Ag Advisory  
Dinner  
Adult School Open  
House  
Valley Oak Support of  
National Guard Families  
Holiday Luncheon  
VUSD Stadium  
Committee Meeting

Mr. Qualls attended the Redwood Agricultural Advisory Dinner, which he said was really enjoyable. Mr. Qualls is currently serving on the district's Ag Advisory Committee. Mr. Qualls also attended the Visalia Adult School Open House and said the new childcare center is beautiful. He said the facility was designed to be very efficient for the parents and children. Mr. Qualls also reported that he had attended an event at Valley Oak in support of our National Guard families. He said it was a very patriotic and moving event. He then reported that he had attended the VUTA Reception at the Lamp Liter. He also attended the Holiday Luncheon at the Educational Complex. He said the Mt. Whitney choir sang and that the experience was overwhelming. In conclusion, Mr. Qualls reported that he attended the VUSD Stadium Committee Meeting today. He said it is good to see the District, City and COS working together for the future of our children.

Golden West Holiday  
Concert  
Reading to Second  
Grade at Golden Oak  
Employees Carrying  
Torch for Olympics  
VUTA Holiday  
Reception  
Ed Complex Luncheon  
Jesus Gamboa  
Reception  
VUSD/City Meeting

Mr. Stephenson reported that he attended the Golden West Holiday Concert featuring the choir and orchestra on December 14. He said there was a full house at the event held at the Fox Theater. On December 18, Mr. Stephenson read to a second grade class at Golden Oak. He said this experience is one of the pleasures he receives in being a board member. Mr. Stephenson further reported that four of our district employees will be carrying the torch for the Winter Olympics. He suggested that the four attend a board meeting and briefly explain their experiences in carrying the torch. Mr. Stephenson also attended the VUTA Holiday Reception, the FBLA new member induction and the Educational Complex Holiday Luncheon. He said there were some very moving moments when the Mt. Whitney choir sang and gifts were given to the families of our district employees called to duty. On December 20, Mr. Stephenson attended the Tulare County Hispanic Reception for Visalia's new Mayor, Jesus Gamboa. He said the district is going to be working with the City to enter into some collaborative projects and activities. The first of four joint meetings for the year will be held next week.

VUSD/City/COS Joint  
Meeting Date to  
Consider

Superintendent Carrizosa asked the members of the board to check their calendars for either February 13 or 27 as a possible date for a joint VUSD/City/COS Meeting. Board members were asked to get back to the superintendent's staff by the end of the week with which of the two dates would work best for them. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

**PUBLIC  
HEARING/ACTION**

ADOPTION OF  
SILVER BURDETT &  
GINN SERIES FOR  
THE 4-6 GRADE  
CLASSROOM MUSIC  
PROGRAM  
Motion No. 102

Libby Romani, lead teacher for the elementary music team, presented Enclosure No. 5. She asked the board to approve the adoption of the Silver Burdett & Ginn Series for the 4-6 Grade Classroom Music Program. Money for the textbooks will be taken from the State Textbook Fund. A Public Hearing was opened. No one came forward. The Public Hearing was closed. On a motion by Jones and second by Qualls, the board approved the purchase of this series. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR  
THE HIGH  
PRIORITY SCHOOLS  
GRANT (HPSG)  
PROGRAM -  
FAIRVIEW, GOSHEN,  
HIGHLAND,  
HOUSTON, AND  
IVANHOE SCHOOLS  
Motion No. 103

A Public Hearing was then opened on Enclosure No. 6. Mrs. Lambert explained that Crowley was inadvertently left off of the board agenda item cover page submitted for the board packet. Mrs. Lambert explained that the enclosure included a description of the High Priority Schools' Grant along with the Immediate Intervention Underperforming Schools Program and the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program. Myron Sheklian assisted Mrs. Lambert with a brief PowerPoint Presentation. Following the presentation, a recommendation was made to the board that Crowley, Fairview, Goshen, Highland, Houston, and Ivanhoe apply for this one-year planning grant of \$50,000 per school site to raise student achievement. Mrs. Lambert explained the process the schools must follow to participate in applying for the planning grant. Sequoia is currently part of the State Alternative Academic Performance Index, and Charter Alternative Academy is currently applying to be a part of the same.

Therefore, the recommendation was that these two schools not apply for the planning grant. As there was no public comment, the Public Hearing on this item was closed. On a motion by Elder and second by Foster, the board approved the recommendation as outlined by Mrs. Lambert. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**FOCUS ON  
STUDENT  
LEARNING**

Presentation / Public  
Input/ Board Discussion  
COMMUNITY INPUT  
FOR ANNUAL  
DISTRICT-WIDE  
GOAL SETTING

Mr. Carrizosa presented Enclosure No. 7. He explained that January marks the beginning of the district's annual goal setting process for the coming school year. He said that the district is planning to gather input from the community, parents, students and staff and have designed a process that will reach out to our stakeholders over the next four to six weeks through a series of open forums and some targeted presentations. Mr. Carrizosa reported that Vicki Stasch, a local facilitator, will serve as the district's consultant in this effort and will preside over the input-gathering process. She will facilitate the sessions, compile the data gathered from the groups and cluster the feedback into specific categories for the district's review. District staff will then work together to begin to draft some goal statements based on community and district input. The board will then be given a chance through a first and second reading process to see the goals and assist in the development of some broad but specific goals that will focus the energies of the district. Mr. Carrizosa explained that the goal-setting process begins in January so that district goals will be the driving force in developing the budget for the next school year. Mr. Carrizosa then introduced Ms. Stasch who explained the process that will be used in this goal-setting process.

**ROUTINE ACTION**  
Motion No. 104

Mr. Stephenson pulled Routine Action Item 9.4, No. 2 (Encl. No. 25) for further discussion. On a motion by Elder and second by Lane, the remaining items were approved as follows:

- 9.1. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
  - 1. Warrant List - December 1 through December 31, 2001 (Encl. No. 8)
  - 2. Selection of Independent Auditor (Encl. No. 9)
  - 3. Visalia Unified School District and City of Visalia Agreement Collection Services by City of District's School Facilities Fees (Encl. No. 10)
  - 4. Approval of Bid 4388 - ERATE Network Infrastructure - Various Sites (Encl. No. 11)
  - 5. Approval of Bid 4389 - ERATE Computer Software & Servers, Various Sites (Encl. No. 12)
  - 6. Approval of Bid 4392 - ERATE PBX Unit (Encl. No. 13)
  - 7. Vendor Contracts for Various Maintenance and Service Needs (Encl. No. 14)
  - 8. Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act Resolution (Encl. No. 15)
  - 9. 2001-2002 Facility Use Rates (Encl. No. 16)
  - 10. Notice of Completion - Fire Alarm Replacement Project at Various Sites (Encl. No. 17)
  - 11. Purchase of Two Used School Buses and One CNG Vehicle (Encl. No. 18)
- 9.2. AREA ADMINISTRATOR, K-6 Traditional/YRS; 7-12/Adult
  - 1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 19)
- 9.3. AREA ADMINISTRATOR, 7-12/Adult
  - 1. Amendment to Eligible Training Provider Contract Between Tulare County Workforce Investment Board and Visalia Adult School (Encl. No. 20)
  - 2. Agreement Between Tulare County Organization for Vocational Education in Conjunction with Visalia Unified School District and Kaweah Delta District Hospital (Encl. No. 21)

3. Agreement Between Tulare County Organization for Vocational Education in Conjunction with Visalia Unified School District and West Gate Gardens Convalescent Hospital and Linwood Gardens Convalescent Hospital (Encl. No. 22)
  4. Governor's Performance Awards - Divisadero Middle School (Encl. No. 23)
- 9.4 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 24)
  2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 25)
  3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 26)
  4. Request to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 27)
  5. Exemption Certification for Emergency Employment of Retired Member (Encl. No. 28)
- 9.5 SUPERINTENDENT
1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 11, 2001 (Encl. No. 29)

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Motion No. 105

With regard to Enclosure No. 25, El Diamante High School Principal, Drew Sorensen, was asked to introduce the school's first Athletic and Activities Director, Greg Flenory. He read an impressive bio on Mr. Flenory.

Mr. Flenory addressed the Board members and thanked them for the opportunity to serve our students. He received a hearty round of applause from the Board and audience.

On a motion by Jones and second by Qualls, Enclosure No. 25 was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

#### **GENERAL AGENDA**

Review/Public Input/  
Board Discussion/

#### **ACTION**

TCOVE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS -  
ANNUAL  
APPOINTMENT  
Motion No. 106

Mr. Carrizosa announced that this item had been introduced to the board for their consideration at the December board meeting (Encl. No. 30). Subsequently, a recommendation came forward from the board. On a motion by Guerrero and second by Qualls, Mr. Rodney Elder was appointed to serve on the TCOVE Board of Directors beginning January 2002. Mr. Guerrero will serve as an alternate. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

BOND OVERSIGHT  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL  
APPOINTMENT  
Motion No. 107

Superintendent Carrizosa reported that in December district staff had shared with the board a review of the Bond Oversight Advisory Committee's recommendation for the committee's annual structure (Encl. No. 31). Under the direction of Chairman, Basil Perch, the committee approved the board annually approving the membership. They also recommended a staggered term structure alternating between one- and two-year terms. At the December meeting, the board was asked to review the recommendations. Board members were asked to submit names of people they would like to appoint to the committee. Enclosure No. 31 was presented as a result of the members' input. The committee as recommended is 18 members, excluding administrative support, for a total of 22 members. Three alternates were also listed, and Mr. Carrizosa said that these were people who had served on or had shown interest in serving on the committee in the past but that were not listed among the people recommended by the board. He reminded everyone that this committee is appointed by the board to serve in an advisory capacity. The meetings are posted and open to the public. On a motion by Foster and second by Elder, the list as submitted tonight was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

CHANGE ORDER #8,  
EL DIAMANTE HIGH  
SCHOOL PROJECT  
Motion No. 108

On a motion by Lane and second by Qualls, Enclosure No. 32 was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

2000-2001 ANNUAL  
FINANCIAL  
CHARTER OAK  
SCHOOL AUDIT  
Motion No. 109

Bill Williams, a representative from Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP, Independent Auditors, presented the 2000-2001 Annual Financial Charter Oak School Audit (Encl. No. 33). In using the state audit requirements, which Mr. Williams said are limited for charter schools, the auditors found that the school was out of compliance in the area of its independent study program and may be required to repay approximately \$200,000 to the State of California. The school will apply to the State for a repayment plan. Further discussion took place regarding the non-compliance issue and the school's past turnover of personnel responsible for running the program. Charter Oak School is a separate entity and, therefore, no direct financial impact will result for VUSD. On a motion by Jones and second by Guerrero, the board approved receipt of the annual audit. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF CAPITAL  
FACILITIES FUND  
(DEVELOPER FEES)  
Motion No. 110

Internal Auditor, Debra Barrett, presented Enclosure No. 34. This Capital Facilities Fund annual report was brought to the board at the December board meeting. Ms. Barrett stated that there has been no community feedback since the report in December. She recommended the board approve the report as presented in December. On a motion by Lane and second by Guerrero, the report was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried. Mr. Carrizosa said that the district is very pleased with the improved relationship between VUSD and the Building Industry Association and the public accounting for developer fees.

2000-2001 ANNUAL  
FINANCIAL  
DISTRICT AUDIT  
Motion No. 111

Ms. Barrett acknowledged the work that Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co. has done on behalf of the district. She said that staff is pleased that the audit firm will be working with the district over the next three years. Mr. Williams also commended district staff that he has been working with over the past six months. He reported that the audit went very well this year. He said that the available reserves for the 2000-2001 fiscal year have increased from 5 percent to 8 percent. He said that district staff is very aware of the state budget and the impact it will have on education. The district has budgeted for a reduction in the fund balance but has set aside the minimum reserves. Mr. Williams said that the district's general long-term debt is in good shape. He said the majority of findings, as usual, are related to student body accounting. He also commended site personnel for the preparation they had made for the audit. On a motion by Lane and second by Elder, the Audit Report was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**STATUS  
REPORT/PUBLIC  
COMMENT**  
VUSD STADIUM  
COMMITTEE -  
UPDATE

Superintendent Carrizosa presented the update on an unofficial committee that has formed and is now referred to as the "VUSD Stadium Committee" (Encl. No. 36). About five months ago, interested members of the community, under the volunteer leadership of Bill Bettencourt, began addressing the issue of the Mineral King Bowl and the impact of continued increased use of that facility. College of the Sequoias, the City of Visalia, and VUSD, along with visitors from some of the youth sports organizations as well as from the development community, have been participating on the committee. The group has concluded that there is a two-part need for both short-term and long-term projects. There is a potential need in the immediate near future to relieve the impact of maintenance on the Mineral King Bowl. In considering alternatives, including the new El Diamante High School site, it was generally agreed that the district locate a small stadium with approximately 3,000 seats at Golden West High School. This would be a district-funded project, but our dollars would be greatly leveraged by adjacent street

improvements being done by the City. The committee has also been discussing a longer term (5-10 years) project to develop a more comprehensive sports complex with the City and COS. Mr. Carrizosa explained the City's and COS' needs which would be addressed with this type of complex. The board was asked to consider the information presented as this will be an agenda item on the January 15, 2001 meeting with the City. Mr. Carrizosa asked for the board's direction on the near-term project for a small stadium at Golden West. He said that if the board approved of the district moving in this direction, one-time capital improvement resources will be identified for the project.

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
PANEL RECOM-  
MENDATIONS**

**EXPULSIONS**  
Motion No. 112

On a motion by Foster and second by Lane, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Expulsions Case No. 02-29E, Case No. 02-30E, Case No. 02-31E and Case No. 02-32E (Encl. No. 37) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**REINSTATEMENTS**  
Motion No. 113

On a motion by Qualls and second by Guerrero, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Reinstatement Case No. 02-07R, Case No. 02-08R, Case No. 02-09R, Case No. 02-10R, Case No. 02-11R, Case No. 02-12R, Case No. 02-13R and Case No. 02-14R (Encl. No. 38) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**REVIEWS-  
CONTINUED  
EXPULSIONS**  
Motion No. 114

On a motion by Lane and second by Elder, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Reviews-Continued Expulsion Case No. 02-07RCE, Case No. 02-08RCE, Case No. 02-09RCE and Case No. 02-10RCE (Encl. No. 39) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**RECESS**

At 9:25 p.m. the board convened to the Visalia Financial Corporation for the purpose of approving the Minutes of the December meeting.

**OPEN SESSION**

At 9:26 p.m. the board reconvened in open session. President Stephenson announced that the board would again convene in closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:04 p.m. the board reconvened in open session. No action was taken in closed session. The meeting was adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be January 22, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the VUSD Educational Complex located at 5000 West Cypress, Visalia.

Respectfully submitted,

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Larry C. Jones  
Clerk

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Stan A. Carrizosa  
Superintendent/Secretary