

**Visalia Unified School District
Board of Education**

MINUTES

**OPENING
BUSINESS**

The meeting of January 22, 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	9:38	
Niessen Foster	5:00	9:38	
Juan R. Guerrero	5:00	9:38	
Larry Jones	5:00	9:38	
Michael Lane	5:00	9:38	
Jim L. Qualls	5:00	9:38	
Robert Stephenson	5:00	9:38	
Stan A. Carrizosa, Superintendent	5:00	9:38	
Kern Smith, Student Representative	7:00	9:38	

Staff Members

Mark Fulmer, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Carlyn Lambert, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Educational Services
Kay Van Andel, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development
Pam Ryan, Administrative Secretary, Superintendent's Office
Minutes prepared by 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. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
 1. Case No. F-00-6616 OWW/LJO
2. EXPULSIONS
3. SUSPENDED EXPULSIONS
4. REINSTATEMENTS
5. REVIEWS-CONTINUED EXPULSIONS
6. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR
 1. Property: 20-acre Parcel on the North Side of Goshen Avenue
 2. Agency Negotiator: Dr. Mark Fulmer, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
 3. Under Negotiation: Instruction to negotiator will concern price and terms of payment.
7. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT OR EMPLOYMENT
 1. Learning Director
8. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE
9. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
 1. Agency Negotiator: Kay Van Andel
 2. Employee Organization: CSEA

VUTA
Management Team

**RECONVENE IN
OPEN SESSION**

The board reconvened in open session at 7 p.m. No action was taken in closed session. Juan Guerrero lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC
RECOGNITION/
PROCLAMA-
TIONS/ACTION
STAFF/PARENTS/
COMMUNITY**

Award of
Appreciation to
Teacher, John Wight:
Relay for Life 1990-
2001 National School
Health Week 2002 -
Visalia Unified
Annual Award

In recognition of National School Health Week 2002, Sherrie Bakke, American Cancer Society, and Lucinda Mejdell-Awbrey, VUSD student support services coordinator, presented VUSD teacher, John Wight, with an award in appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the Cancer Society. Mr. Wight became involved in getting Green Acres faculty and students to participate in the American Cancer Society’s “Relay for Life” 11 years ago. Ms. Bakke said that when Mr. Wight began participating, the event was called “The Fun Run.” Following the tremendous success that this event has been in the community, the American Cancer Society adopted the event as a “signature” event and changed the name to “Relay for Life.” This is now a national event. Over the past 11 years, the Green Acres teams have raised a combined total of \$58,000. Mr. Wight thanked the district and American Cancer Society for the award and challenged everyone to become involved in supporting a worthwhile cause.

Recognition of
Students from
Crowley and Highland
Elementary Schools

Crowley Principal, Tammy Gonzalez, reported on that school’s Character Counts Program (Encl. No. 2). Crowley students are nominated weekly and recognized at Friday assemblies for demonstrating the “Character Pillars” of the month. Ms. Gonzalez said that since the program began at Crowley School in the Fall of 2000, there has been a noticeable decrease in suspensions. She then introduced four Crowley students, Sabrina Barragan, Angelica Herrera, George Zaragoza and Sammy Bermudez, who were recognized for exemplary character. In conclusion, Mrs. Gonzalez invited the board members to visit the school “and see first-hand what’s happening at Crowley.”

Javier Rodriguez, Highland principal, recognized three Highland students, Bryan Hernandez, Angelica Hurtado and Brandon Saelee, who have maintained high academic achievement. Mr. Rodriguez said that the students demonstrate excellent citizenship, respect for themselves and others and a positive attitude that “enlightens everyone that comes in contact with them.”

Resolution - Black
History Month -
February 2002
Motion No. 115

Clerk, Larry Jones, read a resolution designating February 2002 Black History Month (Encl. No. 3). On a motion by Qualls and second by Guerrero, the resolution was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT/
PUBLIC
INTEREST
ANNOUNCE-
MENTS**

President Stephenson called for public comment. There was none.

**BOARD
MEMBER
REPORTS/
REQUESTS/
SUPERINTEN-
DENT’S REPORT
BOAC Meeting**

Mr. Qualls reported that he had attended the recent Bond Oversight Advisory Committee Meeting. He said that he is looking forward to serving on the committee as he feels the group

Requests for Future Board Meetings	will be very productive. For upcoming board meetings, Mr. Qualls requested a report on Charter Alternatives Academy (Packwood) and discussion on district board member elections.
“Pioneer” Commendation	Mr. Lane said that as an alumni of Mt. Whitney, he was pleased to receive the current issue of the “Pioneer.” He commended Dean Simpson and the Mt. Whitney Journalism students for the “excellent publication.” Mr. Lane reported that he has been attending BIA meetings and is looking forward to rebuilding the district’s relationship with the group. He also attended the community forum with the ASB leadership led by Vicki Stasch. He said it was a very productive meeting. He asked for Kern Smith’s help in encouraging our high school students to be “good neighbors” during their lunchtime off of campus. Mr. Lane requested a report be given on the type of teacher recruitment the district does, especially in the Latino and Southeast Asian communities. He said our teachers and administrators should reflect the diversity of our school district.
BIA Student Forum	
Request for Future Meetings	
Requests for Future Meetings	For future board meetings, Mr. Guerrero asked that a report be given if the district has an active Cultural Diversity Committee. He also requested a report on any grants the district is currently pursuing outside the “mainline educational grants.” Mr. Guerrero explained that he had been involved in a joint meeting with the District and the City the night of the Goshen Community Forum and was, therefore, unable to attend. Mr. Guerrero reported that he also had attended the Bond Oversight Advisory Committee Meeting. He said the committee includes “some good people that are trying to do some positive things for our community.”
BOAC Meeting	
Forum for Students	Kern Smith reported that finals are over. He said that he had attended the district forum with students and that he had heard many compliments from students about how well the meeting was run by Mr. Carrizosa. He said that the information that was shared at the forum assisted the students in developing some district goals.
Student Forum	
Redwood Girls’ Soccer Team	
Girls’/Boys’ Basketball Teams	Mr. Elder reported that he had also attended the student forum for goal-setting. He said he was impressed with the information the students shared with the group. Mr. Elder also had an opportunity to see the Redwood Girls’ Soccer Team play. He said this is a “truly skilled team.” He commended the team coaches. He also commended the Girls’ Basketball Team. Mr. Elder said that he was also able to see the Mt. Whitney Boys’ Basketball Team and was very impressed with the very professional coaching. Mr. Elder also had a chance to meet with Mr. Lepppek, Redwood principal, and talked about intervention programs at Redwood. He said there are some “really good things going on at Redwood”. For a future board meeting, Mr. Elder asked for a discussion on the concept of under-performing schools.
Request for Future Meetings	
Visit to Divisadero Accelerated Reading Program	
Cultural Diversity Committee	
Request for Future Meetings	Mr. Foster reported that he had visited Divisadero Middle School accompanied by Cindy Costa. He was pleased to see the accelerated reading program there. He said that students are making good monthly progress on their reading. He commended the district for investing the time in this program. Mr. Foster said that he would like to see an active Cultural Diversity Committee in the district. He asked that a report be given at an upcoming board meeting by percentages on the colleges/universities district students “of ethnicity” who graduated in 2001 are currently attending.
Request for Future Meetings	
Freshman Basketball Game	
Divisadero Visit	
Redwood Tour	Mr. Jones said that he would also be interested in having a report on “Packwood” at a future board meeting. Mr. Jones and Mr. Qualls said they would like specifics, i.e., attendance, costs, and also the current philosophy of the program there. Mr. Jones also asked for a discussion on the issue of “closed campuses” at our high schools. Mr. Jones said that he is looking forward to attending a community forum soon. He reported that he attended a freshman basketball game with Mt. Whitney and Hanford. Mr. Jones further reported that he had visited Divisadero and spent time on campus with Principal, Cindy Costa. Mr. Jones commended the teachers and administrators at Divisadero for the work they do in teaching their students to keep their campus clean. He also visited Redwood where Mr. Lepppek gave

him a short tour of the campus. Mr. Jones said the school's computer labs "are phenomenal." He also visited the "Gigantea" newspaper room where he requested that copies of the publication be provided for the board members on a regular basis. The Redwood production of "South Pacific" will be performed January 31-February 2, 2002. Mr. Jones was able to see the rehearsal of one of the numbers in the show and said that the students "are doing a great job." While at Redwood, Mr. Jones and Mr. Leppek also toured the Ag Buildings, Auto Mechanics, English and Civics classes.

Student Forum Mr. Stephenson reported that he attended the students' forum. He said he appreciated the students' honesty and how they "laid it on the line." Mr. Stephenson also attended the BOAC Meeting last week. He said it is refreshing to see how well the group is working. It was reported at the meeting that El Diamante is 75% complete. Mr. Stephenson reported that there will be a two-day Board Retreat this Friday and Saturday. Also, a President's Study Session is scheduled for February 5. The board will be discussing long- and short-term goals.

BOAC Meeting
El Diamante
President's Study
Session Scheduled

API Report Mr. Carrizosa asked Karen Rowe, the district's director of achievement and success, to provide information on the recent news about the adjustment to schools' Academic Performance Index and changes that have taken place in "re-benching" those scores and how they have adjusted for our district. Mrs. Rowe said that the API results were made public on January 16, 2002. The following schools met their 2001 growth targets: Golden Oak, Ivanhoe, Linwood and Union. These schools will each receive the Governor's Performance Awards. Mrs. Rowe explained that the awards are funded up to \$150 per student, but that the final amount is dependent upon how many schools actually reach their target growth for a given year. That amount is then divided among those schools. Schools meeting the criteria established for the Certificated Staff Performance Incentive Award were: Golden Oak and Union. This award may not be funded this year, however, as it is on the Governor's "chopping block." Mrs. Rowe said that the new API formula is the first step in moving toward an accountability system for California that will measure what is being taught in the classroom. Further explanation was given regarding decile ranks, similar schools ranks, similar school rank rubric, the rationale for developing similar schools rankings and how the information can be used by schools to assist with school improvement.

**FOCUS ON
STUDENT
LEARNING**

Presentation/Public

Input/Board

Discussion/

ACTION

Certification of
Presentation of Joint
Intervention
Agreement Between
California Department
of Education and the
Visalia Unified School
District Regarding
Houston and Goshen
Schools
Motion No. 116

With regard to an earlier statement made by Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Carrizosa said that he also appreciated staff from both Houston and Goshen Schools attending tonight's meeting (Encl. No. 4). He said that the proposed intervention agreements, as they were drafted between the California State Department of Education and VUSD on behalf of Houston and Goshen Elementary Schools, would be presented to the public at this time. He added that tonight's report is the result of the final steps of the corrective action process identified when the two schools fell into the corrective action category based on the fact that after three successive years they were unable to meet their academic growth targets on the state API system. Mr. Carrizosa then reviewed the process that the Scholastic Audit Team from the State Department of Education followed in working with the district. He then commended Area Administrators, Mr. Bartsch and Mr. Sheklian, for their tireless efforts in working with the State Department on behalf of the district. He also thanked the Assistant Superintendents and others involved with him in working on this matter. An overview of the activities that will be taking place at Houston and Goshen over the next 18 months which will measure the progress, looking at a number of benchmarks agreed upon with the State Department of Education staff, as well as ultimately aiming at the API, were presented. Copies of the

proposed intervention agreements were available for the public. Mr. Bartsch and Goshen Principal, Mr. Frolli, shared in presenting the findings developed by the CDE Scholastic Audit Team for Goshen Elementary. Mr. Sheklian and Houston Principal, Mrs. Pam Merkel, shared in presenting the findings for Houston Elementary. Following the presentations, on a motion by Jones and second by Elder, the board certified receipt of the public presentation which authorized Superintendent Carrizosa to sign into the Joint Intervention Agreements. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Mr. Stephenson then announced a ten-minute recess to allow board members to join Goshen and Houston staff members in the audience and to commend them for the efforts they will be making on behalf of district students during the next 18 months. Mr. Stephenson said that the board is looking forward to having the two schools come back at the end of the 18 months with two “success stories.”

**ROUTINE
ACTION**
Motion No. 117

Mr. Guerrero pulled Enclosure No. 15 for a separate vote. Mr. Foster pulled Enclosure No. 19 and 20 for further clarification. On a motion by Jones and second by Qualls, the remaining items were approved as follows:

- 8.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
 - 1. Warrant List - January 1 through January 15, 2002 (Encl. No. 5)
 - 2. Budget Revision No. 06 (Current Year) (Encl. No. 6)
 - 3. 2002-2003 Budget Calendar (Encl. No. 7)
 - 4. Consolidated Application (Encl. No. 8)
 - 5. Administrative Services Department Reorganization (Encl. No. 9)
 - 6. Change Order #9, El Diamante High School Project (Encl. No. 10)
 - 7. Notice of Completion - HVAC Replacement Project - “Package B” (Encl. No. 11)
 - 8. Vendor Contracts for Various Maintenance and Service Needs (Encl. No. 12)
- 8.2 AREA ADMINISTRATOR, K-6 YRS; 7-12/Adult
 - 1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 13)
- 8.3 AREA ADMINISTRATORS, K-6 YRS
 - 1. SB 1667 (Chapter 1, 2000) Financial Award - Mt. View Elementary School (Encl. No. 14)
- 8.4 AREA ADMINISTRATOR, 7-12/Adult
 - 1. Memorandum of Understanding Between Visalia Adult School and Wittman Village Community Center, Inc. (Encl. No. 15)
- 8.5 CURRICULUM/EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
 - 1. High School Course Outlines: Business Presentations and ELL Academic Assist (Encl. No. 16)
- 8.6 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
 - 1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 17)
 - 2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 18)
 - 3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 19)
 - 4. Request to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 20)

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Motion No. 118

Mr. Guerrero asked to abstain from the vote on Enclosure No. 15, as he is a past board member of the Wittman Village Community Center, Inc. On a motion by Jones and second by Lane, the enclosure was approved. Ayes: Elder, Foster, Jones, Lane, Qualls and Stephenson. Abstain: Guerrero. Motion carried.

Motion No. 119

Following receipt of additional information on Enclosure Nos. 19 and 20, on a motion by Foster and second by Qualls, the items were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**GENERAL
AGENDA**
Review/Public
Comment/Board
Discussion/
ACTION

Agreement to
Participate in
ESUHSD/NCS
Pearson Consortium
for CSIS
Motion No. 120

Mr. Jerry Walkowiak presented Enclosure No. 21. He gave a PowerPoint Presentation which explained the benefits for the district in participating in the East Side Union High School District/National Computer Systems Pearson Consortium and the California School Information Services (CSIS). He said that there is an opportunity for VUSD to receive funding from the California Department of Education to participate in the CSIS program. Mr. Walkowiak said that this program would allow the district to electronically exchange student records between districts and post-secondary institutions and the California Department of Education. He also explained other benefits provided by CSIS, provided a list of consortiums currently participating in CSIS, and CSIS program contact information. Mr. Elder, a Sanger Unified School District assistant principal, spoke of the difficulties Sanger staff encountered with this program. He cited a lack of communication as a major problem and added that it works, but that it is "a lot of work." Mr. Walkowiak thanked Mr. Elder for his comments but said that eventually this type of electronic exchange will be required by the state and that funding in the future will be borne by the school districts. He said that the state will fund \$8.51 per ADA; however, a portion of that amount goes to the vendor for putting the software together and making the necessary changes. The amount which would go to vendors is not currently set but is under negotiation. The district should know within a few weeks as to the exact dollar amount we will receive. Mr. Walkowiak said that during the implementation period of the program, if district staff does not feel the program will work for us, we would not have to stay in it. However, once money has been received from the state, the district will be obligated to continue its participation. Discussion took place with board members expressing their concerns about the time involved in implementing this program. Mr. Walkowiak expressed his confidence that the program will be a benefit to the district and that staff will be able to do what is needed. On a motion by Foster and second by Qualls, the agreement was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Resolution -
Governor's Budget
Proposals for State of
California
Motion No. 121

Mr. Darrel Pyle reported that district staff attended a presentation prepared by the Association of California School Administrators on the subject of the Governor's mid-year budget proposal as well as a glimpse at next year's state budget. He said that the picture presented was gloomy, but that "there were some silver linings." Mr. Pyle explained that tonight's resolution (Encl. No. 22) was developed to communicate the concerns of VUSD as well as K-12 education in general. The resolution describes the potential impact to the district if the mid-year budget cuts take place and what the impact of next year's budget cuts will have on our operation. A PowerPoint presentation was given on the information gathered at the ACSA meeting. On a motion by Elder and second by Guerrero, the resolution included in Enclosure No. 22 was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Expulsions
Motion No. 122

Mr. Stephenson announced that the board would like to pull Expulsion Case No. 02-35E, Case No. 02-38E and Case No. 02-40E for further review. On a motion by Qualls and second by foster, the Board approved the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Expulsion Case Nos. 02-33E, 02-34E, 02-36E, 02-37E and 02-39E. Ayes: all. Motion Carried.

Suspended Expulsions
Motion No. 123

On a motion by Jones and second by Lane, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Suspended Expulsion Case No. 02-05SE (Encl. No. 24) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Reinstatements

On a motion by Elder and second by Guerrero, the Administrative Panel Recommendations

Motion No. 124 on Reinstatement Case No. 02-15R (Encl. No. 25) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Reviews-Continued Expulsions
Motion No. 125 On a motion by Qualls and second by Foster, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Reviews-Continued Expulsion Case No. 02-11 RCE (Encl. No. 26) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

NEXT MEETING The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be February 12, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the VUSD Educational Complex located at 5000 West Cypress Avenue, Visalia.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Jones
Clerk

Stan A. Carrizosa
Superintendent/Secretary