

**Visalia Unified School District
Board of Education**

MINUTES

OPENING BUSINESS The meeting of February 11, 2003, was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Jones, 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	5:30	10:20	
Juan R. Guerrero	5:30	10:20	
Larry Jones	5:30	10:20	
Michael Lane	5:30	10:20	
Laura Pace	5:30	10:20	
Jim L. Qualls	5:30	10:20	
Robert Stephenson	5:30	10:20	
Stan A. Carrizosa, Superintendent	5:30	10:20	
Renee Hill, Student Representative	7:00	8:10	

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

CLOSED SESSION President Jones identified the closed session agenda topics as follows:

1. **EXPULSIONS**
2. **SUSPENDED EXPULSIONS**
3. **REVIEWS-CONTINUED EXPULSIONS**
4. **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE**
5. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR**
 1. Agency Negotiator: Kay Van Andel
 2. Employee Organization
 1. VUTA
 2. CSEA

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION The board convened into open session at 6:00 p.m. President Jones announced that no action had been taken in closed session.

**EARLY BIRD STUDY
SESSION
BUDGET UPDATE AND
RECOM-
MENDATIONS**

Following opening remarks regarding the work that has taken place in the district to address the state budget crisis, Superintendent Carrizosa presented an update of the latest developments regarding the state budget and its impact on VUSD. A series of handouts relative to tonight's study session were available for the public. Mr. Carrizosa reviewed the information contained in the handouts relative to the district's 18-month budget reduction plan to meet the estimated loss of state revenue to our general fund in the amount of \$4,604,000. A short recess was called following the study session.

**OPEN REGULAR
SESSION**

At 7:20 p.m., the board convened into the regular session. Mr. Guerrero lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC
RECOGNITION /
PROCLAMATIONS /
ACTION
STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS**

Students receiving academic achievement awards tonight (Encl. No. 1) were: Chris Albert (Industrial Education) and Derek Enns (Social Science) from Golden West; Brian Hill (Industrial Education) and Jillian Westbrook (Social Science) from Redwood; Adam Crum (Industrial Education) and Alex Pitkin (Social Science) from Mt. Whitney; Vianney Contreras (Social Science) from El Diamante; Moses Sandoval (Overall Achievement) from Charter Alternatives Academy; and, Samantha Punton (Overall Achievement) from Sequoia Continuation.

**RESOLUTION
DECLARING MARCH
2003 ARTS
EDUCATION MONTH
Motion No. 124**

Clerk Lane read a resolution declaring March 2003 Arts Education Month (Encl. No. 2). On a motion by Stephenson and second by Qualls, the resolution was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
DECLARING MARCH
2003 WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH
Motion No. 125**

Mr. Lane then read a resolution declaring March 2003 Women's History Month (Encl. No. 3). On a motion by Elder and second by Qualls, the resolution was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT /
PUBLIC INTEREST
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Former board member, Mr. Milton Morrison, addressed the board. He asked that the district consider extending Charter Oak School's charter an additional two years. He provided handouts--the Charter Oak School Audited Financial Statements for the year which ended June 30, 2002, and a five-year budget plan the school submitted to the state for repayment for an audit exception found a couple of years ago. Because of the time that has lapsed following the exception, the school is in jeopardy of being closed. The repayment plan would require the district to grant the school a two-year extension. Mr. Morrison shared written comments from students attending Charter Oak as well as parents of students attending the school in support of keeping the school open. There are currently 64 students attending Charter Oak.

Ben Cislowski, an 11th grade student at Redwood, spoke to the board regarding the district's dress policy, specifically the wearing of hats at school, not only in the summer

but also during the winter months. Mr. Cislowski, who spoke as a representative of other high school students, suggested that the policy include that either solid color knit caps or those sold in school finance centers be allowed to be worn for warmth. He also asked that baseball hats sold in school finance centers be allowed for sun protection and to support the school spirit. He also asked that the policy regarding hat materials be amended to allow knit caps and wool felt hats. Redwood teacher, Jack Hart, provided a list of over 500 student signatures in support of Mr. Cislowski's suggestions.

Redwood FBLA members, Jillian Westbrook and Natalie Gong, reported that the club's community project this year is to help beautify the Traver Cemetery and Pioneer Field in Allensworth. Two dinners will be held to raise funds for the projects. The first will be a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, February 15, from 6-9 p.m. at the Redwood High School Cafeteria. There will also be a silent auction and live entertainment. The club is asking local businesses to donate prizes for the silent auction. They are also selling business card-size place mat ads for \$20. The price for the dinner is \$7 for children 12 and under and \$10 for adults. Takeout will also be available. The proceeds from this event will go toward the landscaping and development of Pioneer Field and Traver Cemetery. The second event will be the Tulare County Gourmet Gala which will be held on Saturday, March 15, from 4-6 p.m. at the Tulare County Museum at Mooney Grove Park. Various speeches from local leaders, including Cruz Bustamante, will be presented. Beverages will be provided by Brubakers and Bullene Vineyards. Various restaurants in Visalia will provide the cuisine. Tickets are \$25 per person and \$40 per couple. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of a memorial statue and further beautification for Allensworth Cemetery.

Bev Anderson, Divisadero PTA president, asked the board not to consider cutting Class Size Reduction in the upcoming budget cuts.

A district parent, Mr. James Peterson, asked when outstanding items would be completed at El Diamante High School. Dr. Mark Fulmer responded that the only two major elements to be completed are the tennis courts and the all-weather track. He said that there are some fairly small punch list items that are currently being completed. Principal at El Diamante, Drew Sorensen, said that the track will be completed tomorrow and the tennis court project will begin next Tuesday. Regarding a question from Mr. Peterson regarding the air conditioning units at El Diamante, Dr. Fulmer explained that now that the district has occupancy of the buildings, district maintenance people will assume the responsibility for changing filters and upkeep on the units.

Elizabeth Zwaagstra, an employee in the Redwood print shop, spoke of the work that has been done by the Redwood print shop over the past year. She shared her concern that teachers' printing needs will not be serviced properly if the high school print shop staffs are eliminated.

VUSD 2002-2003
INTERESTS FOR
CERTIFICATED
NEGOTIATIONS

Enclosure No. 4 was presented to "sunshine" the district's initial contract "interests" for certificated negotiations. This is a requirement of government code prior to the board adopting the district's interests for negotiations. Mrs. Van Andel said that the district interests were developed around the guiding principles established by the district in December to assist in managing the impact of the state budget crisis. It is hoped that

VUTA will present its initial contract interests at the February 25 board meeting. This is required before negotiations may begin. Copies of the district's interests are available through the Human Resources Development Department.

VUSD 2003-2004
INTERESTS FOR
CLASSIFIED
NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Jim Pitkin reported that the entire classified collective bargaining agreement is open beginning July 2003. Enclosure No. 5 included the "interests" to be "sunshined." Copies will be available through Human Resources Development. A public hearing will be held on the contract "interests" at the February 25 board meeting. CSEA must also submit its initial contract interests for the "sunshining" process before negotiations may begin. He said that negotiations must be expedited because the settlement between the district and associations will impact the decisions the board will make regarding student programs and personnel.

Mr. Carrizosa said that the two items will come back for a public hearing and board action at the February 25 board meeting.

**BOARD MEMBER
REPORTS /
REQUESTS /
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

"Footloose"
"Flower Drum Song"
LVN Graduation

Mrs. Pace said that she was impressed with the "Footloose" production by Redwood students as well as the Green Acres production of "Flower Drum Song." She also enjoyed the LVN graduation at the Adult School last week. Mrs. Pace commended district students, teachers, staff, parents and the community for their dedication and commitment "to make Visalia Unified what it is, to allow our students to be successful." Mrs. Pace thanked district staff for their work in providing the board with "the best information they can" regarding the state budget crisis. She said that she appreciated the cuts that have been made in administration and away from the classroom. She added that she knows that we can get through this and "help education go on for our kids and help the school district grow." She said that the board is concerned about staff and the difficulty that the budget uncertainties place on them. She concluded by saying that the board "does not make any of these decisions lightly."

Commendations

Budget Uncertainties and
Concern for Staff

Mr. Qualls reported that he had attended the Valley Oak community forum last week where there was a good turnout. He said there were a lot of intense questions. He commended the district for the successful event. Mr. Qualls also took a tour of the Transportation Department with Mr. White who spoke about the district's vision for that department. Mr. Qualls said that he had talked with Bill Fulmer, a Mason, regarding Public Schools Week. He said that Mr. Fulmer also talked with Laura Pace about joining forces with the PTA on the Hall of Fame event. Mr. Qualls enjoyed the Green Acres play, "Flower Drum Song." He commended all of our schools for the wonderful job they do with extracurricular activities. He said the student performances are overwhelming. He complimented staff and the community for their contributions to the plays. Mr. Qualls gave a "thumbs-up" to the Redwood soccer team for putting on a soccer clinic for our community kids. He then echoed Mrs. Pace's comments about the hard work that staff has done and the tough decisions that are being made. Mr. Qualls said that he appreciated tonight's student presentation regarding the hat issue. He said that in reviewing the policy, a compromise might be reached.

Valley Oak Community
Forum

Transportation Tour

Public Schools Week
Hall of Fame
"Flower Drum Song"
Compliment Staff and
Community
Thumbs-Up
Tough Decisions

Board Policy Review

Green Acres and Redwood Plays Arts in Education	Mr. Stephenson reported that he had attended the Green Acres and Redwood plays. He said that both productions were “professional.” He added that his resolve is stronger than ever regarding the integral part that the Arts play in the education of our students. Mr. Stephenson read a prepared statement sharing his thoughts regarding the hard choices having to be made in the district because of the state budget crisis. He asked for small sacrifices by all to save programs, jobs and services. In conclusion, Mr. Stephenson said that how we deal with the financial challenges will define what we represent as a district. He said that he hopes that the message we send “is clear in the commitment to the children that enter our schools and classrooms every day.”
Budget Crisis	
Meeting with CEO of Kaweah Delta Boy Scouts Conference Explorers Group	Mr. Lane concurred with Mr. Stephenson’s comments. He then reported that he had met with Mr. Lindsay Mann, CEO of Kaweah Delta Health Care District, who hosted a national satellite conference for the Boy Scouts of America. He commended Mr. Mann for wanting to form an Explorer’s group for our high school boys and girls, who are interested in the health care field. The students will be given a tour of the hospital and will be “introduced to the world of health care.” Mr. Lane then referred to a column in the Sacramento Bee newspaper. The article, written by Dan Walters on February 7, dealt with categorical programs.
Sacramento Bee Newspaper Article	
Resource Development Committee Format	Mr. Guerrero said that he and Mr. Carrizosa had met to talk about a format for developing the Resource Development Committee. This committee will work on grant resource development. Mr. Carrizosa will head the committee. Mr. Guerrero told Mr. Carrizosa that the budget updates he has been sending out are important in distributing factual information to staff and the community. He also commented on the good participation at the community forums. Mr. Guerrero spoke of the “Virtual Enterprise Business” at Golden West, and DECA students traveling to Washington, DC for a presentation on a disc they developed that deals with drug and alcohol prevention. Mr. Guerrero spoke of the upcoming budget cuts and said that the decisions the board makes now will impact the district’s future and future boards. He asked for equity with the cuts and stated his opposition to insurance caps.
Budget Information Community Forums Virtual Enterprise Business DECA Students to Washington, DC Decisions Now Affect Future	
Statement from Student Representative	Mr. Elder read a statement from student representative, Renee Hill, who had to leave tonight’s meeting early. Miss Hill applauded the board and staff for their efforts in working to address the budget crisis and its affect on the district. She spoke of her involvement in a number of extracurricular activities and their importance in the “educational experience.”
Redwood and Green Acres Plays	Mr. Elder attended the plays at Redwood and Green Acres. He said that the excellence of the plays reminds him of so many things we get in education that are not measured by API scores. Mr. Elder also attended the LVN graduation at the Adult School. He said that it is always heartwarming to see adults who have managed to succeed through time, energy and commitment. He thanked Adult School staff as well as Kaweah Delta staff for the excellent LVN program. Mr. Elder referred to a statement one of the students had made regarding “promises made, promises kept.” He said that those words underline what VUSD should stand for. Mr. Elder talked about the job of administrators and their part in making it possible for teachers to do the kind of jobs they can do in the classroom. He commended all district staff and said that when cuts are made, they need to be made fairly.
LVN Graduation	
“Promises Made, Promises Kept”	

DECA Club Trip to
Washington
Ground Breaking for New
Northeast Elementary

Mr. Jones extended his congratulations to Mr. Pasquini for Mr. Rogers DECA Club and their upcoming trip to Washington, DC. He reminded everyone of the groundbreaking at the new northeast elementary school site on Burke Street off of Houston Avenue next Friday at 9 a.m.

Conclusions of Community
Forums
District Goals
Northwest Elementary
School Underway
Naming New Schools

Mr. Carrizosa reported that the community forums have concluded. He said that the average attendance at the forums were between 50 and 60 people, with the exception of one that had a small turnout. He reported that a draft of goals for the next school year will be coming to the board for re-adoption. He said that construction is underway for the new northwest elementary school. A process to name the two new elementary schools will also be coming to the board for review.

FOCUS ON STUDENT LEARNING

Presentation/Public

Comment/Board

Discussion/ACTION

AGREEMENT TULARE
COUNTY CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES FIRST
COMMISSION
Motion No. 126

Enclosure No. 6 included agreements from Goshen, Ivanhoe and Houston Elementary Schools who received a \$1.2 million Proposition 10 School Readiness Grant from the Tulare County Children and Families Commission. Each school will receive \$100,000 a year for four years. The principals reviewed their proposals to address the health and developmental needs of children 0-5 years of age in their attendance areas as a requirement of the grant. There is a very strong evaluation component required with receipt of this grant. On a motion by Stephenson and second by Guerrero, the agreements were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

REVIEW CSBA
REVISION TO
MANDATED BP/AR
5144.1 - SUSPENSION
AND EXPULSION/DUE
PROCESS—FIRST
READING

Mr. Carrizosa addressed the revisions included in Enclosure No. 7. He explained that Board Policy 5144.1 and the Administrative Regulation were being presented as a first reading tonight for revision and annual re-adoption. The revisions, which have gone through the Board Policy Committee, reflect new laws and mandated changes as required and also eliminates obsolete language. The policy emphasizes the importance of the individual affected by a potential disciplinary infraction and also speaks to the rights of the student body at large. The policy will be brought for adoption at the next board meeting.

ROUTINE ACTION
Motion No. 127

Superintendent Carrizosa reminded the board that a revision had been made to add a student trip request to Enclosure No. 10. On a motion by Qualls and second by Lane, the Routine Action Items were approved as follows:

10.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List - January 16 through 31, 2003 (Encl. No. 8)
2. 2003-2004 Budget Calendar (Encl. No. 9)

10.2 AREA ADMINISTRATORS, K-6, 7-12/Adult

1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 10)

10.3 AREA ADMINISTRATOR, K-6

1. Academic Performance Index Award (API) - Golden Oak, Ivanhoe, Linwood, Union, Washington (Encl. No. 11)

10.4 AREA ADMINISTRATOR, 7-12/Adult

1. Visalia Adult School Agreements with Clinical Training Sites for LVN Students (Encl. No. 12)

- 10.5 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
 - 1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 13)
 - 2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 14)
 - 3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 15)
 - 4. Certification of Updated Coach List for Spring Sports (Encl. No. 16)
 - 5. Request to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 17)
- 10.6 SUPERINTENDENT
 - 1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 28, 2003 (Encl. No. 18)

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
PANEL RECOM-
MENDATIONS**

EXPULSIONS
Motion No. 128

On a motion by Qualls and second by Stephenson, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Expulsion Case No. 04-40 E, Case No. 03-41 E, Case No. 03-42 E, Case No. 03-43 E and Case No. 03-44 E (Encl. No. 19) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**SUSPENDED
EXPULSIONS**
Motion No. 129

On a motion by Elder and second by Guerrero, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Suspended Expulsion Case No. 03-13 SE (Encl. No. 20) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**REVIEWS-CONTINUED
EXPULSIONS**
Motion No. 130

On a motion by Qualls and second by Elder, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Reviews-Continued Expulsion Case No. 03-26 RCE (Encl. No. 21) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

GENERAL AGENDA

Review / Public Input /
Board Discussion /

ACTION

**CSBA DELEGATE
ASSEMBLY MEMBER
ELECTION**
Motion No. 131

On a motion by Qualls and second by Guerrero, the board voted for Robert Stephenson to fill the vacancy for subregion 12-A on the 2003 CSBA Delegate Assembly (Encl. No. 22). Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BID
#4451 - VALLEY OAK,
MT. VIEW &
CRESTWOOD
MODERNIZATION
PROJECT**
Motion No. 132

Dr. Fulmer reported that Enclosure No. 23 was the first of three bid packages that will total nine modernization projects that were components of the Measure G Bond. Two bids were received, but Sequoia Construction, the apparent low bidder, asked to withdraw their bid today because of a clerical error. Staff considered rebidding the project, but with new and more stringent bid guidelines requiring tracking prevailing wage on projects started after April 1, as well as not having the time needed to complete the project for student occupancy, it was decided to recommend award of bid to the second bidder, BVI Construction, out of Selma. The BVI Construction bid came within the budget established for the project. On a motion by Lane and second by Stephenson, the award was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**BUDGET CUTS IN
DISTRICT**

Enclosure No. 24 was a proposal for district administration budget cuts for 2002-03, which was revised from the draft presented at the January 27 budget study session. Mr.

ADMINISTRATION
Motion No. 133

Carrizosa reviewed the Revised 2003-04 Fiscal Analysis and Considerations and Other Budget Information and Actions included in tonight's study session packet. He said that the district needs to begin moving forward on meeting the current year reduction in expenses to minimize the impact of any current year cash short fall. The board was asked to consider approving this first part of an 18-month budget reduction plan which was developed to manage the loss of state funding and projected increases in district expenses. On a motion by Lane and second by Qualls, the board approved the budget cuts in district administration. Ayes: Elder, Jones, Lane, Pace, Qualls and Stephenson. No. Guerrero. Motion carried. Appropriate board resolutions will come to the board at the February 25 board meeting. This will allow the district to meet the March 15 deadline for potential notifications and Education Code requirements for changes in jobs by having final action at the March 11 board meeting.

Mr. Carrizosa asked for board direction with regard to bringing appropriate resolutions using the grid of the 18-month Projection of Worst-Case Scenario sheet included in the study session packet. The board so directed the superintendent. Resolutions will be presented at the February 25 meeting in order to meet the required March 15 deadline. Board members shared their concerns that noticed staff be treated with sensitivity. They also voiced their hope that the notices can be recalled once clear budget information is received from the state.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be February 25, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the VUSD Educational Complex located at 5000 West Cypress Avenue, Visalia.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Lane
Clerk

Stan A. Carrizosa
Superintendent/Secretary