

**Visalia Unified School District
Board of Education**

MINUTES

OPENING BUSINESS The meeting of April 8, 2003, was called to order at 6:00 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	6:00	10:00	
Juan R. Guerrero	6:00	10:00	
Larry Jones	6:00	10:00	
Michael Lane	6:00	10:00	
Laura Pace	6:00	10:00	
Jim L. Qualls	6:00	10:00	
Robert Stephenson	6:00	10:00	

Stan A. Carrizosa, Superintendent 6:00 10:00

Andrew Pipes, Student Representative X

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. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
 1. Agency Negotiator: Kay Van Andel
 2. Employee Organization
 1. VUTA
 2. CSEA

There was no public comment. The board convened into closed session.

**RECONVENE IN
OPEN SESSION**

At 7 p.m. the board reconvened in open session. President Jones announced that no action was taken in closed session. Mr. Jones then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC
RECOGNITION /
PROCLAMATIONS /
ACTION**

**STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS**

Students recognized for outstanding student achievement or for receiving the USAV Student of the Spring Award were as follows: Montse Vaccaro (English), Danielle Silva (Special Education) and Justin Stie (USAV) from El Diamante; Charlie Steinman (Special Education), Jessica Cervantes (USAV), Meredith Ann Casares (USAV) and John Beatie (USAV) from Golden West; Jessica Tompkins (USAV) and Sarah Hutmacher (USAV), Alejandra Ramirez (Special Education) and Cate Evans (English) from Redwood; Wanda Mack (USAV) and Maira Orosco (USAV) from Sequoia Continuation; Brianna Clarey (USAV), Sam Bullick (USAV), Melissa Knoy (Special Education) and Christopher Sheklian (English) from Mt. Whitney.

**RECOGNITION OF
GREEN ACRES
MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEACHER, MR. MIKE
MACKEY, RECIPIENT
OF THE CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION FOR
HEALTH, PHYSICAL
EDUCATION,
RECREATION AND
DANCE (CAHPERD)
AWARD FOR 2003**

President Jones presented a plaque to Mr. Mike Mackey, a Physical Education teacher at Green Acres Middle School. On March 22, Mr. Mackey was the recipient of the California Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD) Award for 2003.

**PUBLIC COMMENT
/ PUBLIC INTEREST
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Robin Coffman, a teacher at Mt. Whitney, asked for clarification regarding information contained in an April 5 Visalia newspaper article on administration shifts in the district and the placement of homeless children at one school in the district. Mr. Fred Nave explained the new federal requirements and explained that if a homeless child is attending one school and then moves, that the child would be given the opportunity to stay at their school of origin, rather than moving from school to school. The district would be responsible for busing the student to maintain their placement at the school.

Mr. Norm Wells, a community member, read a prepared statement. He made reference to an article in today's newspaper. He said that he does not like the way that district teachers and classified staff are being treated. He spoke against a cap on health care benefits. He said that it is time for negotiations to begin.

VUTA 2002-2003
INTERESTS FOR
CERTIFICATED
NEGOTIATIONS

Mrs. Van Andel introduced VUTA President, Fred Speckman, who presented the association's five areas of interest for the successor contract which ended June 30, 2002 (Encl. No. 3).

CSEA 2003-2004
INTERESTS FOR
CLASSIFIED
NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Jim Pitkin, HRD director, reported that three negotiation dates have been set with CSEA during the next three weeks (Encl. No. 4). He then introduced Mrs. Lena Jones, vice president of CSEA, Chapter 83, and regional representative for Region 20. Mrs. Jones provided the board with a copy of a letter from Mr. Lee Coelho, labor relations representative for CSEA, Chapter 83. The letter outlined cost containment measures that CSEA has implemented over the past three years which have saved the district \$1,409,300. The letter also outlined the contract proposals to be negotiated for 2003-04. Mrs. Jones said that CSEA intends to continue to work with the district to maintain the respect and trust that has been developed over the past year.

**BOARD MEMBER
REPORTS/
REQUESTS /
SUPERINTEN-
DENT'S REPORT**

Negotiations

Mr. Stephenson said that he is optimistic that upcoming negotiations will result in solutions to save district jobs and programs. He said that he is looking forward to the multitude of activities as spring break begins and the school year is coming to a close.

Mayor's Prayer
Breakfast

Mr. Qualls reported that he attended the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast last week. Tomorrow night the Masons will be recognizing several people in education. The event will be held at 7 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge. Everyone is invited. Mr. Qualls encouraged attendance at the event to show their support of staff.

Hall of Fame

Mrs. Pace said that it had been a busy couple of weeks with plays, jazz performances and meetings. She reported that the Hall of Fame will be April 25. PTA raises money for scholarships through the sale of tickets to this event. She commended district staff who have been nominated for recognition. Mrs. Pace said that she was excited about negotiations opening. She said that she has faith and confidence that we will all work together and make small sacrifices to save jobs and programs.

Negotiations

Workers Comp Crisis

Mr. Lane reported that he had received an update from Senator Poochigian regarding the workers compensation crisis afflicting schools. He asked for a board report covering the past five years with regard to how workers compensation rates have affected the district budget. He asked that the information be sent to Senator Poochigian and Ken Oplinger, president of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce. He spoke of an April 4 article in the *Sacramento Bee* regarding the serious budget crisis in Sacramento. He said that the state has until April 22 to

April 4 Sacramento Bee

Insurance Cap and
Employee Premium
Contribution

cut 10 percent from their payroll costs. Mr. Lane then explained the difference between a cap on insurance and an employee premium contribution. He concluded by saying that he wants to work to avoid cutting CSR in the district.

Negotiations

Mr. Guerrero said that he was glad that negotiations are beginning. He commended all district staff and said that he is confident that we can make decisions “collectively” for our community.

César E. Chávez

He reiterated that he is against insurance caps. Mr. Guerrero reported that he had been asked to read a resolution at a dinner honoring César E. Chávez. The resolution had been adopted by the VUSD Board at a previous board meeting in recognition of César E. Chávez Day. Mr. Guerrero also attended the Superintendent’s Resource Development Committee Meeting. The Committee will look at ways of bringing additional revenues into the district.

Resource Development
Committee

Mr. Guerrero said that in reviewing scholarship applications through his work, he has been impressed with “what our district produces.”

Openness and Honesty

Mr. Elder spoke of the openness and honesty of the district’s current board, governance team and staff and everyone’s willingness to respond to any and all requests for information with the most up-to-date information available. He said that he is looking forward to Golden West’s production of *Les Miserables*. Mr. Elder congratulated Pat Fairfield, Green Acres secretary, who has been chosen Classified Employee of the Year. He spoke of the importance of support staff in accomplishing any job. Mr. Elder also congratulated Mr. Mackey and spoke of him being the “epitome of a caring teacher.”

Les Miserables
Pat Fairfield

**PUBLIC
HEARING/ACTION**

**SALE OF PROPERTY
- DANS LANE
Motion No. 168**

A Public Hearing was opened on the sale of property owned by the district on Dans Lane. The property has been appraised at \$38,000 per acre. The City of Visalia has offered to purchase 7.16 of the 19 acres at the Dans Lane site for \$272,080. The City is looking to acquire the acreage for a park and community walkways along the creek that runs through the site. Dr. Fulmer said that the park would go along well with the elementary school that the district anticipates building on the remaining acreage. Community members, Mike McDaniels and Nina Clancy, shared their concerns about access and traffic flow to the proposed school. Mr. Carrizosa said that the district will work with the city and residents in the area to try and address their concerns. Mr. Lane suggested Mr. McDaniels also send a letter to the Visalia City Council expressing his concerns.

The Public Hearing was closed. On a motion by Stephenson and second by Pace, the board approved the sale of the 7.15 acres on Dans Lane to the City. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**STATUS
REPORT/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

**VISALIA UNIFIED
HEALTH INSURANCE**

On March 31, the district received health insurance quotes for 2003-04. Mrs. Susan Cox presented a PowerPoint on the information received along with cost containment options for

PROGRAM

benefits. Updated information provided at the meeting indicated there would be a rate increase of 20.1% for certificated and management staff and 13.1% for classified staff as well as district retirees whose benefits are paid by the district. The result of the increase will be an estimated total district cost for benefits in the amount of \$21,457,580. Total health insurance costs for 2002-03 were \$18,283,156. Therefore, there will be an estimated cost increase of \$3,174,424 or 17.4% for 2003-04. Several cost containment options were provided in the PowerPoint and Enclosure No. 6. Mrs. Cox also explained that staff could elect to enroll in a Section 125 Benefit Plan which would save tax dollars on the deferred amount. The new insurance year will begin October 1, 2003.

**RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING
DIFFERENTIAL PAY
FOR EMPLOYEES ON
MILITARY LEAVE
Motion No. 169**

General Agenda Item 9.2 (Encl. No. 9) was brought forward as it was noted that there were family members in the audience awaiting the board's action on the resolution included in this item. Mrs. Van Andel explained that, as a result of the conflict in Iraq, two district employees, Gabriel Luna and Michael Burchet, have been called to active duty. If approved, the resolution would authorize differential pay for the two from April 9, 2003 through September 30, 2003. A review will be made in July to determine whether the six months time frame would need to be extended. Mr. Jones opened the session to public comment. Mr. Mike Burchet, Michael's father, thanked the board for considering the resolution. On a motion by Stephenson and second by Qualls, the resolution was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**CLASS SIZE
REDUCTION
SAVINGS
CALCULATION**

Mr. Robert Gröeber presented Enclosure No. 7 as a followup to a question raised by a teacher at the March 25 board meeting regarding the district's calculations of savings in eliminating CSR. At that meeting, the teacher presented the board with a handout from CTA/VUTA and Teachers which noted discrepancies between their calculations and the district's calculations. Meetings have been held during the past week with members of the VUTA board, district principals, staff and the public to explain the process used by the district when calculating the expected savings. In comparing the two calculations, district staff concluded that the CTA/VUTA/Teacher handout was a mathematical model using unrepresentative data. It was also determined that the cost of K-3 CSR for 2002-03 was \$3.974 million. The savings in eliminating CSR in grades K-3 in 2003-04 would be \$2.555 million.

Mr. Jones opened the session to public comment. Mrs. Patrice Clevenger, a district teacher and parent, read a letter that she planned to mail to the Times-Delta. Mrs. Clevenger addressed the letter to all VUSD staff and asked that we all pull together to help save district jobs and programs.

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

**CONTINGENCY
RESOLUTION FOR
THE RESTORATION
OF PROGRAMS AND
PARTICULAR KINDS
OF SERVICES**
Motion No. 170

Enclosure No. 8 was presented tonight as a result of layoff notifications which were approved at the February 25 board meeting. At that meeting, the board had asked that a resolution be drafted in the event that layoffs and program cuts could be rescinded as a result of cost containment strategies being generated in employee health insurance costs through negotiations. Mr. Lane read the resolution. Mrs. Margaret Moss, a teacher at Redwood, said that she felt the resolution would “frame” negotiations in a “very tight frame.” She said that she hoped it was not the intention of the board to deny a bargained agreement that “doesn’t fit the parameters of the resolution.” Mr. Carrizosa said that in drafting the resolution for the board, it was his understanding that the board wanted to work to try and achieve cost savings and that the priority would be to rescind the elimination of primary grade CSR. He said that nothing in the resolution under consideration narrows the opportunity for the board to approve other proposed agreements for ratification. Following discussion of the wording in the resolution, it was the consensus of the board to amend the paragraphs where “cost containment strategies for employee health insurance” occurred by adding the statement “or other negotiated cost-savings measures.” On a motion by Stephenson and second by Guerrero, the resolution as amended was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**CHARTER OAK
SCHOOL OFFICIAL
CLOSURE**
Motion No. 171

The board was informed at the February 25 board meeting that the Charter Oak School board had voted to voluntarily close their site effective March 13, 2003. After notifying the State Department of Education of the voluntary closure, Mr. Rodriguez received a recommendation from the CDE that the VUSD board officially act on the voluntary closure (Encl. No. 10). Charter Oak School will then be deemed closed and VUSD staff will work with the Charter Oak director and board to work out a plan for the district to receive the school’s final audit and dissolution of school assets. On a motion by Lane and second by Elder, the board approved the voluntary closure of Charter Oak School. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**2003 CSBA
DELEGATE
ASSEMBLY
ELECTION RUN-OFF**
Motion No. 172

On a motion by Jones and second by Elder, Mr. Tom Henry was chosen to represent Subregion 12A on the 2003 CSBA Delegate Assembly (Encl. No. 11). Ayes: Elder, Jones, Lane, Pace, Qualls and Stephenson. No: Guerrero. Motion carried.

ROUTINE ACTION
Motion No. 173

On a motion by Qualls and second by Guerrero, the Routine Action Items were approved as follows:

10.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List - March 16 through 31, 2003 (Encl. No. 12)
2. 2002-03 Budget Revision No. 09 (Encl. No. 13)
3. Resolution Declaring Intention to Dedicate Easement to the City of Visalia: Houston Avenue and McAuliff Road (Encl. No. 14)
4. Resolution Declaring Intention to Dedicate Easements to Southern California Edison: Linwood and Ferguson Streets (Encl. No. 15)

5. Substitution of Subcontractor on Crestwood, Valley Oak and Mt. View Modernization Projects (Encl. No. 16)
 6. Request to Piggyback for Modular Buildings (Encl. No. 17)
 7. Vendor Contracts for Various Maintenance and Service Needs (Encl. No. 18)
- 10.2 AREA ADMINISTRATOR, K-6, 7-12/Adult
1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 19)
- 10.3 AREA ADMINISTRATOR, 7-12/Adult
1. Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Section 225 and 231 Augmentation Grant Award (Encl. No. 20)
 2. Application for Playground Compliance Funds (Encl. No. 21)
 3. Community-Based English Tutoring (CBET) Program Notification of Intent to Participate for 2003-04 (Encl. No. 22)
 4. Application for Adult Education and Family Literacy/Sections 225/231 and English Literacy/Civics Education (Encl. No. 23)
- 10.4 CURRICULUM
1. Memorandum of Understanding with San Joaquin County Bilingual Teacher Training Program (SB395) (Encl. No. 24)
 2. Migrant Education Summer Service Agreement (Encl. No. 25)
- 10.5 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 26)
 2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 27)
 3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 28)
 4. Certification of Updated Coach List for Spring Sports (Encl. No. 29)
 5. Request to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 30)
- 10.6 SUPERINTENDENT
1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 11, 2003 (Encl. No. 31)

**ADMINISTRATIVE
PANEL RECOM-
MENDATIONS**

EXPULSIONS

Motion No. 174

On a motion by Elder and second by Lane, the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Expulsion Case No. 03-57 E, Case No. 03-58 E, Case No. 03-59 E, Case No. 03-60 E, Case No. 03-61 E, Case No. 03-62 E and Case No. 03-63 E (Encl. No. 32) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be April 22, 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