

**Visalia Unified School District
Board of Education**

MINUTES

**OPENING
BUSINESS**

The May 11, 2004 board meeting was opened at 5:30 p.m. by President Lane, in the Board Room at the VUSD Educational Office Complex, 5000 West Cypress Avenue, Visalia. A quorum of the board was present.

ATTENDANCE

	<u>Arrive</u>	<u>Leave</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Rodney Elder	5:30	11:34	
Juan R. Guerrero	5:30	11:34	
Larry Jones	5:30	11:34	
Michael Lane	5:30	11:34	
Donna Martin	5:30	11:34	
Jim L. Qualls	5:30	11:34	
Robert Stephenson	5:30	11:34	
Martin Belmana, Student Representative	7:00	7:38	
Stan A. Carrizosa, Superintendent	5:30	11:34	

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 Lane identified the closed session topics listed below:

- 2.1 IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION
 1. RECOMMENDED EXPULSIONS
 2. RECOMMENDED SUSPENDED EXPULSIONS
- 2.2 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT/APPOINTMENT
 1. Redwood High School Principal
- 2.3 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR:
 1. Property: A portion of APN 077-080-012
 2. Agency negotiator: Stan Carrizosa/Mark Fulmer
 3. Negotiating Parties: VUSD-Mangano Homes, Inc.
 4. Under negotiations: Preliminary information on potential proposal for sale or exchange of real property. Price will be discussed.
- 2.4 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
 1. Agency Negotiator: Kay Van Andel
 2. Employee Organization
 1. VUTA
 2. CSEA
 3. Management

**RECONVENE IN
OPEN SESSION**
Motion No. 217

The board reconvened in open session at 7:02 p.m. Board member Stephenson lead the Pledge of Allegiance. President Lane announced that in closed session, on a 7-0 vote, the board appointed Dr. James Bushman as Principal of Redwood High School.

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

Students receiving academic achievement awards tonight were: Steven Cook (Science) and Andrew MacDonald (Business) from El Diamante; Andrew Tonini (Science) and Rhett Winterton (Business) from Mt. Whitney; Courtney Hill (Business) and Diana Hallare (Science) from Redwood; Manuel Alarcon (Overall Achievement) from Charter Alternatives Academy; and Daphne Newman from Visalia Adult School. Golden West students, Randolph Juan (Business) and Graham Hearn (Science) were attending an awards assembly at school tonight and were unable to attend the board meeting.

**CLASSIFIED
SCHOOL
EMPLOYEE WEEK -
MAY 16 -22, 2004**
Motion No. 218

Clerk, Rodney Elder, read a resolution declaring May 16-22, 2004 Classified School Employee Week (Encl. No. 2). On a motion by Guerrero and second by Jones, the board approved the resolution. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**STUDENT BOARD
REPRESENTA-
TIVE REPORT**

As the student representative had to leave the meeting to attend a school event, Mr. Lane asked that he give his report to the board at this point in the meeting. Mr. Belmana reported that Redwood will be having the "Locks of Love" event tomorrow and will have a recognition barbeque this Thursday; Golden West's Scholarship Night is tonight, there will be an Awards Assembly next week and a Link Crew orientation for next year's members; at Mt. Whitney the students will have a senior barbeque this Thursday, Prom was a success, yearbook signing is coming up, tickets go on sale for Sober Grad tomorrow, and a farewell assembly as well as a senior farewell assembly is planned; El Diamante just completed their ASB elections and are taking applications for class officers, students are celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week, the school will have a spring sports recognition next Monday, their Annual Miner Foundation Dinner will be this weekend, and the Journalism class is planning a "half-way" there barbeque for their sophomores around the first day of finals.

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

President Lane opened the meeting to Public Comment. A parent shared her concerns regarding the current tone of negotiations taking place between the teachers union and the school district and said that she believes her children and their education are being adversely affected. She praised district teachers and administration for the jobs they do and asked that the two groups work together to resolve their issues. She also asked that teachers be realistic in their expectations of what the district can do in light of the current budget crisis in California and the failure of the district's Measure P Bond to pass.

Teachers from Veva Blunt Elementary, El Diamante High School, and Willow Glen Elementary voiced their support of the VUTA bargaining team in its efforts to secure a fair contract that

ensures a quality education for our students and a safe working environment for all. VUTA President, Karl Kildow, also addressed the board regarding his concerns about the district remaining a district where teachers want to be employed.

Bill Goodreau, a district parent and PTA Council President for the past two years, commended Mr. Carrizosa and Mr. Lane for attending the PTA Hall of Fame Event. He said that through the generosity of the community, approximately 30 scholarships of \$250 each will be available for district students. As a Green Acres parent, Mr. Goodreau also commended district staff for “reliably, accurately and ably” dealing with the white powder scare there. He said that the process the school used in releasing students to their parents was handled very well. Mr. Goodreau also thanked VUTA for the safety meeting held last Wednesday night at the LampLiter Inn. With regard to VUTA’s reported number of teacher assaults in the elementary schools last year, Mr. Goodreau said that he is not clear what VUTA’s term “assault” actually means. He encouraged the board to take whatever action necessary to document what has occurred and take effective action to address the safety of staff. He also said that he hoped this issue of safety is not being entered into in light of the negotiations process. He also expressed his disappointment in an article submitted by VUTA to the newspaper which implied that the district believes that testing is a greater concern than student safety. He said that the letter did not serve our students well or represent a tone that should be “cordial, professional and addressed within our ranks.” Mr. Goodreau continued to express his disappointment that VUTA leadership did not support Measure P. He said that the loss of \$15 million of matching funds for our community also “has not served our students well.” With regard to the current negotiations process, Mr. Goodreau asked that a fair contract be rendered, but one that represents the interests of our children.

A district teacher and parent also spoke regarding the way her children are affected by the contract she receives. She commended Green Acres staff on how well they handled the incident and the safety of the children there. She did say that she would have appreciated the district calling her to let her know about the incident and that she needed to pick up her son. The parent also spoke of concessions that teachers have made with regard to their benefits.

**BOARD MEMBER
REPORTS/
SUPERINTEN-
DENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Lane moved Board and Superintendent reports to this point in the meeting. Board members reported on the many events they have attended during the past two weeks. Among them were the “Moms and Muffins” at Royal Oaks, the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast, Music Festival at La Joya, and the FFA dinner. Board members commended district administration on how well they were kept informed during the Green Acres incident. They also commended Green Acres and district staff on how well the process went for parents to come and collect their children. Board members reported they are looking forward to the upcoming graduations. Many have plans to attend the retirement reception planned for May 18. They also commended work that Greg Flenory at El Diamante High School has been doing with the Pop Warner group, commended the FBLA program at Redwood, Gary Cascarano’s job as principal at Washington Elementary School and principals for taking time to show them around their campuses when they come to visit.

Board member Stephenson requested an update on the program at Riverbend School as well as the challenges and achievements of Special Education services in the district.

**FOCUS ON
STUDENT
LEARNING**

**STATE BUDGET
UPDATE**

Mr. Gröeber reported on the latest information received regarding the state budget. He reminded the board that the Governor's May Revise will be coming out this Friday and that a report will come to the board at the May 25 board meeting and will include a better idea of how the district budget will be affected. Mr. Gröeber's report included a PowerPoint Presentation. Copies of the presentation were available for the board and public.

**STATE TEACHERS
RETIREMENT
SYSTEM (STRS) "+2
GOLDEN
HANDSHAKE"
RETIREMENT
INCENTIVE
UPDATE**

Mr. Gröeber further clarified information on the calculation of savings/costs for the State Teachers Retirement System "+2 Golden Handshake" Retirement Incentive (Encl. No. 4). As of the internal application deadline of April 23, 49 eligible certificated employees had turned in paperwork to retire, some conditional on the retirement incentive being offered. Using the STRS guidelines to determine whether or not the district will experience a savings in offering the +2 incentive, that pool of employees did not demonstrate a savings. Therefore, the district is unable to offer the incentive.

**SUPERINTEN-
DENT'S FACILITIES
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE'S
RECOMMENDA-
TIONS**

Enclosure No. 5 included a summary of the recommendations from the Superintendent's Facilities Advisory Committee regarding possible options for the expenditure of Developer Fees for district facility needs. Dr. Mark Fulmer explained the two options considered by the committee—a "New Schools" Option and a "Growth Pockets" Option. The committee recommended the "New Schools" Option. The state match for one new elementary school will be \$4.5 million. The cost of a new elementary school is approximately \$9 million. Enrollment is estimated to be between 700 and 750 students at each of our elementary schools. The committee also discussed pool options at El Diamante High School and recommended that future VUSD bond measures not include the pool. District staff will continue to look for state funding, pool placement and pool variation options available to cut costs, but still obtain the best facility possible. Board members will be asked to take action on the recommendation to implement the "New Schools" Option at the May 25, 2004 board meeting.

Presentation/Public

Comment/Board

Discussion/ACTION

(as applicable)

**ALIGNING
DISTRICT
GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS**

Mr. Rick Rodriguez and Mrs. Stacey Curschman lead the discussion for Enclosure No. 6, assisted by a PowerPoint presentation. The VUSD Graduation Committee, through meetings held this past 2003-04 school year, worked to align district graduation requirements with state standards, ensuring that our students progress academically and successfully complete their requirements to achieve their diploma, and also are prepared to continue their post secondary education and/or enter the workforce. For the class of 2008, the committee recommendations included four years of English (40 credits). The committee also recommended that students take a full year of Biology (10 units), prior to their taking the new mandated No Child Left Behind test in Biology. Also included in the enclosure was a draft of a graduation requirement action plan for board review. New and updated policies that the committee worked on, including grading and student achievement, graduation requirements, alternative credit for graduation and course

challenge by examination were included later on tonight's agenda for a first reading and review by the board.

Public comment on this enclosure opened with Mr. Steve Gendel, a Redwood dance parent, addressing the board regarding dance units counting toward the physical education units required for high school graduation. Mr. Rodriguez responded that it is the committee's recommendation at this time that the current policy not change, that a student may receive PE credit for dance, but not in their freshman year. Discussion continued regarding the requirement in January 2007 that if a student has not passed the PE test, they will be required to take PE until they do pass it. Mrs. Lambert said that the committee reviewed the course outlines for dance and did not make a recommendation to change the policy. They agreed that 9th grade students should be required to take a core PE course unless there was a waiver for inter-scholastic athletics, and that dance would be considered Visual and Performing Arts credit. Mr. Rodriguez also added that the state is considering for 2006 or 2007 that no waivers be given for PE/Athletics. Mr. Gendel will submit his research regarding the issue of 9th grade dance to the board for its review. Following further discussion on the dance issue, the board asked that the district reconsider the decision, as they consider the rigor of dance equal to any PE class or sport. This issue will be brought back for a second reading and final action at the May 25, 2004 board meeting. Mr. Lane asked that staff address SB1795 and how it may impact vocational education programs in our schools. Mrs. Lambert and Mr. Rodriguez agreed that our vocational programs will meet new state standards for assessment and productivity, but will also move in the direction of completing the A-G requirements for college entrance. Board members expressed the need for our schools to strongly support our vocational education students who wish to go into the workforce following graduation instead of going on to college.

GIFTED AND
TALENTED
EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT

Mrs. Karen Rowe summarized information contained in Enclosure No. 7, the annual GATE Report to the board. The report will also be reviewed with the GATE District Advisory Committee this Thursday evening. Mrs. Rowe reviewed the goals the committee had set for 2003-04 and reported on the progress of each goal. GATE Enrollment at each of our schools, along with increases in enrollment at some of our schools were noted in the enclosure as were the categories of enrollment in GATE as of March 2004. Most GATE students are identified in the intellectual category, followed by enrollment based on high achievement, high potential, specific academic and creativity. Work is being done with district middle and high school staffs to develop a better system for identifying leadership candidates for GATE. Also included in tonight's report was GATE enrollment by gender, ethnicity, and charts showing that the number of English Language Learners as well as Socio-Economically Disadvantaged students enrolling in GATE increased in 2004. This is the second year that special education students have been identified as gifted and talented. There are currently 36 students identified in this group. Information on Advanced Placement courses offered in our district was included in the report with comparisons of those students taking at last 1 AP class to the general population at each of the high schools. To complete the report, California Content Standards Test results by percentages of GATE students passing compared to non-GATE students was reviewed, a chart showing GATE expenditures for 2003-04 was summarized and the results of the 2003-04 GATE District Survey were identified. Mr. Guerrero stated that he would like to see a GATE Program at Charter Alternatives - Packwood.

REVIEW CSBA
REVISION TO BP
0420.4 - CHARTER
SCHOOLS - FIRST
READING

The following enclosures (Encls. 8 through 18) were presented for a first reading tonight. Enclosure No. 8 included new pieces of language that reflect new law. The changes bring the policy into alignment with governance requirements for charter schools. Due to recent conditions in California of defaults on charters and problems with accountability, more specific requirements are being added.

REVIEW CSBA
REVISION TO BP
0450 -
COMPREHENSIVE
SAFETY PLAN -
FIRST READING

The CSBA recommendation regarding Enclosure No. 9 was that this be considered to replace BP and AR 0450. These are Education Code sections that are periodically brought forward in order for the district to keep the comprehensive safety plan process up to date. The Committee chose from options of how the district develops the comprehensive safety site level plan appropriate to the size of our district.

REVIEW CSBA
REVISION TO BP
0510 - SCHOOL
ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT CARD -
FIRST READING

Included in Enclosure No. 10 was a reference to new federal law, No Child Left Behind. The recommended revisions ensure that there is an alignment of the same kind of notification and assessment accountability in the School Accountability Report Card to reflect those items that are now and are going to be implemented as requirements of No Child Left Behind.

REVIEW CSBA
REVISION TO BP
0520 -
INTERVENTION
FOR UNDER-
PERFORMING
SCHOOLS - FIRST
READING

The proposed revisions included in Enclosure No. 11 bring the policy into alignment with new law under Education Code. They are state guidelines for interventions for underperforming schools, specifically the school performance relative to the state accountability system and the selection of external evaluators and the incremental progression of interventions required from within and outside the district as schools perform or do not perform in the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program.

REVIEW
CSBA/STAFF
REVISIONS TO
MANDATED BP/AR
5121 - HIGH
SCHOOL GRADES/
EVALUATION OF
STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT -
FIRST READING

Enclosure No. 12 included new language relative to changes in Education Code and law and mandated regulations that add criteria for grading in high schools, specifically in physical education courses, and deletes some sections on grade weighting. The BP/AR 5121 is now aligned with our new content standards and includes consistent terminology. In terms of grades for achievement, a percentage formula is used to arrive at grades in upper grades but also incorporates multiple measures and the concept of standards and standards-based report card systems for elementary grades.

REVIEW STAFF
REVISION TO
MANDATED BP/AR
5121.1 - K-6
EVALUATION OF
STUDENT

The revisions included in Enclosure No. 13 align with changes in the recent work done in the district to implement standards-based grading criteria. The revisions also reference grades for Physical Education in Grades K-6.

ACHIEVEMENT -
FIRST READING

REVIEW STAFF
REVISION TO BP
5127 -
GRADUATION
CEREMONIES AND
ACTIVITIES - FIRST
READING

The revisions to Enclosure No. 14 bring the policy into alignment with California Education Code and legal changes regarding the California High School Exit Exam. The district has been working with a group of superintendents throughout the county to try to determine how best to process students as they graduate after the class of 2006. This is the first class required to pass the CAHSEE. Many of our schools wanted to have an alternative certificate of achievement for those students who met course requirements, but did not pass the CAHSEE. The law as written, however, prohibits school districts from providing for a “regular” education student any alternative certificate or allowing them to participate in a commencement ceremony. Education Code clearly ties the commencement ceremony to the earning of a diploma and the California State diploma will only be awarded to students who pass the CAHSEE. Mr. Carrizosa told the board that the district is sending letters out now to parents of all Grade 7-10 students alerting them to the fact that this policy is being aligned with new state law. Special Education students will continue to receive a certificate of completion upon completing their course work.

REVIEW CSBA
REVISION TO BP
6142.1 - SEXUAL
HEALTH AND
HIV/AIDS
PREVENTION
EDUCATION -
FIRST READING

The revisions in Enclosure No. 15 bring the policy into alignment with new Education Code provisions regarding parent/guardian notifications.

REVIEW CSBA’S
RECOMMENDA-
TION TO DELETE
BP 6142.2 - AIDS
PREVENTION
INSTRUCTION -
FIRST READING

The recommendation included in Enclosure No. 16 was to delete BP 6142.2 as the material was incorporated into the previous board policy.

REVIEW CSBA
REVISION TO BP
6142.7 - PHYSICAL
EDUCATION -
FIRST READING

Enclosure No. 17 outlines components and requirements for Physical Education—age of students, types of activities, etc. Mr. Carrizosa said that this policy can be looked at in a second reading in conjunction with what recommendations or revisions might be brought back regarding graduation requirements.

REVIEW STAFF
REVISIONS TO BP
6146.1 - HIGH
SCHOOL
GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS -

Enclosure No. 18, relating to high school graduation requirements, introduces the new requirement to increase English to four years, instead of the current requirement of three years. The science unit requirements will also be increased by five units, or a full year of the Life Sciences, or Biology, to come into alignment with the requirements that will be on the California Standards Assessments.

FIRST READING

REVIEW
CSBA/STAFF
REVISIONS TO BP
6146.11 -
ALTERNATIVE
CREDITS TOWARD
GRADUATION -
FIRST READING

Revisions to Enclosure No. 19 update the policy to include some technology-based courses which would be available through accredited institutions or California universities or colleges as alternatives.

REVIEW CSBA BP
6155 -
CHALLENGING
COURSES BY
EXAMINATION -
FIRST READING

Revisions to this board policy (Encl. No. 20) clarifies what a student earns if he/she successfully challenges a course by examination.

The board policies presented tonight will come back in two weeks for board action.

ROUTINE ACTION
Motion No. 219

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

8.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List - April 16 through April 23, 2004 (Encl. No. 21)
2. 2003-04 Budget Revision No. 14 (Encl. No. 22)
3. Change Order #3 - Green Acres/El Diamante Relocatable Classrooms Projects (Encl. No. 23)
4. Change Order #6 - Four Creeks (Northeast) Elementary School (Encl. No. 24)
5. Yearly Purchasing Calendar (Encl. No. 25)
6. Vendor Contracts for Various Maintenance and Service Needs (Encl. No. 26)
7. Deem Salvage Items Obsolete (Encl. No. 27)

8.2 AREA ADMINISTRATORS, K-6; 7-12/Adult

1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 28)

8.3 AREA ADMINISTRATOR, 7-12/Adult

1. Community-Based English Tutoring (CBET) Program Notification of Intent to Participate for 2004-05 (Encl. No. 29)
2. Registration for "Other Alternative Schools" Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) - Charter Alternatives Academy (Packwood) (Encl. No. 30)

8.4 CURRICULUM/EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. EETT Competitive Grant - Visalia Voice (Encl. No. 31)
2. Gifted and Talented Education 2004 Application (Encl. No. 32)
3. Student Teacher Agreement Between Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) and California State University, Fresno, Communicative Disorders Department (Encl. No. 33)

4. Request to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 34)
- 8.5 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
 1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 35)
 2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 36)
 3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 37)
- 8.6 SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
 1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 13, 2004 (Encl. No. 38)
 2. 2004-05 California School Boards Association (CSBA) Membership Renewal (Encl. No. 39)

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

In reference to Enclosure No. 31, Mrs. Lambert pointed out that through the work of Scott Smith, the district was awarded a \$1.2 million EETT Competitive Grant for improving the technology skills of our 7th and 8th grade students.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
PANEL RECOM-
MENDATIONS/
ACTION**

EXPULSIONS
Motion No. 220

On a motion by Qualls and Martin, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Expulsion Case No. 04-113E were approved (Encl. No. 40). Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Motion No. 221

On a motion by Qualls and second by Stephenson, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Expulsion Case No. 04-112 E, Case No. 04-114 E, Case No. 04-115 E and Case No. 04-116 E were approved (Encl. No. 40). Ayes: Elder, Jones, Lane, Martin, Qualls and Stephenson. No: Guerrero. Motion carried.

SUSPENDED
EXPULSIONS
Motion No. 222

On a motion by Qualls and second by Martin, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Suspended Expulsion Case No. 04-30 SE (Encl. No. 41) were approved. Ayes: Elder, Jones, Lane, Martin, Qualls and Stephenson. No: Guerrero. Motion carried.

**GENERAL
AGENDA**

Review / Public Input /
Board Discussion /

ACTION (as
applicable)

RESOLUTION -
SCHOOL
FACILITIES
FUNDING AND
APPLICATION FOR
STATE GRANT
FUNDING AT

On a motion by Elder and second by Jones, the board approved Enclosure No. 42. Ayes: all. Motion carried. The district may now move forward and secure funding for the Dans Lane Elementary School project.

**ANOTHER GRADE
LEVEL FOR DANS
LANE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**
Motion No. 223

**APPROVAL OF BID
4510 - VISALIA
COMMUNITY
STADIUM ALL
WEATHER TRACK**
Motion No. 224

On a motion by Stephenson and second by Qualls, the board approved a bid in the amount of \$488,500 from Oral E. Micham, Inc. for the Visalia Community Stadium All-Weather Track (Encl. No. 43). Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**FINAL LAYOFF
RESOLUTION K-12**
Motion No. 225

On March 9, the board adopted a layoff resolution eliminating particular kinds of service. Those preliminary layoff notices were issued, but since then, the district has been able to rescind six of the regular education notices and five of the adult education notices. Adoption of the resolutions included in Enclosure No. 44 and Enclosure No. 45 would authorize the district to issue the final layoff notices for the positions listed prior to May 15. As positions become available through retirements, etc., and as qualifications permit, the district will work to fill them with employees who received final layoff notices. On a motion by Elder and second by Qualls, the resolution was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**FINAL LAYOFF
RESOLUTION -
VISALIA ADULT
SCHOOL**
Motion No. 226

On a motion by Elder and second by Qualls, the resolution included in Enclosure No. 45 was approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**RECONVENE IN
CLOSED SESSION**

The board reconvened in closed session at 11:05 p.m.

**RECONVENE IN
OPEN SESSION
ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:34 p.m. the board reconvened in open session. No action was reported from closed session. The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be May 25, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the VUSD Educational Complex located at 5000 West Cypress Avenue, Visalia (unless otherwise posted).

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Elder
Clerk

Stan A. Carrizosa
Superintendent/Secretary