

**Visalia Unified School District
Board of Education**

MINUTES

**OPENING
BUSINESS**

The April 26, 2005 board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Elder, 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	10:41	
Juan R. Guerrero	5:30	10:41	
Larry Jones	5:30	10:41	
Michael Lane	5:30	10:41	
Donna Martin	5:30	10:41	
Jim L. Qualls	5:30	10:41	
Robert Stephenson	5:30	10:41	
Joseph Casillas, Student Representative	7:10	8:30	
Stan A. Carrizosa, Superintendent	5:30	10:41	

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

Mr. Elder then identified the closed session topics listed below:

- 2.1 EXPULSIONS
- 2.2 SUSPENDED EXPULSIONS
- 2.3 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT OR EMPLOYMENT
 - 1. Elementary Principal
- 2.4 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EVALUATION
 - 1. Superintendent
- 2.5 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE CONTRACT
 - 1. Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
 - 2. Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Education Services
 - 3. Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development
- 2.6 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
 - 1. Agency Negotiator: Kay Van Andel
 - 2. Employee Organizations
 - 1. VUTA
 - 2. CSEA
 - 3. Management

Marcelo Garcia, representing Visalia Youth Football, which serves 960 community children, addressed the board regarding the organization's need for a place to practice and play their football games. The district informed the group that following this last season, they would no longer be permitted to practice or play their games at Mt. Whitney because of the wear and tear on the field. The group has played their games at Mt. Whitney for the past 37 years. Mr. Garcia said VYF had hoped to speak with Drew Sorensen and Greg Flenory at El Diamante about using their fields, but that has not yet happened. He said that the last offer made to the group was to have them play football at the corner of Houston and McAuliff at Golden West High School. Mr. Garcia noted various reasons that the field would not work for the team games. He said that the group feels that after playing at Mt. Whitney for 37 years, they should be offered another venue that is comparable or better. He restated the group's preference to play at El Diamante High School. The group has also worked with the City but has not yet been successful in finding a field. Mr. Carrizosa responded to Mr. Garcia's remarks by reviewing the work that the district has done with the group through this past year to find a suitable field for VYF. He restated the district's commitment to not allow practices on the outfield of the varsity baseball diamond at Mt. Whitney. Mr. Carrizosa also shared Mr. Sorensen's and Mr. Flenory's concerns regarding VYF using El Diamante and the sporting events the school has already committed to have there. Also, with the current budget, there are no funds to add lights or a concession stand at El Diamante. Mr. Carrizosa said that the only funding available to the district would be at the new community stadium to upgrade the lighting in the section on Houston and McAuliff, sufficient enough to play regulation games there. He said that if the field is not used by VYF, the field will be developed for at least Thursday afternoon freshman football for Golden West so they do not have to have all of their games on the field at the stadium. The district will continue to work with the group to find options for accommodating them, but also protect the needs for our school site teams to be able to use their fields. Board member Qualls suggested this item be placed on the agenda for the upcoming Joint VUSD Board/City Council meeting on May 3. Board members acknowledged their support of Youth Football but also stressed the district's budget limitations. President Elder expressed his support of Mr. Carrizosa and district staff to work with VYF to resolve the issue. Mr. Carrizosa told the group that either Mark Fulmer and/or Rick Rodriguez will arrange a meeting between Drew Sorensen and Greg Flenory and VYF representatives. The item will be placed on the Joint VUSD Board/City Council agenda for May 3, 2005.

The Board convened into closed session.

**EARLY BIRD
SESSION**

**CALIFORNIA
HEALTHY KIDS
SURVEY RESULTS:
VISALIA UNIFIED**

The Early Bird Session opened at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Lucinda Mejdell-Awbrey, Coordinator, Student Support Services, presented the results of the California Healthy Kids Survey for 5th, 7th, 9th & 11th grade students from December 2004 (Encl. No. 1). Nine hundred students are randomly selected per grade to participate in the survey. Also included in the enclosure were survey results from previous years. Students complete the anonymous survey which includes questions about drug, alcohol and tobacco use, school safety, nutrition and fitness and emotional well-being.

REGULAR SESSION

Motion No. 184

The board reconvened in open session at 7:00 p.m. President Elder announced that in closed session the board voted unanimously to appoint Barbara Davis Principal at Crestwood Elementary School beginning July 1, 2005. Mrs. Davis began her career in education in 1969 as an elementary teacher teaching all grade levels.

Mr. Jim Qualls lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC
RECOGNITION /
PROCLAMATIONS /
ACTION (If
applicable)**

**VISALIA
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
REPORT**

Mr. John Farhang, president of the Visalia Education Foundation Board, presented the annual VEF report to the board (Encl. No. 2). The Foundation is a non-profit public benefit corporation whose purpose is exclusively educational and charitable and raises funds for the benefit of students or former VUSD students. The VEF meets the fourth Monday of each month at 12 noon at the Visalia EOC. This year the VEF gave \$20,000 to our schools in the form of major grants and \$5,791 in mini-grants. Next year the Foundation will give \$25,000 in major grants and \$8,000 in mini-grants. The Foundation also gives scholarships for advanced student education, serves as a “pass-through” for specific outside grants and donations for specific site projects, accepts donations of musical instruments, computers, software, etc. and solicits donations for an endowment fund and estate plan. Mr. Farhang listed the sources of funding for the 2004-05 school year. A major event was the Doobie Brothers’ Concert, which netted \$77,300 to support our students. In concluding tonight’s report, Mr. Farhang recognized Terry Garrett, VEF vice president, for her continuing support of and service to the Foundation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT
/ PUBLIC INTEREST
ANNOUNCEMENTS
/ STATUS REPORTS
/ ACTION (as
applicable)**

**VUSD GENERAL
FUND UPDATED
PRELIMINARY 2005-
06 BUDGET
PROJECTION**

Robert Gröeber presented the updated 2005-06 preliminary general fund budget summary included in Enclosure No. 3. As previously requested by the board, he also presented a number of potential restorations the board may consider in the event there are available funds in the final 2005-06 budget. Mr. Gröeber again stated that the district budget continues to grow, to approximately \$176,000,000 or more and that expenses continue outpacing revenues. He reported that 90% of the budget is composed of personnel and personnel-related costs. If expenses continue to grow for 2005-06, additional cuts/savings/reductions may have to be made in order to balance the district budget.

The session was opened to public comment. Student representative, Joseph Casillas, said that he used to work at the Depot Restaurant and had noticed that VUSD had an account there. He asked if school money was being used at the restaurant. Mr. Gröeber said that he would look into Mr. Casillas’ question and report his answer at the May 10 board meeting.

Greg Price, Mineral King School teacher, noted that the district is dedicating \$620,000 to the 4th and final year at El Diamante High School, and asked how many FTE's would be added to El Diamante. Mr. Gröeber replied that it would be approximately 10 FTE's for 2005-06, but that he would give a definite answer at the May 10 board meeting.

Board member Martin asked if it was usual that 90% of a school district's general fund budget went for personnel costs. Mr. Gröeber stated that it was "approaching the high end." He said that statewide averages are somewhere between 78% and 84%. He said as districts approach the high 80's% mark, it becomes more difficult to have flexibility in the balance of the budget. Mrs. Martin asked Mr. Gröeber to clarify that the budget updates he brings regularly to the board are only on the general fund budget and that there are numerous other funds used for specific purposes. Mr. Gröeber specifically explained the specific purposes for which Developer Fees may be used. In conclusion, Mrs. Martin extended the board's support of our district teachers. She also spoke of the importance of keeping the district solvent and keeping our buildings maintained.

Mr. Gröeber said that VUSD will not have a firm budget until the state adopts its budget. The district has 45 days to revise its budget following the state budget adoption. In June, Mr. Gröeber will present a "balanced budget" based on the best information we have from the May revise.

Michelle Alvarez, vice president of VUTA, commended the district for its planning and foresight in purchasing property for new schools. She added that she hopes the district will also "extend that planning and foresight to attracting and retaining qualified teachers." In conclusion, Mrs. Alvarez said that VUTA is looking forward to working with the district, school board and PTA to defeat the governor's agenda.

Superintendent Carrizosa reported that Karl Kildow had met with him a couple of weeks ago and talked about the May 25 activity relative to the governor's "agenda" and how we need to pull together to seek, retain and award qualified teachers to VUSD. Mr. Carrizosa agreed that input from VUTA would be very valuable and told Mr. Kildow his calendar would be open for a meeting. Mr. Kildow had told Mr. Carrizosa that he would be talking with the VUTA board regarding the collaborative efforts of the district and VUTA.

Mrs. Alvarez responded that "the best plan that you could put forth is to take that cap away."

Board member Guerrero stated that, relative to Enclosure No. 3, he would not want to act on any restorations "until negotiations are done." He added that he is concerned about our budget and that he does not feel it is strong. He said that VUTA and the district negotiating team "need to talk."

President Elder reminded everyone that the projected outstanding balance of \$770,893 for 2005-06 was the result of the \$1.2 million cuts that were taken from district management and the savings in health benefits. He said that if we take away those cuts and go back to where we were in the health benefits, the bottom line would be substantially different. He added that we

want to do the best we can, but that “its misleading if we constantly look at the bottom line and not recognize that to get there some substantial cuts have had to be made.” Mr. Gröeber restated that the district has had to continue to cut our budget in order to reprioritize money and that, even though the budget continues to grow, our expenses are growing faster than the available revenue stream. He said that over the last three years, the district has made cuts of over \$7 million. The district continues to try to keep the cuts away from the classroom.

Mrs. Martin encouraged everyone’s attendance and questions at the May 19th Board Study Session on the Budget beginning at 6 p.m. Mr. Gröeber said that May 19th is after the release of the governor’s May Revise and the presentation will be on what the district perceives to be the actual impacts on our budget.

President Elder expressed his support of defeating the governor’s proposals.

**GENERAL PUBLIC
COMMENT**

No one from the audience addressed the board at this time.

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

Student representative, Joseph Casillas, reported on upcoming student activities taking place at our district high schools.

Board members reported on attending district Open Houses, the Cornerstone laying at Four Creeks and Oak Grove Elementary Schools by the local Masonic Temple, extended “Kudos” to Golden West for their production of Music Man, attending the Mt. Whitney Foundation Dinner, recognized the Times-Delta for doing an excellent story today on the Special Education students who will be attending this Saturday’s Prom, meeting with state representatives or their staffs in Sacramento on Monday to talk about the budget, and attending the district bus driver’s lunch.

Several board members expressed their respect for our district teachers and thanked them for attending our board meetings. Mr. Guerrero restated his position that he “is not a cap person, because he feels that you become a training ground for other organizations.” Mr. Jones apologized for anything he might have ever said or done that made the teachers feel they were not respected. With regard to the budget, Mr. Jones said that district revenues are increasing 5 percent, while our expenses are increasing 11 percent. Mr. Qualls thanked all district employees who have worked in the classroom and have “touched the lives of our kids every day.”

Mr. Carrizosa acknowledged the respect the district and board members have for our teachers. He said that the district is following the direction of the board and is trying to do “the best we can for all of our staff in the district.” He said that all new dollars are going into the increased costs in personnel and that health care costs have grown more than any other thing in the district.

Board members thanked Joseph Casillas for the excellent job he has done in representing our students at our board meetings. Tonight is Mr. Casillas last meeting as a student representative to the board.

**PUBLIC
HEARING/ACTION
ELEMENTARY
SCIENCE
ADOPTION
Motion No. 185**

Director of Instructional Technology, Scott Smith, presented the background on Enclosure No. 4 relative to Board Policy 6142.93 on the philosophy and belief in how science is taught in the district. A recommendation was made to support the use of AIMS and GEMS instructional materials in the elementary classrooms because these materials present standards-based science concepts through a hands-on approach to learning consistent with our board policy. A Public Hearing was opened on this item. No one addressed the board. The Public Hearing was closed. On a motion by Martin and second by Guerrero, the board approved the use of AIMS and GEMS in our elementary classrooms. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**FOCUS ON
STUDENT
LEARNING
Presentation/Public
Comment/Board
Discussion/ACTION**

(as applicable)
**ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE
INDEX (API) / STATE
TESTING AND
REPORTING
PROGRAM (STAR)
UPDATE**

Coordinator of Assessment and Accountability, Samantha Tate, presented a PowerPoint that updated the district's State Testing and Reporting Program (STAR) as it relates to our Academic Performance Index (API) (Encl. No. 5). Mrs. Tate provided the board with revisions to the original report contained in the enclosure. She explained the noticeable differences between the old method and the new method for calculating API as well as the advantages of the new method. Our teachers and students are currently involved in the test window and have been for the past week and one-half. Mrs. Tate said that beginning with the 2005 API, there will be two new subgroups for comparable improvement—English Learners and Students with Disabilities. She then listed the required components of the API and the assessments to be used in the 2004 API Base for Grades 2 through 11. Mrs. Tate explained that there are two types of weights used to determine API—the test weights, which are related to a student's proficiency level and the content area weight. Also included in the PowerPoint was an example of the API Target Calculation using 5% of the distance to the Statewide Performance Target of 800. The API scale ranges from 200 to 1000. The two major purposes of the API under state law are to measure growth of the school from one year to the next and to rank schools on an annual basis. Mrs. Tate also shared information regarding STAR testing and the different assessment components of the STAR system. Mrs. Tate shared preliminary data relative to the California High School Exit Exam, a criterion referenced assessment based on the California Content Standards, now required for a diploma in 2006. She reported that 60% of our 10th grade students have passed both English Language Arts (ELA) and math; 72% of our 10th grade students have passed ELA and 60% have passed the math; for our grade 11 students, data reflects that 70% have passed both the ELA and math tests; 77% have passed the ELA and 76% have passed the math portion of the CAHSEE. In June, Mrs. Tate will present a board report which will include specific student achievement data as it relates to our sites. Also included in the agenda packet was the API 2004 Academic Performance Index Release which included district and school site data.

<p>REVIEW CSBA REVISION TO BP 1312.3 - UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES - FIRST READING</p>	<p>Enclosure Nos. 6 through 12 were a series of first readings on board policies. The Board Policy Committee has reviewed the policies presented tonight. Enclosure No. 6 reflects new law regarding Uniform Complaint Procedures. The new law authorizes an individual to file a uniform complaint upon belief that the district has not complied with the federal school safety planning requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).</p>
<p>REVIEW NEW CSBA SAMPLE FOR MANDATED AR 1312.4 - WILLIAMS UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES - FIRST READING</p>	<p>Enclosure No. 7 was a CSBA sample for mandated AR 1312.4. The new law (Williams Settlement) mandates districts to adopt a procedure to resolve complaints of deficiencies in instructional materials, emergency or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health and safety of students or staff, and teacher vacancy or misassignment.</p>
<p>REVIEW CSBA REVISION TO BP 1325 - ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION - FIRST READING</p>	<p>Enclosure No. 8 was a CSBA recommended revision that updates the district's status as a limited open forum district for purposes of advertising and promotion.</p>
<p>REVIEW CSBA REVISION TO BP 4113 - ASSIGNMENT - FIRST READING</p>	<p>Enclosure No. 9 included a mandated policy change containing new notes reflecting the Williams Settlement which authorizes the County Superintendent to review teacher assignments and vacancies, with priority given to schools in deciles 1-3 on the API Index.</p>
<p>REVIEW STAFF REVISION TO BP 4118 - SUSPENSION / DISCIPLINARY ACTION - FIRST READING</p>	<p>Enclosure No. 10 included a simple change which brings the district's current policy into alignment with our current practice. It highlights procedures for suspension and disciplinary action with regard to staff and employees.</p>
<p>REVIEW CSBA REVISION TO BP 4331 - STAFF DEVELOPMENT - FIRST READING</p>	<p>Enclosure No. 11 was a revised policy mandated under new law specific to staff development for administrators. The revised policy complies with AB75 and adds instructional improvement to the goals of administrator training and also deletes a paragraph on the administrator training and evaluation program provided pursuant to Education Code.</p>
<p>REVIEW CSBA REVISION TO BP 6161.1 - SELECTION AND EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL</p>	<p>Enclosure No. 12 revisions reflected new law which brings our policy into alignment with the requirements under the Williams Settlement for the review and selection of instructional-based materials. The revision specifies the need for instructional materials to be standards-based, requires the board to hold public hearings within a certain amount of time after school begins to report on the materials and to determine whether or not there are sufficient instructional materials.</p>

MATERIALS - FIRST READING The policy revisions as presented tonight will be brought back to the board for a second review and adoption at the May 10, 2005 board meeting.

ROUTINE ACTION On a motion by Stephenson and second by Guerrero, the Routine Action Items were approved as follows:
Motion No. 186

- 10.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
 - 1. Warrant List - April 1 through April 8, 2005 (Encl. No. 13)
 - 2. 2004-05 Budget Revision No. 12 (Encl. No. 14)
- 10.2 AREA ADMINISTRATORS, K-6; 7-12/Adult
 - 1. Student Field Trip Request(s) (Encl. No. 15)
- 10.3 AREA ADMINISTRATOR, 7-12/Adult
 - 1. Application for Adult Education and Family Literacy/Sections 225/231 and English Literacy/Civics Education (Encl. No. 16)
- 10.4 CURRICULUM/EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
 - 1. Migrant Education Summer Service Agreement (Encl. No. 17)
 - 2. District Service Agreement Revision (Encl. No. 18)
 - 3. Request to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 19)
- 10.5 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
 - 1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 20)
 - 2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 21)
 - 3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 22)
- 10.6 SUPERINTENDENT
 - 1. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of March 15, 2005 (Encl. No. 23)
 - 2. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 22, 2005 (Encl. No. 24)

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
PANEL RECOM-
MENDATIONS /
ACTION**

EXPULSIONS On a motion by Lane and second by Qualls, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Expulsion Case No. 05-95 E, Case No. 05-96 E, Case No. 05-97 E, Case No. 05-98 E, Case No. 05-99 E and Case No. 05-100 E (Encl. No. 25) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.
Motion No. 187

**SUSPENDED
EXPULSIONS** On a motion by Lane and second by Martin, the Administrative Panel Recommendations on Suspended Expulsion Case No. 05-21 SE and Case No. 05-22 SE (Encl. No. 26) were approved. Ayes: all. Motion carried.
Motion No. 188

GENERAL AGENDA

Review / Public Input /
Board Discussion /

ACTION (as
applicable)

RECOMMENDA-
TION TO
ELIMINATE /
REDUCE
PARTICULAR KINDS
OF CLASSIFIED
SERVICE:
CLASSIFIED
POSITIONS
Motion No. 189

On a motion by Qualls and second by Stephenson, the board approved the recommendation included in Enclosure No. 27 and the resolution included in Enclosure No. 28 reducing or eliminating particular kinds of classified services. Decisions on the elimination of the positions were made by School Site Councils. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO
ELIMINATE /
REDUCE
PARTICULAR KINDS
OF CLASSIFIED
SERVICE:
CLASSIFIED
POSITIONS
Motion No. 189

(Encl. No. 28)

VUSD GENERAL
FUND CASH FLOWS
AS OF MARCH 31,
2005

Christine Statton presented a synopsis of our district cash flows showing actual revenues and disbursements for the month of March 2005 and the projected cash flows for April, May and June (Encl. No. 29). Mrs. Statton will present a cash flow report to the board on a monthly basis.

FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE
NORTHWEST
SCHOOL COMPLEX
(AKERS/RIGGINS)
Motion No. 190

On a motion by Qualls and second by Lane, the board approved the final EIR for the Northwest School Complex at Akers and Riggins. A Public Hearing was held on March 8, 2005 to receive suggestions or comments by community members. Any comments or suggestions received were incorporated into the final EIR. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT
AGREEMENT: THREE
(3) ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENTS
Motion No. 191

Enclosure No. 31 included revisions to the contracts for VUSD's three Assistant Superintendents. A revised copy of the backup material was provided at the board table prior to tonight's meeting. The agreements are for three years but are brought for board review and action annually. Superintendent Carrizosa explained the changes in the contracts as noted in the backup information for this item. Michelle Alvarez asked if the management salary schedule could be posted on the district's website. On a motion by Lane and second by Martin, the three contracts were approved.

**CLOSED SESSION
CONTINUED
ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:10 p.m. the board adjourned back into closed session. At 10:41 p.m. the board reconvened in open session. President Elder announced that no action had been taken in closed session. The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be May 10, 2005, 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,

Jim L. Qualls
Clerk

Stan A. Carrizosa
Superintendent/Secretary