

**Visalia Unified School District  
Board of Education  
MINUTES**

**OPENING  
BUSINESS**

The April 24, 2007 Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Donna Martin 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	8:55	
Juan R. Guerrero	5:30	8:55	
Larry Jones	5:30	8:55	
Michael Lane			X
Donna Martin	5:30	8:55	
Jim L. Qualls	5:30	8:55	
Robert Stephenson	5:30	8:55	
 Stan A. Carrizosa, Superintendent	 5:30	 8:55	

**Staff Members**

Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
 Carlyn Lambert, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Educational Services  
 Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development  
 Pam Ryan, Executive Assistant, Superintendent's Office  
 Steven Cook, Student Representative

**CLOSED SESSION**

President Martin then identified the closed session topics listed below and called for public comment on the closed session items. There was none. The Board adjourned to closed session.

- 2.1 RECOMMENDED EXPULSIONS
- 2.2 RECOMMENDED SUSPENDED EXPULSIONS
- 2.3 RECOMMENDED REINSTATEMENTS
- 2.5 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
  - 1. Agency Negotiator: Cindi Costa
  - 2. Employee Organizations
    - 1. CSEA
    - 2. VUTA 2007-08
    - 3. Management 2007-08

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board convened the regular Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. President Martin announced that no action was taken in closed session. Michael Lane was unable to attend tonight's meeting because of work obligations. Juan Guerrero led the Pledge of Allegiance. Superintendent Carrizosa announced that one item has been revised on Routine Action to the Certificated Personnel Report. Copies of the revised report have been distributed.

**PUBLIC**

**RECOGNITION/  
PROCLAMATIONS/  
ACTION**

**ACCEPTANCE OF  
DONATION FROM  
WELLS FARGO  
BANK**

Motion No. 172

Mr. Carrizosa reported that the district has received a \$1,000 donation from Wells Fargo Bank that will go into an account to help with the startup costs for library books for the new elementary schools. (Encl. No. 1)

Jim Qualls moved to accept the donation from Wells Fargo Bank. Juan Guerrero seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION  
DECLARING  
APRIL 24, 2007  
CALIFORNIA  
SCHOOL BUS  
DRIVERS DAY**

Motion No. 173

Mr. Guerrero read the Resolution Declaring April 24, 2007 California School Bus Drivers Day. (Encl. No. 2)

Rob Stephenson moved to approve the Resolution. Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION  
DECLARING MAY  
2007 ASIAN PACIFIC  
HERITAGE MONTH**

Motion No. 174

Mr. Guerrero read the Resolution Declaring May 2007 Asian Pacific Heritage Month. (Encl. No. 3)

Rodney Elder moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/  
PUBLIC INTEREST  
ANNOUNCEMENTS/  
STATUS REPORTS/  
ACTION**

**GENERAL PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**INITIAL  
NEGOTIATIONS  
PROPOSAL OF  
VISALIA UNIFIED  
TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION TO  
VUSD FOR  
2007-08**

Karl Kildow, President of Visalia Unified Teachers Association, presented the Initial Negotiations Proposal of Visalia Unified Teachers Association to VUSD for 2007-2008. (Encl. No. 4) The current collective bargaining agreement expires on June 30, 2007. Mr. Kildow reviewed each conceptual proposal reflecting concerns and issues raised in the contract survey completed by VUTA members.

President Martin requested a copy of the results of the bargaining survey that Mr. Kildow referred to.

**NAMING OF NEW  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOLS**

Doug Bartsch, Area Administrator (K-6 Schools), reported that as per Board Policy, two Ad Hoc Committees were formed and were responsible for receiving and screening school name suggestions and submitting the recommendations to the Board for its consideration and approval. Mr. Bartsch shared the process that was used by the committees resulting in the recommendations being presented. (Encl. No. 5)

The following are historical/geographical names for Board consideration of the Northwest Site:

- Sierra View
- Valley View
- Walnut Grove

The following are historical/geographical names for Board consideration of the Southeast Site:

- Cameron Creek
- Walnut Gove
- Cherry Meadow

The following names of individuals were also submitted for consideration:

- Annie R. Mitchell
- Manuel F. Hernandez
- Bill Maguy
- Bob McClain
- Cliff Denham
- Dr. George Tiss
- Rienold "Pete" Peterson
- Ruby De La Cruz

The Board will hold a Special Study Session on May 3, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. to review the criteria in Board Policy 7310 – Naming of Facilities, and receive detailed information regarding each of the individual names presented. The first reading of all of the possible names for the two new elementary schools will be held at the Board meeting on May 8 and Board action will take place at the May 22 Board meeting.

**GUEST TEACHER  
PROGRAM: 2007-08**

Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development, and Fernie Marroquin, Administrator, Human Resources Development, presented the proposed Guest Teacher Program: 2007-2008. (Encl. No. 6) The Guest Teacher Program is the new terminology for the substitute teaching program for certificated staff.

Proposed changes:

- Streamline the Guest Teacher Orientation
- Provide additional resources
- Advertise for Guest Teachers on EDJOIN
- Enlist Guest Teachers at recruitment events
- Advertise for Guest Teachers at local colleges and universities
- Establish quarterly meetings with Guest Teachers for feedback
- Increase daily Guest Teacher pay rate to \$105 per day

**Public Comment:**

Karl Kildow, President of VUTA, commended the program set to increase the Guest Teacher pool. He suggested contracting with retirees to cover such days as staff development in advance.

**2007-08 HEALTH  
INSURANCE  
FUNDING RATE  
REPORT**

Susan Cox, Director of Risk Management, presented an overview of the VUSD insurance funding rates. (Encl. No. 7) This year the district requested competitive quotes for medical, prescription, dental, vision and life insurance. The combined annual rate for certificated/management is an increase of approximately 5.5% and classified is an increase of approximately 4.9%.

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

Steven Cook, Student Representative to the Board from El Diamante High School, gave a brief summary of the events that are taking place at each of the four comprehensive high schools.

The Board members' reports included the following:

- Items in the newspaper on Ivanhoe taking pride in their community
- Commended Ivanhoe Elementary School Principal Debbie Cardoza for her work with parents. Approximately 150 parents graduated from the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE).
- Commended Ivanhoe School for receiving a School Community Violence Prevention Grant providing \$100,000 for five years. Urged other schools to apply.
- Attended Charter Alternatives Academy-Packwood Open House
- Attended Mason's Recognition Event
- Attended expulsion hearing as an observer
- Attended breakfast honoring VUSD bus drivers
- Commended bus drivers for their safety record
- Rode a school bus during its morning route
- Made presentation with the Superintendent and Lucinda Mejdell-Awbrey at the National School Board Association meeting on the district's coordinated school health program
- The VUSD Board is a part of the Tulare County School Board Association. The School Board scholarship selection took place last week. One student from each of the four comprehensive high schools was awarded a scholarship. Those recipients will be recognized at a future Board meeting.

Superintendent Carrizosa thanked Katie Avila for the work being done in the Transportation Department. Friday, April 27 at 5:30 p.m. is the Visalia PTA Hall of Fame event at LJ Williams Theater featuring VUSD site honorees along with inductees into the PTA Hall of Fame.

**FOCUS ON  
STUDENT  
LEARNING  
STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT  
THROUGH LIBRARY**

George Pilling and Jayne Forbes, Library Media Managers, presented a report on the state of school libraries in VUSD. (Encl. No. 8) Library services provided at each school and those offered through the Visalia Learning Center play a key role in the academic success

**MEDIA SERVICES** of Visalia Unified students.

These services were reviewed:

- ❖ Curriculum and Instruction
- ❖ Struggling readers
- ❖ Targeted sub-groups
- ❖ Extended year programs
- ❖ Visalia Learning Center
- ❖ Author visits

**SEQUOIA  
CONTINUATION  
HIGH SCHOOL  
RESTRUCTURE-  
2007-08**

John Ramirez, Principal, presented the Sequoia Continuation High School Restructure 2007-2008 plan, the proposed school-within-a-school model, that includes the development of career/student pathways designed to better meet the needs of students. (Encl. No. 9) These pathways would be in addition to the other courses that meet the high school requirements.

Motion No. 175

Mr. Ramirez reviewed the following proposed pathways:

- ❖ Health Academy
- ❖ Culinary Arts Academy
- ❖ Visual and Performing Arts Academy

Juan Guerrero moved to approve the proposed restructure for Sequoia Continuation High School. Rob Stephenson seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

**CAREER  
TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION STATE  
FUNDING  
AUGMENTATION**

Pat Flattley, Director, Career Technical Education (CTE)/Alternative Education, reported on the Career Technical Education State Funding Augmentation. (Encl. No. 10) Visalia Unified School District received \$230,957.00 from the State for one-time Career Technical Education equipment purchase. These funds could only be used for equipment, supplies and minor facility reconfiguration. VUSD is also receiving an allocation of \$33,098.00 from TCOVE. Each site submitted an expenditure plan for approval.

Motion No. 176

Rob Stephenson moved to approve the site expenditure plans and Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

**ROUTINE ACTION**  
Motion No. 177

Donna Martin pulled 8.3.5 (Encl. No. 22) – Rejection of Liability Claim No. 070068 from the list of Routine Action items.

A revised list has been distributed for 8.3.2 (Encl. 19) – Certificated Personnel Report.

Larry Jones moved to approve the remaining Routine Action Items, Encl. No. 11-24, including the revised Certificated Personnel Report. Rodney Elder seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

#### 8.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List - March 30, 2007 through March 30, 2007 (Encl. No. 11)
2. 2006-07 Budget Revision No. 14 (Encl. No. 12)
3. VUSD General Fund Cash Flows as of March 31, 2007 (Encl. No. 13)

4. Cafeteria Meal Price Increase (Encl. No. 14)
- 8.2 AREA ADMINISTRATORS, K-6; 7-12/Adult
    1. Student Field Trip Request(s) (Encl. No. 15)
    2. School Community Violence Prevention Grant (Encl. No. 16)
    3. Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Visalia Recreation Department - Manuel Hernandez Center and Valley Oak Middle School After-school Program (Encl. No. 17)
  - 8.3 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
    1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 18)
    2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 19)
    3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 20)
    4. Certification of Temporary Athletic Team Coach List for 2006-07 (Encl. No. 21)
    5. Rejection of Liability Claim No. 070068 (Encl. No. 22)
  - 8.4 SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
    1. Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 27, 2007 (Encl. No. 23)
    2. Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 10, 2007 (Encl. No. 24)

Motion No. 178 Jim Qualls moved to approve 8.3.5 (Encl. No. 22) that was pulled from the list of Routine Action items. Rodney Elder seconded the motion. Ayes: Elder, Guerrero, Jones, Qualls and Stephenson. Abstain: Martin. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
PANEL RECOM-  
MENDATIONS/  
ACTION**

**EXPULSIONS**  
Motion No. 179 Jim Qualls moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Expulsions Case No. 07-96 E, Case No. 07-97 E and Case No. 07-98 E. (Encl. No. 25) Rob Stephenson seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

**SUSPENDED  
EXPULSIONS**  
Motion No. 180 Rodney Elder moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Suspended Expulsions Case No. 07-34 SE, Case No. 07-35 SE and Case No. 07-36 SE. (Encl. No. 26) Juan Guerrero seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

**REVIEWS-  
CONTINUED  
EXPULSIONS**  
Motion No. 181 Rodney Elder moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Reviews-Continued Expulsions Case No. 07-80 R and Case No. 07-81 R. (Encl. No. 27) Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: Elder, Jones, Martin, Qualls and Stephenson. Absent temporarily from the room: Guerrero. Motion carried.

**GENERAL AGENDA  
RECOMMENDATION  
TO ELIMINATE/  
REDUCE  
PARTICULAR**

**KINDS OF** Fernie Marroquin, Administrator, Human Resources Development, presented the Recommendation to Eliminate/Reduce Particular Kinds of Classified Service: Classified Position. (Encl. No. 28) This position is currently vacant. This position is for an instructional aid that is funded by donations from Save the Children specific to supporting students in their use of the Accelerated Reader Program. This position will be realigned

CLASSIFIED

SERVICE:

CLASSIFIED

POSITION

Motion No. 182

and changed at the donor's request.

Jim Qualls moved to approve the Recommendation and Rodney Elder seconded the motion. Ayes: Elder, Jones, Martin, Qualls and Stephenson. Absent from the room temporarily: Guerrero. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO

ELIMINATE/

REDUCE

PARTICULAR KINDS

OF CLASSIFIED

SERVICE:

CLASSIFIED

POSITION

Motion No. 183

This Resolution enacts the above recommendation when approved by the Board. (Encl. No. 29)

Jim Qualls moved to approve the Resolution and Rodney Elder seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

STANDARDS FOR

APPROVAL OF

INTERDISTRICT

TRANSFERS

Motion No. 184

Lucinda Mejdell-Awbrey, Director of Student Services, presented the Standards for Approval of Interdistrict Transfers. (Encl. No. 30) Because of overcrowded conditions at all elementary schools, it is recommended that the Board adopt a standard to deny all new interdistrict transfer requests involving Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students for the 2007-2008 school year. The only exception to this Board standard would be those requests for placement in the Charter Home Schooling Program and those requests would only be approved specific to that program. The recommendation is to keep open interdistrict transfers for grades 7-12 with the District deciding which schools would be open depending on enrollment at the schools.

Juan Guerrero moved to approve this recommendation. Rob Stephenson seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

PROPOSED BUS

DRIVER INCENTIVE

PROGRAM

Motion No. 185

Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services and Katie Avila, Transportation Manager, presented the Proposed Bus Driver Incentive Program. (Encl. No. 31) The Transportation Department is critically short of qualified licensed school bus drivers. The proposed program will, when conditions merit, provide an incentive to current drivers that recommend qualified candidates that are hired and retained and reward newly hired drivers by paying for their costs incurred in the hiring process and for successful completion of six months and one year of employment. Incentives will be paid from salary savings from vacant positions.

The Proposed Incentive Program has two parts:

Part 1: Current Driver Referrals

- \$500 for referring a successful driver - \$250 at 6 months with satisfactory or better reviews
- \$250 at one year with satisfactory or better review

Part 2: New Driver Incentive - \$1,000 during 1<sup>st</sup> year

- \$300 at hire to offset out of pocket costs

- \$300 at successful completion of 6 months with satisfactory or better reviews
- \$400 at 1 year anniversary with satisfactory or better reviews

Larry Jones moved to approve the Proposed Bus Driver Incentive Program. Rob Stephenson seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 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,

---

Michael Lane  
Clerk

---

Stan A. Carrizosa  
Superintendent