

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

**OPENING  
BUSINESS**

The May 12, 2009 Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Juan Guerrero 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	8:50	
William A. Fulmer	5:30	8:50	
Juan R. Guerrero	5:30	8:50	
Larry Jones	5:30	8:50	
Michael Lane	5:30	8:50	
Donna Martin	5:30	8:50	
Jim L. Qualls	5:30	8:50	

**Staff Members**

Stan A. Carrizosa, Superintendent	5:30	8:50
Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services		
Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development		
Pam Ryan, Administrative Assistant, Superintendent's Office		
Matt Sweeney, Student Representative		

**CLOSED SESSION**

President Guerrero 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 (Education Code Sections 48900, et. seq.)
- 2.2 RECOMMENDED SUSPENDED EXPULSION
- 2.3 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ASSIGNMENT/REASSIGNMENT/APPOINTMENT (Government Code Section 54957)
  - 1. Elementary School Principals (2)
  - 2. La Joya Middle School Principal
  - 3. Visalia Charter Independent Study Principal
- 2.4 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54957.6)
  - 1. Agency Negotiator: Cindi Costa
  - 2. Employee Organizations
    - 1. CSEA
    - 2. VUTA
    - 3. Management
- 2.5 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8) (Encl. No. 1)
  - Property: 1821 West Meadow Avenue, Visalia – APN No. 096-011-022
  - Agency Negotiator: Robert Gröeber, Randy Groom
  - Negotiating Parties: NGPA Inc., Marty Zeeb
  - Under Negotiation: Price and terms of potential purchase

**EARLY BIRD  
SESSION**

RECOGNITION OF  
MT. WHITNEY HIGH  
SCHOOL – 2009  
CALIFORNIA  
DISTINGUISHED  
SCHOOL  
RECIPIENT

The Early Bird Session opened at 6:40 p.m.

On Friday, May 29, 2009, the California School Recognition Program (CSRP) will recognize outstanding middle and high schools at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished School Awards Ceremony in Anaheim, California. The California Department of Education will honor two hundred and sixty-one (261) outstanding schools from all over California that have significantly increased achievement for all students and also have risen to the challenge of closing the achievement gap. Mt. Whitney High School will be recognized as one of the 2009 California Distinguished School recipients. (Encl. No. 2)

Superintendent Carrizosa presented Principal Jeff Hohne with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Education and District staff congratulating the Mt. Whitney staff and their students for receiving this prestigious award. Alvin Griffis with Valley Financial Advisors, representing the Association of California Administrators, presented Principal Hohne with a certificate recognizing Mt. Whitney High School for its achievement. A reception was held in their honor in conference room 4.

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board convened the regular Board meeting at 7:25 p.m. Superintendent Carrizosa reported on the administrative action taken regarding the assignments of elementary principals. Marty Frolli, currently Principal at Goshen Elementary School, will be the Principal at Pinkham Elementary School starting in the fall of 2009.

Motion No. 152

President Guerrero announced that the following action was taken in closed session. On a motion by Michael Lane and seconded by Bill Fulmer, the Board voted unanimously in favor to appoint two new elementary school principals and one new middle school principal for the 2009-10 school year, and they are as follows: Mimi Bonds-Principal of Goshen Elementary School, Evaristo Trevino-Principal at Four Creek Elementary School, and Melanie String-Principal at La Joya Middle School.

Jim Qualls led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Charles Ulmschneider**, Flagstaff Avenue in Visalia, stated that he would be addressing the Board later in the meeting regarding the California Voting Rights Act and thanked some of the Board members for having the courtesy to return his email. He made a public comment on the District's curriculum. He stated that he is a public school teacher, certified out of San Diego State University. He asked Mr. Carrizosa to please stop the language discrimination and bring back German in Redwood High School. He stated, "There is a German teacher there fully credentialed. You have been asked this a couple of years ago. You should have all three languages, the major ones, Spanish, French, and German, in all

four high schools. I am a foreign language advocate also. Stop the black-balling of me. You know all about me. I am fully credentialed and cannot even sub for Visalia Unified. Stop it. You know about it. There is no question you know about it.”

**Richard Bebout** stated the he spoke to the Board approximately a year ago about the CIF violations at Redwood High School with the track and field program. He reviewed the investigation and made these comments:

- Investigation was due to the lack of integrity of the administration and coaches
- Redwood was found guilty of three of four charges by CIF
- Redwood was given information eight months before the investigation about the falsification of times but did nothing
- Coach was fired then rehired with no explanation
- As a result of the investigation, his daughter was assaulted by male athletes verbally and in writing continuously even after staff knew of it. Will no longer allow his children to participate
- Love for the children does not exist at Redwood High School
- Requested that Board investigate

**Alex Bebout**, a concerned citizen about the Redwood High School Track and Field. He stated:

- Has been a spectator at the track and field events
- Volunteered as a timer and official and has seen the things Richard has mentioned
- Niece won an event, went back to team tent and coaches walked away
- Feels a disease has infected the program there and the administration
- Will it infect this Board, too?

**Dave Tonini, Principal of Green Acres Middle School**, recognized the Science Olympiad Team coaches and students for their accomplishments over the past four years representing Tulare County at the State Science Olympiad. For the past two years, the team has placed seventh. This last year’s team one 24 medals from first to fifth place competing with the best students in northern California.

## H1N1VIRUS REPORT

Lucinda Mejdell-Awbrey, Director of Student Services, presented the H1N1 Virus Report. (Encl. No. 3) This virus was first known as the swine flu, but the scientific community has given the virus the name of H1N1 virus. It is a new virus that mutated from swine flu, bird flu, and human flu virus. Humans have no protection for this virus. It tends to affect children and young adults; people with strong immune systems, which is of concern to the medical community. It is moving quickly across the globe.

For the past two years, staff have been attending updates that have been sponsored by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) learning about what a possible pandemic could look like and what characteristics the virus would have so that the District could prepare for this situation. Partnerships with the Tulare County Department of Health Services and the Center for Disease Control helped the school district respond quickly when the H1N1 virus was experienced in our own community.

Timeline of events that occurred:

- From April 24<sup>th</sup> – April 27<sup>th</sup>, news reports showed infections in Mexico resulting in some deaths
- VUSD put out information to staff, parents, and students about how to protect themselves from types of viral or bacterial infection
- April 29<sup>th</sup> VUSD received call from the Health Department that the first confirmed case in Tulare County was a kindergartener at Mt. View Elementary School
- Within an hour, at the direction of the Health Department, all steps were put in place to close Mt. View School
- Worked daily with the Health Department on new guidelines for suspicious cases
- May 4, decision from the Health Department to reopen Mt. View School
- Reviewed answers to common questions that were received
  - Why weren't all schools close?
    - Worked closely with the Tulare County Health Department, State Health Department, and the Center for Disease Control following specific standards and recommended that when having one case that is not extremely severe, there is no reason to shut down the entire school district
  - Why did the district close Mt. View School when the virus is mild in the U.S.?
    - When the district first received word about the Mt. View student, people were still dying in Mexico
    - Scientists had not had enough time to look at the genetic makeup closely to come to a conclusion
    - Again, we had to follow the decisions of the experts
  - Is it safe for my child to come to school now?
    - Reminded staff, students, and parents of frequent hand washing
    - Reminded parents to not send students to school who were sick
    - Health Department stressed that if students have a fever and flu like symptoms to keep the child home for seven days

The Board commended staff for taking appropriate steps and measures.

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

Matthew Sweeney attended the meeting for Christ Ruiz, Student Representative to the Board from Golden West High School, who was unable to attend the meeting. Matthew gave a brief summary of the events that are taking place at each of the high schools.

The Board members' reports included the following:

- Congratulated all high school sports and co-curricular programs
- Worked at area track meet at Golden West. Jim Qualls has worked for 25 years at VUSD track meets weighing in implements. He stated that track meets are technical and above-board. He is impressed by the professionalism and integrity of the coaches and staff. Complimented the grounds staff that work at Golden West.

- Thanked Ms. Thorin and the Golden West Journalism Department for their work on the *Pathway* literature and arts magazine—another way for students to stay connected with their school
- Attended another outstanding All District Music Festival and heard elementary, middle school, and high school orchestra performances
- Attended quarterly meeting with the City Council
- Attended Crystal Awards Ceremony
- Attended California Scholastic Federation (CSF) Awards Luncheon organized by the YMCA
- Attended the Hispanic Advisory Committee
- Attended Visalia Adult School Multi-Cultural Festival
- Attended Car Show for StepUp Multi-Agency Gang Task Force fund raiser at the Adult School grounds
- Commented on news article regarding a student from El Diamante High School, Johnny Walker and his accomplishments

Superintendent Carrizosa thanked Matt Sweeney for his report tonight in Chris Ruiz’s absence. He was able to meet Matt as he interviewed students at Golden West for Camp Royal. Matt will be representing Golden West at Camp Royal this summer.

Mr. Carrizosa gave an update on the bus accident that happened today. No one was seriously injured. Three students and two adults were transported to the hospital for assessment and were released. The District is working closely with the California Highway Patrol in their investigation of the accident. He thanked Marty Frolli, Principal of Goshen Elementary School, and staff who served as an emergency location for the students. Nurses were present to assess students and breakfast was served.

Golden West hosted its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> starts the day with the annual all coaches’ clinic; in the afternoon Frank Escobar’s afterschool program, PULSE, is hosting a spring BBQ for their end of the year event; and Saturday night is the SlickRock Film Festival with schools from around the valley participating.

**FOCUS ON  
STUDENT  
LEARNING**

Presentation/Public  
Comment/Board  
Discussion/ACTION

(as applicable)

**VUSD EXTENDED-  
YEAR (SUMMER  
SCHOOL) PROGRAM  
PLAN**

Drew Sorensen, Area Administrator-Instructional Services, presented the VUSD Extended-Year (Summer School) Program Plan. (Encl. No. 4) Extended year for middle school students will be from June 8<sup>th</sup> and continue through July 2<sup>nd</sup>. High school students will attend from June 8<sup>th</sup> and continuing through July 16<sup>th</sup>. The classes offered are primarily for students who are in need of remediation, having failing grades, showing

difficulty in not being able to pass the CAHSEE, or may be behind in credits for graduation. A limited amount of acceleration classes will also be offered. Expenses for Summer School/Extended Year come out of supplemental funds as a reimbursement from state funds, other federal and state categorical, and grant funds. No general fund money is used.

**ROUTINE ACTION** Bill Fulmer moved to approve the Routine Action Items, Encl. No. 5-20. Rodney Elder  
Motion No. 153 seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

- 8.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
  - 1. Warrant List – April 23, 2009 through April 23, 2009 (Encl. No. 5)
  - 2. 2008-2009 Budget Revision No. 15 (Encl. No. 6)
  - 3. Change Order #1 – El Diamante High School Band & Choir Room HVAC Project (Encl. No. 7)
  - 4. Federal Surplus Property Resolution (Encl. No. 8)
- 8.2 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
  - 1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 9)
  - 2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 10)
  - 3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 11)
  - 4. Certification of Temporary Athletic Team Coach List for 2008-09 (Encl. No. 12)
  - 5. Rejection of Liability Claim No. 090037 (Encl. No. 13)
  - 6. Rejection of Liability Claim No. 090039 (Encl. No. 14)
- 8.3 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES
  - 1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 15)
  - 2. 2009-2010 Designation of California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Representatives to Leagues (Encl. No. 16)
  - 3. Memorandum of Understanding Between Turning Point Youth Services and Visalia Unified School District (Encl. No. 17)
  - 4. Secondary District Plan and Application for Work Experience Education (WEE) Program (Encl. No. 18)
- 8.4 SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE
  - 1. Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 14, 2009 (Encl. No. 19)
  - 2. California School Boards Association (CSBA) Membership Renewal for 2009-2010 (Encl. No. 20)

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
PANEL RECOM-  
MENDATIONS/  
ACTION  
EXPULSIONS**

Juan Guerrero pulled Case No. 09-115 E.

Motion No. 154 Michael Lane moved to accept the remaining Administrative Panel Recommendations for Expulsions Case No. 09-113 E, Case No. 09-114 E, Case No. 09-116 E, Case No. 09-117 E, Case No. 09-118 E, Case No. 09-119 E, Case No. 09-120 E, Case No. 09-121 E, Case No. 09-122 E, Case No. 09-123 E, Case No. 09-124 E, Case No. 09-125 E, Case No. 09-126 E, and Case No. 09-127 E. (Encl. No. 21) Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes:

All. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion No. 155 Michael Lane moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendation for Expulsion Case No. 09-115E. Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: Elder, Fulmer, Jones, Lane, Martin, and Qualls. Abstain: Guerrero. Motion carried.

SUSPENDED EXPULSIONS Motion No. 156 Rodney Elder moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Suspended Expulsions Case No. 09-38 SE, Case No. 09-39 SE, and Case No. 09-40 SE. (Encl. No. 22) Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**GENERAL AGENDA**

Review/Public Hearing/

Public Input/

Board Discussion/

**ACTION** (as applicable)

RESOLUTION TO INITIATE A CHANGE OF ELECTION SYSTEM TO TRUSTEE AREA ELECTIONS

As per Board direction, staff prepared a resolution that would authorize a change in the VUSD Board of Trustee Area Election boundaries. (Encl. No. 23) This proposed change takes into consideration the rapid growth in District population since the last federal population census in 2000. It also takes into consideration that the next official census is coming up in 2010, and those results will be available to districts in 2011. This data would be the most accurate and cost effective data to use in changing boundaries and balancing trustee election areas.

This proposed change also conforms to the recent Trustee Area Election Boundary Study Plan already approved by the Board and will allow this process to continue with the Community Advisory Committee serving to advise the Board on the formation of trustee election areas and boundaries.

Special legal analysis may need to occur and appropriate actions, such as waiver requests and/or public document amendments, may be necessary to assist the implementation of this action due to the mention of the VUSD at-large elections in the Visalia City Charter.

Staff is prepared to work with the Advisory Committee, School Board, and both District and City legal council when necessary, to take appropriate steps to implement this proposed change in accordance with the timeline approved in the Resolution and Boundary Study Plan.

**Public Comment**

Charles Ulmschneider, Flagstaff Ave., Visalia, stated the following:

- School district is a separate entity and is separate from the City of Visalia
- State law supersedes local law as well as the Federal Voting Rights Act
- California Voting Rights Act was passed in 2001, enhances the Federal Voting Rights Act, and addresses minority/majority districts

- Has been in contact with the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights in San Francisco as well as Joaquin Avila, one of the United States experts of over 40 years
- Believes VUSD is out of compliance
- District can use the 2000 census and no committee needs to be formed
- Advised staff to look online under National Center for Educational Statics-- bases their demographic data on the census of 2000
- VUSD qualifies per the Election Code 14025-14032
- In touch with Tulare County Committee on School District Organization, of which Jim Vidak and Joe Hallmeyer are members, which is ultimately responsible as well
- Suggested that the Board act independently as their elected obligations to do the right thing, especially involving this sensitive issue, because ultimately it involves civil rights, and recommend to the Tulare County Committee on School District Organization to go to district only elections
- Believes it could be done this month
- Board of Trustee areas are already in place
- Board could recommend to the Tulare County Committee on School District Organization to have a vote given by the district electorate or that committee could also unilaterally recommend to the State of California Board of Education to go directly to district only elections
- He is hoping to coordinate and facilitate this and save money
- Waiver would go before the State Board of Education, and he plans to pursue this route
- Spoke with the Tulare County Registrar of Voters today, and it is not too problematic to have the vote for the district only with the areas that are already in place. With the computer now it is only a matter of programming where just those votes are isolated and counted.

Board Discussion:

- Michael Lane--thanked Superintendent Carrizosa for his work on this. The 2000 census is irrelevant with the changes that have taken place in this community and the population growth. Numbers in each trustee area are no longer correct. Even before the housing boom, Area 5 with the three trustees only had about 19,000 residents and Area 1 had 26,000, so the idea that the current areas could still be used is problematic. That is why the suggestion came up to break the school district into seven trustee areas and then have trustees voted on by residents in those areas. An opportunity has been laid out for the community to become involved. As the areas are drawn, the District will still need to review them every five years.
- Larry Jones--wanted to make sure that the resolution includes the fact that the District will be split into seven different areas to be elected by those who live in the trustee area. School district must work closely with the city planners to know what parts of the city are being developed.
- Rodney Elder--believes that what the Board is doing is appropriate in making sure the Voting Rights Act is followed but also that the community is well represented and involved in the process with due diligence and doing what the Board was



elected to do. Dividing the city into seven areas will take some time.

- Jim Qualls--agreed with fellow Board members about being prudent with due diligence. If attorneys get involved with this, it only takes money away from the community and our kids. We want to keep that money here for the education of our children. This cannot be done overnight.
- Juan Guerrero--this matter came up at the Board President's Retreat in January 2008 as a task to study, then it was brought to the public in October 2008. We are following our timeline. It was decided at the last Board meeting to discuss this resolution and to bring this resolution forward. We need to state the seven trustee areas in the resolution.

Motion No. 157

Larry Jones moved to amend the resolution in recital #4, to read: The Board of Trustees believes that "by-trustee area" elections from seven trustee areas will provide for an enhanced opportunity for representation of all communities within the district on the Board of Trustees. Rodney Elder seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Jim Qualls read the revised resolution to include the above changes.

Motion No. 158

Bill Fulmer moved to approve the revised Resolution in the Matter of Instituting By-Trustee Area Elections to Comply with the California and Federal Voting Rights Acts. Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

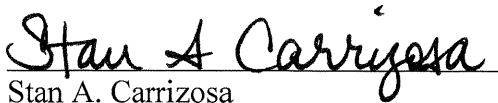
The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 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 A. Qualls  
Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stan A. Carrizosa  
Superintendent