

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

**OPENING
BUSINESS**

The September 28, 2010 Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Jim Qualls 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>
Tim Chaney	5:30	9:10	
Rodney Elder	5:30	9:10	
William A. Fulmer	5:30	9:10	
Larry Jones	5:30	8:45	
Donna Martin	5:30	9:10	
Jim L. Qualls	5:30	9:10	
Charles Ulmschneider	5:30	9:10	
 Dr. Craig Wheaton, Superintendent	 5:30	 9:10	

Staff Members

Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development
Pam Ryan, Administrative Assistant, Superintendent's Office
Ben Hash, Student Representative

CLOSED SESSION

President Qualls 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 REINSTATEMENTS (Education Code Sections 48900, et. seq.)
- 2.2 RECOMMENDED CONTINUED EXPULSIONS
- 2.3 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54957.6)
 - 1. Agency Negotiator: Cindi Costa
 - 2. Employee Organizations
 - 1. CSEA
 - 2. VUTA
 - 3. Management
- 2.8
- 2.4 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
Property: 505 North Court (Downtown Annex), Visalia APN - #94355011
Agency negotiator: Robert Gröeber
Negotiating parties: HEART/Pro Youth
Under negotiation: Shared Use Agreement

REGULAR SESSION

The Board convened the regular Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. President Qualls announced that no action was taken in closed session. Rodney Elder led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC
RECOGNITION/
PROCLAMATIONS/
ACTION**

RESOLUTION – Board Clerk, Bill Fulmer, read the Resolution – Character Education Month – October 2010 and *Character Counts! Week* – October 17-23, 2010. (Encl. No. 1)
CHARACTER
EDUCATION
MONTH-OCTOBER
2010 AND
*CHARACTER
COUNTS! WEEK* –
OCTOBER 17-23, 2010

Charles Ulmschneider moved to approve the Resolution. Tim Chaney seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**GENERAL PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Public Comment

Carlyn Lambert, retired VUSD Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Educational Services, invited the Board to an Open House Reception on Thursday, October 21 on behalf of the district's newest charter school, Visalia Technical Education Center (VTEC). The reception will be held at VTEC beginning at 6:00 p.m. Community members have been working with COS, Dr. Todd Oto, Stacey Curschman, and Victoria Porter, the Principal, and others on this Open House that will provide one way to inform the community about VTEC's mission, purpose, and the students it serves.

Crystal Levan, a Crowley Elementary School parent, spoke to the Board regarding her children's safety and suspension.

Jeremy Gill, spoke to the Board regarding a minor league football team coming to Visalia and the use of football fields. He was referred to Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent-Administrative Services, and Drew Sorensen, Area Superintendent, to discuss this.

**PARENT
UNIVERSITY 2010-
2011 UPDATE**

Araceli Ozuna, Coordinator-State and Federal Projects, presented the Parent University 2010-2011 Update. (Encl. No. 2) Visalia Unified continues offering parent education courses during the 2010-2011 school year through its Parent University Program. The goal of Parent University is to engage, connect, and empower parents to support their children's education. Parents are actively recruited to attend programs offered at each of the district's primary through secondary sites. Parent University includes programs such as: Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE), Parents and Children Together (PACT), Positive Discipline, English as a Second Language (ESL), and Site Based Programs. Each school site in the district will participate in a parent education offering

within the three rotation models of Parent University. A total of 2,812 parents have completed VUSD Parent University Programs since 2007.

**FEDERAL
EDUCATION JOBS
FUND UPDATE**

Christine Statton, CPA, Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the newly passed Federal Education Jobs Fund Program (a component of the Federal Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act of 2010). (Encl. No. 3) This funding is intended for salaries and benefits and to maintain and/or expand jobs at school sites. The district anticipates receiving the funding in October 2010. Mrs. Statton discussed the funding and potential uses. It is estimated that VUSD will receive \$4.5M.

**HIGH SCHOOL
CAREER
TECHNICAL
EDUCATION
REPORT ON
VISALIA PARTNERS
IN EDUCATION FOR
2009-2010**

Dr. Todd Oto, Area Superintendent, presented the High School Career Technical Education Report on Visalia Partners in Education (VPIE) for 2009-2010. (Encl. No. 4) The update contained activities undertaken by VPIE in support of career technical education including partnerships, program expenditures, and academic achievement of CTE students.

**INITIAL
NEGOTIATIONS
PROPOSAL OF
VISALIA UNIFIED
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION TO
VUSD FOR 2011-12**

Karl Kildow, VUTA President, presented the Initial Negotiations Proposal of Visalia Unified Teachers Association to VUSD for 2011-12 for a first reading. (Encl. No. 5) Government Code Section 3547 requires all initial contact proposal of the Board and an employee organization which relate to matters within the scope of representation be presented at a public meeting and be made available for public review at the District Office for a reasonable period of time. The initial contract "interests" are to be "sunshined" prior to the start of negotiations. These will be available for review in the office of the Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development until the next regular Board meeting on October 12. The Board will hold a public hearing on October 12 and allow the public to comment on the proposal prior to formally acknowledging receipt of VUTA's initial contract proposal.

There was no public comment.

**VUSD INTERESTS/
INITIAL PROPOSAL
FOR CERTIFICATED
NEGOTIATIONS**

Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development, presented VUSD Interests/Initial Proposal for Certificated Negotiations. (Encl. No. 6) The same Government Code Section and requirements apply to this proposal as well. This is the first reading. The District's initial contract "interests" will be available for review in the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Development until the next regular Board meeting on October 12, and would allow the public to comment on the "interests" submitted by VUSD prior to adopting its initial contract "interests".

There was no public comment.

**BOARD MEMBER
REPORTS/**

Ben Hash, Student Representative to the Board from Golden West High School, gave a brief summary of the events that are taking place at each of the high schools.

**SUPERINTEN-
DENT'S REPORT**

The Board members' reports included the following:

- Larry Jones
 - Attended Educators of the Year Awards and Banquet at the Chinese Cultural Center on September 23
 - Visited the following schools
 - La Joya Middle School
 - El Diamante High School
 - Linwood Elementary
 - Veva Blunt
 - Discussed *Fresno Bee* article quoting President Obama stating that one-third of students are dropping out of school. Not VUSD students. VUSD has a lower percentage rate than other schools in Tulare County and the State. The last data was from 2007-08 where the VUSD dropout rate was 3.7%, Tulare County was 4.9%, and the State was 4.9%.
- Tim Chaney
 - Attended first VTEC Advisory Committee meeting
 - Carlyn and John Lambert are helping with a VTEC Open House and fundraiser
 - Visited Charter Alternatives Academy-Union
 - Attended El Diamante football game
 - Attended Educators of the Year Awards and Banquet at the Chinese Cultural Center on September 23. Noted Bill Fulmer is in the Hall of Fame for Teacher of the Year.
 - Attended the Public Budget Planning Board Study Session on September 21
 - Thanked all employees for their dedication and hard work
- Donna Martin
 - Attended the Mt. Whitney Cross Country Invitational where all four VUSD high schools participated
 - Monday, October 4, the Visalia Education Foundation will sponsor the Band Showcase Fundraiser. All bands, cheer squads, and flag teams will participate.
- Rodney Elder
 - Visited Visalia Charter Independent Study at their new location
 - Attended Golden West football game
- Charles Ulmschneider
 - Find a way to encourage participation from the community who have children in the school system to attend Board meetings
 - Stated that comparing VUSD to very depressed areas with social/economic/linguistic challenges like Cutler-Orosi, Dinuba, and Farmersville is misleading as to what we are in terms of the district
 - Stated he is passionate about education, teaching, and his subject matter and support for the school system in the United States
 - Stated the high school dropout situation is unacceptably high
 - An emphasis when he ran for School Board was secondary. We have some very serious issues in secondary K-7 through 12.

- Inclusion is the key word—to include people
- He was able to put his oldest daughter on the district insurance thanks to the new law.
- Non-partisan Townhall Health Care coming up on October 8 at 6:30 pm
- Bill Fulmer
 - Attended Educators of the Year Awards and Banquet at the Chinese Cultural Center on September 23
 - Visited Highland, Annie Mitchell, and Four Creeks Elementary Schools with the VDAIT team
 - Attended Gang Task Force. Chief Mestas noted that this area stands out in the State for the degree of cooperation between agencies.
- Jim Qualls
 - Attended the Redwood football game
 - Thanked all employees for their dedication and hard work
- Superintendent Wheaton
 - Appreciates the large number of teachers in attendance
 - Attended Educators of the Year Awards and Banquet at the Chinese Cultural Center on September 23--Jim Fitzpatrick, teacher from Redwood, was honored as Teacher of the Year.
 - Participated in VDAIT visits. Hard work going on in classrooms.

ROUTINE ACTION Charles Ulmschneider pulled Routine Action Item 7.2.5 (Encl. No. 18); 7.2.6 (Encl. No. 19); and 7.3.4 (Encl. No. 23).

Bill Fulmer moved to approve the remaining Routine Action Items, Encl. No. 7-25. Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Encl. No. 18. Charles Ulmschneider asked if there were any assurances that the student teachers will never be left in a classroom by themselves, which could be a possible violation of the Williams lawsuit, which he has seen. Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resources Development, responded that student teachers are placed with master teachers in the district and enter into an agreement with the university. The university supervisor also participates in the process. All rules are followed with respect to the student teacher's placement in a classroom.

Mr. Ulmschneider was concerned why the universities are so far away and not more local. Mrs. Costa explained that the district already has memorandums of understanding with the local universities on file. They are not renewed yearly but are done for three to five years in length. Often times the student teacher lives in the area and is more convenient for them to do their student teaching in the home town. Cal Poly is one of the few universities that have students in agriculture.

Mr. Ulmschneider asked how many student teachers are in this program at this time. Mrs. Costa stated that she does not have the exact number but that the district can place up to 75 student teachers in a school year. Mr. Ulmschneider asked if they were being paid. Mrs. Costa said they were not.

Bill Fulmer called for the question.

Rodney Elder moved to approve Encl. No. 18. Tim Chaney seconded the motion. Ayes: Chaney, Elder, Fulmer, Jones, Martin, and Qualls. Noes: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.

Encl. No. 19. Charles Ulmschneider asked if this was the same situation but a different university. Mrs. Costa said that it was.

Rodney Elder asked to move on. He moved to approve Encl. No. 19. Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: Chaney, Elder, Fulmer, Jones, Martin, and Qualls. Noes: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.

Encl. No. 23. Charles Ulmschneider asked if there were any direct or indirect costs involved. Superintendent Wheaton answered that at the bottom of the first page it states that the financial impact will be \$36,000 for the school year 2010-2011. Jody Magill-Rivera, Director of Special Education/504, clarified that this is a special education student that needs to be placed in a non-public school. Visalia Unified has to pay for the educational share of the costs. Mental Health pays for the actual group home placement. This is for one student. The student's needs are far beyond what the school or county can provide.

Tim Chaney moved to approve Encl. No. 23. Rodney Elder seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Elder reminded the Board that this is called Routine Action. If there are questions, he requested that Board members contact the appropriate staff that can answer their questions to move the meetings along.

Superintendent Wheaton stated that he has encouraged all Board members to contact him on Monday or Tuesday prior to the meeting for detailed information.

Charles Ulmschneider stated that he believes some of the items need public airing and that is why they are presented and talked about in the public which is part of the procedure—transparency.

President Qualls said that the items are presented as Routine Action, which is common business of the Board. He expects more questions especially from the new Board members, but asked that they contact the District Office if there are particular questions or if more information is needed.

7.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List – August 28, 2010 through September 09, 2010 (Encl. No. 7)
2. 2010-2011 Budget Revision No. 4 (Encl. No. 8)
3. Transportation Agreement for Lindsay Unified School District (Encl. No. 9)

4. Transportation Agreement for Oak Valley Union Elementary School District (Encl. No. 10)
 5. Transportation Agreement for Stone Corral Elementary School District (Encl. No. 11)
 6. Transportation Agreement for Sequoia Union Elementary School District (Encl. No. 12)
 7. Transportation Agreement for Woodville Union Elementary School District (Encl. No. 13)
- 7.2 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 14)
 2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 15)
 3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 16)
 4. Certification of Temporary Athletic Team Coach List for 2010-11 (Encl. No. 17)
 5. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Student Teaching Agreement Between Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Encl. No. 18)
 6. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Student Teaching Agreement Between Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) and California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) (Encl. No. 19)
- 7.3 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES
1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 20)
 2. Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency Letter of Agreement with Visalia Unified School District for Coordination of Services to Pregnant and/or Parenting Teens (Encl. No. 21)
 3. Network for a Healthy California Contract (Encl. No. 22)
 4. Non-Public School Agreement – North Valley School (Encl. No. 23)
 5. Memorandum of Understanding Between Visalia Unified School District and Turning Point/Visalia Youth Services 2010/2011 (Encl. No. 24)
 6. Memorandum of Understanding Turning Point North Tulare County Mobile Unit 2010/2012 (Encl. No. 25)

**ADMINISTRATIVE
PANEL RECOM-
MENDATIONS/
ACTION**

REINSTATEMENTS Tim Chaney moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Reinstatements Case No. 11-50 R, Case No. 11-51 R, and Case No. 11-52. (Encl. No. 26) Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDED
CONTINUED
EXPULSIONS** Bill Fulmer moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendation for Continued Expulsions Case No. 11-09 RCE. (Encl. No. 27) Charles Ulmschneider seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**GENERAL AGENDA
Review/Public Hearing/**

Public Input/
Board Discussion/
ACTION (as
applicable)

**PARENT/STUDENT
COMMUNICATION**

Drew Sorensen, Area Superintendent, presented the Parent/Student Communication. (Encl. No. 28) The STAR testing scores show that all eight secondary schools met their targeted areas. Congratulations to all. He reviewed the tools used at the high schools to communicate with parents and students. Daily bulletins are posted on the school websites, in the library, and other strategic places on campus. They are electronically sent to all teachers and any other computer users who are interested. The standard procedure used for many years is that time is set aside, usually the second period, for five minutes for the bulletin to be read. Teachers may print a copy and post. Highlights are given over the loudspeaker when appropriate. At one site, there is an on-air television show that is given twice a week and includes bulletin announcements.

Teleparent (telephone calls) communication can be used to send messages district-wide, school-wide, or by individual teachers. The messages are translated in Spanish and Hmong, depending on the home language survey.

The district websites have been updated with pertinent information. Principal messages are given at a number of parent meetings. Other opportunities for communication are student publications, marquees, tenth grade counseling, and letters.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
PROPERTY
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent-Administrative Services, presented the Superintendent's Property Advisory Committee Report. (Encl. No. 29) The committee was initially formed with the intent of developing a process to include community members to assist the district in making the best possible judgments about the use of excess school properties and to provide assistance that the decisions made by the district are compatible with the community's needs and desires. This committee membership was modeled from CA Education Code Sections 17387-17391. The Governing Board approved the formation of this committee at the March 12, 2002, school board meeting. He reviewed the current property that the district owns and the possible uses of each property along with issues and needs that the district has.

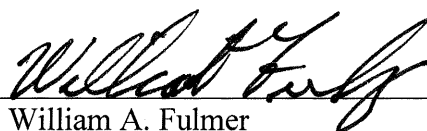
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.


NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 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,



William A. Fulmer
Clerk


Craig Wheaton, Ed.D.
Superintendent