

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

**OPENING
BUSINESS**

The February 8, 2011 Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Bill Fulmer 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	7:55	
Rodney Elder	5:30	7:55	
William A. Fulmer	5:30	7:55	
Larry Jones	5:30	7:55	
Donna Martin			X
Jim L. Qualls	5:30	7:55	
Charles Ulmschneider	5:30	7:55	
 Dr. Craig Wheaton, Superintendent	 5:30	 7:55	

Staff Members

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

CLOSED SESSION

President Fulmer 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 EXPULSIONS
- 2.3 RECOMMENDED REINSTATEMENTS
- 2.4 RECOMMENDED CONTINUED EXPULSIONS
- 2.5 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (Government Code Section 54957)
- 2.6 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54957.6)
 - 1. Agency Negotiator: Cindi Costa
 - 2. Employee Organizations
 - 1. CSEA
 - 2. VUTA
 - 3. Management
- 2.7 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54956.8)
Property: In the City of Visalia, on Stevenson Street between Race and Goshen Avenues – APN 931-6600-01
Agency negotiator: Robert Gröeber

Negotiating parties: Unknown

Under negotiation: Potential sale of Visalia Unified School District Property

2.8 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EVALUATION – SUPERINTENDENT

REGULAR SESSION The Board convened the regular Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. President Fulmer announced that no action was taken in closed session. Donna Martin was excused from the meeting for an out-of-state appointment. Charles Ulmschneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROUTINE ACTION Two Routine Action Items were revised after the board agenda packet was distributed. The revised backup material was available before the meeting which included Item 4.2.2 – Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 7) and Item 4.3.1 – Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 10). Larry Jones moved to approve the Routine Action Items, Encl. No. 1-12. Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

4.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List – January 14, 2011 through January 21, 2011 (Encl. No. 1)
2. 2010-2011 Budget Revision No. 10 (Encl. No. 2)
3. 2011-12 Budget Calendar (Encl. No. 3)
4. Authorization to Purchase Buses from Piggyback Bid (Encl. No. 4)
5. Approval of Annual Audit Services Contract (Encl. No. 5)

4.2 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 6)
2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 7)
3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 8)
4. Certification of Temporary Athletic Team Coach List for 2010-11 (Encl. No. 9)

4.3 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 10)
2. Kagan Cooperative Learning Training (Encl. No. 11)

4.4 SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

1. Minutes of the Board Meeting of January 25, 2011 (Encl. No. 12)

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

**GENERAL PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Public Comment

Karl Kildow, President, Visalia Unified Teachers Association (VUTA), stated that the impending state budget crisis will be compounded if there is not a special election for voters to be given the opportunity to decide if schools will be funded at the current level. On behalf of the teachers in the district, he respectfully requested that the board take action in terms of passing a resolution urging Connie Conway, Visalia’s Assemblywoman and leader of the Republican Party in the Assembly, to allow the voters in the state to decide.

Superintendent Wheaton stated that California School Boards Association (CSBA) has recently forwarded a resolution involving this issue. It was the consensus of the board to include the Resolution in Support of Placing a Revenue Extension Measure on the Ballot on the agenda for the February 15 Special Board Meeting - Student Achievement Awards that will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

INITIAL
NEGOTIATIONS
PROPOSAL OF CSEA
CHAPTER 83 TO
VUSD FOR 2011-
2012

Gladys Ramirez, President, California School Employees Association (CSEA), presented the first reading of the Initial Negotiations Proposal of CSEA Chapter 83 to VUSD for 2011-2012. (Encl. No. 13) Unless specifically modified by this proposal, all other provisions of the current collective bargaining agreement shall remain status quo. The contract proposal is as follows:

ARTICLE X EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
District to continue to pay full cost for employee and dependents medical, dental, vision, and life insurance coverage for the term of this agreement.

ARTICLE XIII SALARY
13.1 Increase the 2010-2011 salary schedule by an amount to be negotiated.
13.2 Increase the current longevity steps by the same percent negotiated for salary.

ADD 13.2.6 Thirty-five (35) years of service

OTHER

Incorporate all side letters, memorandums of understandings into new negotiated agreement.

CSEA's initial contract proposal will be available for public review in the office of the Administrator of Human Resources Development until the next regular board meeting on February 22, 2011, at which time the board will hold a public hearing and allow the public to comment on the proposal prior to acknowledging receipt of the contract proposal.

ANNUAL ADOPTION
OF PROFESSIONAL
GOVERNANCE
STANDARDS

The board conducted the annual review of their Professional Governance Standards at the Annual Board Planning Session held January 28 and 29, 2011. (Encl. No. 14) Superintendent Wheaton reviewed the standards for the board, the board's job, the individual trustee, and the superintendent. He also reviewed highlights of the discussion at the Board Planning Session:

- Eight member governance team—the seven board members and the superintendent
- Protocols
 - When a board member is called by a community member, she/he is to listen to the concern and then refer the issue back to the superintendent and/or the appropriate school personnel
 - Board members are the eyes and ears of the organization but are not the individuals who fix the problems

**FOCUS ON
STUDENT
LEARNING**
Presentation/Public
Comment/Board
Discussion/ACTION
(as applicable)

- A trustee is one of seven and they do not act alone
- Board members do meet with individual groups to listen and gain information but do not make commitments or promises to individual groups
- The information should be communicated back to the superintendent so that the system can take care of the problems and function properly
- The board sets policy and helps both the public and staff to ensure that it is working properly
- Board members are encouraged to call staff prior to board meetings if there are questions on the agenda to ensure that board members have all of the information that they need in advance in order to make effective decisions
- If a staff member knows the board member is going to ask a question in public, that staff member can have the information at the meeting to answer the question
- Board members have the right to abstain or vote no, but have the responsibility to the rest of the board to give a brief explanation during the process as to why they abstain or vote no.
- Discussed board members avoiding even the perception that there may be a conflict of interest. This would be one reason for abstaining from the vote.

These standards serve as a framework of clarifying the board member's role and responsibilities. They also serve as a guide for board actions and relationships with staff, each other, and the public. These standards have been developed through extensive state and national research identifying the essential practices and characteristics of effective and successful public school board governance. Through adoption of their Professional Governance Standards, the board renews its commitment to serve in an effective and successful governance model.

Jim Qualls moved to renew and adopt the Professional Governance Standards. Charles Ulmschneider seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**ENGLISH/
LANGUAGE ARTS
TEXTBOOK
ADOPTION 7-10
GRADES**

Stacey Curschman, Director 7-12 Curriculum-Instructional Services, presented the English/Language Arts (ELA) Textbook Adoption 7-10 Grades for implementation next school year. (Encl. No. 15) The last English/Language Arts curriculum adoption was purchased in the 2001-2002 school year with implementation in the Fall 2002. In 2009, the State Board of Education approved new materials in English/Language Arts. At that point, the district decided to defer adoption of ELA for one year, and staggered the adoption over a two-year process. Last year, the board approved district staff's recommendation for the adoption of ELA materials for K-6 grade, and this year's recommendation is to adopt English/Language Arts materials for grades 7-10. Mrs. Curschman reviewed the interim adoption plan process that started in April 2010, that included English/Language Arts teachers. Support will be given to staff to assist with the implementation of the new materials. District staff recommended the adoption of the McDougal-Littell *Literature* for use in English/Language Arts classes in grades 7-10. Use of the Instructional Materials Fund (IMF) and restricted Lottery funds provided by the California Department of Education will be used to purchase the textbooks. The cost of the ELA materials, which includes teacher resources and student consumable texts, is estimated at \$870,000.

Public Comment

Karl Kildow, President, Visalia Unified Teachers Association (VUTA), asked if the cost will come out of this year's budget or next year's budget; and if it is coming out of next year's budget, how late can the materials be ordered? Superintendent Wheaton stated that the total estimated cost is \$870,000 for all of the materials for grades 7-10. The district has been planning this purchase for a number of years and have strategized how best the purchase could be done economically. The purchase has been planned to be funded out of this year's budget using the Instructional Materials Fund (IMF), a Tier III flexible fund, and the restricted Lottery funds.

Tim Chaney moved to approve the recommended McDougal-Littell *Literature* implementation – Grades 7-10 for Fall 2011. Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/ SUPERINTEN- DENT'S REPORT

Jennifer Taylor, Student Representative to the Board from Mt. Whitney High School, gave a brief summary of the events that are taking place at each of the high schools.

The Board members' reports included the following:

- Larry Jones
 - Reminder of the Visalia Education Foundation (VEF) fundraiser for the VUSD arts, "The Moody Blues" May 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Visalia Fox Theatre. Encouraged principals and staff to support this fundraiser because it benefits each school. Posters should be displayed at each site.
- Jim Qualls
 - No report
- Tim Chaney
 - All seven board members attended the Board Planning Study Session where two board members from Clovis Unified School District spoke on board governance and other subjects. Extremely beneficial.
 - Continues to communicate with public entities in Visalia
 - Attended Gang Prevention Task Force Committee – working on ways to continue to fund the current services
 - For the school district, so much rides on the tax extension being put on the ballot in November for taxpayers to vote on
 - Attended the Farm Show and saw the welding exhibit that the Visalia Adult School presented. Looked but could not find the spreader that Redwood High School welding students had on display.
- Bill Fulmer
 - Heard that the Farm Show was so big that if you were there for every minute of the Farm Show, and visited a different booth each minute, you still would not see all of the exhibits
- Rodney Elder
 - Congratulated John Coon's Redwood welding class for designing the spreader that was displayed at the Farm Show

- Charles Ulmschneider
 - Visited El Diamante High School’s Open House
 - Attended meeting where the subject of grant writers was addressed – would like to consider that in the future
 - Attended Hispanic Advisory Committee
 - Need for listening to input from parents in the different ELAC and site council meetings
 - He has been hearing things and without being specific but general, he does not want to see anything like a hostile work environment. Bear in mind Education Code 44110-44114, remedies beyond management and union if issues fail to solve work place fairness and harmony so the ultimate goal of educating society can be done.
- Superintendent Wheaton
 - Welcomed Jennifer Taylor, the student representative to the board from Mt. Whitney High School
 - Rotary Clubs are promoting Melba Beal, a motivational speaker that will be at the LJ Williams Theater on Wednesday, February 23. She is one of the Little Rock Nine, part of the integration of public education to an all white high school in the 50’s.
 - He had his phone on the counter, and during the board report, he received a message from Donna Martin, and she is watching the meeting.

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

Rodney Elder moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Expulsions Case No. 11-69 E, Case No. 11-70 E, Case No. 11-71 E, Case No. 11-72 E, Case No. 11-73 E, Case No. 11-74 E, Case No. 11-75 E, Case No. 11-76 E, Case No. 11-77 E, Case No. 11-78 E, Case No. 11-79 E, Case No. 11-80 E, and Case No. 11-81 E. (Encl. No. 16) Charles Ulmschneider seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**SUSPENDED
EXPULSIONS**

Charles Ulmschneider moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Suspended Expulsions Case No. 11-32 SE, Case No. 11-33 SE, Case No. 11-34 SE, and Case No. 11-35 SE. (Encl. No. 17) Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

REINSTATEMENTS

Jim Qualls moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Reinstatements Case No. 11-94 R and Case No. 11-95 R. (Encl. No. 18) Tim Chaney seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDED
CONTINUED
EXPULSIONS**

Larry Jones moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendation for Continued Expulsions Case No. 11-15 RCE. (Encl. No. 19) Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL AGENDA
Review/Public Hearing/
Public Input/
Board Discussion/
ACTION (as
applicable)

VUSD INTERESTS
FOR 2011-2012
CLASSIFIED
NEGOTIATIONS

Dr. Judy Burgess, Administrator-Human Resources Development, presented the second reading of the VUSD Interests for 2011-2012 Classified Negotiations. (Encl. No. 20) The district continues to weigh many options in light of California state budget projections for the coming and future years. As a result of this analysis, the district continues to declare that its most important priority is maintaining instructional programs for students. One of the primary outcomes of negotiations must be to stabilize the impact from increased cost of health benefits and the increased fixed costs related to salaries.

District interests:

- Maintenance of staff at the most efficient level
- Providing the highest possible quality education for our children as a first priority
- Preserve instructional programs, goals for student achievement
- Preserve extra and co-curricular programs and opportunities for students to the greatest extent possible
- Engaging in an open and honest exchange of information through collaborative and objective negotiations with the California School Employees Association, Chapter 83

Open Articles:

Article IX – Hours and Overtime

Article X – Employee Benefits

Article X111 – Salary

The district's initial contract interests were made available for review in the office of the Administrator of Human Resources Development since January 25.

There was no public comment.

Rodney Elder moved to adopt the district's interest/proposal as presented. Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

2011 CSBA
DELEGATE
ASSEMBLY
ELECTION

There were two delegates on the ballot for the 2011 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election, and instructions were to vote for two. (Encl. No. 21). Donna Martin is already on this committee.

Jim Qualls moved to approve Teresa Marie Garcia (Tulare City School District) and Dean Sutton (Exeter Union School District) as the two delegates that are up for re-election for the Subregion 12-A. Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

2011-2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR UPDATE Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resources Development, stated that at the January 25, 2011 board meeting, the first reading of the proposed calendar was presented to the board for their review. (Encl. No. 22)

Prior to board action, the public was given the opportunity to comment. There was no public comment.

Tim Chaney moved to approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar as presented. Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.


ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, 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



Craig Wheaton, Ed.D.
Superintendent