

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

**OPENING  
BUSINESS**

The April 12, 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	9:30	
Rodney Elder	5:30	9:30	
William A. Fulmer	5:30	9:30	
Larry Jones	5:30	9:30	
Donna Martin	5:30	9:30	
Jim L. Qualls	5:30	9:30	
Charles Ulmschneider	5:30	9:30	
Dr. Craig Wheaton, Superintendent	5:30	9:30	

**Staff Members**

Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development  
Pam Ryan, Administrative Assistant, Superintendent's Office  
Jenny 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 no public comment. 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 ASSIGNMENT/REASSIGNMENT/APPOINTMENT (Government Code Section 54957)  
Title:
  - Elementary School Principals
  - Director State & Federal Projects
- 2.6 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (Government Code Section 54957)
- 2.7 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54957.6)
  - 1. Agency Negotiator: Cindi Costa
  - 2. Employee Organizations
    - 1. CSEA
    - 2. VUTA
    - 3. Management

**REGULAR SESSION** The Board convened the regular Board meeting at 7:10 p.m. President Fulmer announced that in closed session, on a motion by Donna Martin and a second by Rodney Elder, the Board voted unanimously to make the following appointments:

- Jim Sullivan – Director for State and Federal Projects
- John Alvarez – Principal, Mt. View Elementary
- Dedi Somavia – Principal, Crestwood Elementary
- Adrian Leal – Principal, Elbow Creek
- Natali Matta – Principal, Highland Elementary
- John Davis – Principal, Oak Grove Elementary

The new assignments will begin on July 1, 2011.

On another closed session item, the Board took action to release a temporary certificated employee from employment. On a motion by Jim Qualls and a second by Donna Martin, the Board voted unanimously to release temporary employee number 15034 effective April 13, 2011.

Larry Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GENERAL PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**Public Comment**

Mike Waters, Principal, El Diamante High School, recognized James Sill, technology and video production teacher, for receiving the Apple Distinguished Educator of the Year Class of 2011 Award.

Greg Price, teacher at Mineral King Elementary School and on the Visalia Unified Teachers Association (VUTA) board, addressed the Board on behalf of the VUTA officers, Board of Directors, and VUTA members, inviting school leaders to participate in a meeting on May 12 in Assemblywoman Connie Conway's local office to continue pressuring local legislators to do the right thing for our schools.

Craig Lackey and David Christopher spoke of their dissatisfaction with the administration at Sequoia High School along with the issue of high school credits during 2009 and 2010.

The following people spoke concerning the non-reelection of a teacher at Sequoia High School for 2011-12:

- Christopher Seitz
- Jamie Cowdery
- Darrick Martinez
- Terrion Baker
- James Sandoval
- Krystal Gutierrez

Karl Kildow, President, VUTA, spoke on behalf of the Sequoia High School bargaining unit on declining staff morale since the period of time when Dr. Todd Oto was the Principal. He also conveyed his own observations.

Superintendent Craig Wheaton stated that personnel decisions are confidential regarding the questions from Sequoia High School students concerning teacher, Mr. Seitz. Regarding the overall complaints about Sequoia High School, the district has board policy regarding filing complaints. The district takes complaints very seriously and is using precious resources to hire an independent, outside investigator to ensure a thorough, objective, and equitable investigation.

**ROUTINE ACTION** A revised Certificated Personnel Report list (Encl. No. 11) was distributed to the Board and the public before the meeting due to changes that occurred after the board agenda packet was distributed.

Tim Chaney pulled Routine Action Item 4.1.8-Contract Approval – Technicon Testing Services (Encl. No. 8); 4.2.1-Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 10); and 4.2.3-Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 12).

Rodney Elder moved to approve the remaining Routine Action Items, Encl. No. 1-20. Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Encl. No. 8 – Tim Chaney stated that it was his understanding that all of the subcontractors would be billed through the contractor, so will the Board be seeing every bill that comes through? Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent-Administrative Services, clarified that this bill is for the testing services which are outside the construction. This is the third party hired by the district to ensure that the contractor is meeting all of the specifications as required by DSA. This will be paid for out of developer fees or from the State match when it comes and not general fund fees.

Tim Chaney moved to approve Encl. No. 8. Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Encl. No. 10 – Tim Chaney asked if the open positions for Community Aide at Houston and Oak Grove Elementary Schools and the Preschool Aide at the Adult School were being eliminated. Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resources Development, replied that the three positions have been vacant for the majority of this school year and are categorically site funded with the decisions being made at the site level.

Tim Chaney moved to approve Encl. No. 10. Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Encl. No. 12 – Tim Chaney commented on the consultants requested for approval. He would rather have VUSD staff doing the consulting opposed to paying consultants. Mrs. Costa clarified that it is always the intent of the district to train staff within the district, to provide as much professional development as the district is able to do. Under the law, a percentage of categorical funds need to be spent on professional development.

Tim Chaney moved to approve Encl. No. 12. Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

4.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List – March 11, 2011 through March 24, 2011 (Encl. No. 1)
2. 2010-2011 Budget Revision No. 12 (Encl. No. 2)
3. Resolution Setting the Public Hearing for the 2011-12 Proposed Budgets (Encl. No. 3)
4. Approval of Bid #4727 - Asphalt Resurface & Repair at Various Sites (Encl. No. 4)
5. Approval of Bid #4728 – Roofing Projects at Divisadero, Valley Oak and Golden West High School (Encl. No. 5)
6. Approval of Bid #4729 - Master Clock Replacement Project (Encl. No. 6)
7. Approval of Bid #4730 – Irrigation Improvements at Mt. Whitney High School (Encl. No. 7)
8. Contract Approval – Technicon Testing Services (Encl. No. 8)
9. Agreement for Goshen Family Services Facility Building (Encl. No. 9)

4.2 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 10)
2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 11)
3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 12)

4.3 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 13)
2. Kagan Cooperative Learning Workshop (May 23, 2011) (Encl. No. 14)
3. Kagan Cooperative Learning Workshop (May 25-26, 2011) (Encl. No. 15)
4. Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) Memorandums of Understanding for Linwood and Mt. View Elementary Schools and Green Acres Middle School (Encl. No. 16)
5. Request to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 17)
6. Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report (Encl. No. 18)

4.4 SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

1. Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 8, 2011 (Encl. No. 19)
2. Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 22, 2011 (Encl. No. 20)

**PUBLIC  
RECOGNITION/  
PROCLAMATIONS/  
ACTION**

**RESOLUTION**

**DECLARING APRIL 26, 2011 CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS’ DAY** Clerk Rodney Elder read the Resolution Declaring April 26, 2011 California School Bus Drivers’ Day. (Encl. No. 21)

**SCHOOL BUS**

**DRIVERS’ DAY**

Rodney Elder moved to approve the resolution. Charles Ulmschneider seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Katie White, Transportation Director, invited the Board to attend the School Bus Drivers' Day Celebration on April 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Transportation Facility where a full breakfast honoring VUSD bus drivers would be served by district staff. Donna Martin encouraged fellow Board members to ride a bus that morning before the breakfast.

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

**BY-TRUSTEE AREA  
ELECTION PROCESS  
UPDATE**

Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent-Administrative Services, gave an update on the By-Trustee Area Election Process. (Encl. No. 22) The Board has been proactive in moving towards by-trustee area elections for the upcoming November 2011 Board of Trustee election. The Board has asked for regular updates on the process and progress towards implementation. A revised Redistricting Timeline was presented for approval. Mr. Gröeber reviewed the "Required Considerations", "Permissible Considerations Identified by Statute", "Additional Permissible Considerations Approved by the Courts", and "Forbidden Considerations". Community of interests of the trustee areas of Goshen, Ivanhoe, and North Visalia and also respecting the boundaries of political subdivisions—school attendance areas, are the permissible considerations that were given to the demographer to address.

**Public Comment**

Carol Clarke, teacher at Mt. Whitney High School, and the VUTA representative on the Community Advisory Committee, addressed the considerations. She stated that under the Federal Voting Rights Act, it also includes prohibiting political gerrymandering. She stated that it was clarified that concerns of a race may be considered a community of interest.

Tim Chaney moved to approve the basis for the creation of alternative by-trustee area election districts for public consideration and comment and to adopt the Revised Redistricting Timeline. Charles Ulmschneider seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**VISALIA  
TECHNICAL**

VTEC Principal, Victoria Porter, presented an update of the first year of the "High School with a Career Focus." (Encl. No. 23) Year one has had an agricultural focus with an

**EDUCATION  
CENTER (VTEC)  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
UPDATE**

emphasis in the areas of Veterinary Technician (RVT) and Food Service Technology. The current enrollment is 54 sophomores with 98% of those enrolled in COS courses aligning with the two pathways. VTEC graduates will receive a certificate for immediate entry into the workforce. Graduates can then continue at COS in the pathway for post secondary certifications, complete COS requirements for an AA and an AS degree, or complete the transfer agreement requirements to enroll in a four-year program at CSU or UC schools.

For year two, Ag Mechanics & Technology will be added along with the administration exploring options in Public Safety courses. There are already 98 applications for next year with only 70 sophomore slots available.

**VUSD STAFF  
DEVELOPMENT  
UPDATE**

Doug Bartsch, Area Superintendent, reviewed each staff development session that will take place during the summer. Enrollment is on a voluntary basis with a stipend being paid to each certificated and classified staff member attending. Areas of focus will be:

- English/Language Arts
- English Language Development
- Mathematics
- Lesson Design/Strategies
- Engagement Structures
- Engaging Young Learners in Language and Vocabulary Development
- ELA/ELD Planning Lab
- Math Planning Lab
- 7-12 English/Language Arts New Program Launch: McDougal-Littell
- 7-12 English/Language Arts Pre-AP and Advanced Placement – Vertical Articulation
- Special Education and ELD Teachers – Gateways Intervention Program
- “Positive Discipline” – two-day staff development for classified staff

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

Jenny 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:

- Donna Martin
  - Attended the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) Luncheon honoring high school seniors
  - Attended the Redwood High School dedication of the John Yavasile Fitness Center
  - Attended the VUSD PTA Reflections where students were recognized for their efforts in music, art, and written work at the TCOE office
- Rodney Elder
  - Congratulated the VUSD Excellence in Education awards winners – Cathy Goulart for School Employee of the Year; Nancy Moore for Teacher of the Year; and Oak Grove Principal Scott Wahab for Administrator of the Year.
- Jim Qualls
  - No report

- Larry Jones
  - Visited VTEC
  - Visited Visalia Charter Independent Study (VCIS)
- Charles Ulmschneider
  - Remarked that today marks the beginning of the Civil War in 1861
  - Family watching the Ken Burns *Civil War*
  - Pointed out what he thought was ironic that on Encl. No. 25 (Expulsions) in the board agenda packet, it states Board Goal: 4.1 Assure a Safe, Healthy and Positive School Environment Promoting Student Connectedness to School with a Sense of Belonging and Significance
  - Attended the Financial Advisory Committee
  - Attended the Hispanic Advisory Committee
  - Attended the dedication for John Yavasile
  - Attended a Parents and Children Together (PACT) meeting
  - Open House at Oak Grove Elementary was rained out
  - Visited Crestwood, Highland, and Annie R. Mitchell Elementary Schools
  - Attended the PTA art exhibition
  - Family watched *To Kill a Mockingbird*
  - Attended the ground breaking of the new elementary school
  - Read with interest the articles by our Superintendent in the Valley Voice and the Chamber of Commerce update
  - Enjoyed the article on bullying of kids but to keep in mind bullying in the workplace as well
- Bill Fulmer
  - Attended the CSF Luncheon where 200 of our best and brightest were honored
- Tim Chaney
  - Remarked that Board governance is not always pretty and it is not always fun. Commended everyone that spoke tonight
  - WASC report says that Sequoia High School is doing great
  - Attended the Golden West High School play *Peter Pan*; Redwood High School's *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; and Mt. Whitney High Schools' play *Bye Bye Birdie*
- Superintendent Wheaton
  - Every play/musical was his favorite
  - Breakfast Rotary invited him to a meeting to recognize the school district for providing the facility for the Melba Beal's presentation
  - ABC 30 did a special on bullying prevention and highlighted Divisadero Middle School students performing a skit
  - Green Acres Middle School was recognized by the Bonner Center for Character Education recently

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

Rodney Elder moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Expulsions Case No. 11-114 E, Case No. 11-115 E, Case No. 11-116 , Case No. 11-117

E, Case No. 11-118 E, Case No. 11-119 E, Case No. 11-120 E, Case No. 11-121 E, Case No. 11-122 E, and Case No. 11-123 E (Encl. No. 25) Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**SUSPENDED  
EXPULSIONS**

Donna Martin moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Suspended Expulsions Case No. 11-45 SE, Case No. 11-46 SE, Case No. 11-47 SE, Case No. 11-48 SE, Case No. 11-49 SE, Case No. 11-50 SE, Case No. 11-51 SE, Case No. 11-52 SE, and Case No. 11-53 SE. (Encl. No. 26) Tim Chaney seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**REINSTATEMENTS**

Donna Martin moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Reinstatements Case No. 11-98 R and Case No. 11-99 R. (Encl. No. 27) Tim Chaney seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDED  
CONTINUED  
EXPULSIONS**

Charles Ulmschneider moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Continued Expulsions Case No. 11-17 RCE and Case No. 11-18 RCE. (Encl. No. 28) Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**GENERAL AGENDA**

Review/Public Hearing/

Public Input/

Board Discussion/

**ACTION** (as

applicable)

**RECOMMENDATION  
AND RESOLUTION  
TO ELIMINATE  
PARTICULAR KINDS  
OF CLASSIFIED  
SERVICE:  
CLASSIFIED  
POSITIONS**

Judy Burgess, Ed.D., Administrator-Human Resources Development, presented the Recommendation and Resolution to Eliminate Particular Kinds of Classified Service: Classified Positions as a result of lack of work and/or lack of funds. (Encl. No. 29) Education Code requires a resolution that authorizes the district to provide notice to employees 45 working days before the end of the contracted year prior to enacting layoff notices. The reduction of 7 FTE has an estimated General Fund savings of \$388,243 and the reduction of 7.1779 FTE has an estimated Categorical Fund savings of \$217,485. Some categorical funds are currently flexible and may generate fund savings. After a decision to eliminate positions has been made, the district will take appropriate steps to begin meeting with CSEA to work through the seniority and bumping process as well as meeting to discuss the effects of these eliminations.

**Public Comment**

Lee Coehlo, California School Employee Association (CSEA), stated that it is their understanding and they have been told that five of the positions will be funded for 2011-12, so if that is true, why take action to eliminate?

Mrs. Costa replied that her understanding is that the idea was brought to CSEA at the bargaining table, and VUSD attempted to reach an agreement to eliminate. VUSD was told that this process of elimination must be done first so that sides could engage in a negotiation for the effect of that elimination; and at that point, the district would agree to



fund those positions. She suggested that there is a communication problem and requested that the Board move forward with the elimination and let the process continue.

Rodney Elder moved to approve the district administration's recommendation to eliminate particular kinds of services, due to a lack of work and/or lack of funding, currently being provided by classified employees. Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

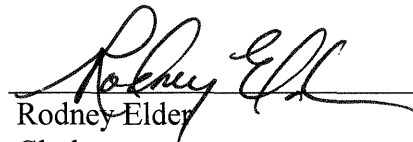
**ADJOURNMENT**

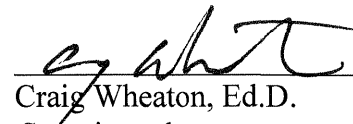
The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 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