

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

**OPENING  
BUSINESS**

The May 10, 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			X
Rodney Elder	5:30	9:00	
William A. Fulmer	5:30	9:00	
Larry Jones	5:30	9:00	
Donna Martin	5:30	9:00	
Jim L. Qualls	5:30	9:00	
Charles Ulmschneider	5:30	9:00	
 Dr. Craig Wheaton, Superintendent	 5:30	 9:00	

**Staff Members**

Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development  
Pam Ryan, Administrative Assistant, Superintendent's Office  
Samuel Jung, 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 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (Government Code Section 54957)
- 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

**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. Charles Ulmschneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL PUBLIC  
COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

**ROUTINE ACTION**

Routine Action Item 4.2.2 Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 8) was revised and distributed before the meeting began. The revision was made after the board agenda packet was distributed.

Donna Martin pulled Routine Action Item 4.1.3 Renewal of Food Service Agreement for Tulare County Office of Education Programs (Encl. No. 3).

Jim Qualls moved to approve the remainder of the Routine Action Items, Encl. No. 1-15. Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Encl. No. 3 – Donna Martin stated that she works for the Tulare County Office of Education in the Special Education Department and will abstain from voting on this item.

Larry Jones moved to approve Encl. No. 3-Renewal of Food Service Agreement for Tulare County Office of Education Programs. Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: Elder, Fulmer, Jones, Qualls, and Ulmschneider. Abstain: Martin. Absent: Chaney. Motion carried.

4.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List – April 15, 2011 through April 15, 2011 (Encl. No. 1)
2. 2010-2011 Budget Revision No. 14 (Encl. No. 2)
3. Renewal of Food Service Agreement for Tulare County Office of Education Programs (Encl. No. 3)
4. Approval of Bid #4731 – AG Shop Electrical Upgrades at Redwood High School (Encl. No. 4)
5. Approval of Bid #4734 – New Artificial Turf at Redwood High School (Encl. No. 5)
6. Lease Agreement for VTEC (Encl. No. 6)

4.2 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 7)
2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 8)

4.3 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 9)
2. Approval of Agreement Between Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) and Tulare County Organization for Vocational Education (TCOVE) for 2010-2011 (Encl. No. 10)
3. Amendment 01 and Amendment 02 to General Child Care Agreement (Encl. No. 11)
4. Amendment to Agreement Between Visalia Adult School and Tulare County for Inmate Education to Extend Terms for FY 11-12 (Encl. No. 12)

5. 2011-2012 Designation of California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Representatives to Leagues (Encl. No. 13)
  6. Kagan Cooperative Learning Workshops (Encl. No. 14)
- 4.4 SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE
1. Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 12, 2011 (Encl. No. 15)

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

**2011-12 HEALTH  
INSURANCE  
FUNDING RATE  
RENEWAL REPORT**

As part of the 2011-12 budget development process, Susan Cox, Ed.D., Director-Risk Management, presented an overview of the VUSD insurance funding rates and alternative options for the 2011-12 health plan year. (Encl. No. 16) The estimated increase for funding health benefits for certificated and management staff is 5.7%, and the estimated increase for classified staff is 5.8%.

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

**EXTENDED YEAR  
SUMMER PROGRAM**

High school summer school will be held June 13<sup>th</sup> through July 21<sup>st</sup>. El Diamante will host Mt. Whitney students and Redwood will host Golden West students. The classes offered are primarily for students who are in need of remediation, have 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. (Encl. No. 17)

**HIGHLAND  
SCHOOL – SCHOOL  
IMPROVEMENT  
GRANT UPDATE**

Doug Bartsch, Area Superintendent, presented the Highland School – School Improvement Grant (SIG) Update. (Encl. No. 18) Highland Elementary School is eligible to apply for the SIG, a federally funded grant administered by the California State Department of Education. The presentation provided an overview of grant requirements, content, and the process for completing the grant application.

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

Samuel Jung, 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 high schools.

The Board members’ reports included the following:

- Charles Ulmschneider
  - Attended Central Valley Education Coalition (CVEC) in Fresno

- Attended Executive Committee to review the board agenda
  - Attended the School Naming Committee
- Larry Jones
  - Attended the Masonic Public School Awards & Recognition
  - Interviewed students at Sequoia High School for the Breakfast Rotary Jim Matthews Scholarship that was started 15 years ago – chose two students to receive \$2,000 each
- Jim Qualls
  - Attended Facility Committee and received update on new elementary school
  - Attended Visalia Prayer Breakfast where Tim LaHaye and his wife, Beverly, were the guest speakers
  - Attended Masonic Public School Awards & Recognition
- Rodney Elder
  - Attended the Crystal Apple Awards where students recommend teachers to receive awards
  - Attended the CVEC in Fresno
  - Attended the School Naming Committee
- Donna Martin
  - Attended many of the events already mentioned
  - Had breakfast and dinner with other Board members on the same day
  - Will be attending the CSBA Delegate Assembly as a delegate for this region
  - Naming of a new school is very important to that neighborhood
  - Discussed newspaper article about chocolate milk in the schools
- Bill Fulmer
  - Attended the Masonic Public School Awards & Recognition
  - Attended CSBA Masters in Governance at TCOE
  - Attended the CVEC in Fresno
  - Attended webinar dealing with gangs
  - Attended Visalia Prayer Breakfast
  - Attended Crystal Apple Awards
  - Attended School Naming Committee
  - Attended Hispanic Advisory Committee
  - Attended Gang Prevention Task Force
  - On Thursday, will meet with staff member in Assemblywoman Connie Conway's office to discuss the budget--VUSD has had its fair share of cuts
- Superintendent Wheaton
  - Connie Conway has expressed public support for school funding in the past few days. Presidents Karl Kildow (VUTA), Gladys Ramirez (CSEA), and Dale Simmons (PTA) along with Board President Bill Fulmer, and Board member Rodney Elder will join him in speaking with her staff person, Justin Stoner, regarding the effects to VUSD from

- reduced revenue, which will include a list of programs that may need to be reduced or cut
- This month VUSD recognizes its teachers, classified staff, and nurses for their tremendous contributions to students
- Attended assembly at Oak Grove Elementary getting ready for the last testing day – Star Café

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
PANEL RECOM-  
MENDATIONS/  
ACTION**

**EXPULSIONS**

Jim Qualls moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Expulsions Case No. 11-132 E, Case No. 11-133 E, Case No. 11-134 E, Case No. 11-135 E, Case No. 11-136 E, Case No. 11-137 E, Case No. 11-138 E, Case No. 11-139 E, and Case No. 11-140 E. (Encl. No. 19) Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**SUSPENDED  
EXPULSIONS**

Charles Ulmschneider moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Suspended Expulsions Case No. 11-60 SE and Case No. 11-61 SE. (Encl. No. 20) Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**GENERAL AGENDA**

Review/Public Hearing/

Public Input/

Board Discussion/

**ACTION** (as applicable)

**BY-TRUSTEE AREA  
ELECTION PUBLIC  
HEARING**

The first Public Hearing was held to take official comments on the proposed alternative plans for By-Trustee Area Elections. (Encl. No. 21) Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent-Administrative Services, reviewed the required considerations, permissible considerations, additional permissible considerations, and forbidden considerations with respect to selecting trustee area boundaries. He reviewed Plan A, B, and C.

The public was encouraged to attend the VUSD Forum meeting on Thursday, May 19 at 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room 4 at the VUSD District Office for their comments and suggestions. The Superintendent is scheduled for a series of meetings before the next Public Hearing on May 24. The maps are linked to the district website.

President Fulmer opened the Public Hearing.

**Public Comment**

Carol Clarke, a teacher at Mt. Whitney High School and the VUTA representative on the Community Advisory Committee, stated that she is still working at the original task that was set forth for the committee which is to educate the public. Her comments:

- Reviewed a communication from Scott Lay, President and CEO, Community College League of California, regarding the process of redistricting.
- Gave the article written by Scott Lay to Dr. Wheaton to review

### **Board Member & Superintendent Comments**

#### Larry Jones

- Do it right the first time to be representative for the community and follow the law so that the district is not in court if challenged
- Concern how to divide the majority minority equally when everything is spread out

#### Superintendent Wheaton

- VUSD attorney has determined that none of the three plans would need to be defended in court – no intentional or unintentional discrimination
- He will review the article by Scott Lay with the attorney

#### Rodney Elder

- Thanked Carol Clarke for her comments
- In Plan A, where every Board member represents a particular group of schools, could be argued as a good thing but over the years, Board members have represented the entire district
- What he likes about Plan B is that there are areas in which school board members overlap. As a school board member, he feels he represents the entire district. There is potential for school board members to be at odds with each other to protect their particular area that is not good for the entire school district.

#### Donna Martin

- Need to look to the future for future Boards so that areas are easily understood by the voters
- With Plan A, the voter can look at the map and know their elementary school is represented by which Board member—easily understood

#### Charles Ulmschneider

- Likes Plan B - balance is what he is concerned with—less standard deviation
- Any child in our district should be able to get a quality education, theoretically, from any school so that supports the balance concept

#### Jim Qualls

- Thanked Carol Clarke for comments and hard work
- Agrees with Rodney Elder's concerns and comments.

Public input can be shared at the next Public Hearing at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on May 24, the Forum meeting on May 19, and also at the community meetings that Superintendent Wheaton will be attending. The public can also submit input on the VUSD website or to Robert Gröeber via his email at [rgroeber@vusd.org](mailto:rgroeber@vusd.org).

President Fulmer closed the Public Hearing.

ANNUAL PUBLIC  
HEARING –  
AUTHORIZATION OF  
TIER III  
FLEXIBILITY  
FUNDING

In accordance with the Education Code, VUSD held a Public Hearing allowing any district resident to appear and speak on the proposed use of funds under the state categorical flexibility transfer authority (SBX3 4). (Encl. No. 22) Christine Statton, CPA, Chief Financial Officer, presented the detailed list of ten programs for which the district plans to utilize this authority to transfer \$2.35 million in on-going revenues to be used for instruction and instruction related purposes for 2011-12 and in all future years for which the flexibility is allowed.

President Bill Fulmer opened the Public Hearing.

There was no public comment.

President Fulmer closed the Public Hearing.

Donna Martin moved to approve the proposed Tier III funding shifts utilizing unrestricted categorical funding toward General Fund unrestricted expenditures. Rodney Elder seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

REJECT BID #4732  
LOW VOLTAGE  
SYSTEM  
REPLACEMENT AT  
MT. WHITNEY HS  
AND AUTHORIZE  
STAFF TO  
RESEARCH  
ALTERNATIVE  
CONSTRUCTION  
PROCESSES

Sealed bids were opened on April 26, 2011 to award Bid #4732 Low Voltage System Replacement at Mt. Whitney High School. (Encl. No. 23) Only one (1) contractor submitted a bid. The bid amount on the project greatly exceeded the engineer's estimate and district's budget for this project. Therefore, the staff recommendation was to reject the bid on this project.

Since the competitive bid process has not produced favorable results on this project, district staff requested to research and pursue alternate construction options to negotiate competitive pricing for this project. If successful, a recommendation could be brought back for Board approval at the May 24, 2011 meeting. The initial budget estimate was \$700,000 to be paid from modernization funds.

Jim Qualls moved to reject bid #4732 Low Voltage System Replacement at Mt. Whitney High School and to authorize staff to research alternative construction processes. Larry

Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: Elder, Fulmer, Jones, Martin, and Qualls. Absent: Chaney. Temporarily out of the room: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.

CSBA MASTERS IN  
GOVERNANCE  
UPDATE

Superintendent Wheaton reported on the issues that were discussed at the first California School Boards Association (CSBA) Masters in Governance training held on Saturday, April 30 at the Tulare County Office of Education. (Encl. No. 24) There will be a total of nine sessions held during the next two years. Those attending will be Board members Donna Martin, Bill Fulmer, Charles Ulmschneider, and Tim Chaney, along with district administrators Robert Gröeber, Doug Bartsch, and Dr. Wheaton.

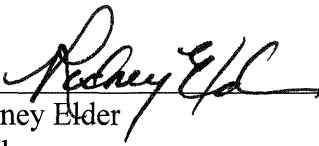
**ADJOURNMENT**


The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24, 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