

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

**OPENING
BUSINESS**

The September 27, 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	8:10	
	Rodney Elder	5:30	8:10	
	William A. Fulmer	5:30	8:10	
	Larry Jones	5:30	8:10	
	Donna Martin	5:30	8:10	
	Jim L. Qualls	5:30	8:10	
	Charles Ulmschneider	5:30	8:10	
	Dr. Craig Wheaton, Superintendent	5:30	8:10	

Staff Members

Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development
Pam Ryan, Administrative Assistant, Superintendent’s Office
Devynn Utsler – Mt. Whitney High School, 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 CONTINUED EXPULSIONS
- 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

**EARLY BIRD
SESSION**

The Early Bird Session opened at 6:00 p.m.

**DISTRICT-WIDE
SOLAR PROJECT
UPDATE –
TECHNICAL AND
ENERGY**

Staff has been working with TerraVerde Renewable Partners to analyze the viability of solar projects for VUSD. TerraVerde is acting as the district’s expert to assist in project feasibility. They would also assist the district in developing bid specs, competitively bidding the project, and project management should the Board desire to move forward. The presentation summarized the analysis thus far and provided additional information

- MANAGEMENT** on the technical and energy management aspects of the potential project. This is part of VUSD’s continued effort to find ways to save money. (Encl. No. 1)
- 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** **Public Comment**
Melanie Stringer, La Joya Middle School Principal, recognized Patrick Marinelli, 11th grade student at El Diamante High School, for his role in building and donating a trailer equipped for transporting band instruments to the La Joya band department. This was his project to receive the Boy Scouts of American Eagle Scout Rank.
- CONSENT AGENDA** Superintendent Wheaton reviewed the effective governance practices that the Board has agreed upon as the general guidelines/protocols on how the governance team operates. Dr. Wheaton and Board President Bill Fulmer have established a clear, respectful, but firm approach to proceeding through the routine consent agenda. The protocols are not intended to prevent public discussion—quite the opposite. They are designed to ensure efficient use of the Board meeting time and to ensure that Board members and staff have all the necessary information for a public discussion of an item at the meeting.
- Routine consent items are not for discussion unless staff is notified of questions in advance of the meeting.
 - If a Board member has a specific question, the procedure is to ask the question in advance so staff can be prepared with the necessary information at the Board meeting. This is what is referred to as the “no surprise” agreement.
 - Board members may pull a consent item, ask a question, or make a position statement; but staff will not respond to surprise questions at that time. Staff will make note of the questions and get back to the entire board at a later date.
- Dr. Wheaton also stated that it takes a tremendous amount of time on the part of Board members to be adequately prepared at Board meetings. Effective Board members read the agenda and backup material in advance and seek clarification and understanding in a variety of ways. It often takes extra time and discussion with staff prior to a Board meeting. Fulfilling the role of a Board member is time consuming, and it takes a great commitment to open communication between Board members and staff.
- Tim Chaney commented on Consent Agenda item 5.3.3 – SCICON Four-Day Week Contract for Sixth Grade (Encl. No. 17) and item 5.3.4 – SCICON Day Contract⁵ for Fifth Grade (Encl. No. 18). He and his children attended SCICON and remember it as a wonderful week. He commended the district and TCOE for being able to modify the program from a five-day to a four-day contract so that SCICON can still be experienced by all students.
- Charles Ulmschneider stated that he had some questions and commented on Consent Agenda item 5.3.2 – Supplemental Educational Service (SES) Providers (Encl. No. 16). He is pleased to see this extra help that students need. He asked what grade levels were involved in #2, but that could be answered later; and how many on-line tutors there were.

Donna Martin asked for a clarification on Consent Agenda item 5.1.3 – Authorization to Purchase 4 Buses from Piggyback Bid (Encl. No. 4) and item 5.1.4 – Authorization to Purchase 3 Buses from Piggyback Bid (Encl. No. 5). She asked Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent-Administrative Services, if “piggyback” meant that someone else had purchased buses and the district can “piggyback” on the bid. Mr. Gröeber answered that the district would be taking advantage of someone else’s competitive process and is able to buy those buses at the same price.

Tim Chaney moved to approve the Consent Agenda items, Encl. No. 2-19. Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

5.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List – September 1, 2011 through September 9, 2011 (Encl. No. 2)
2. 2011-12 Budget Revision No. 5 (Encl. No. 3)
3. Authorization to Purchase 4 Buses from Piggyback Bid (Encl. No. 4)
4. Authorization to Purchase 3 Buses from Piggyback Bid (Encl. No. 5)
5. Change Order #1, #2, #3, #4 – Bid #4730 Irrigation Improvements at Mt. Whitney High School (Encl. No. 6)
6. Notice of Completion Bid #4726 – Elbow Creek Irrigation Well Project (Encl. No. 7)
7. Notice of Completion Bid #4729 – Master Clock Replacement Project (Encl. No. 8)
8. Notice of Completion Bid #4730 – Irrigation Improvements at Mt. Whitney High School (Encl. No. 9)
9. Notice of Completion Bid #4742 – La Joya Middle School Painting 2011 (Encl. No. 10)

5.2 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 11)
2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 12)
3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 13)
4. Certification of Temporary Athletic Team Coach List for 2011-12 (Encl. No. 14)

5.3 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 15)
2. Supplemental Educational Service (SES) Providers (Encl. No. 16)
3. SCICON Four-Day Week Contract for Sixth Grade (Encl. No. 17)
4. SCICON Day Contract for Fifth Grade (Encl. No. 18)

5.4 SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

1. Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 13, 2011 (Encl. No. 19)

**PUBLIC
RECOGNITION/
PROCLAMATIONS/
ACTION**

RESOLUTION –
CHARACTER
EDUCATION
MONTH-OCTOBER
2011 AND
*CHARACTER
COUNTS!* WEEK –
OCTOBER 16-22, 2011

Clerk Rodney Elder read the Resolution for Character Education Month – October 2011 and *Character Counts!* Week – October 16-22, 2011. (Encl. No. 20)

Donna Martin moved to approve the Resolution. Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

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

COMMUNITY
PARTNERS
RECOGNITION:
CAMPUS LIFE
CHAPLAINS

Principal Scott Braden, Charter Alternatives Academy, recognized and honored Campus Life Chaplains for the invaluable assistance they provide to students each day on various campuses in the district. (Encl. No. 21)

Tim Chaney moved to approve the Community Partners Recognition of Campus Life Chaplains. Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

PARENT
UNIVERSITY
2011-2012 UPDATE

VUSD has offered parent education courses 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 elementary through secondary site. Parent University includes programs such as: Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE), Parents and Children Together (PACT), Positive Discipline, and Site Based Programs. All schools participate in a parent education offering within the three rotation model of Parent University. (Encl. No. 22)

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

SPECIAL
EDUCATION
UPDATE

Drew Sorensen, Area Superintendent, presented the Special Education Update. (Encl. No. 23) VUSD has been studying the feasibility of returning some or all Special Education classes that are currently being run by the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE). A petition was approved by the VUSD board in June and sent to TCOE. At the TCOE Superintendents' Governance Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 27, the Tulare Superintendents voted unanimously to approve Visalia Unified School District

returning all of its Special Education classes that are currently being run by TCOE to VUSD starting July 1, 2012.

**STAFF
DEVELOPMENT
OVERVIEW 2011-12**

Doug Bartsch, Area Superintendent, presented the Staff Development Overview 2011-12. (Encl. No. 24) The presentation provided an overview of staff development activities scheduled for the 2011-12 school year and how they support improved learning. All professional development activities addressed in the presentation are funded through a combination of State and Federal categorical resources.

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

Devynn Utsler, 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:

- Tim Chaney
 - Attended the eight-hour Board governance training on Board policy
 - Attended the Musical Theatre Tribute to the Beatles fundraiser for the theaters
 - Attended the Gang Prevention Task Force meeting
 - Test scores continue to improve within the district
 - President Obama spoke of NCLB to be suspended
- Larry Jones
 - No report
- Rodney Elder
 - Over 600 bills were sent to Governor Brown to sign, but he requested that the legislators concentrate on four or five important issues
- Donna Martin
 - Attended Royal Oaks Back-to-School Night
 - Attended CSBA training on board policy
 - Attended the TCOE teacher recognition dinner at the Chinese Cultural Center
 - Visalia Education Foundation Band Showcase is Monday, October 3 at the Groppetti Community Stadium
- Jim Qualls
 - Attended the TCOE teacher recognition dinner at the Chinese Cultural Center. Redwood High School teacher, Cole Schieferle, was recognized as Teacher of the Year
 - Attended Facility Advisory Committee meeting
 - Attended Redwood football game
- Charles Ulmschneider
 - Attended the CSBA policy and jurisdiction training
 - Stated that a school district in Tulare County with six students has a superintendent, a principal, and a teacher, with the superintendent receiving \$100,000
 - Would like to ask Mr. Vidak if he would follow Larry Powell in Fresno with what he did with his salary that was quoted in the paper

- Superintendent Wheaton
 - NCLB flexibility-California has been pushing for that to occur for quite some time and has already sent letter to the Department of Education in Washington DC
 - VUSD marches on and continues to improve scores every year
 - District is confident that VUSD is in a favorable position for any accountability system the federal or state government puts in place because of the continual improvement process that ensures focusing on learning so that students get the best possible instruction

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

Jim Qualls moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Expulsions Case No. 12-10 E and Case No. 12-11 E. (Encl. No. 25) Tim Chaney seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**SUSPENDED
EXPULSIONS**

Charles Ulmschneider moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Suspended Expulsions Case No. 12-03 SE and Case No. 12-04 SE. (Encl. No. 26) Tim Chaney seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDED
CONTINUED
EXPULSIONS**

Tim Chaney moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Continued Expulsions Case No. 12-21 RCE and Case No. 12-22 RCE. (Encl. No. 27) Charles Ulmschneider seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

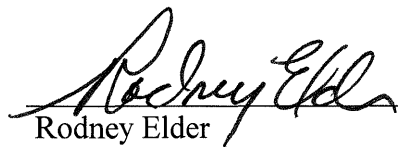
ADJOURNMENT


The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 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