

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

**OPENING  
BUSINESS**

The October 11, 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	9:00	
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  
Devynn Utsler, 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 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
(Government Code Section 54956.9(b) – Significant Exposure to Litigation:  
One potential case
- 2.2 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/ RELEASE/COMPLAINTS  
(Government Code Section 54957)
- 2.3 RECOMMENDED EXPULSIONS (Education Code Sections 48900, et. seq.)
- 2.4 RECOMMENDED REINSTATEMENTS
- 2.5 RECOMMENDED CONTINUED EXPULSIONS
- 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

**EARLY BIRD  
SESSION**

The Early Bird Session opened at 6:30 p.m.

STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS AND  
RECOGNITION

During the school year, high school students are recognized by the Board for outstanding achievement in a specific area of curriculum. This month the Board honored outstanding students in Agriculture and Social Science from the four comprehensive high schools. Students from Sequoia High School, Charter Alternatives Academy, Visalia Charter Independent Study, and Visalia Adult School were recognized for overall achievement. (Encl. No. 1)

Sequoia High School

- Nancy Monroy (Overall Achievement)

Charter Alternatives Academy

- Jacob Cooksey (Overall Achievement)

Visalia Charter Independent Study

- Kristen Littlecrow-Wolfe (Overall Achievement)

Visalia Adult School

- Katia Gamez (Overall Achievement)

El Diamante High School

- Andre Noel Dias-Brasil (Agriculture)
- Fazl Khademi (Social Science)

Golden West High School

- Seth Borges (Agriculture)
- Justin Tonooka (Social Science)

Mt. Whitney High School

- Tara Bane (Agriculture)
- Michael Daniels (Social Science)

Redwood High School

- Aubrey Buchanan (Agriculture)
- Kaylee Hedegaard (Social Science)

**REGULAR SESSION** The Board convened the regular Board meeting at 7:05 p.m. President Fulmer announced that action was taken in closed session regarding Item No. 2.2-Public Employee Discipline/ Dismissal/Release/Complaints. On a motion by Rodney Elder and second by Charles Ulmschneider, the Board decided not to hear the appeal of the complaints pursuant to Administrative Regulation 4031. Ayes: Elder, Fulmer, Jones, Martin, and Ulmschneider. Noes: Chaney and Qualls. Motion carried.

Devynn Utsler, Student Representative to the Board, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL PUBLIC  
COMMENT

**Public Comment**

The following people spoke requesting that the Board make an exception to the board policy on out of state student trip requests so that Golden West High School students in the Virtual Enterprise class, a senior capstone class in the Business Finance Academy, could attend the final competition in Virginia:

Seth Borges, Golden West student in the Virtual Enterprise class

Mary Beatie, a parent of two Golden West Virtual Enterprise alumni students and a past chaperon for the Virginia competition in 2007

Melissa Hernandez, a parent with a daughter currently in the Virtual Enterprise class, a daughter that is an alumni of the class, and two children who are looking forward to being a part of the class

Vincent Rivera, student in the Virtual Enterprise class

**Other Public Comment**

Lloyd Kuhn, expressed his thanks on behalf of Bush Construction for the opportunity to perform the lease/lease back low voltage project at Mt. Whitney High School.

**CONSENT AGENDA** Charles Ulmschneider pulled Consent Agenda Item 5.3.2-Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report (Encl. No. 9).

Tim Chaney moved to approve the remaining Consent Agenda Items, Encl. No. 2-11, then amended to exclude Encl. No. 9. Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5.3.2-Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report (Encl. No. 9). Charles Ulmschneider asked Dr. Todd Oto, Area Superintendent, if there were many non-written complaints, verbal parent concerns. Dr. Oto replied that there were no complaints of any type received by the district.

Charles Ulmschneider moved to approve Item 5.3.2 (Encl. No. 9). Tim Chaney seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion approved unanimously.

5.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Final 2010-11 Budget Revision No. 20 (Encl. No. 2)
2. Warrant List – September 16, 2011 through September 23, 2011 (Encl. No. 3)
3. 2011-12 Budget Revision No. 6 (Encl. No. 4)

5.2 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 5)
2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 6)
3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 7)

5.3 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 8)
2. Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report (Encl. No. 9)
3. Request to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 10)

5.4 SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

1. Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 27, 2011 (Encl. No. 11)

**PUBLIC  
RECOGNITION/  
PROCLAMATIONS/  
ACTION**

**COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS  
RECOGNITION:  
WEST VISALIA  
KIWANIS CLUB**

The Board recognized and honored the West Visalia Kiwanis Club members for supporting and nurturing the students of Crowley and Willow Glen Elementary Schools over the past thirteen years. The club members are involved in the Student of the Month and Student of the Year awards assemblies, school carnivals, motivational assemblies, honor roll medals, and much more. (Encl. No. 12)

**RED RIBBON  
WEEK RESOLUTION  
2011-12**

Red Ribbon Week is October 22-30 with the theme: “No Use of Illegal Drugs and No Illegal Use of Legal Drugs”. Citizens are encouraged to participate in alcohol and drug abuse prevention education activities, making a visible statement to be firmly committed to the Red Ribbon Celebration Pledge. (Encl. No. 13)

Jim Qualls moved to approve the Red Ribbon Week Resolution. Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**HIGHLAND SCHOOL  
UPDATE**

Area Superintendent Doug Bartsch reviewed the actions that have taken place regarding the Board approved transformation model option and updated the Board and public regarding school improvement initiatives currently underway at Highland Elementary School. (Encl. No. 14) Mr. Bartsch will keep the Board informed regarding the process for applying for the School Improvement Grant for Highland School.

**VUSD PACE  
INITIATIVE UPDATE**

During the 2010-11 school year, Area Superintendents, school principals, assistant principals, and selected district staff began an initiative called Program Assessment Collaboration Engagement (PACE). (Encl. No. 15) The following are objectives of PACE:

- To provide opportunities for school leaders to visit schools and classrooms across the district
- To facilitate the sharing of effective teaching and school improvement strategies cross the district
- To provide feedback to principals and school staff regarding each school’s instructional delivery
- To stimulate district-wide conversations relative to student achievement and school improvement
- To assess the impact of district staff development programs

**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:

- Charles Ulmschneider
  - Plans to attend more football games
  - Attended the Board Policy Committee meeting for the Human Resources Department
- Tim Chaney
  - Attended two eight-hour trainings on Gang Intervention
  - Attended El Diamante and Redwood's homecomings
  - Attended Band Showcase at Groppetti Stadium
  - Looking forward to LVN Pinning at LJ Williams on October 21
  - Bus Drivers Awards on October 19
  - October 22 – 8 hours of Board training on Board Governance
  - Addressed recent news articles that have been in the Visalia Times-Delta and the editorial today. He stated that there is no way that this Board is censoring any other Board member. For the most part, the articles in the paper deal with the Consent Agenda, business that the school district has to conduct. Reports and write-ups are included with the board agenda packet. If a Board member reads the agenda packet and has a question, you call the person who has prepared or approved the agenda item to get the information needed. If more information is needed, let them know that you will bring this up at the board meeting and ask them to bring the information with them to answer the question with facts and figures. This is good governance.
- Jim Qualls
  - Echoes Mr. Chaney's opinion and comments.
  - Wanted to make sure the public knows he is not married to the VUTA Treasurer. His wife has been a nurse for over thirty years.
- Donna Martin
  - Showed a picture of the Superintendent cooking hamburgers and hotdogs at the Band Showcase
  - Attended Board Policy Committee meeting to review Human Resources policies
  - Attended Nutrition Advisory Committee meeting. From time to time, she has voiced her concern about chocolate milk in the schools. She distributed a flyer from the Dairy Council of California stating that chocolate milk has a lot of health benefits.
  - Showed a video clip "Fuel Up to Play Sixty" put out by the National Football League. Linwood School is very involved.
- Rodney Elder
  - Visited Charter Alternatives Academy and Visalia Charter Independent Study
- Superintendent Wheaton
  - Since the last board meeting, he has visited Linwood and Manuel F. Hernandez Elementary Schools and Golden West and El Diamante High Schools

- o Visalia Education Foundation's fund raiser, "Visalia's Most Talented", event is Saturday, November 5 at LJ Williams. Two shows: elementary students 2:00-4:00; and secondary students 6:00-8:00. Tickets for \$10 each show or \$15 for both shows. You can get tickets in the Superintendent's Office.

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
PANEL RECOM-  
MENDATIONS/  
ACTION**

- EXPULSIONS** Tim Chaney moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Expulsions Case No. 12-12 E, Case No. 12-13 E, Case No. 12-14 E, and Case No. 12-15 E. (Encl. No. 16) Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.
- REINSTATEMENTS** Tim Chaney moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendation for Reinstatements Case No. 12-60 R. (Encl. No. 17) Larry Jones seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.
- RECOMMENDED  
CONTINUED  
EXPULSIONS** Charles Ulmschneider moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendation for Continued Expulsions Case No. 12-5 RCE. (Encl. No. 18) Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- NOTICE OF INTENT  
TO EMPLOY  
CERTIFICATED  
PERSONNEL AND  
APPROVAL OF  
VARIABLE TERM  
WAIVER REQUEST  
FOR CERTIFICATION** Prior to submitting a Variable Term Waiver Request to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, a notice of intent to employ an individual on the basis of a credential waiver must be published in the board agenda and approval granted by the governing board. (Encl. No. 19) Cindi Costa, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resources Development, stated that this candidate is currently substituting at Charter Alternatives Academy and doing a fine job.
- Tim Chaney moved to approve the Variable Term Waiver Request for an English teacher at Charter Alternatives Academy. Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: Chaney, Elder, Fulmer, Jones, Martin, and Qualls. Noes: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.
- SYCAMORE  
VALLEY ACADEMY  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
PETITION** A petition to establish Sycamore Valley Academy Charter School has been submitted to Visalia Unified. (Encl. No. 20) The Board held a mandated public hearing on June 28, 2011 to determine the level of support for the petition by teachers, other employees of the district, and parents/guardians. Sycamore Valley Academy is intended to be a K-8

school and as its charter states “the school has the distinct aim to meet the needs of the currently under-served population, the gifted and talented children, of the Visalia area.” Enrollment is projected to start at 133 students and will seek district facilities.

Area Superintendent, Dr. Todd Oto, reviewed the district’s findings along with the California Education Code regarding denying/approving a charter school petition. The district recommended approval with contingent openings which allows time to work through the Memorandums of Understanding necessary for the operation of this school.

Charles Ulmschneider requested information on goals and objectives for diversity. Lead Petitioner Ruth Dutton cited the pages in the petition that states intentions to create a student population as diverse as the community through its marketing strategy efforts.

Tim Chaney asked what the negative financial impact would be on the district. Nathan Hernandez, Administrator-Business Services, responded that the loss of district funds cannot be considered as far as approving or denying a charter petition.

Larry Jones asked if the district would be reimbursed for the utilities of the facilities being used. Nathan Hernandez responded that as part of the facilities use agreement, the charter school would be responsible for paying for not only the facilities but also any custodial and utility charges.

Charles Ulmschneider stated that he was not convinced that charter schools are filling a need and feels they are competing with the district instead of supplementing the district that may be leading to privatization of public schools.

Larry Jones asked if the rules for API scores are the same for charter schools. Dr. Oto said that one of the controls school districts have on charters is that they do have accountability with regards to test scores.

Superintendent Wheaton clarified that if the governing board approves the charter, staff’s recommendation is that the district would have one voting board member on the charter school board; and it would be the district’s obligation to make sure that the charter school does what they say they will do or revoke the charter or not re-approve it.

**Other public comment**

Mary Ann Brensel, a retired VUSD teacher, spoke in favor of the Board approving the Sycamore Valley Charter School petition.

Tim Chaney moved to approve the Sycamore Valley Academy Charter School Petition. Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: Chaney, Elder, Fulmer, Jones, Martin, and Qualls. Noes: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

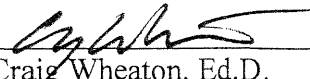
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 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