

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

**OPENING  
BUSINESS**

The August 26, 2014 Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Jim Qualls 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>
John L. Crabtree	5:30	9:20	
William A. Fulmer	5:30	9:20	
Juan Guerrero	5:30	9:20	
Donna Martin	5:53	9:20	
Jim L. Qualls	5:30	9:20	
Charles Ulmschneider	5:30	9:20	
Lucia D. Vazquez	5:30	9:20	
 Dr. Craig Wheaton, Superintendent	 5:30	 9:20	

**Staff Members**

Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
 Tamara Ravalín, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development  
 Doug Bartsch, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services  
 Dr. Todd Oto, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services  
 Pam Ryan, Administrative Assistant, Superintendent's Office  
 Kati Ann Kochevar, Student Representative

**CLOSED SESSION**

President Qualls 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 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (Government Code Section 54957)
- 2.2 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54957.6)
  - 1. Agency Negotiator: Tamara Ravalín
  - 2. Employee Organizations
    - 1. CSEA
    - 2. VUTA
    - 3. Management

**EARLY BIRD  
SESSION**

The Early Bird Session opened at 6:15 p.m.

**STUDY SESSION –  
FACILITY PLAN**

The presentation provided the Board and public with an update on Measure E implementation without a State School Facilities Bond on the November 2014 ballot. (Encl. No. 1) Completed Measure E projects to date:

- Solar units at 12 sites

- Site security projects at 6 sites
- New ADA compliant playgrounds at 5 sites
- Redwood High School fire alarm upgrade

Measure E Projects that will be completed:

- Redwood High School two-story academic building
  - Ready for students August 2015
- New Middle School
  - Groundbreaking October 2014
  - Ready for students August 2016
- Projects moving forward in Summer 2015
  - Playgrounds Phase II
  - Site security Phase II
- Projects in design
  - 5 elementary school modernizations
  - 1 more high school modernization
    - Redwood High School already at Division of State Architect (DSA)

**INTRODUCTION/  
OATH OF OFFICE/  
INSTALLATION OF  
STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES  
TO THE SCHOOL  
BOARD FOR THE  
2014-2015 SCHOOL  
YEAR**

The new student representatives to the Board took their oath of office and were installed for the 2014-15 school year by Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, Dr. Todd Oto. Each student will attend four Board meetings during the year reporting on student activities and related topics. (Encl. No. 2)

- Kati Ann Kochevar – Redwood
- Remington Beno – El Diamante
- Ashton Seifert – Golden West
- Josue Lopez – Mt. Whitney

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board convened the regular Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present. President Jim Qualls announced that no action was taken in closed session. Charles Ulmschneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GENERAL PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**Public Comment**

Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent-Administrative Services, introduced Regina Ocampo, the new Director of Student Nutritional Services.

Bill Davis, Director of Career Technical Education, recognized Emmett Schultz, Golden West High School Ag Teacher, for being selected as a recipient of the 2014 Teacher of Excellence Award by the California Agricultural Teachers' Association (San Joaquin Region).

**CONSENT AGENDA**

President Qualls announced that two revisions, Consent Agenda Item 5.2.2 – Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 22) and Item 5.3.1 – Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 25) were distributed before the meeting due to changes that were made after the board agenda packet was posted.

Charles Ulmschneider pulled Consent Agenda Item 5.2.2 - Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 22).

Bill Fulmer moved to approve the remaining Consent Agenda Items (Encl. No. 3-29). Lucia Vazquez seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Fulmer moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 5.2.2 – Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 22). John Crabtree seconded the motion. Ayes: Crabtree, Fulmer, Guerrero, Martin, Qualls, and Vazquez. Noes: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.

#### 5.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List – July 25, 2014 Through August 8, 2014 (Encl. No. 3)
2. 2014-2015 Budget Revision No. 2 (Encl. No. 4)
3. VUSD Cash and Investment Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2014 (Encl. No. 5)
4. Approval of Educational Specifications (ED SPEC) for New Elementary School on Giddings and Ferguson (Encl. No. 6)
5. Change Order #1 – Bid #4797 Painting Projects at Various Sites (Encl. No. 7)
6. Change Order #1 – Bid #4798 Asphalt Projects Various Sites (Encl. No. 8)
7. Change Order #1 – Bid #4798 Asphalt Projects at Various Sites – Hurley Elementary School (Encl. No. 9)
8. Change Order #1 – Bid #4798 Asphalt Projects at Various Sites – Mt. Whitney High School (Encl. No. 10)
9. Change Order #1 – Bid #4799 Roofing Projects at Various Sites 2014 (Encl. No. 11)
10. Approval of RFQ #4815 for DSA Inspector of Record Services (Encl. No. 12)
11. Approval of RFQ #4816 for Materials Testing Laboratory Services (Encl. No. 13)
12. Notice of Completion Bid #4793 New Relocatable Preschool at Crowley Elementary School (Encl. No. 14)
13. Notice of Completion Bid #4797 Painting Projects at Various Sites (Encl. No. 15)
14. Notice of Completion Bid #4798 Asphalt Projects Various Sites (Encl. No. 16)
15. Notice of Completion Bid #4799 Roofing Projects at Various Sites 2014 (Encl. No. 17)
16. Notice of Completion Bid #4800 Goshen Elementary School-Relocate (3) Existing Relocatable Classrooms to Goshen Elementary School (Encl. No. 18)
17. Notice of Completion – Lease-Leaseback Contract with Gary Interrante Construction for Crowley Growth Modular Building Project (Encl. No. 19)

18. Notice of Completion – Lease-Leaseback Contract with Forcum/Mackey Construction of Packwood Modernization for Sycamore Valley Academy (Encl. No. 20)
- 5.2 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
  1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 21)
  2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 22)
  3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 23)
  4. Certification of Temporary Athletic Team Coach List for Fall 2014-15 (Encl. No. 24)
- 5.3 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES
  1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 25)
  2. Lisa Project Contract (Encl. No. 26)
  3. 2014-2015 Agricultural Vocational Education Incentive Grant for El Diamante, Golden West, Mt. Whitney, Redwood High School and VTEC (Encl. No. 27)
- 5.4 SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE
  1. Minutes of the Board Meeting of August 12, 2014 (Encl. No. 28)
  2. Record of Board Member Attendance for Regular and Special Board Meetings (Encl. No. 29)

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

**REPORT ON NEW  
SCHOOL YEAR**

District staff provided a report on the new school year. Below are some of the highlights from the report (Encl. No. 30):

- 276 more students enrolled in the district compared to last school year
- 128 “new to VUSD” teachers were hired
- 15 new certificated management staff have been hired
- New State Standards implemented in English Language Arts and Math for Grades K-12. New instructional materials have been purchased to support the new State Standards
- Visalia Technical Early College High School (VTEC) now has a freshman class, making it a 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade school
- Two new Linked Learning Academies offered this year
  - Ag Engineering at Golden West High School
  - Health Science at Mt. Whitney High School
- Behavior technicians are now in place at each middle and high school campus including Sequoia High School

**VUSD 2014 SUMMER  
FACILITY PROJECTS**

Jeff Ramsay, Director of Administrative Services, provided a report on the various facilities projects that were completed in the summer. These included projects from

**REVIEW**

Routine Restricted Maintenance, Deferred Maintenance, other miscellaneous maintenance funds, and Measure E. Some of the Measure E projects will be completed later in the school year because they would take longer to complete than during the summer. (Encl. No. 31)

**PARENT LINK –  
VUSD DISTRICT  
APP**

An update on the new VUSD Parent Link messaging “app” was presented. The “app” is being used for District and school-to-home communication. Parents may download the “app” at the Google Play Store or Apple App Store by searching for Visalia USD. The official Visalia USD “app” gives a personalized window into information regarding the District and schools: (Encl. No. 32)

- View District and school news
- Receive school notifications
- Access the District directory
- Display information personalized to your interests
- View and add contact information
- View schedule and attendance information

**FOCUS ON  
STUDENT  
LEARNING**

Presentation/Public  
Comment/Board  
Discussion/ACTION  
(as applicable)

**VUSD SUMMER  
SCHOOL REPORT**

Extended Year Program Principals, Dave Whitmore (GWHS Assistant Principal) and Carli Hawkins (EDHS Assistant Principal), reviewed the progress of students enrolled in the Extended Year Program (summer school) offered by middle and high schools. The program review summarized both school systems and student achievement as these relate to the implementation of a successful summer intervention program. The ongoing review of school programs, including the Extended Year Program, results in improvements to curriculum, the instructional program, student learning, and school systems. (Encl. No. 33)

**ELEMENTARY  
STEAM (SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY,  
ENGINEERING,  
ARTS AND  
MATHEMATICS)  
INITIATIVE**

District staff presented information regarding a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) initiative that will be implemented in elementary schools this year. Visalia Unified School District will partner with ProYouth in providing these after-school enrichment opportunities: (Encl. No. 34)

- Hands-on learning about the science of plant growth and development through school gardens
- Hands-on engineering through "Lego-Robotics"

Lucia Vazquez moved to approve the Elementary STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Initiative. John Crabtree seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Kati Ann Kochevar, Student Representative to the Board from Redwood 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:

- John Crabtree
  - Attended
    - Back to School Nights at Green Acres Middle School and Redwood High School
  - Will be visiting VTEC and the dairy project
- Lucia Vazquez
  - Attended Back to School Nights at Annie R. Mitchell, Crowley, and Washington Elementary Schools and Green Acres Middle School
  - Stated that VUSD has agreed to do a survey with UC Berkeley. She has been hired by UC Berkeley to be one of the evaluators that will be visiting some of the classrooms. She has confirmation that this is not a conflict of interest because she has been hired by someone other than VUSD
  - Will be starting a doctoral program with Brandman University, and Dr. Wheaton will be the cohort mentor
  - Will be attending:
    - Hispanic Advisory Committee meeting
    - VTEC Board meeting
    - 2 Board Policy Committee meetings
- Charles Ulmschneider
  - No report
- Donna Martin
  - Will be using the new VUSD “app”
- Bill Fulmer
  - Attended the Visalia Education Foundation meeting. They have a fund raiser on Saturday, September 27 at L.J. Williams Theater – William Close & the Earth Harp Collective
  - VTEC is still selling eggs to the public
  - Attended Back to School Nights at Manuel F. Hernandez Elementary, Green Acres and Divisadero Middle Schools, and Redwood High School
- Juan Guerrero
  - Spoke to students from Sequoia High School before the board meeting
  - Condolences to Redwood High School for losing a student that passed away this weekend
- Jim Qualls
  - Met the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, at Harmony Magnet Academy, a charter school with Porterville Unified School District
  - Met with Karl Kildow, President-Visalia Unified Teachers Association (VUTA)

- Superintendent Wheaton
  - Thanked the entire VUSD organization for contributing to a successful beginning of another school year
  - Welcomed Student Representative to the Board, Kati Ann Kochevar, from Redwood High School
  - Distributed fall athletic schedules of all high school sports and sports passes to each VUSD event
  - Distributed copies of an article that was published in the most recent *Association of the California School Administrators Leadership* magazine that Jim Sullivan assisted him in preparing that highlights the community input in goal setting for the district's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

**GENERAL AGENDA**

Review/Public Hearing/

Public Input/

Board Discussion/

**ACTION** (as applicable)

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF EDUCATION PROTECTION ACCOUNT FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-15

The passage of Proposition 30 on the November 2012 ballot created a separate funding stream for school districts called the Education Protection Account (EPS) from the new incremental income and sales tax increases. Revenues from Prop 30 are directed into the EPA fund and allocated to school districts, charter schools, and community colleges. The new law also created the requirement for districts to report to the Board each year in a public session how these funds would be spent with no monies from the EPA allowed for salaries or benefits of administrators or any other administrative costs. VUSD will use these funds to pay salaries and related benefits for instructional personnel. (Encl. No. 35)

Bill Fulmer moved to approve the Resolution to Approve the Expenditure of Education Protection Account Funds in Accordance with the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15. Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

ESTABLISH SALARY FOR GUEST TEACHERS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2014

In a recent survey of substitute teacher rates in selected Tulare County and Kern County school districts, it was found that VUSD rates were lower than many neighboring districts. The administration requested that the Board raise the daily rate for Guest Teachers from \$105 to \$125. Additionally, the administration requested that the Board raise the daily rate for Guest Teachers to \$135 for Goshen Elementary and Ivanhoe Elementary Schools. (Encl. No. 36)

Bill Fulmer moved to approve the administration's recommendations to raise the salaries for Guest Teachers as requested that would go into effect September 1, 2014. Lucia Vazquez seconded the motion. Ayes: Crabtree, Fulmer, Guerrero, Martin, Qualls, and Vazquez. Noes: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO EMPLOY

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

**CERTIFICATED  
PERSONNEL AND  
APPROVAL OF  
VARIABLE TERM  
WAIVER REQUEST  
FOR SPEECH/  
LANGUAGE &  
HEARING**

waiver must be published in the board agenda and approval granted by the Governing Board. There is a nationwide shortage of Speech-Language Pathologists. The candidate has worked in the medical field and has started course work for her credential. (Encl. No. 37)

Lucia Vazquez moved to approve the Notice of Intent to Employ Certificated Personnel and Approval of Variable Term Waiver Request for Speech/Language & Hearing. John Crabtree seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

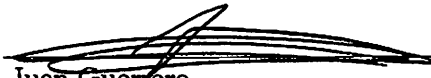
**ADJOURNMENT**


The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, 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,

  
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Juan Guerrero  
Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Wheaton, Ed.D.  
Superintendent