

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

**OPENING
BUSINESS**

The December 9, 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 | 10:25 | |
| William A. Fulmer | 5:30 | 10:25 | |
| Juan Guerrero | 5:30 | 10:25 | |
| Donna Martin | 5:30 | 10:25 | |
| Jim L. Qualls | 5:30 | 10:25 | |
| Charles Ulmschneider | 5:30 | 10:25 | |
| Lucia D. Vazquez | 5:30 | 10:25 | |
| Dr. Craig Wheaton, Superintendent | 5:30 | 10:25 | |

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
 Ms. Remington Beno, 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 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: Tamara Ravalín
 - 2. Employee Organizations
 - 1. CSEA
 - 2. VUTA
 - 3. Management
- 2.5 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
 Property: 4930 West Kaweah Court, Visalia, CA 93277
 APN 087-470-001-000
 Agency negotiator: Robert Gröeber

Negotiating parties: Mike Porte, Grubb & Ellis Real Estate
Under negotiation: Potential Purchase

2.6 SUPERINTENDENT – MID-YEAR EVALUATION

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. Lucia Vazquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GENERAL PUBLIC
COMMENT**

General Public Comment

Alexander Wildgans, working with the Cultural Branch of the German Foreign Service in San Francisco, spoke to the Board on the District offering German as a new high school world language.

**PUBLIC
RECOGNITION/
PROCLAMATIONS/
ACTION**

**RECOGNITION OF
BOARD MEMBER
SERVICE**

Dr. Craig Wheaton, Superintendent, recognized and presented plaques to the 2014 Board President, Jim Qualls, and Board Clerk, Juan Guerrero, for their leadership and commitment to serving the needs of students, staff, and their fellow Board members. (Encl. No. 1)

**ELECTION OF
BOARD OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

According to the Education Code, the meeting in December is described as the Annual Organizational Meeting of the School Board at which time the Board elects their officers for 2015. Superintendent Wheaton summarized Board Bylaw 9121 – Election of Board President. (Encl. No. 2)

Juan Guerrero expressed his interest in serving as Board President. Charles Ulmschneider nominated Bill Fulmer as President. Bill Fulmer declined.

John Crabtree moved to appoint Juan Guerrero as Board President for 2015. Bill Fulmer seconded the motion. Ayes: Crabtree, Fulmer, Guerrero, Martin, Qualls, and Vazquez. Noes: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.

CLERK

Superintendent Wheaton summarized Board Bylaw 9123, the duties of the Clerk of the Board. (Encl. No. 3)

Donna Martin and Lucia Vazquez expressed their interest in becoming the Board Clerk for 2015.

Charles Ulmschneider nominated Bill Fulmer for Board Clerk. Bill Fulmer declined.

Bill Fulmer moved to nominate Lucia Vazquez as Board Clerk for 2015. Lucia Vazquez seconded the motion. Ayes: Crabtree, Fulmer, Guerrero, Martin, Qualls, and Vazquez. Noes: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENT OF
BOARD
SECRETARY**

Education Code requires the Board to take formal action to appoint the Superintendent to serve as Secretary to the Board. Superintendent Wheaton reviewed Board Bylaw 9122, the duties of the Secretary. (Encl. No. 4)

Lucia Vazquez moved to appoint Superintendent Craig Wheaton as Board Secretary. Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: Crabtree, Fulmer, Guerrero, Martin, Qualls, and Vazquez. Noes: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Charles Ulmschneider pulled Consent Agenda Item 7.3.5 – New Secondary Course Offerings for the 2014-2015 School Year (Encl. No. 18) and Item 7.3.6 – Revised Secondary Course Offerings for the 2014-2015 School Year (Encl. No. 19).

Jim Qualls moved to approve the remaining Consent Agenda Items, Encl. No. 5-23. Bill Fulmer seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda Item 7.3.5 – New Secondary Course Offerings for the 2014-2015 School Year (Encl. No. 18). Charles Ulmschneider requested clarification for the new course offerings. Staff responded that the new secondary course offerings will start in the second semester for 2014-2015.

John Crabtree moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 7.3.5 – New Secondary Course Offerings for the 2014-2015 School Year (Encl. No. 18). Charles Ulmschneider seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda Item 7.3.6 – Revised Secondary Course Offerings for the 2014-2015 School Year (Encl. No. 19). Charles Ulmschneider requested clarification for the revised course offerings. Staff responded that the revised secondary course offerings involved pathway courses that count for high school and COS credits.

Charles Ulmschneider moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 7.3.6 – Revised Secondary Course Offerings for the 2014-2015 School Year. (Encl. No. 19). Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

7.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List – November 3, 2014 Through November 21, 2014 (Encl. No. 5)
2. 2014-2015 Budget Revision No. 8 (Encl. No. 6)
3. Approval of Bid #4824 Chiller Replacement at Mt. Whitney High School (Encl. No. 7)
4. Award of RFPs 4818-4822 District Copier and Printer Fleet (Encl. No. 8)

5. Resolution Approving the Purchase of Real Property from Harmar LLC and Adopting Categorical Exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act (Encl. No. 9)
- 7.2 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
 1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 10)
 2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 11)
 3. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No. 12)
 4. Certification of Temporary Athletic Team Coach List for Winter/Fall 2014-15 (Encl. No. 13)
- 7.3 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES
 1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 14)
 2. First Five Tulare County School Special Project Grant Contracts (Encl. No. 15)
 3. Memorandum of Understanding Between Visalia Unified School District, Valley Oak Middle School PULSE Program, and California Teaching Fellows Foundation (Encl. No. 16)
 4. Request to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 17)
 5. New Secondary Course Offerings for the 2014-2015 School Year (Encl. No. 18)
 6. Revised Secondary Course Offerings for the 2014-2015 School Year (Encl. No. 19)
- 7.4 SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
 1. Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 28, 2014 (Encl. No. 20)
 2. Board Meeting Dates for 2015-2016 School Year (Encl. No. 21)
 3. Approval of Authorized Signatures for Calendar Year 2015 (Encl. No. 22)
 4. Record of Board Member Attendance for Regular and Special Board Meetings (Encl. No. 23)

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

**CENERGISTICS
UPDATE ON
ENERGY
EDUCATION AND
MANAGEMENT**

Cenergistics is the District's energy efficiency and education provider that has helped to significantly lower VUSD's energy costs through improved monitoring and energy usage education. Their program, along with the many energy conservation efforts the District has already implemented, is maximizing the efficiency of facilities. The update gave an overview of the savings to date in electricity, natural gas, and water & sewer, which totaled \$440,899 or 12%. (Encl. No. 24)

**FOCUS ON
STUDENT
LEARNING**

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

SECOND READING:
VISALIA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
ON LOCAL
CONTROL
ACCOUNTABILITY
PLAN (LCAP)

Since LCAP was approved, additional funds were made available from the State. These funds must be used to complete activities for LCAP Year One or to begin work on LCAP Year Two. The original stakeholder advisory groups were re-engaged to assist in determining the priorities on how these funds will be used. The recommendation of the District staff and stakeholders was to increase counseling and advisement services in the middle of the year. (Encl. No. 25)

Public Comment

Karl Kildow, President-Visalia Unified Teachers Association (VUTA), requested clarification on how many new positions would be involved and which sites would see the increase in counseling and advisement services. District staff replied that three or four counselors will be placed at middle schools and high schools this year and three or four added in 2015-2016. Karl Kildow stated that there is an increase of behavior issues at the elementary level. Staff replied that the new behavior intervention teams have made a positive impact at the elementary schools.

John Crabtree moved to approve the recommendation of the District staff and stakeholders to increase counseling and advisement services in the middle of the year. Bill Fulmer seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

K-8 PROGRAM
REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION

The report provided the Board with an update on the status of VUSD's two K-8 schools, Oak Grove Elementary and Willow Glen Elementary. Data compiled from the parent surveys showed overwhelming approval of the program. Administrative staff are collecting names of interested parents and students that are on a waiting list, and parent inquiries from outside VUSD have been received. (Encl. No. 26)

Public Comment

Karl Kildow, President – VUTA, stated that the Association has been and will continue to be supportive of the K-8 system and requested that the Board and staff research beginning a K-8 school on the east side of the District.

David Alviso, a VUSD parent, stated that it was his understanding that the two K-8 schools would be temporary until the new middle school was built. Superintendent Wheaton explained that initially, that was the reason; but as the two years progressed, parents and students involved in the program desired the ability to choose the K-8 environment.

John Crabtree moved to approve the staff recommendation that the K-8 configuration of Oak Grove and Willow Glen Schools be made permanent and that consideration be made to explore the possibility of another elementary school transitioning to a K-8th grade

configuration beginning in the 2015-16 school year. Jim Qualls seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**LINKED LEARNING
ACADEMY UPDATE**

Linked Learning Academies combine rigorous academics with career themed courses and work-based learning in an academy structure. (Encl. No. 27) In the Fall of 2014, VUSD established an Ag Engineering Academy at Golden West High School and a Health Science Academy at Mt. Whitney High School. In the Fall of 2015, four additional academies will be started:

- Agricultural Bioscience & Technology – Visalia Early Technical College (VTEC) High School
- Architecture & Engineering – Redwood High School
- Computer Science – Mt. Whitney High School
- Media Arts – El Diamante High School

Public Comment

Karl Kildow, President – VUTA, (1) asked if there would be transportation for students living across town from the academy they choose. Staff replied that a plan has been presented to the Transportation Department for their consideration. (2) How will the ag academy at Golden West High School affect the Redwood High School welding program? Staff responded that initially expecting no more than 10% of students coming from outside their home school. The Ag Academy is much different than the welding class. (3) Will there be additional teacher hiring for some academies? Staff responded that new hiring will be minimal. (4) Will the academy structure focus on career and college ready? Staff answered that the academy structure does address both.

**NEW HIGH SCHOOL
WORLD LANGUAGE
OFFERINGS**

The Board and staff have been researching the possibility of implementing an additional world language course offering for high school students for the 2015-2016 school year. The presentation reviewed current language offerings of Spanish and French, the top languages spoken in the business world, world language courses available at the State universities and local community colleges, language preferences identified by local Visalia businesses, and a survey taken by VUSD students. Administrative staff recommended two options for the Board to consider—to offer a new world language in the Fall of 2015 of either Italian or German based on student interest or delay the implementation of a new world language to further explore which language to adopt. (Encl. No. 28)

French teachers in the District made a presentation to the Board with concerns that a third world language would jeopardize the French programs by spreading the students too thin that enroll in world languages and that none of the other high schools in the area offer three languages.

Public Comment

Clay Jepson, parent of a first grader at Shannon Ranch Elementary School, requested that the Board consider Chinese because that is where future agricultural business is going and to consider offering world languages at the K-8 level.

Dr. David Ingle, Professor of German at California State University-Fresno, suggested that German would be the right language to choose.

Nathan DeForest, a parent, encouraged the Board to offer more languages.

John Crabtree moved to delay the implementation of a new world language for the Fall of 2015. Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Remington Beno, 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:

- Jim Qualls
 - Attended
 - Finance Advisory Committee
 - Hispanic Advisory Committee
- Charles Ulmschneider
 - No report
- Bill Fulmer
 - Attended
 - Proteus Christmas Open House
 - TCOVE Board meeting
 - Worked on the Washington School garden
 - Gang Task Force meeting
 - VPIE meeting
- Donna Martin
 - Thanked staff for their hard work
- John Crabtree
 - Attended
 - Tulare Kings County Hispanic Business Awards
 - Board Policy Committee
 - PIQE graduations at Green Acres Middle School, Sequoia High School, and Mt. View Elementary School
 - Visalia Partners in Education meeting
 - Finance Advisory Committee
 - Property Advisory Committee
 - Proteus Open House and Christmas party
 - Cottonwood Creek fund raiser at Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Lucia Vazquez
 - No report
- Juan Guerrero
 - Attended
 - Visalia Partners In Education meeting
 - Association of Mexican American Educators social

- PIQE graduations
- Hispanic Advisory meeting
- Hispanic Chambers Awards
- Superintendent Wheaton
 - No report

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

Jim Qualls moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Expulsions Case No. 15-23 E, Case No. 15-24 E, Case No. 15-25 E, Case No. 15-26 E, Case No. 15-27 E, Case No. 15-28 E, Case No. 15-29 E, and Case No. 15-30 E. (Encl. No. 29) John Crabtree seconded the motion. Ayes: Crabtree, Guerrero, Martin, Qualls, Ulmschneider, and Vazquez. Bill Fulmer was temporarily out of the room. Motion carried.

**SUSPENDED
EXPULSIONS**

Jim Qualls moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Suspended Expulsions Case No. 15-05 SE. (Encl. No. 30) Lucia Vazquez seconded the motion. Ayes: Crabtree, Guerrero, Martin, Qualls, Ulmschneider, and Vazquez. Bill Fulmer was temporarily out of the room. Motion carried.

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

**ATTENDANCE AREA
BOUNDARY
UPDATE**

VUSD is in the midst of a district-wide attendance boundary process to develop five balanced attendance areas for the middle schools in anticipation of the new middle school opening in August 2016. At the same time, the four comprehensive high schools need to be rebalanced as the five middle schools will feed into those existing high schools. The Board provided direction on guiding principles at the Board Meeting on October 14, 2014. Draft maps were created from those guiding principles. Versions of those maps were reviewed by the Board at a Special Board Meeting on November 4, 2014, and will be shared with the public in quadrant meetings for public comment before coming back to the Board with final recommendations and implementation options. (Encl. No. 31)

**2014-15 FIRST
INTERIM FINANCIAL
REPORT**

District staff reviewed the State budget, revenue impact to the VUSD budget, and a general fund summary. The District will receive a “positive certification” which meets the required 3% reserve and a positive projection for the next two fiscal years. (Encl. No. 32)

Public Comment

Karl Kildow, President – VUTA, asked about the increase in enrollment and how many teachers would be hired. Staff answered that 17 additional FTE is projected.

Donna Martin moved to approve the 2014-15 First Interim Financial Report. John Crabtree seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD
REPRESENTATIVE
COMMITTEE
APPOINTMENTS
FOR 2015**

The Board considered individual interests and appointments to the slate of Board Representatives on Committees for 2015 with two Board members being assigned to each committee. Up to three Board members can attend committee meetings, and anyone desiring to attend a meeting will contact the Superintendent's Office to attend the meeting on a first come first served basis. (Encl. No. 33) Charles Ulmschneider stated that he may be working out of town and will not be able to attend committee meetings. Superintendent Wheaton requested that he contact the office if he will be in town, and he will be placed on the committee's list to participate.

John Crabtree moved to approve the 2015 VUSD Board Committee Meeting Assignments and Dates. Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**SELECTION OF
BOARD
REPRESENTATIVE
TO VOTE IN 2015
ELECTION OF
COUNTY
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

As required by Education Code Section 4005 and 35023, the Board yearly selects a Board member to vote on behalf of the Visalia Unified School District in electing members to the County Committee on School District Organization. The responsibility of the representative is to take part in the 2015 election of county committee members at the Annual County School Boards Association (CSBA) Dinner which takes place in the fall. (Encl. No. 34)

Jim Qualls moved to select Lucia Vazquez as VUSD's Board representative to vote in the 2015 election of county committee members. Bill Fulmer seconded the motion. Ayes: Crabtree, Fulmer, Guerrero, Martin, Qualls, and Vazquez. Noes: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.

**CALIFORNIA
SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION
(CSBA) ANNUAL
EDUCATION
CONFERENCE –
DECEMBER 14
THROUGH
DECEMBER 16,
2014**

The Superintendent and Board discussed details for attending the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Annual Education Conference in San Francisco December 14 through December 16, 2014. Robert Groeber and Doug Bartsch, Assistant Superintendents, will also be attending the conference. Board members will divide up the important sessions such as Linked Learning, Positive Discipline Restorative Practices, Board Governance, and the Brown Act. The District van will be leaving from the District Office at 4:00 on Saturday, December 13. For those who choose not to ride the District van, the District will pay for Amtrak or parking but not mileage to drive. It was recommended that the District pay for the cost of registration, hotel, and meal expenses according to board policy. Dr. Wheaton stated that to attend a conference like this where all Board members attend costs between \$15,000-\$20,000, and it is not a minor expense but a valuable education. (Encl. No. 35)

John Crabtree moved to approve the expenses that the District will be responsible for. Donna Martin seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDER/ADOPT
A RESOLUTION
CENSURING**

As directed by Board President Qualls at the November 18, 2014 board meeting, Superintendent Wheaton contacted legal counsel and a resolution censuring Board Member Ulmschneider for violation of the Brown Act has been agendized. Background

**BOARD MEMBER
ULMSCHNEIDER
FOR BROWN ACT
VIOLATIONS**

information regarding the resolution was provided prior to board member discussion and possible adoption of the resolution. (Encl. No. 36) Superintendent Wheaton reviewed the definition of censorship, legal rights of a board member, rights of the board as a whole, freedom of speech, and due process and then read the complete Resolution.

Jim Qualls moved to adopt the Resolution Censuring Board Member Ulmschneider for Brown Act Violations. Bill Fulmer seconded the motion. Ayes: Crabtree, Fulmer, Guerrero, Martin, Qualls, and Vazquez. Noes: Ulmschneider. Motion carried.

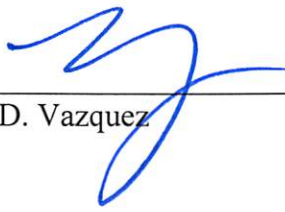
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

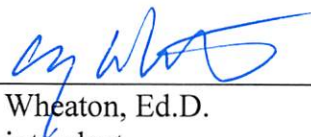
NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 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,



Lucia D. Vazquez
Clerk



Craig Wheaton, Ed.D.
Superintendent