

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

**OPENING  
BUSINESS**

The October 10, 2017, Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board President Lucia Vazquez 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	8:55	
William A. Fulmer	5:30	8:55	
Patricia M. Griswold	5:30	8:55	
Juan Guerrero	5:30	8:55	
Jim L. Qualls	5:30	8:55	
Charles Ulmschneider	5:30	8:55	
Lucia D. Vazquez	5:30	8:55	
 Dr. Todd Oto, Superintendent	 5:30	 8:55	

Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
 Dr. Tamara Ravalín, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Development  
 Dr. Melanie Stringer, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services  
 Delia Smart, Administrative Assistant, Superintendent's Office  
 Jose Medina, Spanish Interpreter

**CLOSED SESSION**

President Vazquez identified the closed session topics listed below and called for public comment on the closed session items. There were no comments from the public. The Board adjourned to closed session.

- 2.1 RECOMMENDED EXPULSIONS (Education Code Sections 48900, et. seq.)
- 2.2 RECOMMENDED REINSTATEMENTS
- 2.3 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE/ COMPLAINTS (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: 107 W. Tulare Avenue  
 APN: 077320069  
 Agency negotiator: Robert Gröeber  
 Negotiating parties: City of Visalia  
 Under negotiation: Potential Lease
- 2.6 ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
 Significant Exposure to Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b))  
 One potential case
- 2.7 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EVALUATION – SUPERINTENDENT

## EARLY BIRD SESSION

President Vazquez called the Early Bird Session to order at 6:33 p.m.

### INTRODUCE INTERPRETER

President Vazquez introduced Jose Medina as the Spanish interpreter for the Board meeting. Mr. Medina announced in Spanish that headphones were available for folks wanting to hear the meeting in Spanish.

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITION (Encl. No. 1)

During the traditional school year, high school students are recognized by the Board for outstanding achievement in a specific area of curriculum. At this meeting, the Board honored outstanding students for their achievements in Agriculture, World Language, or reading growth. A student from each of the following schools was also recognized for overall achievement: Sequoia High School, Charter Alternatives Academy, Visalia Charter Independent Study, Visalia Technical Early College High School, and Visalia Adult School.

#### El Diamante High School

- Yarely Alvarez-Hernandez – World Language
- Francisco Javier Espino Olivera – Reading Growth
- Matthew Rosa – Agriculture

#### Golden West High School

- Luis Alberto Nilo-Galvan – Reading Growth
- Bailey Gruber – Agriculture
- Krystal Emily Garcia – World Language

#### Mt. Whitney High School

- Adriana Contreras-Alvarez – Reading Growth
- Julia Rivas – Agriculture
- Katherine Sa – World Language

#### Redwood High School

- Payton Thomas – Agriculture
- Anna Benzeevi – World Language
- Michelle Alejandra Estrada – Reading Growth

#### Sequoia High School

- Luz Gutierrez Hernandez – Overall Achievement

#### Visalia Technical Early College High School

- Devon Lee – Overall Achievement

#### Charter Alternatives Academy

- Daniel Ruben Amavisca Soto - Overall Achievement

#### Visalia Charter Independent Study

- Adia Aguilar - Overall Achievement

#### Visalia Adult School

- Ana Rosa Cardenas - Overall Achievement

The early bird session ended at 7:19 p.m.

## REGULAR SESSION

The Board convened the regular Board meeting at 7:19 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present.

### INTRODUCE INTERPRETER

President Vazquez introduced Jose Medina as the Spanish interpreter for the Board meeting. Mr. Medina announced in Spanish that headphones were available for folks wanting to hear the meeting in Spanish.

REPORT ACTION TAKEN  
IN CLOSED SESSION

President Vazquez announced that no action was taken in closed session.

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE

Board Clerk William Fulmer led the pledge of allegiance.

GENERAL PUBLIC  
COMMENT

The following people spoke about their concerns regarding a Redwood High School student who wore a sweater bearing the Confederate flag, reasons they find it offensive/unacceptable, and spoke of the disruption it caused.

- Mayra Espinoza-Martinez, past VUSD graduate
- Diego Espinoza, past VUSD graduate
- Ruby Hernandez, past Orosi resident
- Joseph Correa, Visalia Resident

Superintendent Oto shared that at the request of Board members, the school dress policy for the district will be reviewed. The policy will undergo small committee work later in the week and language will be brought back for a first read at the October 24, 2017, Board meeting and a possible second and final read at the November 12, 2017, Board meeting. He thanked the people who provided public comment and let them know that they have been heard and that Board members are sensitive to the interest of kids, their safety and having the kind of environment all want for kids.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Vazquez announced that revised handouts for the following items were distributed at the dais because revisions were made after the Board agenda packet was posted and distributed:

- Item 4.2.2 – Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 6)
- Item 4.3.1 – Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 10)

Trustee Guerrero moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items, Enclosure Numbers 2-18, with revisions. Seconded by Trustee Qualls. Motion carried unanimously.

**Vote:**

Ayes: Crabtree, Fulmer, Griswold, Guerrero, Ulmschneider, Qualls, and Vazquez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

4.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Warrant List – September 18, 2017 through September 28, 2017 (Encl. No. 2)
2. 2017-2018 VUSD Budget Revision No. 5 (Encl. No. 3)
3. 2016-2017 VUSD Budget Revision No. 19 (Encl. No. 4)

4.2 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

1. Classified Personnel Report (Encl. No. 5)
2. Certificated Personnel Report (Encl. No. 6)
3. Management Personnel Report (Encl. No. 7)
4. Consultant Contracts (Encl. No.8 )
5. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) and Alliant International University, Inc. (Encl. No. 9)

4.3 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

1. Student Field Trip Requests (Encl. No. 10)
2. Request to Attend Conference/Workshop (Encl. No. 11)

3. Agreement between Visalia Unified School District and Cityspan Technologies Inc. (Encl. No. 12)
  4. Resolution and Agreement between Visalia Unified School District and the State of California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) – “We Can Work” (Encl. No. 13)
  5. California Career Pathways Trust (CCPT) 2 Grant (Encl. No. 14)
- 4.4 SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE
1. Record of Board Member Attendance for Regular and Special Board Meetings (Encl. No. 15)
  2. Resolution – Board Member Attendance (Encl. No. 16)
  3. Resolution – Board Member Attendance (Encl. No. 17)
  4. Resolution – Board Member Attendance (Encl. No. 18)

**PUBLIC  
RECOGNITION/  
PROCLAMATIONS/  
ACTION**

**COMMUNITY PARTNER  
RECOGNITION:  
EDUCATIONAL  
EMPLOYEES CREDIT  
UNION (EECU)  
(Encl. No. 19)**

Visalia Unified School District and the Board of Education recognized Educational Employees Credit Union (EEC) as an outstanding partner in education. EECU’s dedication to the community is evident through their continued presence and support, and VUSD is grateful for their ongoing contributions. Through sponsorship dollars and volunteer hours, EECU continually supports various VUSD programs:

Ms. Wendy Lara, Branch Manager of Educational Employees Credit Union (EECU) – Visalia, was in attendance to accept the certificate of appreciation.

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

**DISCUSSION TO  
CONSIDER CHANGING  
BOARD MEETING  
START TIME FOR 2017-  
2018 SCHOOL YEAR  
(Encl. No. 20)**

At the request of Board members, Superintendent Todd Oto lead a discussion about changing the regular Board meeting start time to an earlier time beginning in the 2017-2018 school year so that staff can more easily attend and parents could have greater access to Board meetings. Staff did a little research and composed a list of some other local/state school board meeting start times; the list was included in the Board packet. Based on Dr. Oto’s conversation with District Office staff and other folks, he recommended the regular Board meeting start time be moved from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. with closed session starting at 5 p.m.

This was an information only item. There were no comments from the public.

After a brief discussion regarding the pros and cons of starting Board meetings at an earlier time, making them accessible for working Board members, holding meetings at the four quadrants of the district throughout the year, holding closed session before and after the regular meeting, and Board members wanting a bigger sampling of other California School Boards’ start times, Superintendent Oto suggested Board members speak with their constituents to get input on what would work for them. This item will be placed on a future Board meeting agenda for further discussion and direction from the Board.

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

HISTORY/SOCIAL  
SCIENCE STANDARDS,  
FRAMEWORK, AND  
TEXTBOOK ADOPTION  
(Encl. No. 21)

Ms. Stacy Curschman, Director of Curriculum, shared a presentation regarding the curriculum revisions in History/Social Science (HSS). In accordance with Education Code (60002, 60400) and Board Policy (6141, 6142.94, and 6161.1), Visalia Unified School District intends to initiate the process for the review and selection of new instructional materials for K-12 HSS classrooms. The adoption of standards-aligned instructional materials meets state and district mandates to provide a challenging curriculum and the support needed for students to succeed (Board Goal 1) and fully implement new academic standards (Board Goal 1.1.1).

Schedule for the adoption of HSS instructional materials:

- Fall 2017
  - State Board of Education adopts K-8 programs
  - VUSD HSS adoption committees formed
  - Initial committee meetings
- Winter 2018
  - Program reviews
  - Publisher showcase events
- Spring 2018
  - Committee selection and recommendation

Staff will come back to the Board in the spring with a recommendation for the adoption of new HSS materials for Grades K-12. Ms. Curschman introduced Nancy Nauman, Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), and thanked her for her work. Ms. Nauman is one of the HSS teachers, and her focus is disciplinary literacy and media. Her work is pivotal to helping VUSD teachers understand the shift of the framework and being able to implement the critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, cooperation, communication and civic literacy that VUSD intends for all students to have. *(For presentation details, see PowerPoint handout.)*

This was an information only item. There were no comments from the public.

Further Board question/answer discussion followed. President Vazquez reminded staff about her previous request for a report on student mandatory volunteer or service learning hours.

GOAL 2: PARENT  
ENGAGEMENT  
PROGRAM  
(Encl. No. 22)

Ms. Judy Burgess, Area Superintendent of Instructional Services, shared a report on the District's Parent Engagement program as it relates to District Goal 2 – *Support A District-Wide Collaborative Culture for Students and Adults Focused on Learning and Results*. Visalia Unified School District continues offering parent education courses and opportunities during the 2017-2018 school year 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 of our primary through secondary sites. Each school site in the district participates in parent education courses and opportunities within the model of Parent University. *(For*

*presentation details, see PowerPoint handout.)*

This was an information only item. There were no comments from the public.

Further Board question/answer discussion followed. Trustee Guerrero requested data on how many fathers are participating in parent trainings/workshops. He requested he be provided the information by the following week. Trustee Griswold requested information on the number of parents who participate in the preschool parent trainings/meetings that take place every four to six weeks. President Vazquez requested the graduation schedule for PIQE, School Smarts and Joven Noble programs. She reminded principals to invite Board members to their school events; the Board enjoys attending school site events when possible.

VUSD STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE  
(Encl. No. 23)

In late September 2017, the California State Department of Education publically released student performance results of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) (English Language Arts and Mathematics) that was administered during the 2016-2017 academic year. Dr. Phil Black, Director of Curriculum, shared a three-year comparison of the SBAC student results by district-county-state, grade level, subgroup, and claim performance levels. *(For presentation details, see PowerPoint handout.)*

This was an information only item. There were no comments from the public.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORT**

Ms. Gabrielle Munoz, 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.

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

The Board members' reports/requests included the following:

- John Crabtree
  - No report
- Patricia Griswold
  - Attended the following events/meetings:
    - Board Policy Committee Meeting
    - Finance Advisory Committee Meeting
  - Gave a shout out to Conyer Elementary School for raising over \$1,000 for Hurricane Early Relief
  - Thanked VUTA for a delightful time at Taste of Visalia; it was great to talk and get input from teachers
- Bill Fulmer
  - Attended the following events/meetings:
    - Visalia Partners in Education Board meeting
    - Leaders of Tomorrow Conference at the Visalia Convention Center
    - Board Policy Committee Meeting
    - Executive Committee Meeting
  - Purchased a burrito at Chipotle for Ivanhoe's fundraiser
- Charles Ulmschneider
  - No report
- Jim Qualls
  - No report
- Juan Guerrero
  - Attended the following events/meetings:

- Board Policy Committee Meeting
    - Leaders of Tomorrow Conference at the Visalia Convention Center
  - Thanked the administration, staff, PTA, and students at Valley Oak Middle School and Elbow Creek Elementary School for visiting his sick grandson at Valley Children’s Hospital. He appreciates the prayers and support from all these folks. His grandson is now in recovery and will be released from the hospital within a week.
- Lucia Vazquez
  - Announced that October 11 is Coming Out Day.
  - Attended the following events/meetings:
    - Leaders of Tomorrow Conference at the Visalia Convention Center
    - Opening of the VTEC store, which is now open from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. during the week. They have fresh eggs, fruits and vegetables.
    - VEF Band Showcase
    - Meeting at Crowley School with President of ProYouth HEART
    - Board Policy Committee Meetings
  - Informed folks of the various committee meetings she attends: Wellness Committee, Hispanic Community Advisory Committee, Finance Advisory Committee, Executive Committee, and Sequoias’ Cara y Corazon Advisory Committee
  - Met with Mt. Whitney High School Principal Rick Hamilton to talk about Students Empowered by Exposure to Diversity (S.E.E.D.). S.E.E.D. in partnership with ProYouth will be having a Latina film series and will be featuring the following movies:
    - December 4, *The Bronze Screen: 100 years of Latina Images in Hollywood* at Mt. Whitney High School
    - October 30, *Chocolat* at Golden West High School
    - November 16, *Selena*
    - November 29, *Tortilla Soup* at El Diamante High School
    - Other movies to be announced
  - Reminded staff she wants to be invited to graduations for PIQE, Joven Noble, and other similar events.
  - Announced that retired VUSD Superintendent Dr. Lovik passed away on October 6. He began working in education in 1949 and retired from VUSD in 1980. He was with VUSD for 20 years. His memorial services will be held on October 20, 2017, at 11 a.m. at Gateway Church. Condolences were offered to Dr. Lovik’s family and friends on behalf of the Board and staff.
- Superintendent Oto
  - No report

RECOMMENDED  
EXPULSIONS  
(Encl. No. 24)

Trustee Griswold moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Recommended Expulsions Cases, No.18-04 E, 18-05 E, and 18-06 E. Seconded by Trustee Qualls. Motion carried unanimously.

**Vote:**

Ayes: Crabtree, Fulmer, Griswold, Guerrero, Ulmschneider, Qualls, and Vazquez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

**RECOMMENDED  
REINSTATEMENTS  
(Encl. No. 25)**

President Vazquez moved to accept the Administrative Panel Recommendations for Recommended Reinstatement Case, No. 18-01 R. Seconded by Trustee Ulmschneider. Motion carried unanimously.

**Vote:**

**Ayes:** Crabtree, Fulmer, Griswold, Guerrero, Ulmschneider, Qualls, and Vazquez

**Noes:** None

**Abstain:** None

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

**VISALIA UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2017-  
18 DATA MATRIX  
(Encl. No. 26)**

Superintendent Todd Oto provided an overview of the VUSD 2017-18 Data Matrix. The Data Matrix is a brief summary of indicators that Board Members may use to gauge progress of the organization toward the goals of the District. It is used as a part of the Superintendent's evaluation process. The current version of the Matrix is much more accessible than the previous version.

This was an information only item. There were no comments from the public.

**CONTRACT WITH  
GODBE RESEARCH FOR  
VOTER SURVEY  
(Encl. No. 27)**

Mr. Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services, reminded the Board that they had previously authorized staff to proceed with the preliminary work to see if the community will support a General Obligation Bond on the November 2018 ballot. The community voter survey is an integral piece in this process to gauge community support. The Board was asked to approve the contract with Godbe Research to begin surveying 500 likely voters. Projects, questions, and results will be vetted through the Superintendents Facility Advisory Committee before coming to the Board for review and recommendation in early 2018. *(For presentation details, see PowerPoint handout.)*

This was an information only item. There were no comments from the public.

Trustee Griswold moved to approve the contract with Godbe Research for a voter survey. Seconded by Trustee Ulmschneider. Motion carried unanimously.

**Vote:**

**Ayes:** Crabtree, Fulmer, Griswold, Guerrero, Ulmschneider, Qualls, and Vazquez

**Noes:** None

**Abstain:** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at the VUSD Educational Complex located at 5000 West Cypress Avenue, Visalia (unless otherwise posted).



Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia M. Griswold*

Signature

Printed Name: *Patricia M. Griswold*

Board Clerk

*Todd O. Oto*

Todd Oto, Ed.D.

Board Secretary/Superintendent