

CALAVERAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. Box 788
San Andreas, CA 95249
MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – STUDY SESSION
September 25, 2012

The meeting of the Calaveras Unified School District Board of Trustees was called to order at the District Administrative Offices at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karan Bowsher
John Yerman
Evan Garamendi
Zerrall McDaniel
Sherri Reusche

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Campbell
Tierra Crothers
Lorraine Angel
Renetta Hale
Kathy Risso
Katie Hood
Tatum Lowry
Jordon Bramell
Sandy Hoffman
Liz Stanko
Titia Ashby
Shirley Bell
Ric Stitt
Sheri Noble
Vicky Weatherby
Jennifer Minton
Audrey Smith

OTHERS: Members of the Community

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Approve the September 25, 2012 agenda.

4. **Announcement of Closed Session Items**

- a) Conference with Labor Negotiator: Mark Campbell in regard to negotiations with CSEA (Gov. Code 54957.6)
- b) Conference with Labor Negotiator: Mark Campbell in regard to negotiations with CUEA (Gov. Code 54957.6)
- c) Conference with Labor Negotiator: Mark Campbell in regard to negotiations with Management/Confidential/Supervisory (Gov. Code 54957.6)
- d) Conference with Labor Negotiator: Mark Campbell in regard to negotiations with CASTA (Gov. Code 54957.6)
- e) To Consider the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation of Performance, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Employee (Gov. Code 54957)

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CLOSED SESSION ITEMS (Continued)

f) Student Discipline Matters (Gov. Code 54954.5)

1. AHP 2012/13-01
2. AHP 2012/13-11

g) Liability Claim Pursuant to Government Code 54956.95: Claim No. 2012/13 - 01

5. Reconvene to Open Session

6. Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

There was a salute to the flag. Roll call was taken. All board members were present.

7. Report of Action taken in Closed Session

a. Student Discipline Matters (Gov. Code 54954.5)

1. AHP 2012/13-01

MSC 5-0 to approve the Administrative Hearing Panel's recommendation for AHP 2012/12-01 to expel a student from Calaveras Unified School District through July 2013.

2. AHP 2012/13-11

MSC 5-0 to approve the Administrative Hearing Panel's recommendation for review of AHP 2011/12-11, suspended expulsion, to have the student placed at Calaveras High School. Student is CIF eligible but is on a 25-day activity restriction that commenced September 17, 2012.

b. Liability Claim Pursuant to Government Code 54956.95: Claim No. 2012/13-01

MSC 5-0 to reject claim No. 2012/13-01.

8. Celebrations, Recognition and Announcements -

Principal Tierra Crothers welcomed the Board and introduced the staff at West Point Elementary School.

9. Budget Overview

Fiscal Services Director Titia Ashby and Superintendent Mark Campbell will provided a budget overview.

10. Superintendent's Comments

Mr. Campbell thanked the West Point staff for their great hospitality and the great food. He also thanked everyone for attending the meeting and acknowledged that understanding school finances is difficult. We are taking the Board meetings to school sites to share information on the status of our budget and the challenges and decisions we must face. We are not doing this to tell you to vote for the Tax Initiative one way or another. It's to talk about where we are currently. It's to talk about what we've experience the last three years; where we are right now and what we're looking at, depending upon what happens in November. November is a game changer, either way. Over the last three years we've cut almost \$2 million out of our budget. If our budget is 84% people, that tells you that most of what we have cut has been people. We cut each year but can't close the deficit because the State gives us less every year, and our cost to operate the district continues to go up. We've held on admirably. This Board has made decisions that help us to hold on. We have so much more than many other districts; especially at the high school level. We still have middle school and high school

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SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS (Continued)

band. We have a career tech ed program – police science, medical, welding, auto shop, cosmetology – all those things we fought to hold onto -- music, athletics and keeping our class sizes as low as possible. Right now it is 25:1 at the K-3 level and 30:1 all other grades. We're sitting on the edge of this little precipice barely holding on. Each year the numbers change from the State, and we hold on as tight as we can until we know exactly what we have to cut. We are staring in the face of trigger cuts because if Prop 30 doesn't pass, that's \$1.4 million right there, and we are already \$2 million upside-down. We have to look at everything else that we've been considering for three years, such as the closure of Rail Road Flat and Jenny Lind Alternative High School, athletics, band, larger class sizes across the board, asking our staff to work fewer days, asking our students to come to school fewer days, shortening our school year. We have to consider all these things. If today were judgment day, we'd have to do all those things. If the Tax Initiative doesn't pass in November, we adjust. The Governor will come back to us in January with his proposed budget, and we have to possibly adjust. The State has a \$15 billion deficit. Education makes up almost 40% of their budget. If the Governor's Tax Initiative doesn't pass in November, he'll be looking at education to help fill their deficit. Our cut will be more than \$1.4 million. If the Tax Initiative does pass, the Governor's closes that deficit from a \$15 billion deficit to an \$8 billion deficit. He's got to find that somewhere. Where is he going to look – education. We're going to get hit one way or the other. We just don't know how hard. We have to get ready to make the hard decisions but hope that we don't have to make all the hard decisions right now.

Mr. Campbell addressed a community member's concern about declining enrollment at West Point and whether or not the district would close the school. Mr. Campbell said with just 84 students it may come to considering the closure of West Point down the road; particularly if the District has to cut \$1.4 million from its budget each year over the next four years. However, he said there would be no surprises and any decisions would be discussed with the community before they occur. She was also assured that any money the community raises for West Point would be able to be used solely for West Point Elementary School. He also mentioned Rail Road Flat community as a model of what can be done to raise money for a school.

We have to prepare for a worst case scenario. We are being told that we have to deal with this for at least another four years. We've gone from over 400 staff to about 359. There are a lot of initiatives on the ballot. The reality is if Prop 30 does not pass, we'll take a punch in the face of about \$1.4 million every year for the foreseeable future. He believes whether or not it passes or fails, we'll take that punch in the face – maybe more, maybe less. One thing he knows for sure is that if Prop 30 does not pass, we take a devastating cut.

A question was asked about lottery money and Mr. Campbell said that lottery money is given to each school site and each school site council decides how to spend that money. Mr. Campbell doesn't know if the State is holding back any lottery money. He only knows how much we receive.

11. Public Comments

At this time, visitors may address issues that do not appear on the agenda. This is not the time for discussion or deliberation nor can action be taken by the Trustees or Superintendent unless the matter is placed on a subsequent agenda. Individual speakers shall be allowed three minutes to address the Board on each agenda or non-agenda item (BB 9323). The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. If visitors wish to address issues listed on the agenda, they may do so at the time the item is addressed by the Board. Conduct of Hearing Session/Public Forum will be as follows, per Calaveras Unified School District Board Bylaw #9322.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS (Continued)

Debbie Powell, with the University of California Master Gardeners program, announced they are having an orientation scheduled for October 11, 2012, starting at 3:30 p.m. at Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital, Education Room.

Community member/parent Greg Gustafson would like to see students involved in cleaning up garbage left after high school games. Maybe someone could make an announcement at the games to pick up your garbage.

On a positive note, Mr. Campbell shared that the Calaveras County Office of Education approved our budget. He thanked Titia Ashby and her staff for their hard work in making the revisions necessary.

He said there are at least four members of the West Point staff who are entering pretty intensive training. He sees bus drivers, food service staff, Paraeducators, teachers and administrators who are getting a tremendous amount of training in the most innovative, up-to-date strategies in their areas of expertise. It would be easy to not participate in the face of all the negativity surrounding education but they persevere. He commended classified and certificated staff on the amount of staff development that has been going on this past quarter. The staff dedication to kids is phenomenal.

12. Action on Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

13. CONSENT AGENDA:

Generally routine items are approved by one motion without discussion. The Superintendent or a Board member may request that an item be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

Mrs. Reusche would like a correction under her comment on the September 11 minutes. It is Assembly Person Kristen Olson and not Congress Person.

MSC 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda.

a. Approval of Minutes

1. September 11, 2012

2. September 15, 2012 Special Study Session

b. Routine Personnel Report , September 25, 2012

c. Approval, Vendor Warrant Listings - No item presented

d. Approval of Donations – No item presented

e. Approval of Bond Disbursements - No item presented

f. Approval of Special Contract Services with Sheri Noble (pg 20)

Board approval is requested for Special Contract Services for Sheri Noble to serve as the Child Development Coordinator at Rail Road Flat Elementary for the 2012/13 school year. The total cost is \$9,600 and is funded through the Blue Mountain Community Renewal Council.

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g. Approval of Special Contract Services with Neifi Ramos

Board approval is requested for Special Contract Services with Neifi "Heidi" Ramos to serve as Valley Springs Elementary School's Community Liaison for the 2012-13 school year. The total cost is \$1,000 funded through Title I and EIA-LEP.

h. Approval of Special Contract Services with Cynthia Przybyla

Board approval is requested for Special Contract Services with Cynthia Przybyla to serve as Teacher Support for professional development at San Andreas Elementary School. The service includes one hour of preliminary collaboration, seven hours of classroom observation and four hours of collaborative time. The total cost is \$900 funded through Title I.

i. Overnight Functions/Field Trip Approvals

1. San Andreas Elementary and Mokelumne Hill Elementary 6th Grade Science Camp

January 15-18, 2013 to Walker Creek Ranch in Marin County for 6th Grade Science Camp. Transportation will be by District bus and the camp is funded by fundraisers.

2. Calaveras High School Volleyball Overnight Event

October 9-10, 2012 for an overnight "sleepover" in the Brown Gym for the Calaveras High School Volleyball team. There is no cost for the event.

3. Calaveras High School Cross Country Team

October 18-20 to the Mt. Sac Cross Country Race in Walnut Creek. Funding is through the CHS Cross Country Team and transportation will be by CUSD vans.

j. Approval of MOU with the Stanislaus County Office of Education and ASES and 21st Century Grant Programs for the 2012/13 School Year

Board approval is requested to approve an MOU between Calaveras Unified School District and the Stanislaus County Office of Education with the Project SAFE (Supporting After School for Everyone) Consortium toward the mutual goal of providing safe, meaningful opportunity for students during after school hours at Jenny Lind Elementary, Rail Road Flat Elementary, West Point Elementary and San Andreas Elementary Schools and to implement the ASES (After School Education and Safety Program) and 21st Century grants programs.

MSC 5-0 to approve the MOU with the Stanislaus County Office of Education and ASES and 21st Century Grant Program for the 2012/13 school year.

14. PERSONNEL

a. Certificated Report (Lorraine Angel)

Ms. Angel said they (CUEA and CTA) are working hard to campaign for Prop 30. She will personally vote for Prop 30. Prop 30 supports K-12 education, higher education and safety (fire and police). This proposition makes it very transparent where the money goes. For four years it raises sales tax by .25%. For most people it will be an average of \$50 to \$75 a year. It raises income tax for individuals making more than \$250,000 or couples making more than \$500,000. The Molly Munger, or Prop 38, initiative taxes anyone who makes \$7,138 and up annually, starting at a .4% increase and goes up progressively. It does not fund higher education or safety. She is not going to vote for Prop 38. She has been asked by

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CTA to take 30 days campaigning for Prop 30. She will be way part-time from her classroom, and she believes this is so important and it will make a difference to our students' futures. West Point 's campus is so nice. It has a chicken house built by the husband of a teacher. The garden they have and the programs show how much the teachers and staff care. We have the same types of things going on at Rail Road Flat because the teachers, classified and community go above and beyond to give students what they need. We need to keep cuts as far away from students as we can. Our staff is doing remarkable things.

- b. **Classified Report** - No item presented
- c. **All Personnel** – No item presented
- d. **Classified Personnel** - No item presented
- e. **Certificated Personnel**

1. **Request for Job Share – Valley Springs Elementary**

Board approval is requested for a job share at Valley Springs Elementary School:

- Deb Hunt and Amy Hutt (80/20)
- Julie Harper and Amy Hutt (80/20)

Both job shares will begin on Monday, October 15, 2012 through the end of the 2012/13 school year.

MSC 5-0 to approve the job shares between Deb Hunt and Amy Hutt and Julie Harper and Amy Hutt (80/20) beginning October 15, 2012 through the end of the 2012/13 school year.

- f. **Management/Confidential/Supervisory** - No item presented

15. **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

a. **Regional Occupational Program District Agreement**

Approval is requested for the 2012/13 Regional Occupational Program District Agreement with the Calaveras County Office of Education to offer District-operated ROP classes.

MSC 5-0 to approve the Regional Occupational Program District Agreement with the Calaveras County Office of Education.

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16. BUSINESS

a. Adoption, Resolution No. 2012/13-08 Approving the Annual Gann Appropriations Limit

The Gann Limit, in place since 1980-81, limits the revenue growth of public sector entities, including school districts. Total operating revenues cannot exceed a computed limit that is adjusted each year for inflation and changes in attendance.

MSC 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 2012/13-08, Approving the Annual Gann Appropriations Limit.

b. Approval of 2011-2012 Unaudited Actuals for Calaveras Unified School District

The 2011-2012 Unaudited Actuals for Calaveras Unified School District are presented for approval.

Director of Fiscal Services, Titia Ashby, explained the Unaudited Actuals as showing the Board and Superintendent how we ended the 2011/12 year. It is a report of the money we received, the money we spent and what is remaining, or "carryover." She did a PowerPoint presentation that will be posted on the District's website.

MSC 5-0 to approve the 2011/2012 Unaudited Actuals for Calaveras Unified School District.

c. Authorization to Award Bids for:

- 1. HVAC Replacement Toyon Middle School D-Wing: Air Serve (\$29,756)**
- 2. Flooring replacement in four classrooms at West Point Elementary: Calaveras Fashion Floors (\$16,380)**

MSC 5-0 to award the bids to Air Serve for \$29,756 to replace HVAC units At Toyon Middle School's D-Wing and to Calaveras Fashion Floors for \$16,380 for replacing floors in four classrooms at West Point Elementary School.

d. Cancel Construction the Performing Arts Center

The Calaveras Unified School District Board of Trustees would like to consider canceling the construction of a Performing Arts Center. The Performing Arts Center was one of the priorities listed on our Bond Project List of repairs, improvements, upgrades, expansion and construction projects. The Board approved the project on May 29, 2012.

The Board discussed their concerns over the long-term financing of COP's and occurring debt with an unknown APR in the future. They would like more information on possible other projects necessary in the District. There is concern about our ability to staff and maintain the building if we build the Performing Arts Center. Should we go back and change some things in the design so it's more feasible for us? They are concerned about the promises in the Bond and our loss of State eligibility funding. They have concerns about spending any money on any other projects because this was promised. There are concerns about what it may cost us to back out of the leases and other commitments. Can we explore refinancing to get a lower interest rate but not extend the COP's financing for additional years?

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BUSINESS (Continued)

Cancel Construction the Performing Arts Center (Continued)

Mr. Campbell said our financial expert gave us the best alternative to save the district money and get the additional \$500,000. He believes if there was a way to simply refinance our current COP's at a lower rate, they would have presented that option, but he will certainly ask the question. Keep in mind we still need the State matching funds of \$1.8 million and we still don't know what the State is going to do. We can't complete the project without the \$1.8 million.

Ms. McDaniel doesn't want to see the District chip away at the bond money on little projects. We have inadequate facilities for our drama and music programs.

Mr. Campbell said the contractor can't hold that \$5.4 million cost. We are then looking at what are the options for that money? What are the options for the Performing Arts Center? What is the impact of taking the current design and putting it aside? We need to get these answers then the Board will have all the information they need and can make an informed decision. There will be people who will say we are doing the right thing to fulfill our promises, and others who will say we are doing the right thing in these times of fiscal uncertainty because clearly things have changed since we passed the bond six years ago.

Mr. Yerman would like to involve the Bond Oversight Committee. Mr. Campbell agrees.

Mr. Gustafson asked if we signed the contract and whether or not there was any penalty to get out of it.

Mr. Campbell said we signed it and there is an exit clause. It is a two-phased contract. The penalties are minimal for either side to opt out. No work has been started at this point and all the timelines were contingent upon the State issuing bonds so we would know at some point soon we would be seeing funds.

Part of the process would be to involve, staff, administrators and the community to prioritize project needs at their schools. We would attach a dollar amount to it and the Board would have to make some decisions with the money that we know we have. We can't count on State money. Would we be willing to spend the money on those projects which comply with the bond language, or are we going to pursue a Performing Arts Center of some kind?

Allen Lujan, Community Member and candidate for CUSD Trustee, Area 1, said his concern is the amount of energy we have expended on the Performing Arts Center and consider concentrating on schools, who are having a hard time – the small schools need the same energy that is being presented here tonight.

Ms. McDaniel said she thinks the Board and administration puts a lot of effort and time into all the things Mr. Lujan was describing, and this particular project has time constraints. This money can only be spent on certain things and they are wrestling with it.

Motion was made by Sherri Reusche to cancel the refinancing of the COP's and ask the Superintendent to provide the Board with all the information on the Bond, as well as what their options are so they can make a decision and move forward.

Second – Evan Garamendi

Motion Carried: 5-0

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17. **DISTRICT OPERATIONS** – No item presented

18. **POLICIES AND REGULATIONS -**

[Policy Overview \(pp 41A-41B\)](#)

a. **First Reading – Board Policies, Bylaws, Administrative Regulations and Exhibits**

- BP 0420.4 Charter School Authorization (pp 41-44)
- AR 0420.4 Charter School Authorization (pp 45-49)
- BP 0420.41 Charter School Oversight (pp 50-54)
- E 0420.41 Charter School Oversight (pp 55-58)
- BP 6178.1 Work-Based Learning (pp 59-61)
- AR 6178.1 Work-Based Learning (pp 62-65)
- BP 7160 Charter School Facilities (pp 66-67)
- AR 7160 Charter School Facilities (pp 68-76)

b. **Second Readings/Adoptions**

None

19. **Calendar of Events**

DATE	EVENT
September 29	Toyon Middle School Yard Sale, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Fundraiser for Science Study Trip to Costa Rica
October 1-12	Fall Break – No School

20. **Future Agenda Items**

21. **Comments from Board Members**

Karan Bowsher

Mrs. Bowsher thanked the staff for feeding them dinner this evening. She thanked everyone for coming.

Evan Garamendi

Mrs. Garamendi thanked everyone for coming tonight. She thanked West Point Elementary for their hospitality. She was at the homecoming parade and it looked like the kids were having fun, and appeared to be under control. She saw some pretty amazing adults performing.

John Yerman

Mr. Yerman thanked West Point for their hospitality.

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Comments from Board Members (Continued)

Sherri Reusche

Mrs. Reusche walked through some classrooms at Toyon Middle School and Jenny Lind Elementary. She went on Angie Oyervides' school bus to Sheep Ranch , which is Angie's regular route. On October 25 they are going to have Frank Bigelow, who's running for 5th District Assembly , a newly created District, come to their Rural County School Boards Association. She received a telephone call from Rico Oller today, who is also running for 5th District Assembly, and they are hoping to get a debate. They are constantly educating our legislature on things that are beneficial for education and that Calaveras is here and are a voice to be reckoned with. She doesn't know where the next Rural County School Board meeting will be held, but she is trying to get either Tuolumne or Amador to host it. She is looking forward to the break.

Zerrall McDaniel

Mrs. McDaniel is delighted to be at West Point Elementary and is enjoying traveling to all the schools.

22. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the CUSD Board is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2012. This meeting will be held at Rail Road Flat Elementary School in the Multi-purpose room. Closed Session begins at 4:30 p.m. and Open Session begins at 5:00 p.m.**1.**

23. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Mark Campbell, Superintendent
By Shirley Bell, Administrative Assistant