

CALAVERAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 788

San Andreas, CA 95249

MINUTES – STUDY SESSION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 19, 2013

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: Zerrall McDaniel
Karan Bowsher
Gregory Gustafson
Evan Garamendi
Sherri Reusche

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Campbell
Mike Merrill
Titia Ashby
Amy Hasselwander
Kathy Griggs
Kathy Risso
Randall Youngblood
Ric Stitt
Jan Kendall
Liz Stanko
Shirley Bell
Lorraine Angel
Sandy Hoffman
Sharon Schlegelmilch

OTHERS: Members of the Community

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL - All Board members were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MSC – 5-0 to approve the January 19, 2013 agenda

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 Calaveras Area Substitute Teachers Association (Gov. Code 54957)**
- e) **To Consider the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation of Performance, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Employee (Gov. Code 54957)**

PUBLIC INPUT FOR THE GOOD OF THE DISTRICT - None presented

CLOSED SESSION

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION - Open session was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

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

OPEN SESSION: REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION – No action taken

CELEBRATIONS, RECOGNITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – No items presented

STUDY SESSION

Performing Arts Center

Mark Epstein of California Financial Services presented a PowerPoint on Certificates of Participation Refunding and the Performing Arts Center Funding option.

This option was discussed in detail as well as other options including, paring down the design and losing the state funding of \$1.2 million, using the bond monies for other priorities within the district as well as returning the remaining bond money.

Approval of the Calaveras Unified School District 2011-2012 Audit Report

Fiscal Director Titia Ashby gave an overview of our 2011-2012 Audit Report. She informed the Board we are switching auditors, as required by law. This was one of our better audits and there were no findings.

MSC 5-0 to approve the Calaveras Unified School District 2011-2012 Audit Report

Budget Update, Status and Direction

Titia Ashby, Director Fiscal Services, reiterated the information shared in the First Interim Report that we have a Qualified Budget in the 2014/15 school years. This means if things do not change, we will be unable to meet our projected expenses.

Board President Bowsher shared a letter she received from the Calaveras County Office of Education noting our projected Qualified Budget. We are required to get approvals from the CCOE for any fiscal decisions we make to incur further expenses.

Mrs. Ashby again shared that we will have a cash flow problem. The state will hold back more than 75% of our state funds until June. However, she also shared that the CCOE has advised us to include the projected 1.65% projected COLA for the 13/14 budget, which is around \$100 per ADA. The state is saying there is a good chance we will receive the monies to fund the 1.65% COLA for 2013/14. Proposition 30 increased tax and deferrals paybacks will not exist in 2013/14.

MINUTES CUSD Board of Trustees
January 19, 2013 – Study Session

Mrs. Ashby will begin working on the 2nd Interim report beginning February 1 and will provide a report to the Board on March 12.

Mr. Campbell said we currently have a \$2.4 million deficit. We had to submit a plan and in the plan are the items listed on the handout provided to attendees. Things could change for the positive or negative, but current conditions project these cuts must happen in order to meet our expenses.

Members of the public had concerns over these proposals. One of which is to close Rail Road Flat School. Mr. Campbell said under current conditions we would be looking at a four-grade combo class. The board, district and community has been discussing possible budget cuts for a couple of years now. We have been holding out for as long as we can. We have had these study sessions before and the purpose of them is to hear from our community and to prioritize.

Teacher Sharon Schlegelmilch asked about carryover monies and Mrs. Ashby explained that almost all of those funds are restricted and to be used in the manner for which they were given to us to use. Any money that could be moved to the general fund from 11/12 was moved into salaries.

Pam Taylor, community member, asked if we have dollar amounts attached to the proposed cuts and was told that we do. Mrs. Ashby will provide updates.

John Hamilton of the Pinetree.net and the Chamber's Economic Development Committee said they would like to try to recruit young families to our area. 7,000 Bay Area and Peninsula people own homes in Calaveras County. They are already invested in our county. They would like to reach out to these homeowners and market our area for our schools and quality of life. They would also like them to invest in our area by building and bringing business/enterprise to Calaveras County. Cuts to our programs make it less desirable for people to move here.

Mr. Campbell said right now we still staff 25:1 in K-3. We still have three small schools with less than 100 enrolled in each of them. We still have athletics and music. Naturally no one wants to cut anything. It is a value judgment that we must prioritize. We can't close a \$2.4 million deficit gap, and overstaff, we just can't do it. We are open to other ideas and welcome anyone to help us find some options. This is a difficult place to be in. The County Office of Education is holding us fiscally accountable and we have to craft a fiscally sound plan.

Band, small schools, class size – these are all teachers' jobs. If we don't have a plan, the state will come in and take over. Hopefully this time next year the state will have some money.

Teacher Kathy Risso said she will be visiting an Obama school in Tulare that is performance-based. She will let the Board know for sure but believes the visit is on February 19. Sherri Reusche said she would contact the CSBA Delegate from that area to try to get more information.

There was discussion about marketing ourselves to increase independent study/home schooling. We are competing with Mountain Oaks.

CSBA Sharing Ideas and Perspectives

Board President Karan Bowsher said the Board had a Governance Workshop in 2011 sponsored by the California School Board's Association, who govern school boards. She reviewed the Board's goals, what they are proud of, what they want to work on and reminded everyone that one of the Board's main goals is to assure the district is fiscally responsible.

22. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the CUSD Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2013. Closed Session begins at 4:00 p.m. Open Session begins at 5:30 p.m.

23. Adjournment

The Open session meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m. The Board went back into Closed Session and it adjourned at 3:05 p.m. There was no action taken during Closed session.

Mark Campbell, Superintendent
By Shirley Bell, Administrative Assistant