

Calaveras Unified School District
P.O. Box 788
San Andreas, CA 95249
MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 2, 2014

The meeting of the Calaveras Unified School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 p.m. at the CUSD District Administrative Office Board Room.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Evan Garamendi Karan Bowsher
Gregory Gustafson Zerrall McDaniel
Sherri Reusche

NOTE: You may listen to an audio recording of this meeting available at www.calaveras.k12.ca.us. Go to the "School Board Info" page.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call & Pledge of Allegiance

President Garamendi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the flag salute. Superintendent Campbell took roll call. All Board members were present. A quorum was established. President Garamendi announced that Board member Karan Bowsher had to leave the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The September 2, 2014 agenda was approved. M/S Bowsher/Reusche – 5-0

4. Celebrations, Recognition and Announcements - there were none

5. Correspondence - there was no correspondence

6. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Campbell said this was a "process" that has been engaging and at times frustrating over these last 5 meetings but it has provided ample time for your voices to be heard. We anticipate 3-5 more board meetings to get to the point where we are making decisions and we will engage with stakeholders, including the formation of a Budget Advisory Committee. CUEA and CSEA will be providing the district with names of their representatives.

Any individual who requires disability-related accommodations, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the board meeting, should contact the Superintendent in writing. (Gov. code 54953.2, 54954.1) Members of the Public may request an item be placed on the agenda. The agenda request form is available on the CUSD website, www.calaveras.k12.ca.us, under forms, public. Agenda requests must be received at the District Office no later than 9:00 a.m., Monday, one week before the Board meeting. Forms can also be requested by calling (209) 754-2300. All Board meetings are tape recorded and the audio is posted on the district's website.

13. 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.

Music Teacher Robert Wise said he earned \$2,940 at the spaghetti feed last weekend. He thanked Board members Gustafson and McDaniel for their support.

Citizen Don Lee said he didn't care about the Brown Act violations. Even though our Board has said they don't want to make cuts, they will have to make cuts and it does affect the kids.

Parent Anna Gates thanked the staff at San Andreas for hosting the Family Math night. It was a success.

Gloria Grimes, Tribal Leader and West Point resident, hopes to get a committee together to save their small schools. She will ask the tribes to give them support in West Point and the other small schools.

Principal of Alternative Education Fred Mier said they have already closed West Point Alternative, Jenny Lind Alternative and this year, the Transition program. Now Gold Strike High School is on the list for possible closure. He believes strongly in their programs and said without their programs these kids would not be graduating.

Teacher Julie Satterfield of Valley Springs Elementary cited many studies that state how important it is to keep K-3 class sizes at 24:1. She asked the Board to maintain the small class sizes during these integral educational years.

Bus Driver Leslie Cambra spoke about the impact that cuts to the Transportation Department would have on families who use our transportation; most of whom are free and reduced and could not otherwise afford to drive their children to school. Furthermore, she believes it is not fair to consider hub style bussing where routes would be reduced to 4 hours and employees who have been with the district for 20 years would be asked to now be a part time employees and lose their benefits.

A parent, Nicole, who grew up in our county spoke about the importance of keeping Toyon open. This school gave her many opportunities to develop her interest in science. She is now a resident physician in Modesto and would like one day to bring her family back here. Toyon offers lab sciences, other electives and classes that interest the students. We need to take kids' education seriously.

A Toyon student spoke about how we would lose music and the arts if Toyon were closed. They also have electives and sports. If Toyon were closed they would have to go back to their elementary schools. At Toyon they are better prepared to enter high school. Leave Toyon alone and consolidate the small schools.

Board member Gustafson spoke about recommendations from CSBA on how to conduct proper Board meetings.

15. 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.

Motion: Bowsher Second: McDaniel Vote: 5-0

- a) **Approval of Minutes**
August 23, 2014 – Special Board meeting
- b) **Routine Personnel Report , September 2, 2014**
- c) **Approval, Vendor Warrant Listings**
- d) **Approval of Donations**

16. PERSONNEL

- a) **Certificated Report** (Renetta Hale)
Renetta Hale, Vice President of CUEA, reported that teachers receive stipends for Family Math Night and it is funded through CTA. San Andreas, Valley Springs and Toyon recently hosted one and Calaveras High and Moke Hill will host one in September. She and CUEA President Lorraine Angel visited VSE and JLE. They will visit other sites soon. They had their first Round Table on 8-29 and appreciate the openness. They also appreciated Board members Garamendi and Reusche attending the Round Table. CUEA will be selecting a representative to serve on the Budget Advisory Committee.
- b) **Classified Report**
Scott Grutzmacher, CSEA Steward, said they are all still doing their jobs to keep the schooling running. The budget shows that Classified staff are 20% of the budget but it appears they will taking a 36% cut. CUSD needs to start at the top and work its way down.

17. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION – No report

18. BUSINESS

- a. **Calaveras Unified School District Fiscal Recovery Plan**
 - 1. **Resolution 2014-15-03 – Discussion, Amendment and/or Adoption**
The Board approved Phase I of the Fiscal Recovery Plan at its August 23, 2014 Special Session. The Board will discuss, amend and/or adopt Phase II of the Plan.

Board Member Bowsher wanted to let everyone know that they do not have closed meeting where they get to talk about this. This (tonight) is a Board meeting and they hold it in public. So your comments are welcome but this is a meeting for the Board to discuss things with you (the audience) here watching it. She addressed the other Board members stating they know very strongly her feelings about the upcountry schools. She's concerned about what Ms. Satterfield said about K-3; the transportation affects the upcountry schools, but we have to get a Fiscal Recovery Plan started so they can get the county happy and keep the state away. People have had some really exciting ideas that need to be discussed but they cannot do that if the state is here.

Board member Gustafson requested from Mr. Campbell what it takes to have the state come in and take over. Running out of reserves does not require a state loan. Running out of cash does. When the district no longer has the cash to pay its bills, it must apply for a state loan – state receivership. Mr. Campbell said during his comments to make sure we do not rush to a decision and the biggest problem Mr. Gustafson has had with this whole process is the ticking time bomb to get this vote in tonight. He does not believe it has to be tonight. Karan has said we have some excellent ideas but the Board has not been able to discuss them all. He said they haven't sat down and talked to Mrs. Ryland or anyone else in the financial department. They need more time to make these decisions.

Board Member Reusche cited Education Code 42127 states that on or before September 8 the Governing Board of the school district shall revise the adopted budget to reflect changes in projected income or expenditures subsequent to July 1 and include any response to the County Superintendent of Schools. Yes, we are on a time crunch and we need to work like mad to get all of the cuts off the list. She has some grave concerns regarding the Toyon closure and there is still a lot of discussion they need to have because it affects the entire district. She would like Lisa McInturf to discuss Common Core and how we plan to implement science, math and English to meet the standards for 7-8 grades. She wants to know how many classrooms there are. Do we need to have portables brought in? How will it affect lunch schedules, class schedules?

Kyle Harvey, CSEA Field Rep, referred to a document he handed out. It's very concerning to Classified staff that the district purposes to make more than a fair share of the cuts to CSEA than to any other unit. It's almost double what their percentage cost is, which is 20% of the total comp to the district and the figures show that 36% of these cuts are going to be proposed for Classified staff. The Chapter will be putting on a candidates' forum next Monday, and they are going to hold Board members accountable.

Randall Youngblood, teacher at RRF, but representing himself said we are losing enrollment so we better make sure to hold onto the ones we have. Sports and music are an integral part of motivating kids in school. We have another neighboring district who put an ad in the paper to encourage our kids to transfer there. Music and sports are important but not more important than schools and this Board sent that message by taking sports and music off the cut list and leaving small schools on the list. Having the small schools, Toyon and Gold Strike on the list is wrong. He thinks once the actuals come in and they are consistent with what we are being told then furlough days need to be negotiated, and when he's speaking of possible pay cut negotiations, he's not including Classified. We should all do this like a

family. CUSD should not balance its budget by closing schools and programs. It should make cuts across the board. Toyon is an amazing school with an incredible, talented staff. They have a plan in place to make RRF a Charter but he's asked people to hold onto it until the Board makes a decision. We need to provide music, sports, educational programs in the community in which students reside.

Teacher Lorraine Angel spoke of her appreciation and high regard for our Classified staff. She believes it's important to keep Toyon open and maintain small class sizes at the elementary schools. She said having over 30 kids in a class become a little more than babysitting at times. We will continue to work on the budget.

As a past Kindergarten teacher, President Garamendi thinks is deplorable to have 30 4-5 year-olds in a classroom. Toyon is a fine program and she believes it can be duplicated in some form in our larger schools but not in the smaller schools.

Parent Anna Gates would like to have all stakeholders work together on our budget and continue the transparency.

Amy Hasselwander, Principal of Toyon Middle School, distributed a handout on saving Toyon. She is concerned about the equity and access issues if middle school programs were spread throughout our elementary schools, large and small. She addressed a concern a Board member had about keeping this issue far away from students. The learning and teaching going on in their classrooms is incredible, and she invites the Board to come out and visit those classrooms. They do try and keep this away from kids; however, if you open the newspaper there are articles about it, and as they have been teaching civics to their students, they should have a voice. They are not spending their time talking to students about this but they will answer questions if they are asked.

President Garamendi wishes to make our students feel safe, content and secure because to many of our students, school is like their home.

A parent from West Point posed the question to the Board about how do they think the children of upcountry schools feel when they know their schools are going to be closed. To her it feels like we are throwing those kids under the bus, and we are not including upcountry parents in the process very well.

Kevin Hesser, teacher at Toyon and parent, says Toyon offers opportunities that he doesn't think can be created elsewhere. There are numbers, varying, that are attached to upcountry schools and to Toyon, but there isn't anything backing up those numbers. They, as a community, can help solve the problems but need the details. Consider the fact that we have open classrooms at elementary schools, but they are open because of 24:1 and we need to keep that in mind. If we go back to 24:1 we will need those classrooms. If we go K-8 we will need more services at each of the schools (custodial, lunch, facilities, etc.). To pass this budget tonight without those details is negligent of our Board. We cannot close Toyon. It is a phenomenal school and one of the best he's ever seen.

Media Specialist Cindy Klorer spoke to stand up for Media Specialists because they deserve a voice. She read several testimonials from school staff about how important they are in serving the needs of our students and teachers, as well as assisting in the technology area.

Ms. Hy of RRF spoke about how much the community has provided to keep the school open and provide the enrichment programs to their students. They continue to make sacrifices. Last year they only had 2 teachers. They have a self-sufficient preschool. Closing their school will devastate their community. They have worked hard not to be a burden – like they are treated.

Supervisor Edson would like to see the community rally for the district. We have surrounding counties who compete for our money/business and now they want to take our kids. We need to bring kids back to the county as well as businesses. We can do this by working hard together in unity.

Ms. Poole, a RRF parent, will not put her children on a bus with our icy roads. Cut Toyon first. They only have 3 teachers at RRF. Shut down music and sports because our children need an education. They can provide music and sports at home. They already have self-sufficient preschool and if they can do it, everyone else can too.

Bus Driver Leslie Cambra says if we go to hub style bussing the drivers will not be able to afford to stay employed with CUSD, as they will be reduced to part-time employees and lose their benefits. She spoke about the difficulties of recruiting and training new drivers.

Ben, a 32-year Calaveras resident, would like to see us take cuts in salaries and benefits like Stockton and Amador did.

Board member Bowsher wanted to clarify they cannot put salary reductions on the list. She said no one would, however, expect anything from Classified.

Mr. Threet, a West Point parent, said he will not put his kids on a bus down the mountain, and they get car sick every time they are on it. If we close West Point they will be running, not walking, away from this district.

Citizen Don Lee called our plan a “Political Recovery Plan” instead of a “Fiscal Recovery Plan.” We should have addressed these issues 3 to 5 years ago. He spoke about our enrollment projections. He thinks we will not see a mass loss of kids because we took music and sports off the cut list; however, he believes are projections are unrealistic. He thinks we will lose kids if we don’t make benign cuts. He believes we will see an enrollment decline over the next 4 years to around 2700. We’ll be in worse shape than we are now and we’ll have to do a second round of cuts. It will be a “death spiral.”

Board member Bowsher asked Mr. Lee what he sees as a solution for us at this point.

Mr. Lee said there is no easy answer. We should have addressed this 3-4 years ago. He requested our counsel stand up and say we need to submit a budget by September 8 or the county or state will take over.

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District Council Bryan Martin stated that Education Code 42127 requires the district to provide a revised budget by September 8.

Mr. Lee says the county does not take over, the state does and they don't do it until we run out of money and we are about a year away from that.

Autumn with Friends of RRF asked that we amend Phase II and remove upcountry schools like we did for sports and music.

Board member Bowsher motioned that we amend Phase II of Resolution 2014/15-03 and remove upcountry school closures. Board member Gustafson seconded the motion.

Board member McDaniel said she is a champion of upcountry schools. We have a motion in place to find a resolution for these things and to remove anything from this list at this point is very disruptive. She looks forward to working with the community in finding resolution to not having anything on this list. She does not support the motion.

Superintendent Campbell said he believes this should come in the form of a vote and not by individual comment. All those items in Phase II are to be "considered." We have 5 or 6 more Board meetings to go and working with the Budget Advisory Committee before these decisions are made.

Legal Counsel Bryan Martin said with regard to the sports and music issues it was clearly part of the resolution for discussion that night. It is not part of the resolution or agenda tonight so he recommends that in order to give proper notice; we would need to place it on the agenda before consideration for a vote. Technically, we could remove items from the resolution but adding items that aren't part of it as cuts would be problematic.

Board member Gustafson said we need more time.

Citizen, Mike, said we've been going over the upcountry schools for a long time. He said the definition of insanity is doing the exact same thing over and over and hoping for a different result. He said if we cut sports and music it's all the way up through high school and student need the extracurricular activities to be well-rounded and considered for college entrance. If we close two schools we will lower class size and your students will go from multiple grades to single grades.

Teacher Kevin Hesser said if we are going to have a discussion about taking small schools off the list he would like to also have a discussion about taking Toyon off the list.

Board member Reusche read a letter she wrote as an Op-Ed piece back in October 2010 giving her reasons for voting to close Rail Road Flat at the time. Mainly, as a Board member she said it is her responsibility to make decisions to keep the District fiscally sound.

Kyle Krause, parent, said the Board sounds absurd and contradictory. This is because he suggested last week that it was wrong to remove music and sports from the list but you took that action even though it wasn't on the agenda. Tonight your legal counsel stood up and said that you shouldn't take action on removing the small schools from the list.

Legal Counsel Bryan Martin said that is not what he said. He clarified that he said to the Board that it would be inappropriate to add music and sports back to the cut list tonight.

Mr. Krause said if it was inappropriate to add something in, it was probably inappropriate to take the action they did at the last meeting. You are throwing things in or out to try and make people happy. The hard work hasn't begun yet. This has been discussion. The hard work is coming, and that's why everything should be on the list.

An upcountry parent spoke that she didn't believe they were being treated equally. She stated that RRF is not "back here again;" rather they are "still here" thanks to all the fundraising they have done.

Mrs. Grimes of West Point said they have no control over VSE and JLE being large schools. When she went to West Point it was a large school. Maybe RRF might have to move with West Point or vice versa. Toyon is a good school and they prepare our children for high school.

Teacher Lauren Funk from Toyon thinks everything should be on the list. People are thinking with their hearts and there are Board members here who have their pet causes and they are voting for that instead of what's right for the school district.

Fiscal Advisory Terri Ryland reiterated to the Board that what they want the Board to do tonight is commit to a Phase II that will total \$875,000, and the resolution says if alternative revenue cannot be found, the Governing Board will consider any or all of the following, which is everything on the Phase II list. It doesn't say it will be upcountry or Toyon or anything else, it just says we commit \$875,000 more in cuts before next year. We don't have to decide specifics but we do need to see a commitment for that dollar amount.

President Garamendi said we have a motion and a second and called for a vote to remove upcountry schools from the Fiscal Recovery Plan, Phase II of Resolution 2014/15-03:

Vote: 2 Yea (Bowsher, Gustafson)

3 Nay (McDaniel, Reusche and Garamendi)

Motion does not pass

Adoption of Resolution 2014/15-03, CUSD Fiscal Recovery Plan

President Garamendi called for a Motion to adopt Phase II of Resolution 2014/15-03, CUSD Fiscal Recovery Plan:

Motion: Bowsher

Second: Reusche

Vote: 4-1 (Gustafson Nay)

President Garamendi called for a Break at 7:40 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 7:58 p.m.

Budget Revisions

Fiscal Advisory Terri Ryland presented a Powerpoint "The Road to Fiscal Recovery." (This presentation will be posted on the CUSD website.) She provided a history of timelines, communications from CCOE , an enrollment history, a history of our Surplus and deficits over the last few years, an explanation of auditors' roles and findings, a FCMAT Health Risk Analysis , current status and adjustments to the budget, changes due to the State adopted budget, multi-year projections , cash flow status, class sizes, review of possible reductions, a timeline and next steps. She answered questions.

Board member Bowsheer left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Public Hearing

A public hearing was opened for the 2014-15 Budget at 9:17 p.m.

The public hearing was closed at 9:20 p.m.

Adoption of Budget Revisions, 2014-2015 CUSD Budget

President Garamendi called for a motion on adoption of the 2014-15 budget revisions:

Motion: Reusche

Second: McDaniel

Vote: 3-1 (McDaniel, Garamendi, Reusche, Yea; Gustafson, Nay; Bowsheer absent)

Calendar of Events

September 17: VSE Bulldog Trek, 9 a.m.

September 18: MHE Walk-a-Thon

September 19: JLE Walk-a-Thon

September 20: JLE Elf Day

September 20: CHS Parent Club 5k Run

Board Member Comments

Gregory Gustafson

Board member Gustafson asked how the \$150k fundraising was going. He was hoping to look at some line item cuts rather than the "chunks" of things like closing schools.

President Garamendi thinks we can still go through the budget line item by line and make suggestions.

He agrees with Mr. Lee that the vote was more a political vote more than a financial vote. The politics that will take place as a result of these cuts affects schools, people's lives.

There as an item brought up in the budget that was a 6.5% increase in expenses. He wants to know where that is.

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He told President Garamendi that the Roberts Rules say you are allowed to make motions. Mr. Garamendi thanked him for the information. She said we approve the agenda at the beginning of the meeting, and we have, at times, added things at that time – the beginning of the meeting. Board Member Gustafson said he believes 3 is the limit. President Garamendi said we will look into that.

Zerrall McDaniel

Mrs. McDaniel hopes everyone will come support the CHS Parent Club and participate in the 5K run on September 20. She is looking forward to getting to work on the Fiscal Recovery because there are a lot of good ideas out there.

Sherri Reusche

Mrs. Reusche thanked CTA for Math night. She thanked everyone for the Round Table meeting. She thanked everyone for staying until 9:30 this evening.

Evan Garamendi

President Garamendi thought both Round Tables went well and there was a great spirit of cooperation. She is looking forward to a positive fix. She thanked everyone for attending.

Gregory Gustafson

Mr. Gustafson wanted to put a challenge out there to the district's legal counsel to take a 10% cut.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the CUSD Board is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2014. This meeting will be held at the CUSD Administrative Office, IMC Training Room. Open session will begin at 5:30 p.m.

President Garamendi adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Mark Campbell, Superintendent
By Shirley Bell