

Calaveras Unified School District
P.O. Box 788, San Andreas, CA 95249

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL STUDY SESSION – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2014

The meeting of the Calaveras Unified School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at the District Office, IMC Training Room.

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

*Mrs. Garamendi left the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

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

a. President Garamendi led the salute to the flag. Superintendent Campbell took roll. All members were present. The meeting began at 9:10 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The November 15, 2014 Special Session agenda was approved.

Motion: McDaniel Second: Reusche Vote: 5-0

3. OPEN SESSION

4. 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.

President Garamendi requested she be allowed to read a proposal by County Supervisor Wilensky to keep all of CUSD’s school open and all of our teachers and staff in place. She read the plan aloud. The intent is to open the door to dialogue which can lead to a mutually agreed upon agenda.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – CONTINUED

Citizen Don Lee requested CUSD assure our U.S. flags are made in the U.S.A.

5. SPECIAL SESSION

a. Noresco United Technologies Presentation on Proposition 39 Options

Robert Reading of Noresco United Technologies gave a presentation regarding Proposition 39 options and how funding and projects would be established, including a possible future energy efficiency audit. Proposition 39 addresses energy efficiency and facilities needs. He outlined the 8-step process. There is \$144,000 available to CUSD per year and up to \$720,000 over 5 years. At CUSD items that need to be addressed are some antiquated lighting, HVAC at Toyon, and temperature control issues. Noresco would assist CUSD in developing the audit to help secure funding from the California Energy Commission.

b. Overview of CUSD Management Staffing

An overview of past and present staffing comparisons of the District Office was displayed and discussed. There were charts shown on the whiteboard, which will be posted on the CUSD website. These charts show where positions were either eliminated or downgraded over the past 10 years at the District Office level. Superintendent Campbell said we've also shrunk administrative staff at the site level. There is now only one VP at the high school and there were 3. The VP's at other sites as well as the Chief Technology Officer and Director of SPED are picking up duties at the high school to help out this year.

The Chief Technology position took over the duties that an outside organization, VIP Tone, was contracted for. Now that we no longer contract with VIP Tone, we are handling our technology and communications internally. It has saved the district quite a bit of money. Also, our Chief Technology Officer picked up a good chunk of the Director of Curriculum responsibilities, specifically in terms of being our testing coordinator.

Our Director of Special Ed./Child Attendance and Welfare Officer handles all of our discipline review hearings as well as attends our SARB hearings. That alone is a huge piece but she also heads up our special education. She handles our high profile cases, which helps us to stay out of litigation. If she were not here out site administrators would have to do it. Board member Bowsher said one would have to be very well versed in Special Ed law to take this on.

Community member Shari Lujan is a special education teacher and said if CUSD hired knowledgeable special education teachers for our schools they would know the law. They help direct the administrators in what is current law because they have to keep

OVERVIEW OF MANAGEMENT STAFFING - CONTINUED

up with the current law themselves. Since they already know the law, they do help their site administrators in what is legal, what they can and can't do. It's not all on Jan Kendall, who is the Director of Special Education, to do all that. She has a team of people working under her who then can help the site administrator, who may be quite as knowledgeable in special education law.

Superintendent Campbell said we have to look at the impact on student well-being and safety when we begin to cut Vice Principals. Two large elementary schools and a middle school without Vice Principals carry a great deal of concern. We are having many conversations about many positions for next year.

Everybody is doing much, much more with less, but it comes at a cost.

The purpose of showing this history is not to say that management is untouchable, because the charts will indicate otherwise. We have made reductions.

A question was posed to Superintendent Campbell from community member Allen Lujan about why we don't let the County Office do our Special Education like they used to. Superintendent Campbell said that was back in 2006/07 and most of that responsibility fell on the Superintendent. Given our growing special education population and demands for program compliance, that was no longer sufficient. Although the County Office is hugely supportive, they assist all districts and would not be able to give us the level of support we need.

Mr. Lujan also expressed his concern at not having fully qualified SPED teachers and our ability to recruit them due to the job rescissions. Superintendent Campbell understands, but informed Mr. Lujan that historically we have always had difficulty recruiting for SPED, math and science teachers. We post on EdJoin, go to colleges, place newspaper ads, as well as ads in educational association newsletters. It is difficult to recruit for those jobs – it's not just us but a statewide issue.

Newly elected Board member Kelly Smith asked for salary schedules and job descriptions to be posted on our web pages. Superintendent Campbell informed her the management salary schedule is already posted online as well as some of the job descriptions.

Mr. Lujan said he recalled Superintendent Campbell stating that management would not take a pay cut before other areas did and wanted to know if this presentation was evidence for the case. Superintendent Campbell said it was not but rather to show that we have reduced the management team. He stated that management will take a cut when everybody else does as a team. Mr. Lujan asked why management won't lead. Board member Reusche said Mr. Campbell, himself, has led personally by

OVERVIEW OF MANAGEMENT STAFFING - CONTINUED

taking a salary reduction. Mr. Lujan does not understand the dynamics of it because we are a team.

Retired administrator Jep Peckler said it is his recollection that management always followed the bargaining units into any salary increases, and there were times when management took less increase or no increase in order to provide for the Classified and Certificated staff. It seems appropriate to Mr. Peckler that we don't ask management to lead down if they are not leading up either.

Superintendent Campbell said he would not ask his team to do something he wouldn't ask anyone else to do just because they are management.

President Garamendi called for a 10 minute break at 10:25 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:35 a.m.

It was decided that Mr. Crancer begin his budget/fiscal recovery plan presentation until Mr. Schoenthaler arrives at 11 a.m.

Fiscal Recovery Plan

Mr. Douglas Crancer, Fiscal Expert, presented a draft of the First Interim report. (He will present the final First Interim report at the Board meeting on December 9.)

The First Interim draft reflects that at the time of the adopted budget there was (\$912,912) in the unrestricted portion and (\$1,474,364) in the restricted portion, and the working draft for the first interim estimates (\$997,543) in the unrestricted portion and (\$1,679,816) in the unrestricted portion of the budget. (There was a handout and statistical table shown on the whiteboard.) Right now it seems the change in the fund balance is pretty much what was in the adopted budget. He reviewed the narrative notes to the draft.

He reviewed the draft of the Multi-Year Projection. The main thing he wants to share with the Board is that he doesn't see it going above that \$900,000 figure, Phase II cuts. He did not reflect the Phase II cuts because he doesn't know what our decision will be yet. Phase I cuts have been reflected. In order to meet our 3% reserve we would need about \$500,000 in 15/16 and \$1.2 million of ongoing funds in 16/17 (that equates to another \$700,000). Superintendent Campbell reiterated these numbers fluctuate and it may be more important to look at the \$1.2 as a whole because that is how much we have to cut in 2 years' time.

FISCAL RECOVERY PLAN – CONTINUED

Mr. Crancer said we do not budget carryover amounts when we are projecting budgets for subsequent years. A large hit to other local revenue are the ROP funds, which went from close to \$1million to \$300,000. We will no longer receive ROP funds from the county office. Board member McDaniel asked if the county office is going to have to give part of the estimated \$700,000 they will be receiving to its districts. She has spoken to other county offices and they are still going to be passing those funds through. She has spoken to CSBA Legal about it and they suggest that we fight for those funds. Superintendent Campbell said the county office could make a decision to allocate all or a portion of that if they choose. There have been conversations with the County Superintendent and Claudia Davis, Assistant Superintendent at the County, and their perception is they can't afford to allocate that to the school sites, and they are not willing to at this point. It's not really a negotiation because they are saying they need those funds to maintain the County Office and cannot afford to allocate that to the districts. Their target at the County Office for LCFF is different than ours. We hit ours in 2021 and they hit theirs now. Ms. McDaniel said that is her argument – the county office is getting their full LCFF allotment now and they've been deficit spending as well so they are bringing themselves up. Ms. Bowsher asked whether or not they are still getting that ROP money but now it's coming in the form of LCFF. Ms. Bowsher, said she understands that to mean they are not getting any less money than before. Superintendent Campbell confirmed that. CUEA President Lorraine Angel said that CTA is saying that money should be passed through from the counties and legally they can't sit on it. Ms. Bowsher asked what the proper protocol would be. Superintendent Campbell said there is no protocol. The Superintendents have had discussions about CUSD and Bret Harte Board members calling for a meeting to try and initiate dialogue on that issue.

Mr. Crancer continued his presentation reviewing the narrative notes of the Multi-Year projections.

Mr. Don Lee believes Mr. Crancer's projection of enrollment decline is too optimistic. Rather than 2%, Mr. Lee believes it will be 4%. He doesn't believe the state properly funds education. Our county has had declines in population and our district has had drastic declines in enrollment. He believes the potential solution is consolidation. We have too many school districts in our county with a model similar to what Amador County has. He said our Board needs to address the long-term visionary solution.

c. Adoption of Resolution 2014/15-13 Supporting a Special Benefit Assessment District

Karan Bowsher, Board member, and Stephen Schoenthaler, who is assisting Ms. Bower with the research, are requesting the Board adopt Resolution 2014/15-13, in support of the creation of a Benefit Assessment District for CUSD's upcountry schools (West Point Elementary, Rail Road Flat Elementary and Mokelumne Hill Elementary).

Dr. Schoenthaler gave a presentation regarding how to create a Special Benefit District. There were questions regarding what constitutes a “special benefit.” What will happen after the sunshine period – will the district/can the district commit to keeping all small schools open?

There are community members who are opposed to this possible special assessment who believe they should get to educate their children in their communities without paying an additional assessment. There was discussion about a possible districtwide parcel tax assessment and community members opposed who do not have children in our district. There were question as to the legality of creating a Special Benefit District for a school district.

Mr. Schoentahaler referred to a study that was indicative of a loss of about 19% of property values when schools close in a small community as well as increases in crime rates.

President Garamendi called for a 10 minute break and had to leave the meeting due to an outside commitment.

Sherri Reusche continued the meeting at 12:15 p.m. as acting President.

Parent Kyle Krause spoke about the possibility of this proposed assessment being illegal and objects to the proposed resolution. He believes it is a divisive proposal and divisive solution. We need to explore unified solutions. He believes it is more likely this is a special tax. He believes a fee to keep small schools open is not a special benefit but rather a general benefit. Many property owners would not benefit because they have students that go to other schools such as Mt. Oaks. He cautioned the Board to confer with their legal counsel regarding the California constitution of this special benefit. He would go for having a special tax for the entire district.

Don Lee believes the Jarvis people would take us to task on this.

Community member Ms. Most believes this sounds like a parcel tax. She has no children in school and would receive no benefit and there are a lot of widows in the area who go to the food bank who would now have to come up with more money to pay for this tax.

Superintendent Campbell provided some background that this was an idea that was generated by Dr. Schoenthaler as the District was asking for ideas. A question was asked about why do we ask this of small schools when other schools are deficit spending. Superintendent Campbell said the schools are not deficit spending – the district is deficit spending. The reason the small schools are being considering is because if, for instance, Valley Spring Elementary was being considered there wouldn't be anywhere for those students to go. So if we close some of the small

schools, the school district has a way to still provide educational services to those students and save money.

The Board voted to adopt Resolution 2014/15-13 supporting that Mr. Schoenthaler move forward on an Engineer's Report, at no cost to the district, and research the legality of creating a Special Benefit District for our upcountry schools.

Motion: McDaniel Second: Bowsher Vote: 3-1 (Gustafson, Nay Garamendi, absent)

c. Fiscal Recovery Plan – Phase II

The Board will continue discussion on proposed cuts/reductions for Phase II of the Fiscal Recovery Plan.

Board member Reusche stated that we only have 2 more meetings before they must make a decision and she stands by her motion of the last meeting that was denied that the Board takes school closures off the cut list until 2016. She has issues with public negotiations, with no disregard to Mr. Wilensky. She believes we need time to look at things.

Superintendent Campbell put a visual on the whiteboard outlining the two options. Option 1 deals with closures and consolidations and Option 2 takes closures off the list and increases layoffs. There are some things being worked on – some things within the district's control and some things not in the district's control. If Option 1 is not approved, it will automatically trigger Option 2. If that is the path we go, that path can be mitigated by some degree based upon the things that are being worked on.

Ben, a parent, said the district must do one of the two options. The assessment could take a year or so. He has an idea – a lot of the same ideas as Wilensky. So foregoing those other options, we have to do one of the two and count on the Board to make those changes later if other options become available.

Bob Garamendi said it's been a very divisive approach. Last week there was a meeting at Moke Hill and they started to think of the process of how to make things work. They are using Rail Road an example and would like to have an Enrichment Program.

Kyle Krause was asked to convey to the Board (he doesn't speak for every parent) that Mokelumne Hill Elementary is willing to consider multi-grade combos and fewer teachers for the time being. They really want the school closure off of their shoulders. They feel so burdened by it. They want to look towards healing and being part of the

solution. Please take the cuts of the small schools off the list. They are willing to be vested with the district in finding a way to work through this.

There was a question about whether or not anybody has the number of families on the waiting list for Mountain Oaks School for next year. The district will obtain that information but doesn't have it right now.

There was also a concern about cutting 2 bus drivers/routes. It can create a problem for parents getting their kids to the bus stops and thus to school causing a loss of ADA.

Board member Bowsher motioned to remove the small schools from the Phase II cut list.

Motion: Bowsher Second: McDaniel Vote: 4-0 (Garamendi absent)

Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Karen Bowsher

Mrs. Bowsher thanked the parent club for putting on "Bring Your Parents to School Day." The workshop sessions had some of the best speakers (kids to college workshops). She in a later comment shared she was at the high school and Mr. Koepp and Shel Brodnax were making a video submission for a \$25,000 grant to Muscle Milk and needed a video recorder, so Ms. Bowsher assisted them.

Gregory Gustafson

Mr. Gustafson congratulated the recent winners in the school district Board election. He is sorry for the losers. One's presence can be made whether you win or lose, such as Mr. Lujan who has been present at every single meeting since the election of 2 years ago. He was always in favor of not closing the schools and that is put behind us now. Mr. Gustafson asked about a presentation made several months ago regarding getting us a half a million dollars from the NFL. Ms. Bowsher said that is Shel Brodnax, and she didn't say she would get a half a million dollars from the NFL. She said she is doing fundraising and that is a part of it.

Zerrall McDaniel

Ms. McDaniel wanted to remind everyone there will be a fundraiser for the music programs December 6 at the Town Hall. The dinner cost is \$12.00. Please pass the information along and support our music programs.

Sherri Reusche

Mrs. Reusche chaperoned the Toyon dance. It was a “Glow in the Dark” dance and it was very interesting to see how those middle school kids all mature at difference levels. She was not able to attend the “Bring Your Parent to School” day at CHS because her son didn’t share that with her. She did attend the career day at the high school and it was fun to talk to kids about their futures.

Superintendent Campbell wanted to clarify the Board’s direction to him is to pursue Option 2. Mrs. Reusche said that is correct.

8. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next regular session Board meeting will be on November 18, 2014. The meeting will be at the District Administrative Office IMC Training Room. Closed session begins at 4:30 p.m. and open session will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Reusche adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Mark Campbell, Superintendent
By Shirley Bell