

COLUSA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

745 Tenth Street

Colusa, CA 95932

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

March 18, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

OPEN SESSION
CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Colusa Unified School District Conference Room by Board President Charles Yerxa, and established a quorum was present. Attending were Charles Yerxa, Lincoln Forry, Don Bransford and Terry Bressler. Kelli Griffith-Garcia was absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dwayne Newman, and Business Manager Sheryl Bailey; Principals Tarr, Johnston and Brown, students, staff, and parents. Lori Raineri and Stacie Frerichs from Government Financial Strategies, Inc. and Gene Bregman from Gene Bregman & Associates were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Taylor Davies led the Pledge of Allegiance.

HEARING OF PUBLIC

None

STUDENT'S REPORT

Taylor Davies reported on activities taking place at Colusa High School which included senior projects, FBLA section conference results, Sport team results and upcoming tournaments, CRAF Golf Tournament on April 18, and Graduation on May 30.

RECOGNITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

This month Dave Tarr acknowledged his entire Kindergarten staff, along with Ellen Cenami, Reading Specialist, for their interest and enthusiasm in starting the kindergarten extended day program at Burchfield. After which Trisha Haugh and Cristina Rodriguez praised Dave Tarr for his leadership at Burchfield Primary School. Darren Brown recognized Matt Giffin for his work being an ESA advisor, and also for taking the English students to Ashland, Oregon each year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Yerxa echoed Taylor Davies' report of the upcoming CRAF golf tournament on April 18, 2014.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE TIME

None

It was decided to change the start time for the April Board Meeting to 4 p.m. to have a reception for the newly tenured teachers.

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY RESULTS

Gene Bregman from Gene Bregman & Associates showed the Board summary charts of the results from a phone survey of likely voters in the Colusa Unified School District. He stated that the majority of the people polled were in favor of an election and of voting YES in that election. A discussion was held and it was suggested that professional consultants should be brought in to help get the word out to the voters about the reasons for the bond.

Lori Raineri and Stacie Frerichs from Government Financial Strategies, Inc. reiterated what had been accomplished since they were hired to advise CUSD on a bond measure. They stated a facilities needs assessment had been done and it showed we have more than \$35 million in needs. A public opinion survey had been conducted which showed that those people surveyed agreed the schools needed more money to

repair, rehabilitate and modernize the local schools. A discussion was held. A concern was brought up regarding the current water situation and that not only farmers but other entities in the county would be affected because of the lack of water this summer. Money will be tight and whether or not a bond measure would pass is a big concern.

After the discussion, Mr. Newman said we would put an action item on the June board agenda to adopt a resolution regarding a bond election.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Improving Achievement:

- Update on Current Improvement Plan Progress: Mr. Newman stated we were doing what we said we would do. He will be having a data meeting with the principals next month to look at student achievement data. The focus is on planning for next year and making sure our LCAP is being done well. There are many groups that Mr. Newman is mandated to meet with. He met with Bobby Kirkman who is doing a phenomenal job with his Leadership group at the high school with regards to LCAP. Mr. Newman will be meeting with the union groups and will have a discussion with them also. After meeting with all the groups, he will put all the ideas together and figure out what plans to make for next year.

Management –

- Update on SELPA Plan Revision, Community Day School, Opportunity School: Mr. Newman recommends housing the Community School in the old kindergarten building on 6th St. at least for a year or so. He feels that by doing this we will save ourselves, and other districts in the county, a lot of money. Currently the ASES program is in that building, but that is after school is out and the Community School students would be gone by the time ASES starts. Sheryl Bailey brought up that Community School has to be at least 6 hours long. A discussion was held with regards to safety of Burchfield and Head Start students because they are in close proximity to the Community School students who *could* have dangerous tendencies. Mr. Bransford suggested that he would like the Community School housed away from the schools, possibly in another building in town. Mr. Newman expressed that he didn't think they would be a threat to any of the students who are in close proximity. Mr. Newman will talk to the other Superintendents in the County tomorrow on this topic and will report back their thoughts.

Mr. Newman will be meeting with the county Superintendents tomorrow regarding the SELPA program. They will focus on coming up with wording that will allow us to keep the SELPA here, but allow districts to have sufficient controls so that the county can't make a unilateral decision and incur additional costs if the districts don't agree with it. Also, the plan will include wording to get control on the County's salary schedule for SELPA personnel.

- Update on Grounds Committee Meeting: Mr. Newman reported the grounds committee met and saw that the athletic fields were in good shape.
- CHS Ag Program Tractor Purchase: Donors are needed for the Ag. Dept. to purchase a tractor. Mr. Crabtree was present and said he would like to keep the purchase local. Mr. Bransford asked what type of tractor he needed and Tim replied a 60 hp, with 4-wheel drive. Mr. Bransford asked how often the Friends

of Ag. committee meets and Tim said they meet once a year. Mr. Bransford suggested the FoA Committee meet at least 3 or 4 times each year to be able to get them on board with the needs of the Ag. Dept. by having fund raising projects, and/or soliciting donations for the department. Mr. Crabtree stated there is also a strong alumni fund that donates money to FoA. Mr. Crabtree has solicited bids from all tractor companies in Colusa, as well as Chico just to be able to compare prices. A discussion was held on whether or not to use Perkins money or LCFF for the tractor purchase. No decision was made.

Budget:

- Update on progress of ZBB – Mr. Newman said to remember that the budget is built from the bottom up and that typically the budget numbers will come back very high, then we'll need to go back and make it all fit district wide. (He doesn't want people to panic when they see the original numbers that will be submitted.)
- Mr. Newman said the state's revenue budget is 1.6% higher than what was projected. Also, there is overwhelming support for additional funding for the Common Core Implementation Grant which will help us in technology and curriculum.
- MS Settlement Grant: We have moved some of our billing from what was the Common Core Grant into the MS Settlement Grant so that we can continue to use the Common Core Grant for tech. and curriculum writing.

Enrollment: Mr. Newman stated our enrollment is down 1 student, but our a.d.a. is significantly up overall.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

For his school report Mr. Tarr talked about the extended day kindergarten program at Burchfield Primary School. His handouts to the Board included a 10 year demographic summary stating that in 2003 there were 50% Hispanic students at BPS and now there are 72%, which is a 22% increase. He stated the 2003 CELDT scores of 1/2 were 38%, and in 2012 they were 82%, a significant change. This means that we have more ELL coming to school at a lower level of English Proficiency than we have seen in the past. The first grade assessment results summary in the fall of 2013 showed student scores decline over the summer. However, students are now leaving Kindergarten with a higher level of skills and will come into first grade at a higher level than previously observed. This is a normal occurrence which happens at all grade levels. The BPS teachers are working to minimize this problem by creating a packet of practice materials the students will receive at the end of the school year. Each child will then have a chance to practice academic skills over the summer to maintain the levels they've achieved during the school year.

Mr. Tarr also reported there were 79 students who signed up at kindergarten pre-registration. There are 18 TK and 14 known incoming students who have not made appointments totaling 111 so far for the 2014-15 school year. He wants to continue to keep the class ratio of 20 to 1.

Don Bransford asked questions of Mr. Tarr regarding whether or not there was enough resources in the classroom for students to get the individual help they needed. Mr. Tarr explained the scheduling of the para-educators and said in his ZBB he would like to double the amount of para-educators who would help in student learning.

CEA REPORT

Pam Giuliano reported that the 6th graders just got back from Shady Creek and had a really good time. The kids showed excellent behavior throughout the week.

She also reported she had gone to a CEA dinner meeting where she normally hears negative comments from other educators in other school districts. She was glad that the relationship between the teachers and the administration in our school district was very good. Pam stated there are many great things here at CUSD.

CSEA REPORT

None

INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION/
POSSIBLE ACTION:
#131460 CONTRACTS

Motion was made by Don Bransford, seconded by Terry Bressler to approve the contract that was signed with Frontier for the MetroEthernet Data Lines.

Vote: Ayes – 4
 Noes – 0
 Absent – 1 (K. Griffith-Garcia)

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION:
SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RETREAT

The date and time that was agreed upon for the Superintendent/Board Retreat to work on the Improvement Plan will be April 9, 2014 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEM #131461

Motion was made by Don Bransford, seconded by Lincoln Forry to direct the Superintendent to work out a plan with the other district Superintendents in the county to have CUSD administer and house the Community Day School within the city of Colusa, and bring back the plan for approval.

If the Community School were to be housed on District property the Board expressed concerns that the Community School students be a “legal” and safe distance away from our regular ed. students.

Vote: Ayes – 4
 Noes – 0
 Absent – 1 (K. Griffith-Garcia)

CONSIDER APPROVAL TO PAY OFF
2012-2013 STRS GOLDEN
HANDSHAKE

Mr. Newman suggested we wait to consider approval to pay off the 2012-2013 STRS Golden Handshake until after the Improvement Plan is discussed at the Board/Superintendent retreat on April 9, 2014. The board agreed. Don Bransford would like this to be included in the budget process later in June.

No action was taken.

ACTION ITEM #131462

Motion was made by Terry Bressler, seconded by Don Bransford to waive the reduced price meal charges for those students who qualify for reduced price meals and also waive the outstanding charges those students have incurred. The district will cover the cost for reduced price meals. Those students will now receive free meals starting tomorrow.

Vote: Ayes – 4
 Noes – 0
 Absent – 1 (K. Griffith-Garcia)

ACTION ITEM #131463

Motion was made by Terry Bressler, seconded by Don Bransford to approve Resolution #2013-14.09 Board Support for Agricultural Education Incentive Grant.

Vote: Ayes – 4
Noes – 0
Absent – 1 (K. Griffith-Garcia)

CONSENT AGENDA
ACTION ITEM #131464

Consider Approval of Consent Agenda: Regular and Customary Business Items:
Consent Agenda: Regular and Customary Business Items:
a. Minutes of February 25, 2014 Regular Board Meeting
b. March Payroll
c. February Warrants: Batch #31 - 33
d. March Financial Statements
e. Personnel Assignment Order #2013/14.08

Motion was made by Lincoln Forry, seconded by Terry Bressler to approve the Consent Agenda without exception.

Vote: Ayes – 4
Noes – 0
Absent – 1 (K. Griffith-Garcia)

HEARING OF PUBLIC FOR MATTERS
ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

None

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 9:20 p.m. to consider and/or take action upon any of the following items:

1. Student Matters:
 - a. Out of School Suspensions
 - b. Inter-district Transfer Agreements
 - c. Consider approval of AHP's recommendation for Expulsion Case EH #2013-14.07
2. Personnel Matters:
 - a. Public Employment – New Hires 2013-2014
 - b. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
 - c. Public Employee – Resignations
 - d. Public Employee Leave of Absence Request
 - e. Public Employee Evaluation - Superintendent
3. Negotiations:
 - a. Review the 2014-15 through 2016-17 Tentative Agreement Between CUSD & CSEA

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 9:05 P.M. Board President Charles Yerxa reported out the Board reviewed the Out of School Suspension Report, the Inter-district Transfer Requests, the recommendation for Expulsion Case EH#2013-14.07, Resignations, Leave of Absence Request by Julie Peterson and the Superintendent's evaluation. They also reviewed the Tentative Agreement between CUSD and CSEA.

ACTION ITEM # 131465

Motion was made by Don Bransford, seconded by Terry Bressler to approve the Inter-district Transfer Agreement requests.

Vote: Ayes – 4

Noes – 0
Absent – 1 (K. Griffith-Garcia)

ACTION ITEM #131466 Motion was made by Don Bransford, seconded by Terry Bressler to approve the AHP recommendation for Expulsion Case EH #2013-14.07.

Vote: Ayes – 4
 Noes – 0
 Absent – 1 (K. Griffith-Garcia)

ACTION ITEM #131467 Motion was made by Don Bransford, seconded by Terry Bressler to ratify the 2014-15 through 2016-17 Tentative Agreement between CSEA Chapter #574 and CUSD.

Vote: Ayes – 4
 Noes – 0
 Absent – 1 (K. Griffith-Garcia)

ACTION ITEM #131468 Motion was made by Don Bransford, seconded by Lincoln Forry to approve the Leave of Absence request made by Julie Peterson contingent upon Superintendent Newman contacting legal counsel and insuring all parties involved are aware of implications for their future employment.

Vote: Ayes – 4
 Noes – 0
 Absent – 1 (K. Griffith-Garcia)

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Lyttle, Executive Administrative Assistant

APPROVED BY:

