

Fountain Valley School District  
Superintendent's Office

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

10055 Slater Avenue  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

**March 11, 2010**

**MINUTES**

President Pro Tem Judy Edwards called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 5:01pm. CALL TO ORDER

The following board members were present: ROLL CALL

Mrs. Judy Edwards	President Pro Tem
Mr. Ian Collins	Clerk
Mrs. Christine Allcorn	Member
Mrs. Nicola Weiss	Member

Not yet arrived:  
Mr. Tony McCombs President

**Motion:** Mr. Collins moved to approve the meeting agenda AGENDA APPROVAL

**Second:** Mrs. Weiss

**Vote:** 4-0

There was one request to address the Board prior to closed session. The VAPA Coordinator for the Fountain Valley School District spoke to the board on the importance of arts education in our schools. She urged the board to do what they can to save the visual and performing arts programs. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Edwards announced that the Board would retire into closed session. Action was anticipated. The following would be addressed: CLOSED SESSION

- Personnel Matters: *Government Code 54957 and 54957.1*  
Appointment/Assignment/Promotion of employees; employee discipline/dismissal/release; evaluation of employee performance; complaints/charges against an employee; other personnel matters
- Negotiations: *Government Code 54957.6*  
Update and review of negotiations with FVEA Bargaining Unit with the Board's designated representative, Mrs. Rosemary Eadie.

- Property Negotiations: *Government Code 54956.8*  
Real property negotiator Paul Burkart and legal counsel Andreas Chialtas will speak to the board about the negotiations concerning the properties at 9191 Pioneer and 10251 Yorktown Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA.
- Public Employee Performance Evaluation: *Government Code Section 54957 & 54957.1*  
The board will meet in closed session to discuss the annual performance evaluation of the superintendent

Mr. McCombs arrived at 5:35pm.  
The public portion of the meeting resumed at 7:03pm.

Webelos Pack 563, Den 2 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

It is an interest of the Board of Trustees to recognize students who display high achievement, improvement or extraordinary effort. The Board recognized six outstanding students from Gisler School. From Gisler School, the board recognized Thomas Moratinos (K), Paige Bischofberger (1<sup>st</sup>), John Chandler (2<sup>nd</sup>), Kailiokahelalani Arruda (3<sup>rd</sup>), Noah Mitchell (4<sup>th</sup>), and Shane Khan (5<sup>th</sup>). Mrs. Perkins, Gisler School principal, commended each of these students on their hard work. Family and staff members were also present to honor these students.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS FROM GISLER SCHOOL

It is an interest of the Board of Trustees to recognize outstanding parent volunteers who give generously of their time and talents to our schools. From Gisler School, the Board recognized and thanked Susan Davis and Andra Johnson. PTO President Jennifer Salamon was also present to honor these parents.

RECOGNITION OF PARENT VOLUNTEERS FROM GISLER SCHOOL

It is an interest of the Board of Trustees to recognize students who display high achievement, improvement or extraordinary effort. The Board recognized six outstanding students from Newland School. From Newland School, the board recognized Ebin Hulett (K), Lucas Tomin (1<sup>st</sup>), Lindsey Labadie (2<sup>nd</sup>), Jack Parker (3<sup>rd</sup>), Nolan Funke (4<sup>th</sup>), and Melissa Hodges (5<sup>th</sup>). Mrs. Davis, Newland School principal, commended each of these students on their hard work. Family and staff members were also present to honor these students.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS FROM NEWLAND SCHOOL

It is an interest of the Board of Trustees to recognize outstanding parent volunteers who give generously of their time and talents to our schools. From Newland School, the Board recognized and thanked Trisha Mather and Nanci Masada-Okawa.

RECOGNITION OF PARENT VOLUNTEERS FROM NEWLAND SCHOOL

At 7:54pm, Mr. McCombs opened a meeting of School Assets Management, Inc. (SAM). The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Following this, Mrs. Edwards read the following announcement regarding closed session action:

**CLOSED SESSION  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

*“In closed session, the Board of Trustees took action directing district staff to notify a teacher, employee #2588, and a teacher, employee #1017, of release from district employment pursuant to Education Code section 44929.21.”*

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board of Trustees held a public hearing on the initial contract proposal between the Fountain Valley School District and Fountain Valley Education Association. There were no requests to address the board and the public hearing was closed.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON  
INITIAL CONTRACT  
PROPOSAL BETWEEN  
FVSD AND FVEA FOR  
2010-11**

The Board of Trustees held a public hearing on the initial contract proposal between the Fountain Valley School District and California School Employee’s Association, Chapter 358. There were no requests to address the board and the public hearing was closed.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON  
INITIAL CONTRACT  
PROPOSAL BETWEEN  
FVSD AND CSEA,  
CHAPTER 358 FOR 2010-  
11**

**STUDY SESSION**

Mr. Burkart reviewed the list of proposed budget reductions. Regarding this list and item #2, Mr. Collins asked that if the technology repair position were cut, how repairs would be completed when needed. Mr. Burkart explained that most likely, older machines would not be repaired. Those newer machines have 3 year warranties. Mrs. Weiss asked how many machines are under 3 year warranties still. Mr. Burkart noted the 250 computers just purchased that covers most machines at the schools. Mrs. Weiss asked whether it was possible to contract out the servicing of the equipment. Mr. Burkart explained that because of Ed Code, the district cannot eliminate a position and then contract out the duties of the position. Current statute does not allow this.

**STUDY SESSION ON  
2010-11 BUDGET**

Regarding items #7-9, Mr. McComb noted that last year, 2 groups participated in the 2 furlough days, although one group did not. He questioned if Mr. Burkart thought that the district would be successful in getting all three groups to agree to 5 furlough days this year. Mr. Burkart explained that the 5 furlough days from the three groups is 1/3 of the proposed budget

reductions. So, if this is not successfully achieved through bargaining, the district would then need to give serious consideration to cuts elsewhere.

Regarding item #10, Mr. McCombs asked what tasks this position does and where these duties would be reassigned. Mr. Burkart explained that all of the proposed cuts mean that not all that is currently done in the district would be able to continue. Mrs. Eadie explained that the duties assigned to the position would be redistributed amongst the Curriculum and Instruction support staff.

Mr. Burkart explained that regarding item #14, those duties currently assigned to the Director of Maintenance and Operations would be reassigned to the Assistant Superintendent, Business and the Supervisor of Maintenance.

Mr. Burkart explained that regarding item #18, those memberships that the district has as a whole, CSBA and School Services, would still be maintained. This proposed cut involves those memberships that are for individuals in the district.

Regarding item #20, Mrs. Weiss asked if the district were to eliminate its Beckman contribution, would this effect the other districts involved in the ScienceWorks program. Mr. Burkart explained that yes, this would effect the other district. He explained that one of the other district's funding is up this year, causing their contribution to increase significantly. Dr. Ecker explained that the district is working on alternate sources of funding for this program and that Mrs. Crandall is working with the STEM initiative to see if there can be an alternative means of support there. Mr. Collins noted that FVEF is also searching for corporate donations to aide these and other programs.

Mr. Burkart clarified that regarding #21, special education summer school is not included in the proposed reduction as it is a State requirement to have.

Mrs. Weiss asked whether item #23 included classroom supply accounts. Mr. Burkart explained that this proposed cut included classroom and district office accounts.

Mr. McCombs asked regarding item #26 whether this item indeed needs to be negotiated. Mr. Burkart clarified that yes, because this reduction involves a reduction in hours that it would need to be negotiated.

Mrs. Weiss asked where the district administrative salaries fell in

comparison to other administrative salaries in the county. Mr. Burkart explained that he would research this question and provide the information to the board. Dr. Ecker noted that in the past years, the district has made an effort to get salaries more in line with the county average. He explained that some things may have changed and that this information can be researched.

Mr. Burkart then moved on to the suggested cuts as provided by staff through the budget solutions email. Regarding item #65, Mrs. Allcorn asked for clarification of the district's responsibilities in regard to the fields and the city's management of them. Mr. Burkart explained that the district is responsible for maintaining the fields while the city takes care of the scheduling of field use. Mr. McCombs asked if there was a written agreement as to the level of maintenance that the district needs to provide. Mr. Burkart explained that there is not a written agreement in this regard but that the maintenance is already at a minimum and there are certain liabilities that the district has to watch out for.

Mrs. Allcorn asked for clarification regarding item #6 and district vehicles being taken home. Mr. Burkart explained that there are 6 district vehicles currently taken home. 1 of these belongs to a manager who needs to be available 24 hours. Another belongs to the person on call.

Mr. Collins asked for information regarding the district health and welfare package. He asked when the district put this out for bidding. Mrs. Eadie explained that it was two years ago that the package was last bid on and it is currently being looked at again. Dr. Ecker explained that the district is currently with Health Net. He noted that the district has had three providers in the past six years.

Mr. McCombs asked Mr. Burkart for further clarification on the District's Fund 40. He noted that at the last meeting Mr. Burkart explained that at the current spending rate, Fund 40 has about a 3 year lifespan. He asked if this was correct. Mr. Burkart explained that there are two issues that affect the balance of Fund 40. The first, he explained, is the COP which the district owes and needs to pay back. He also explained that interest is earned based on the balance of the account. When the district deficit spends, the money to cover these expenses comes from Fund 40. If both factors continue as they currently are, in 2012-13, Fund 40 would be in the red. He noted that in order to be considered fiscally solvent, the district must show that it has cash to cover expenses for three years. Although on paper, with Fund 40 it would appear that the district was solvent, but the district would

know what really would be on the horizon. Mr. Burkart explained that the cuts proposed significantly reduce the deficit spending but a lot does still depend on the timing of the COLA and how it increases. He noted that it would not be a totally balanced budget but significantly down from where it is now. He noted that he personally feels 2010-11 will be the bottom point; although, it does not mean that 2011-12 will be significantly better, just somewhat improved.

Dr. Ecker noted that the position this board is in and a lot of other districts are in is the result of the cuts over several years from the State. The ongoing cuts have created a compounded problem.

Mr. Burkart summarized the follow up information requested by the board to include: a comparison of how Fountain Valley School District's administrator salaries rank in comparison to other districts in the county; an analysis of how much using an ELA benchmark written by the district would save; the cost savings from not taking district vehicles home for the on call person and instead picking up the vehicle if called to a site; the results of the survey on consumables used by the sites.

Mrs. Allcorn noted how encouraging it is in a very difficult time to get so much feedback from staff. She asked whether or not some items included on the staff suggestion list are legal. Mr. Burkart explained that the busing suggestion, contracting suggestion, and special ed transfer suggestions were illegal. He explained regarding denying a special ed transfer that if the program is not impacted than a special ed transfer cannot be denied. He also noted that if a student is a transfer and some years into their education career in the district they are transferred into special ed, the district does not have to let them stay. In the past, the district has but, this is something that can be looked at as well for the future.

Mr. Collins noted the importance of emphasizing attendance through school newsletters and other means. He noted the great amount of money based on ADA that the district loses. He also noted the idea that the board approach the budget process not looking at which programs to cut but instead to identify those programs that are important for the board to keep and working out how they can be saved. Dr. Ecker noted that the district is currently at the point where it would be misleading to tell the community that we will be able to keep cuts out of the classrooms; we are currently at the point where we are forced to look at core programs. The board does need to prioritize items and take into account that if they are taken off the proposed cut list, something will need to replace them. Mr. Collins agreed,

noting that in the past the board struggled with needing to eliminate the Class Size Reduction program and the Literacy program. He explained that it pains him to see that the district is with less and less help and yet still has to serve the children of the community. He noted that it is time that the legislators realize that our children are the future and more resources need to be dedicated to them. Dr. Ecker agreed adding that the decisions placed on the board are actually made for them by Sacramento and the generation of neglect that has not left districts much choice.

Mr. McCombs asked Mr. Burkart for further explanation on item #21. Mr. Burkart explained that in the past this was a STERS options and that STERS has decided it can no longer offer this.

Mr. Collins commended Mr. Burkart for his excellent presentation and noted appreciation for Mr. Burkart's efforts.

Dr. Ecker noted that this is one of two study sessions that the board will participate in, the second being during the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. He also noted the Community Information meetings that will be held at the District on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>, both at 6:30pm. In addition, he noted the two Employee Information meetings to be held at the district on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>, both at 3:30pm. He also noted the upcoming Sacramento Safari March 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> and Legislative Action day in Sacramento on Monday. He noted his hope that the State's May revise will be better but noted that the State is looking at a \$20 billion deficit over a year and a half.

Mr. Collins noted the great support that the district's parent community offers over the year. He asked whether or not information was available on the total amount contributed. Mrs. Weiss explained that HUC would have this information and she could research this.

## **BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Edwards attended the Rachael's Challenge presentation at Masuda Middle School and noted how amazing and very moving this presentation was. She attended the State of Education in Orange County presentation at OCDE, as well as the HUC luncheon honoring Mrs. Weiss and Susan Grantham. She enjoyed the art display at the District Office and attended the ACE meeting as well as the Distinguished School Visitation luncheon at Oka School. She visited Masuda Middle School and attended the OCSBA/ACSA joint dinner.

## **BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Collins attended most of the same events. He thanked Barnes and Noble for their recent book drive that provided a couple of schools with a good number of books. He also participated in the 5K Run sponsored by the Foundation and attended several FVEF meetings regarding the planning for soliciting corporate donations. He enjoyed the Elks Lodge dinner honoring student essays on Americanism and was impressed with the quality of the students' submissions. He also visited Plavan and Fulton and enjoyed the Rotary Club meeting where the district was able to present its donation to ShelterBox USA for Haiti. He enjoyed the middle school speech exhibition at the Rotary meeting as well and also attend the school rally regarding Sacramento's cuts to education.

Mrs. Allcorn enjoyed the Distinguished School Visitation luncheon at Oka School as well as Boomtown at Cox School. She also attend the Tamura Honor Society recognition and noted that the district is working hard to also have a National Honor Society program at Fulton School. She was also a facilitator at Masuda regarding Rachael's Challenge and enjoyed the opportunity to sit with the children and discuss what the challenge meant to them and how to break down barriers. She also enjoyed the Cox Lunar New Year celebration.

Mrs. Weiss attended the State of Education in Orange County presentation at OCDE as well as the Sacramento Safari Orientation meeting. She attended the FVEF meeting as well as the SPC meeting and worked to organize the district Art Fair. She attend the Oka Distinguished School Visitation luncheon and noted how proud she is of the staff and community there. She visited Newland, Fulton, Plavan and Tamura as well as attending the Elks Lodge dinner and was very impressed with the student submissions.

Mr. McCombs noted how well attended the school rally was. He enjoyed the Cox Lunar New Year celebration and the district art fair. He attend the HUC Founders Day luncheon where Mrs. Weiss and Ms. Grantham were recognized. He noted how impressed he was with the students who were also recognized at this luncheon for their visual and performing arts submissions, noting that they were unbelievable and the exhibits were fantastic.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were 14 requests to address the Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**



The CSEA president addressed the board regarding the budget cuts, urging the board to avoid reducing classified staff further.

Nine people addressed the board regarding cuts to the music program. They all urged the board to avoid cutting the music program because of the great impact that this would have on students.

The AV technician for the district addressed the board regarding the possible reduction of his position. He urged the board to avoid this cut.

The technology repair person for the district addressed the board regarding the potential reduction of his position. He urged the board to avoid this cut.

The ScienceWorks coordinator for the district addressed the board regarding programs to the hands on science program in the district. She stressed the positive impact that this program has on students and urged the board to avoid cutting this program.

A representative of the district SAA's addressed the board regarding the reduction of extra days for the site administrative support staff, stressing the need for these days for closing and opening the school year.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

<b>Motion:</b>	Mrs. Allcorn moved to approve ratification of 2009-10 contract agreement with FVEA.	RATIFICATION OF 2009-10 CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH FVEA
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Second:	Mr. Collins	
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Vote:	5-0	
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<b>Motion:</b>	Mrs. Edwards moved to approve increase in bus transportation fees.	APPROVAL OF INCREASE IN BUS TRANSPORTATION FEES
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Second:	Mrs. Weiss	
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Mr. Collins noted that in light of the fact that the fees have stayed the same for so long, this increase seems reasonable.

Vote:	5-0	
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<b>Motion:</b>	Mr. Collins moved to adopt Resolution 2010-23:	RESOLUTION 2010-23:
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Intent to Negotiate Salary and Work Year/Annual Compensation Reductions for Certificated and Classified Employees for the 2010-11 Fiscal Year.

INTENT TO NEGOTIATE SALARY AND WORK YEAR/ANNUAL COMPENSATION REDUCTIONS FOR CERTIFICATED AND CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES FOR THE 2010-11 FISCAL YEAR

Second: Mrs. Edwards

Vote: 5-0

**Motion:** Mrs. Weiss moved to approve the Consent Calendar/Routine Items of Business

CONSENT CALENDAR/ROUTINE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Second: Mr. Collins

Vote: 5-0

The Consent Calendar included:

- Board Meeting Minutes from February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Personnel Items
- Donations
- Warrant Registers
- Purchase Order Listing
- Budget Transfers
- Renewal of Membership in the Fountain Valley Rotary Club for Third Quarter 2009-10 in the amount of \$150
- Approval of 2009-10 Second Interim Report
- EISS Grant Application
- Approval of 2010 Fountain Valley School District Summer School Program
- Non-public Agency Contracts (Board Members Only)

Non-Public School/Agency	100% Contract Cost	Effective Dates
Cornerstone Therapies	\$85.00	7/1/09 to 9/1/09

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no requests to address the board.

**NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

Dr. Ecker Noted the wonderful artwork on display in the board room as a part of the district art fair. He noted that in light of the evening’s discussion over art, it is nice to see such wonderful pieces on display. He thanked those individuals, including Mrs. Weiss, that worked so hard to

put the district art fair together.

Dr. Ecker           Commended Oka School for the results of the Distinguished School Visitation. He noted how proud he is of Oka and applauded Mrs. Loyd and her staff for their hard work in taking a school that was a year ago at the bottom in performance to the top in the district and the county.

Dr. Ecker           Echoed the comments of Mr. Collins regarding the contributions of the Fountain Valley School District community. He urged those concerned with the budget to write letters to the legislators whose votes are deciding the cuts to education. He noted the importance of our senator, assemblyman and governor hearing the stories of these students effected by the cuts.

Dr. Ecker           Applauded the work of the district in their fundraising efforts for Haiti. He noted how amazing it is that even in a time of such extreme cutbacks, the district is able to see that there are those less fortunate than we are and give to them.

Dr. Ecker           Noted that he was touched by those that spoke this evening of the programs and services that have touched their lives and those of their students over the years. He noted that when looking at core programs, he does consider hands on science and music a part of these core programs and it makes it that much more difficult to make decisions regarding cuts to them.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:**       Mr. Collins moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:16pm.

**Second:**       Mrs. Edwards

**Vote:**         Unanimously approved

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