

**GLENN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Wednesday, April 22, 2009  
Glenn County Office of Education,  
311 South Villa Avenue, Willows**

**MINUTES**

The closed session meeting of the Glenn County Board of Education began at 5:00 p.m. at 311 South Villa Avenue, Willows. The regular meeting began immediately following the closed session.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Judy Holzapfel, Catherine Hanes, Gail Zimmerman, Gene Massa and Jim Mason

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Superintendent Barrera, Attorney Margaret Merchant, staff, and community members

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER:**

Board President Judy Holzapfel called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Gene Massa led the pledge of allegiance.

**3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Catherine Hanes made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Gail Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**4.0 COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:**

There were no comments from the audience.

Meeting was adjourned to closed session at 5:03 p.m.

Open session reconvened at 5:30 p.m.

**5.0 CLOSED SESSION:**

Judy Holzapfel announced all interdistrict appeals had been granted.

**6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Catherine Hanes made a motion to approve the minutes for March 18, 2009 with corrections. Gail Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**7.0 COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:**

There were no comments from the audience.

**8.0 COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

There were no comments from the audience.

**9.0 UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Public Hearing – 6:00 P.M., Resolution 2009 - 04**

Merrilee Johnson asked the board to approve the Waiver of Notice Date to Board of Equalization concerning Hamilton Union School District unification from December 1, 2008 to November 30, 2009.

Gene Massa made a motion to approve the Waiver of Notice Date. Jim Mason seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jim Mason made a motion to accept Resolution 2009 – 04 of the Glenn County Board of Education ordering the unification of the Hamilton Union High School District and the Hamilton Union Elementary School District into the Hamilton Unified School District and establishing their boundaries. Gail Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**B. Update on WUSD budget recovery plan**

Randy Jones said he is in the process of reviewing the Second Interim Report for Willows Unified School District. He will be meeting with them tomorrow. WUSD board has passed a resolution to borrow from themselves for the months they will be short of cash.

**C. Wm Finch Charter School**

Gene Massa met with Wm. Finch Charter School parents and teachers. The teachers were open to the renewal of the charter petition. They also questioned what to do about the lapse of time on the charter. The parents suggested going with the old charter with the 2004 date and retroactively approve for five years to 2009. The new petition could go forward from here. Judy Holzapfel commented that laws have changed since 2004 so she was not in favor of approving the petition back to that date. Superintendent Barrera introduced Margaret Merchant, School and College Legal attorney.

**D. Wm. Finch Charter School Charter Renewal**

Susan Domenighini said that corrections suggested by the board were made and signatures had been handed in. Margaret Merchant said that the petition was not complete because the signatures were not included and timelines do not apply to renewals. A Public Hearing can be held within 30 days. It was clarified that the petition presented did not have the corrections noted in the e-mail from the attorney Janna Lambert. Margaret Merchant said Lambert had previously reviewed the petition and noted corrections to be made but those recommendations had not always been followed. No financial information or signatures were included in the first review. Susan added that Section 9 was not complete when Janna reviewed the petition.

The attorneys would like to see a separate FCMAT audit to ensure that funds were not mingled. The signature pages need to include the number of students each parent signature represents. The charter should have been attached to each page so the parent knew what they were signing. Susan adjusted the budget to reflect new information from the school and the state.

Margaret Merchant clarified the charter can be approved with conditions because it is a dependent charter. The GCBE can retroactively approve the charter with changes made on the content. She recommended that we get clarity and coverage for the years in question so that if the state audits, there is coverage. The charter was activated when the GCBE approved the charter even if the school was not yet operating. Gene stressed the importance of getting the charter legally correct so we can go forward.

If the changes to the charter are significant, parents may want to review the charter again. The signatures need to be reviewed for the number of students represented. There does not need to be an additional 30 day period because this has been before the public for several months with an ongoing dialog.

Merrilee Johnson said that 16 certificated layoff letters have gone to the Wm. Finch, Court and Opportunity teachers and that if a decision could be made before the next board meeting it would mean a lot to our employees. Shirley Diaz is meeting Tuesday with Randy, Merrilee, and Vicki to work on the list from the attorney to pull together the pieces they can for Susan. The pieces that need to be completed are the petition, addendums, budget, and signatures.

Margaret Merchant agreed with the Board President that the old petition cannot be retroactively approved. Changes in laws must be addressed and the charter must be clear. She does a lot of charter work all over the state. Dependent charter schools have more flexibility because the Superintendent and the GCBE have to understand that if the charter cannot meet its debts, GCOE is responsible for them. Charters must be clear and this one is not very clear, it is fairly weak in terms of general description of educational programs. This does not mean that the programs themselves are weak. It needs to be clear what the academic goals are, more about

your academic integration to classroom based programs, and more about your home study programs. The state is more apt to audit a program if they don't have all these pieces in place. There should be a separate audit for the charter school as FCMAT requested to be sure there is no blending of funding. Randy reported that charter funds are kept separate and he disagrees with FCMAT's recommendation. An independent audit would cost Wm. Finch a lot and it would not provide any more accountability or assurance that there are compliance issues.

Judy Holzapfel thanked Susan Domenighini for all the work she has done. There are more things to be added. This will be an agenda item for next month.

**E. Educator's Hall of Fame**

Judy Holzapfel asked Merrilee Johnson if each of the four candidates had declared their retirement. Merrilee confirmed that neither Heather Spooner nor Diantha Candias had done so.

Catherine Hanes made a motion to nominate Ray Gollnick as the first nominee for the 2009 Educator's Hall of Fame for GCOE. Judy Holzapfel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gene Massa made a motion to nominate Lynton Smith for the 2009 Educator's Hall of Fame for GCOE. Gail Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**F. Criteria for Educator's Hall of Fame- Judy Holzapfel**

Judy Holzapfel reviewed the proposed criteria for Educator's Hall of Fame nominations for future years. There was an addition of 15 years of service requirement.

Break – 7:15 p.m.

Catherine Hanes made a motion to accept the new criteria as presented. Jim Mason seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vicki Shadd thanked Judy Holzapfel for letting her be part of the committee.

**10.0 NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Williams Uniform Complaints**

Shirley Diaz asked for approval of the April 2009 Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints. There were no complaints for Glenn County Office of Education for Student Services, Opportunity, Court, and Wm. Finch Charter School. There was one complaint for Special Education which was resolved.

**B. Second Interim Budget Report – Randy Jones**

Randy Jones presented and explained the Second Interim Report for 2008 - 2009 and asked for approval by the board. GCOE has frozen expenditures in categoricals, the Facilities Department is working on reducing building costs, and there may be possible staff reduction.

Jim Mason made the motion to approve the Second Interim Report for 2008 – 2009. Gail Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- 11.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Superintendent Barrera stated that GCOE had booths at the Best of the West. He is working with Special Education on distance learning. Saturday will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Employee Recognition picnic. CSEA made a donation towards the cost. He attended Capay's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There were music, games and historic information. He went to Weaverville for a Superintendents meeting last Friday. GCOE will be hosting the Regional Superintendent's meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> in Orland. The focus will be on technology.

Vicki Shadd reported Reality USA would be held at the Memorial Hall on April 28. The Summer Kick Off will be at Lely Park on May 28.

Merrilee Johnson said tomorrow she will facilitate Lake and Plaza community panel for the new Superintendent/Principal. She thanked Julia Larson for the bench dedicated to Linda Helton.

Randy Jones reminded everyone that on Thursday and Friday there would be a Senior Nutrition hot dog fundraiser at Sanifood.

Shirley Diaz announced that May 20 was the Glenn Co. Track Meet.

**12.0 BOARD MEMBER REPORT:**

Gail Zimmerman said last night was Hamilton's unified school board meeting. He helped choose the HUHS' Educator's Hall of Fame recipient. HUHS has applied for an Even Start grant for limited English speaking families.

Catherine Hanes attended the Don Forrester dedication at OADM. She toured a school and attended the Federal review for CaFS and council meeting. She read a report on the ECHS students Washington DC trip. Thirteen students went to Fresno for the FFA convention. There was an Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Grange and the library group. The community provided the eggs.

Jim Mason participated in the board tour to ECHS. He commented that their FFA program is great.

Gene Massa went on the board tour to Hamilton. He was very interested in HUHS' program where parents can track their students and check on their grades and homework. May 13-17 is the Glenn Co. Fair. May 16 is the Jr. Livestock Auction.

Judy Holzapfel attended OUSD board meeting, Don Forrester's dedication, Science Fair, the board tours to Princeton, Lake, Plaza, Capay, Hamilton Elementary and Hamilton High School, Parents night at Wm. Finch, Murdock's Open House with music program, and SELPA meeting this morning.

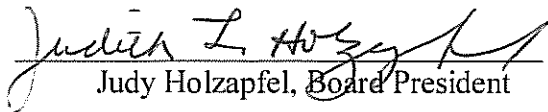
**13.0 COMMUNICATIONS:**

Superintendent Barrera informed the board that our First Interim Report for 2008-2009 had a positive certification. He read a thank you from Ray Odom for the board visitation to HUHS.

**14.0 NEXT MEETING:**                      **Date/Time/Location**  
**May 20, 2009**                      **5:30 p.m.**                      **Willows Administration**

**15.0 ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

  
Judy Holzapfel, Board President

  
Arturo Barrera, Superintendent

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