

**GLENN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, February 18, 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. on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 311 South Villa Avenue, Willows.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judy Holzapfel, Gail Zimmerman, and Gene Massa

MEMBERS ABSENT: Catherine Hanes and Jim Mason

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Barrera, staff, and community members

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

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

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ray Odom, Hamilton Union High School Superintendent, led the pledge of allegiance.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gene Massa 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 5:10 p.m.

Open session reconvened at 5:30 p.m.

5.0 CLOSED SESSION:

Judy announced the appeal had been granted.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Gail Zimmerman made a motion to approve the minutes for January 21, 2009. Gene Massa seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gene Massa made a motion to approve the minutes for February 9, 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. Wm. Finch Charter School Update

Susan Domenighini addressed recommended changes from the board at the February 9, 2009 meeting. She explained API information from CDE and answered questions from the Board on various parts of the petition. She has concerns about meeting demographics for Hispanic and Latino populations. Imelda Diaz stated she receives inquiries from non-English speaking parents. Hispanic parents of lower-grade level students have difficulties with home schooling because of the language barrier. She also explained that the funding model allows more money per ADA for a charter school than as an independent study school depending on the district the student comes from and the student grade level. All agreed Wm. Finch should not attempt to recruit students from other districts.

Gene read an e-mail from Deborah Domitrovich from CDE. She outlined options for GCBE to consider. She stated that charter renewals were for 5 years. While the charter was approved in 2001, it was not acted on until 2004. 1) Using the 2001 date, retroactively approve the charter to 2006 and the next approval date would be September 2011. 2) Using the 2004 date, the renewal would be in September 2009. CDE will offer expert advice but not legal advice. Superintendent Barrera has referred this matter to GCOE attorney, Janna Lambert. She will interpret the law for GCOE and make recommendations to GCBE. The Board will make the final decision. Gene suggested scheduling a special action board meeting after we hear from Lambert. Board member, Gene Massa, referred to an e-mail he had received regarding the recertification and possible costs that GCOE may bear due to the recertification. Superintendent Barrera explained that there would be no charges reversed for the Fiscal Advisor and that Ed Code supported that.

B. Update on WUSD budget recovery plan

Superintendent Barrera redistributed copies of the Budget Review Committee Report to the board. The State concurred with GCOE's negative rating of WUSD self qualified financial statement. GCOE has since received more information from WUSD and GCOE has re-certified them from negative to qualified. There are still areas of concern about the budget. Sherry Brott thanked Superintendent Barrera for assigning Pat Goss as fiscal expert to WUSD.

C. Board of Education Training -

The county board training on January 22, 2009 by Dr. David Long was very helpful to the board. There was also district board training at the same time. Districts that participated were Hamilton Unified School District, Princeton Joint Unified, Capay Joint Union School District, and Stony Creek Joint Unified School District. The board was interested in any follow up training.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS:

A. Educator's Hall of Fame –

Superintendent Barrera said the Glenn County Educator's Hall of Fame was a good event to recognize retired teachers. The criteria for choosing a nominee will be forwarded to employees and board members.

B. FCMAT -

Superintendent Barrera explained that the recent FCMAT report was for Wm. Finch, SPARK, Special Education, and Travel. Randy added that the Business Office and programs have been working on strengthening internal controls. Susan Domenighini will give an update on changes made in Wm. Finch Charter School based on recommendations by FCMAT at a later time. It was decided that in June a report will be made to GCBE by the departments on the changes that were made. Vicki Shadd explained that Special Ed is changing their way of coding expenditures to give a better fiscal review and understanding.

C. Board Policies –

Gloria Valente is reviewing Board Policies and Administrative Regulations using Butte Co. as a model and CSBA updated policies. The board will have time to review the revisions before approving them. Gloria suggested a work session for the board when a draft is ready.

D. Human Resources Update -

Merrilee Johnson said that a portion of what the Human Resource department does is to assist districts' search for superintendents, the latest being Ray Odom for Hamilton Unified. She distributed pamphlets for a joint superintendent search for Lake and Plaza. March 15 is priority with HR right now. Seniority lists are prepared.

11.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Superintendent Barrera attended the board training and the Academic Decathlon where Wm. Finch Charter School won for the fourth consecutive year but other schools had a very good showing. He would like to see this done quarterly.

Vicki said the Local Plan is almost completed. The allocation committee is looking at ways to allocate revenue, costs, and services. She also explained changes in percentages of various impairments. The Federal stimulus package passed which will give funds to Special Education - \$500,000 will be shared through out the county.

12.0 BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Gail Zimmerman attended the Academic Decathlon and HUHS board visitation on February 13. HUHS has a new computer system with cameras for staff and parents to track students. There was also an awards assembly.

Gene Massa attended the Wm. Finch advisory committee meeting. The WUSD wrestling team took SVL championship; Saturday in Willows will be the next step in the division. Board members are invited to attend Wm. Finch classrooms at any time.

Judy Holzapfel attended the board training, Academic Decathlon, and the special education meeting with Vicki Shadd, SELPA meetings, and Orland FFA dinner.

13.0 COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Barrera announced that Capay's 50th anniversary at their current site is March 27 from 1-5 p.m.

He also read part of a letter from CCSESA dated October 8, 2008 regarding a problem with CalPERS. CCSESA employees are not eligible for state pensions. Retroactive to 1998 all previous earned and continuing service credits are void. This will save them \$4.8 million. Randy believes this issue has been resolved. He will report back after the BASC meeting.

A schedule will be established for board visitations to all school sites in the county.

