

**TULARE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON  
SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES**

The Tulare County Committee on School District Organization met and held a Special Meeting and Public Hearing on March 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Citrus South Tule School District in Room 2, 31374 Success Valley Drive, Porterville, California.

The County Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joe Hallmeyer at 6:31 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Carl Carlson, Rick Chappell, Joe Hallmeyer, Mickey Hirni, Melissa Janes, Bob Line, Bob Pugh, Helen Renteria

**MEMBERS ABSENT** John Beck, Mary Helen Espino, and Victor Pérez

**COUNTY STAFF** John Caudle, Deputy Superintendent; Marlene Moreno, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, and Shelly DiCenzo, Administrative Legal Assistant

**OTHER GUESTS** Harold Wood, Chief Deputy County Counsel and Stephanie Smittle, Deputy County Counsel  
Board members: Susan Qualseth and Jane Dignam (Citrus South Tule School District), Sharon Gill (Porterville Unified School District)  
Dave Huchingson, Superintendent, and Denise Young, Executive Secretary, Citrus South Tule School District  
Nate Nelson, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Technology, Porterville Unified School District  
Other guests in attendance are listed on the sign-in sheet.

**DISABILITY-RELATED  
MODIFICATION OR  
ACCOMMODATION** ADA accommodations have been met

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** Members of the public did not address the Committee on any agenda item, or other item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the committee during the public comment period.

**MINUTES** A motion was made by Bob Line, seconded by Melissa Janes and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2014 organizational meeting as written.  
Vote: Aye – Carlson, Chappell, Hallmeyer, Hirni, Janes, Line, Pugh, and Renteria; No – None; Absent – Beck, Espino and Pérez

**REVIEW INFORMATION  
IN SUPPORT OF THE  
LAPSATION OF CITRUS  
SOUTH TULE SCHOOL  
DISTRICT INTO  
PORTERVILLE UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT** Harold Wood provided an overview of the history and process for the lapsation of Citrus South Tule School District into Porterville Unified School District. Mr. Wood explained that a lapsation is a form of reorganization provided for in the California Education Code. In this particular instance, financial issues are the ongoing concern as well as student enrollment (only one student lives in the boundaries of Citrus South Tule and the remaining 27 students are on Interdistrict Attendance Agreements from Porterville Unified). Due to these

concerns, Citrus South Tule School District requested assistance from the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) and the California Department of Education (CDE). CDE recommended simplifying the process and both school district governing boards passed resolutions requesting the lapsation and submitted requests to the State Board of Education for waivers of specific Education Code requirements in order to streamline the lapsation process.

Mr. Wood explained that the County Committee's role in this process is very narrowly defined – hold the public hearing to take public input and order the territory annexed to be effective July 1, 2015.

## PUBLIC HEARING

**At 6:47 p.m. the Public Hearing was opened to take public comment.**

Nate Nelson addressed concerns raised by several guests. Mr. Nelson stated that Porterville Unified School District recognizes that Citrus South Tule is a special place and the intent is to maintain the site. The staff from Citrus South Tule will be employed by Porterville Unified and Porterville Unified will continue to leverage its resources (trainings, wireless technology, etc) for Citrus South Tule. Other options will be explored such as modifying grade levels served. The students will likely attend Vandelia, Sante Fe or any number of other sites within Porterville Unified if the school closes. A Citrus South Tule board member requested to be notified when Porterville Unified will be making decisions about their students and site so the current board can attend and have input. She said the community wants the school to stay open. The community of Citrus South Tule is concerned about the legacy and retaining the historical value of the school site – the original schoolhouse still stands on the site.

**The Public Hearing was closed at 6:54 p.m.**

## APPROVAL OF THE LAPSATION OF CITRUS SOUTH TULE SCHOOL DISTRICT INTO PORTERVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

A motion was made by Rick Chappell, seconded by Mickey Hirni and carried unanimously to approve the lapsation of Citrus South Tule School District into Porterville Unified School District as stated in the Order of Lapsation (County Committee Resolution No. 2015-1)

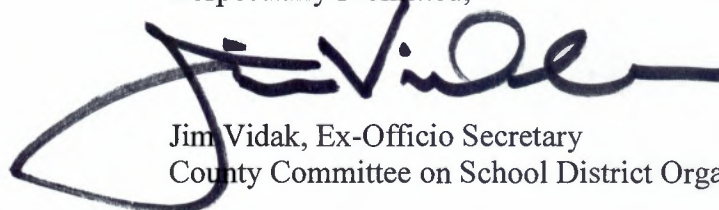
Vote: Aye – Carlson, Chappell, Hallmeyer, Hirni, Janes, Line, Pugh, and Renteria; No – None; Absent – Beck, Espino and Pérez

## ADJOURN

Mr. Vidak announced that this is Harold Wood's last meeting with the County Committee as he will be retiring as of Friday. Mr. Vidak and the committee expressed their thanks for Mr. Wood's service.

As there was no further business, Chairman Hallmeyer adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Vidak, Ex-Officio Secretary  
County Committee on School District Organization