

# TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

12/13/2024 [03:00 PM]

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## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

For the Regular Board Meeting of December 13, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., in the Redwood Conference Center at the Jim Vidak Education Center, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, California.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Welcome

Tim Hire welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Tony Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING/ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Superintendent Hire congratulated reelected board members and newly elected board members. As part of the Organizational Meeting, Superintendent Hire swore in reelected and newly elected board members: Ruben Macareno, Mike Waters, Chris Reed and Tom Link. Mr. Hire opened the floor for nomination for Board President. It was moved by Tom to appoint Chris Reed as president, seconded by Judy Coble. No other nominations for president were received. Nominations for president were closed. Motion carried unanimously to appoint Chris Reed as president. President Reed asked for nominations for vice president. Ms. Coble moved Tony Rodriguez for vice president. Link seconded Coble's motion. No other nominations for vice president were received. Nominations for vice president were closed. Motion carried unanimously to appoint Tony Rodriguez as vice president.

President Reed presented the 2025 Tulare County Board of Education Meeting Dates. It was moved by Link, seconded by Waters to approve the 2025 board meeting dates. Motion was unanimously carried by the following votes: Ayes received - Coble, Link, Macareno, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, Rodriguez, and Waters.

### 3. BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Board members present: President Chris Reed, Vice President Tony Rodriguez, Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Mike Waters, and Ex-Officio Secretary Tim A. Hire. Staff members present: Edgar Alvarez, Jody Arriaga, Julie Berk, Brooke Berrios, Adriana Cervantes-Gonzales, Jose Covarrubias, Kindra Davis, Nani Dodson, Ashley Eastman, Robert Herman, Leslie Kelly, Axel Kondoh, Marvin Lopez, Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Jonathan Mendoza, Chris Meyer, Marlene Moreno, Anthony Paz, Chai Phannaphob, Freddy Reyes, and Dedi Somavia. Guests present: Xavier Avila, Raymond Macareno, Armando Hinojosa, Connie Diaz, Hannah Herron, and Josh Whiteside.

### 4. ADA ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENT

Persons who are in need of a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the board meeting must make a request in writing to the Office of the County Superintendent of Schools, 6200 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, California, P.O. Box 5091, 559/733-6301. A request for

accommodation should specify the nature of the modification or accommodation requested, including any necessary auxiliary aids or services required and the name and telephone number of the person making the request. The written request should be made as soon as possible and no later than 2 days before the meeting. The agenda, agenda packet and any written documents distributed to the board during a public meeting will be made available in appropriate alternative formats upon request by a person with a disability as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Written documents concerning agenda items are available for public inspection during normal business hours within 72 hours of a regular board meeting at the Tulare County Office of Education, 6200 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, California.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address the board on any agenda item, or other item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board during the public comment period. Agenda items may also be addressed by the public at the time they are taken up by the board. The board is not able to discuss or take action on any item not appearing on the agenda. A five-minute time limit can be imposed on public input for individuals/issues as deemed necessary.

Connie Diaz's home address is 1479 W. Nord Ave., in Tulare. She is the newly elected College of Sequoias Board Member for District Four. Ms. Diaz thanked out-going board members and congratulated the newly elected board members. She advised she would be engaged and active in the community. Ms. Diaz conveyed that she will work with anyone regarding COS issues. She wants to share updates from the COS Board that supports students of Tulare County. Ms. Diaz wanted to express her desire to work with the TCOE Board of Education.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

### a. TCOE/Department Presentation -- California Center Teaching Careers -- Marvin Lopez

Marvin Lopez, California Center on Teaching Careers Director, made a presentation to the Board sharing their department activities. Prior to the presentation, his staff introduced themselves to the Board. Their department elevates the teaching profession, serving as the intermediary for statewide collaboration and partnerships across education agencies, recruits a diverse educator workforce by preparing to place and retain highly effective educators/school-based mental health professionals in schools, and is developing "grow your own" educator preparation programs.

Mr. Lopez showed a list of federal and state funding grants they have received since 2001. To date, they have received \$53.1 million in federal grants. From state grants, they have received \$39.1 million.

Ms. Maldonado-Arroyo congratulated Mr. Lopez and his department on the success of their many programs.

### b. Routine Matters

#### 1. Consent Calendar

- a. Approval of minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of November 13, 2024
- b. Authorization of Countywide Registration of Credentials

- c. Authorization of Temporary County Certificates
- d. Authorization of Countywide Emergency Permit Applications
- e. Approval of Donation from American Association of University Women Visalia-Sequoia Branch (\$1,700) to Expanding Your Horizons
- f. Approval of Donation from Soroptimist International of Visalia (\$175) to Expanding Your Horizons
- g. Approval of Donation from Kaweah Health Medical Center (\$300) to Expanding Your Horizons
- h. Approval of Donation from Valley Strong Credit Union (\$200) to Expanding Your Horizons
- i. Approval of Donation from Pepsi Beverages Company (\$350) to Expanding Your Horizons
- j. Approval of Donation from Newell Brands (\$450) to Expanding Your Horizons
- k. Approval of Donation from Dumont Printing (\$487) to Expanding Your Horizons
- l. Approval of Donation from IDEA Printing and Graphics (\$684) to Expanding Your Horizons

Chris Reed thanked the supporters of Expanding Your Horizons.

**Vote Results**

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**Yea:** 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters  
**Nay:** 0  
**Abstain:** 0  
**Not Cast:** 0  
**Motion:** Celia Maldonado-Arroyo   **Second:** Tom Link

**c. Old Business**

**1. Second Reading, Consideration and Approval, Board Policy/Superintendent Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures -- Dedi Somavia**

Dedi Somavia asked the Board for approval on the second reading for the Board Policy/Superintendent Policy 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedures.

**Vote Results**

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**Yea:** 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters  
**Nay:** 0  
**Abstain:** 0  
**Not Cast:** 0  
**Motion:** Tom Link   **Second:** Ruben Macareno

**2. Second Reading, Consideration and Approval, Board Policy/Superintendent Policy & Exhibit (2) 1312.4 - Williams Complaint Policies and Procedures, and Exhibit -- Dedi Somavia**

Dedi Somavia asked for the Board's approval on the second reading on the Board Policy/Superintendent Policy and Exhibit (2) 1312.4 - Williams Complaint Policies and Procedures, and Exhibit.

**Vote Results**

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**Yea:** 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters  
**Nay:** 0  
**Abstain:** 0  
**Not Cast:** 0  
**Motion:** Ruben Macareno   **Second:** Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

**d. New Business**

**1. Consideration and Approval, Resolution No. 24/25-15, Compensation of County Superintendent -- Dedi Somavia**

Dedi Somavia requested the Board's approval on Resolution No. 24/25-15, Compensation of the County Superintendent (increased to \$345,000 per year).

Janelle Smith from TCOE, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia made a public comment. She thinks Mr. Hire should have a raise. However, she feels employees deserve more than one percent. She understands that it has already passed. She wanted to make sure that everyone in this building makes Mr. Hire look good. In turn, she hopes employees get more than one percent COLA increase. She said they have all sacrificed. She wants it on record that she is upset with the raise as many others are too. However, she wants to voice her concerned thought on this subject. Mr. Hire responded to Ms. Smith that in the last three years the total COLA increase has been 13.5 percent. Ms. Smith feels as a taxpayer that it isn't fair given that prices on everything keep going up. She thanked the Board and Mr. Hire for listening to her.

**Vote Results**

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**Yea:** 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters  
**Nay:** 0  
**Abstain:** 0  
**Not Cast:** 0

**Motion:** Tony Rodriguez   **Second:** Judy Coble

**2. Consideration and Approval, Amendment #6 Department of Health Care Services -- Nani Dodson**

Request for approval of amendment #6 to the California Friday Night Live Partnership's grant agreement with the Department of Health Care Services.

Nani Dodson explained to the Board that California Friday Night Live Program (CFNLP) is a prevention program established in 53 out of 58 counties in California. The CHOICES program assists the Tulare County Friday Night Live program here at TCOE. California Friday Night Live Partnership has been here since 1996 which gives more oversight of the program. We are the technical assistance and the main support for the entire state.

Ms. Dodson requested approval for amendment #6 for the Department of Health Care Services.

**Vote Results**

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**Yea:** 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters  
**Nay:** 0  
**Abstain:** 0  
**Not Cast:** 0

**Motion:** Ruben Macareno   **Second:** Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

**3. Consideration and Approval, Grant Agreement for California Department of Public Health, Substance and Addiction Prevention Branch -- Nani Dodson**

Nani Dodson asked for Board approval of the grant agreement for California Department of Public Health, Substance and Addiction Prevention Branch.

**Vote Results**

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**Yea:** 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters  
**Nay:** 0  
**Abstain:** 0  
**Not Cast:** 0

**Motion:** Celia Maldonado-Arroyo **Second:** Tony Rodriguez

**4. Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) and the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter #428 for the 2024-2025 school year -- Dedi Somavia**

Dedi Somavia presented to the Board the Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) and the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter #428 for the 2024-2025 school year. This is an informational item only.

**5. Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) and the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter #899 for the 2024-2025 school year -- Dedi Somavia**

Dedi Somavia presented the Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) and the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter #899 for the 2024-2025 school year. This is an informational item only.

**6. Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) and the Tulare County Office of Education Teachers' Association (CTA) for the 2024-2025 school year -- Dedi Somavia**

Dedi Somavia presented the Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) and the Tulare County Office of Education Teachers' Association (CTA) for the 2024-2025 school year. This is an informational item only.

**7. Consideration and Approval, Budget Revisions through October 31, 2024 -- Jody Arriaga**

Jody Arriaga presented to the Board the Budget Revisions through October 31, 2024. The County School Service Fund has an estimated revised fund balance of \$110,034,686. After reviewing the budget revisions report, Ms. Arriaga asked the Board for approval of the Budget Revisions through October 31, 2024.

**Vote Results**

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**Yea:** 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters  
**Nay:** 0  
**Abstain:** 0  
**Not Cast:** 0  
**Motion:** Mike Waters **Second:** Tom Link

**8. Consideration and Approval, First Interim Report as of October 31, 2024 -- Jody Arriaga**

County Superintendents are required to certify twice a year regarding their ability to meet their financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year and for the subsequent two fiscal years. This certification, along with the accompanying documents, is referred to as the Interim Report. The following documents are attached: County Certification of Interim Report with Criteria and Standards Review Summary; Average Daily Attendance Estimate; County School Service Fund Summary; Charter School Fund; Special Education Pass-Through Fund; Child Development Fund;

Cafeteria Special Revenue Fund; Forest Reserve Fund; County School Facilities Fund; Foundation Private-Purpose Fund; Multiyear Projections; and Cash Flow Projections.

The report reflects a positive ending fund balance with adequate reserves. Therefore, the county superintendent is able to certify a positive financial position.

Recommendation: Accept the First Interim Report

Jody Arriaga asked the Board for approval to accept the First Interim Report as of October 31, 2024. The report reflected a positive certification.

**Vote Results**

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**Yea:** 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters  
**Nay:** 0  
**Abstain:** 0  
**Not Cast:** 0

**Motion:** Celia Maldonado-Arroyo **Second:** Mike Waters

**9. Presentation of the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget Calendar -- Jody Arriaga**

Jody Arriaga presented the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget Calendar.

Mr. Hire thanked Jody and all of her staff for the recent audit. The audit was complete with no findings.

**Vote Results**

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**Yea:** 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters  
**Nay:** 0  
**Abstain:** 0  
**Not Cast:** 0

**Motion:** Tony Rodriguez **Second:** Tom Link

**7. INFORMATION (Non-Discussion Items)**

- a. Letters and Communication/Correspondence
- b. Reports from Superintendent and Staff
- c. Reports from Board, Information and Questions

Chris Reed advised the Board that a board retreat will be scheduled after the regular board meeting in April of 2025 (at SCICON). Please expect a longer day at SCICON.

Superintendent Hire mentioned the flyer regarding the District Leadership Institute, scheduled on February 6, 2025. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jennifer Fisher. Mr. Hire congratulated the two new board members: Mike and Ruben.

He reported that we had a successful Winter Social with over 100 staff that attended. The food was provided by Redwood Cafe. He thanked board members who attended.

*Willy Wonka KIDS and Alice and Wonderland JR* productions were fantastic.

On December 2, Superintendent Hire was a nurse at SCICON (A sub was hired). This was one of four jobs that he is working for employees who won the raffle, "Superintendent does your job for one day." This gave Tim great insight of what life is like for the SCICON nurse.

Mr. Hire was in Ducor for a board meeting at 7:30 a.m. this morning. He was there for discussion of the timeline for searching for a superintendent for them.

The Communications Department and the Information Systems staff have been working on an Intranet for TCOE. When staff return from the holiday break, an internal form of communications will be live. In the future, we would like to have tutorial videos on how staff can complete certain forms. We will also be soliciting celebrations for all of our staff, i.e. new degrees and colleagues modeling the Core Values.

Dr. Marroquin with business and IS staff adopted a classroom from a school in Cutler-Orosi for Christmas and today, they bought toys and shirts for the students in the classroom. The students were excited and appreciated what they received.

Our solar covered parking is up on the east side of our building. Later this month, installation of another solar covered parking lot will shift to the southside of the building. This will generate about \$8 million in savings.

Mr. Hire gave a shout out to our Special Services division. On January 7 and 8, Los Angeles County Office of Education will have a convening of approximately 150 people from across the state to look at how we are doing or working in our special programs because we are an exemplar for the state.

Mr. Hire announced that we have been selected to participate in a select housing series to learn more about employee workforce housing.

Regarding ActVnet, the system was utilizing during two critical incidents in our county, one of which was an active shooter. Tulare County Sheriff's Office used our program and school cameras and found the suspects who committed the crimes.

Next Friday on 12/20/24, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Cedar room, we will be celebrating Marlene on her new retirement journey. Mr. Hire thanked and congratulated Marlene for completing 27 years at TCOE. Chris Reed thanked Marlene for all her years in supporting the Board.

Mrs. Reed asked the board to bring a couple of ideas to the February board meeting to prepare for the April 2025 board retreat.

Mr. Hire thanked the board members for their gifts to him. He gave them the TCOE lanyards. He wished the board Happy Holidays.

Celia Maldonado-Arroyo reported on the annual CSBA conference in Anaheim. Dr. Lori Santos presented on the top ten tips for happiness. Helping others makes you happy and be happy with time and not money. Another session was Long Term AI Impacts on EL Students. Another session Celia attended was Exploring Mental Health for the Anxious Nation. Folks are cautiously optimistic about California economy. Another hot topic is to see what is going to happen with the deportation situation.

## **8. NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING**

- a. January 8, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

## 9.ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.