

TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

02/12/2025 [03:00 PM]

REGULAR MEETING

For the Regular Board Meeting of February 12, 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

Minutes

President Chris Reed welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Celia Maldonado-Arroyo led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Reed asked that the record show that all board members are present, except Judy Coble and Tom Link.

2. BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Minutes

Board members present: President Chris Reed, Vice President Tony Rodriguez, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Mike Waters, and Ex-Officio Secretary Tim A. Hire. Board members absent: Judy Coble and Tom Link. Staff members present: John Alvarez, Dr. Jose Bedolla, Julie Berk, John Davis, Dr. Helen Feller, Jennifer Fisher, Sarah Hamilton, Gilbert Hernandez, Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Chris Meyer, Anthony Paz, Bethany Rader, Jeff Ramsay, Freddy Reyes, and Dedi Somavia. Guest present: Megan Macy.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Minutes

No public comments were received.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Department Presentation - Theatre Company and Planetarium - Bethany Rader and Conan Palmer

Minutes

Bethany Rader presented on the Stage and Space Collaborative, which is the Theatre Company joining the Planetarium and Science Center. The Stage and Space Collaborative helps each program. The Planetarium helps to create props, digital backgrounds, and media for the Theatre Company. The Theatre Company helps staff field trips and create special events at the Planetarium. The exhibit hall in the planetarium has been converted into a new black-box theater and dance studio. The planetarium has updated projectors and installed a new sound system. The planetarium hosts field trips during the day and public shows about once a month. This year, the Theatre Company will host a fall production, spring classes and workshops, and a summer musical. There is no longer a spring musical. The OnStage program brings 25-30 plays to school sites. The program provides the backdrops, props and costumes, and the staff to teach students after school at their site. This year, 12 teams are working with 64 school sites. The program has already served over 2,000 students this year. OnStage summer camps use the same model as the after-school programs. The Collaborative also hosts a free holiday event. This year, the event included games, the UPHS handbell choir, Redwood choir, and scavenger hunt at the planetarium.

Mike Waters thanked the OnStage program for a great job and what they do for students. Chris Reed requested information about upcoming performance. Ms. Rader will email a schedule. Ruben Macareno noted how fantastic the work they do.

Mr. Hire complimented Bethany Rader for embracing the idea to expand the OnStage program. By growing the OnStage program, we are seeing students from other areas in the county to participate in the musicals. Tony thanked Mr. Hire and the staff for seeing the need for students to participate in the Theatre Company through the county.

b. Routine Matters

1. Consent Calendar

Minutes

Chris Reed thanked the Blanket Ladies and the Baptist Church for their donations to the AcCEL program.

Vote Results

Yea: 5 Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 2 Judy Coble, Tom Link

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

a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of January 8, 2025

b. Authorization of Countywide Registration of Credentials

c. Authorization of Temporary County Certificates

d. Authorization of Countywide Emergency Permit Applications

e. Acceptance of Donation from Tulare First Baptist Church Donation (\$2,500) to AcCEL, Tulare

f. Acceptance of Donation from Blanket Ladies (\$1,580) to AcCEL

c. New Business

1. Presentation of the Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaint Report for the 4th Quarter of 2024 from the Tulare County school districts - Dedi Somavia

Minutes

Dedi Somavia presented the 4th Quarter of the 2024 Williams Valenzuela Uniform Complaint Report through December 31, 2024. There were no complaints received during this period.

2. Presentation of Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Monitoring Report 2024-2025 for TCOE - Kevin Jessee

Minutes

Sarah Hamilton presented the LCAP midyear report for Special Services. She highlighted increased scores in CASP, including improvement in ELA and a 90-point gain in math. All court and community school students are earning recovery credits and credits towards graduation. Staff has been added to the court school. There is a teacher assigned to the adults in court school to help those students work toward earning their diploma. Special education is making gains in chronic absenteeism and has made a shift in how they are working with students to reduce suspension rate.

3. Presentation of Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Monitoring Report 2024-2025 for La Sierra Military Academy - Dr. Jose Bedolla

Minutes

Dr. Jose Bedolla presented the LCAP midyear report for La Sierra. Dr. Bedolla highlighted La Sierra's growth. Their ELA scores improved by 18 points and their math scores improved by 43 points. La Sierra hired two strong teachers in math, one for the middle school and one for the high school. La Sierra has had continued to growth of 6% in their college and career capacity. The college and career indicator continues to be a focal point for La Sierra. Dr. Bedolla thanked Julie Berk, John Davis, and John Alvarez for their support.

Mike Waters congratulated Dr. Bedolla on the ELA scores. Chris Reed said that it was exciting to see students working with computers and technology in the graphic arts program to learn skills that will benefit them when they leave La Sierra. Celia Maldonado-Arroyo asked how the students like the shift from the culinary program to the new forestry program. Dr. Bedolla explained La Sierra is excited to be working with Reedley College to begin the forestry program next school year.

4. Presentation of Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Monitoring Report 2024-2025 for UPHS - Dr. Helen Feller

Minutes

Dr. Helen Feller presented the LCAP midyear report for UPHS. She shared 214 students of 260 students took COS classes. They completed 355 classes with a grade of C or better. The combined GPA for high school and college classes is 3.65. When looking just at EL students, their GPA is 3.18. Their EL coordinator is great with helping with language in content areas. Nearly 45% of 11th graders who took CASP last year demonstrated college readiness in ELA, which is up 12.17% from the previous year. UPHS is number one in math scores in Tulare County. STEM is very important at UPHS. The school is adding a fourth year of science. They will also be adding more college visits. The goal is to get students to see two colleges per year.

Mike Water asked about the graduation rate. Dr. Feller explained that keeping students together for entire high years is important. He congratulated UPHS on their graduation rate. Chris Reed asked Dr. Feller how students participate in social emotional learning. Dr. Feller explained this is kindness week and students all participate in activities in their home room. The care team provides resources to their most at-risk students and provides regular check-ins. She shared that more students need that help now than five years ago. Celia Maldonado-Arroyo asked about why teachers create homeroom lessons only 50% of the time. Dr. Feller explained that the teachers rotate creating these lesson in order to make sure all teachers get a break. Ruben Macareno asked which other colleges will be visited in the future. Dr. Feller shared that UPHS is hoping to take juniors to Cal Poly.

5. Consideration and Approval, Tulare County Court School Comprehensive School Safety Plan 2024-2025 - Sarah Hamilton

Minutes

Sarah Hamilton requested approval of the Tulare County Court School Comprehensive School Safety Plan for 2024-2025. She noted that the court school does not have control of the facilities.

Vote Results

Yea: 5 Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 2 Judy Coble, Tom Link

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

6. Consideration and Approval, Tulare County Community School Comprehensive School Safety Plan 2024-2025 - Sarah Hamilton

Minutes

Sarah Hamilton requested approval of the Tulare County Community School Comprehensive School Safety Plan for 2024-2025. She reported that information about dress code and safety policies specific to this site were added.

Vote Results

Yea: 5 Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 2 Judy Coble, Tom Link

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

7. Consideration and Approval, Special Education Comprehensive School Safety Plan 2024-2025 - Sarah Hamilton

Minutes

Sarah Hamilton requested approval of the Tulare County Special Education Comprehensive School Safety Plan for 2024-2025. She explained the challenge of creating one plan because of their different sites. Classrooms at districts must follow the districts' plans.

Vote Results

Yea: 5 Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 2 Judy Coble, Tom Link

Motion: Ruben Macareno **Second:** Tony Rodriguez

8. Consideration and Approval, La Sierra Military Academy Comprehensive School Safety Plan 2024-2025 - Dr. Jose Bedolla

Minutes

Dr. Jose Bedolla requested approval of the La Sierra Military Academy School Comprehensive School Safety Plan for 2024-2025. He reported that La Sierra uses ActVnet.

Vote Results

Yea: 5 Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 2 Judy Coble, Tom Link

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

9. Consideration and Approval, University Preparatory High School Comprehensive School Safety Plan 2024-2025 - Dr. Helen Feller

Minutes

Dr. Feller requested approval of the University Preparatory High School Comprehensive School Safety Plan for 2024-2025. She explained there are no changes to the plan because they follow the COS protocols.

Vote Results

Yea: 5 Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 2 Judy Coble, Tom Link

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

10. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution No 24/25-17 Authorizing a contract for Emergency Repair due of water damage at the Jim Vidak Education Center - Jeff Ramsay

Minutes

Jeff Ramsay request adoption of Resolution No. 24/25-17, authorization to contract for emergency repairs due to water damage at the Jim Vidak Education Center. Mr. Ramsay explained that two and half weeks ago, a water leak had occurred on the second floor. The water was shut off in about 15 minutes. The maintenance staff did a great

job. Service Master has mitigated the water damage for the last two and half weeks. TCOE is working with SISC. This resolution is to pay Service Master for their services.

Vote Results

Yea: 5 Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 2 Judy Coble, Tom Link

Motion: Tony Rodriguez **Second:** Mike Waters

11. First Reading, Board Bylaw (BB) 9221 - Trustee Areas - Tim A. Hire

Minutes

Mr. Hire presented the first reading for Board Bylaws (BB) 9221. He explained it had not been adjusted since the census. Vanessa Cantu works directly with Tulare County Elections for the trustee area description. This update represents the current trustee areas.

The Board expressed concerns about the language in the descriptions. Dr. Fernie Marroquin will compare the maps on the website to the descriptions in order to update and double check the language. The Board will email Mr. Hire with any questions they have about the descriptions.

6. Information (Non-Discussion Items)

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

Minutes

Superintendent Hire thanked the Board for attending the District Leadership Institute. He called their attention to the packet regarding CSBA Delegate Assembly elections and noted that this item will be on next month's agenda for action.

Mr. Hire announced Harmony Magnet Academy as the overall winner for the Academic Decathlon. Redwood High was the winner of the Mock Trial. Yarezly Navarro of Mission Oak High School was the Poetry Out Loud winner. Caydince Huston of Summit Collegiate High School is this year's Youth Poet Laureate. National History Day is tomorrow. There is a Holocaust Display provided by the B'Nai David Congregation. Circle J-Norris Ranch Field Science Day is February 14. The Huddle: High School Student-Athlete Conference is February 24. The Tulare County Science Fair and STEAM Expo will be March 1. This event is open to the public and has fun hands-on activities. The Student Art Exhibition will begin March 3 at tcoe.org/ArtGallery. The Anti-Tobacco and Marijuana Challenge Bowl is March 4. The School Safety Symposium is March 5. The Tulare County Spelling Championship is March 6. Science Olympiad B/C is March 8. Circle J-Norris Ranch Biodiversity Festival is also on March 8. Spring is very busy. Mr. Hire thanked the staff for working beyond their normal work day to host these events.

Mr. Hire gave a construction update. The walnut trees are down and will be ground up in the next couple of weeks. Soil testing will begin soon. The expansions plans are complete and going on to the Division of the State Architect for review. Construction should begin in July. Plans for the library media center, e-sports and robotics arena, the occupational therapy program, and the performing arts center at Liberty are in the works.

Dr. Fernie Marroquin and Jeff Ramsay visited two educator workforce housing facilities in Daly City. Dr. Marroquin shared that the facilities in Daly City were very different. They learned about Daly City's two different processes, financing available, and their approach to educator workforce housing. Daly City has been able to increase recruitment and decrease their turnover rate by providing affordable housing.

Chris Reed asked the Board to submit ideas for retreat in April.

Celia Maldonado-Arroyo asked about immigration and board policy 5145.13. Superintendent Hire will email the Board regarding this board policy. He shared that he believes schools are safe places for kids. He has encouraged staff to help families know their rights and provide them with resources and information about immigration.

7. Next Scheduled Board Meeting

March 12, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Minutes

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.