

**TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

The Tulare County Board of Education met on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. for a regular board meeting in the Redwood CDEF meeting room at the Jim Vidak Education Center, 6200 S. Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, California.

PRESENT
Board Members

Tom Link, President
Joe Enea, Vice President
Judy Coble
Debby Holguin
Celia Maldonado-Arroyo
Chris Reed
Tony Rodriguez
Tim A. Hire, Ex-Officio Secretary

PRESENT
Staff Members

Julie Berk, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services
Jennifer Fisher, Administrative Secretary, Administration
Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Rob Herman, Communications Director, Administration
Anthony Paz, Helpdesk Support Specialist, Information Systems
Freddie Reyes, Helpdesk Support Specialist, Information Systems
Sarah Hamilton, Administrator II, Special Services
Dedi Somavia, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Dr. Martin Frolli, Administrator, Leadership Support Services
John Alvarez, Administrator, Leadership Support Services
Jody Arriaga, Director, Internal Business Services
Chris Meyer, Assistant Superintendent, District Support Services
John Davis, Administrator, Leadership Support Services
Tammy Bradford, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services
Katrina Smith, Program Manager II, Special Services
Stacey Broyles, CBI Teacher, Special Services
Kyra Hoehn, CBI Teacher, Special Services
Andrea Perez, Mid-State Collaborative Director, Leadership Support Services
Dr. Amanda Richard, Administrator II, Human Resources
Brook Killingsworth, Secretary to Asst. Supt., District Support Services
Bill Davis, Administrator, College and Career

GUESTS

Guests as listed in the register including Dr. Donya Ball, Harold Rollin, Dana Stinson, Janet Ceja, Cory Morse, Lindsay Tanner, Ruth Dutton, Malayziah Vaughn, Alanna Kubik, Andrea Garcia, Jade Petermann, Emily Lara, Surekh Shamrao Topkar, Sandhya Kadam, Jitendra Kadam, Sarvadnya Kadam, Claudia VanGroningen, G. Janet Hernandez, Amant Singh, and Desiree Serrano.

CALL TO ORDER
Pledge of Allegiance/
Welcome

Board President Tom Link welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Joe Enea led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADA
ACCOMMODATIONS

Mr. Link announced that ADA accommodations had been met.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrea Perez introduced Sarvadnya Kadam, the Tulare County Spelling Bee Champion. In the Scripps National Spelling Bee, he made it to the semi-finals and placed 23rd of 231 spellers. Sarvadnya thanked the County Superintendent and the Board, Andrea, Brook Killingsworth, the Visalia Times Delta and his parents for their support. He told the board about immigrating to the United States at age five and his journey from an English learner to hours of study to become the Tulare County Spelling Bee Champion. He is the highest ranked Tulare County speller in the National Scripps Spelling Bee.

Andrea presented Sarvadnya with a memory book. Mr. Link and the Board congratulated Sarvadnya.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Enea, seconded by Coble to approve the consent calendar to include minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of September 13, 2023, Countywide Registration of Credentials, Temporary County Certificates, Emergency Permits, and listed donations. Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

Tom Link thanked the Friends of SCICON for their generous donation.

PRESENTATION OF
THE REDWOOD CAFÉ

Tom Link called on Sarah Hamilton for the presentation about the Redwood Café. Sarah introduced Community Based Instruction classroom teachers, Stacey Broyles and Kyra Hoehn. She also introduced Malayziah Vaughn, Alanna Kubik, Andrea Garcia, Jade Petermann, and Emily Lara, student workers from the Redwood Café. The café has been open for a year. Malayziah shared in a year they have taken 1,484 orders. Emily shared the café has made \$6,308 sales and \$492.25 in tips. The tips were used for class parties. Alanna presented that the menu has included sandwiches, muffins, brownies, cookies, veggie cups, fruit cups, soup, hot chocolate, coffee, and tea. Jade explained that the best sellers are sandwiches and muffins. Kyra shared that she is incredibly proud of all of the skills the students have learned. Stacey explained that the café offers made-to-order sandwiches. Andrea shared 43 students have worked in the café. The students rotate jobs to find out where they have the best success. Sarah shared students are taking initiative to start baking on their own and they are learning customer service. The café is now catering for some events. Sarah thanked Mr. Hire and commended the staff for all their work.

Mr. Link thanked Ms. Hamilton and the staff for their presentation and the students for their service.

PUBLIC HEARING
FOR ADOPTION OF
EXTENDED SCHOOL
YEAR WAIVER FOR
TULARE
COUNTY/DISTRICT
SPECIAL EDUCATION
LOCAL PLAN AREA
(SELPA)

Tom Link opened a public hearing at 3:23 p.m. for the adoption of Extended School Year Waiver for Tulare County/District Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Sarah Hamilton advised the Board the AcCEL program runs an extended year program during the summer which is typically a 19-day session. This waiver will change the program from 19 days to 15 days. The program will have same number of instructional minutes by lengthening each day. There were no public comments received. The public hearing was closed at 3:25 p.m.

EXTENDED SCHOOL
YEAR WAIVER FOR
TULARE
COUNTY/DISTRICT
SPECIAL EDUCATION
LOCAL PLAN AREA
(SELPA)

Sarah Hamilton asked the Board to adopt the Extended School Year Waiver for Tulare County/District Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). It was moved by Holguin, seconded by Maldonado-Arroyo to adopt the Extended School Year Waiver for Tulare County/District Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
OF COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING
AGREEMENT
BETWEEN TCOE AND
CSEA CHAPTER #428
FOR 2023-2024
SCHOOL YEAR

Dedi Somavia introduced Dr. Amanda Richard as the new Administrator II for Human Resources. Dr. Richard came from Redwood High School, where she was the principal. The Board welcomed Dr. Richard.

Dedi Somavia disclosed the collective bargaining agreement between Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) and the California School Employees' Association's Chapter #428 for 2023-2024 School Year. Local agencies are required to publicly disclose the provisions of all collective bargaining agreements. This item is information only.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
OF COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING
AGREEMENT
BETWEEN TCOE AND
TCOE CTA FOR THE
2023-2024 SCHOOL
YEAR

Dedi Somavia disclosed the collective bargaining agreement between Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) and the TCOE Teachers' Association (CTA) for 2023-2024 School Year. Local agencies are required to publicly disclose the provisions of all collective bargaining agreements. This item is information only.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
OF COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING
AGREEMENT
BETWEEN TCOE AND
THE CSEA CHAPTER
#899 FOR THE 2023-
2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Dedi Somavia disclosed the collective bargaining agreement between Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) and the California School Employees' Association's Chapter #899 for 2023-2024 School Year. Local agencies are required to publicly disclose the provisions of all collective bargaining agreements. This item is information only.

PRESENTATION ON
THE WILLIAMS CASE
MONITORING
ANNUAL COE BOARD
REPORT

Mr. Link called on Dr. Martin Frolli to present the Williams Case Monitoring Annual COE Board Report. Dr. Frolli introduced the monitoring team. He gave a brief history of the Williams settlement. With the Budget Act of 2023, CDE will now generate the list of schools to be reviewed on a three-year cycle. The current list was generated in 2021-2022 school year. The list is based on federal school accountability criteria. A new addition to the list are schools with 15% teacher misassignments or vacancies.

Leadership Support Services staff annually visits identified school sites to conduct the annual monitoring to determine the sufficiency of instructional materials, check that facilities are clean, safe, and functional and verify SARC data. Twenty-five percent of the visits are unannounced.

There were 40 schools that were assessed this year. Regarding the facilities review, most of these schools were exemplary and good. Only four schools were categorized as fair. These four were not previously identified as fair. The schools self-identified. Typically, the schools want to get problems fixed as quickly as possible. The districts submit completed work orders once items are repaired.

This report is strictly related to instructional materials and facilities review and not related to teacher qualifications. Dr. Frolli will provided the report with teacher qualifications to the Board.

The Board and Mr. Hire thanked Dr. Frolli for his presentation.

RESOLUTION NO.
23/24-06, TCOE RED
RIBBON WEEK,
OCTOBER 23 —
OCTOBER 27, 2023

Jennifer Fisher asked the Board to approve Resolution 23/24-06 proclaiming the 2023 TCOE Red Ribbon Week to be October 23 through October 27, 2023. This year proceeds will go to the Boys & Girls Club of the Sequoias. She also shared the fundraising events that will take place this year. The Tulare County Red Ribbon Celebration event will take place at the Valley Strong Ballpark on October 26. It was moved by Enea, seconded by Rodriguez to approve Resolution 23/24-06. Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

FIRST READING,
BOARD/SUPERIN-
TENDENT POLICY
1312.3 - UNIFORM
COMPLAINT
PROCEDURE

Dedi Somavia advised the Board that this was the first reading of the Board/ Superintendent Policy 1312.3, Uniform Complaint Procedure. There are minor adjustments and corrections to the policy. All complaints are public record. Action will be taken on this agenda item at the November board meeting.

FIRST READING,
BOARD/SUPERIN-
TENDENT POLICY
1312.4 - WILLIAMS
COMPLAINT
POLICIES AND
PROCEDURES

Dedi Somavia advised the Board this was the first reading of the Board/ Superintendent Policy 1312.4, Williams Complaint Policies and Procedures. The updated policy reflect minor changes to the policy for complaints regarding deficiencies or lack of instructional materials and facilities in schools. Action will be take on this agenda item at the November board meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING,
BLUE OAK ACADEMY
- CHARTER
RENEWAL PETITION

President Link opened a public hearing at 3:54 p.m. John Alvarez gave some background on the charters that the county office authorizes. Blue Oak Academy is in its seventh year, providing TK through 8th grade. Sycamore Valley Academy is in its twelfth year. In the 2017-2018 school year, TCOE became the authorizer for Sycamore Valley Academy's charter. On August 18, both schools presented their charter petition renewal to TCOE. The charter team is working to renew the charter, finding of facts will be posted on October 25, 2023. Action will be take on the renewal petitions at the November board meeting.

Dr. Donya Ball shared it has been amazing to have a strong charter and authorizer relationship between the Academies and TCOE. The Academies rely on the county office for services and programs. Since the approval of the first petition, Blue Oak opened with Kindergarten through 2nd grade and has grown to TK through 8th grade. Language arts had cohort growth of 4% and English Language learners had cohort growth of 3%. Science scores are fantastic, with met and exceeded averages higher than the county average. Five of eight grade levels met their growth targets in language arts and math. Enrollment has grown 239% since the charter started. They are at full capacity. Blue Oak has a solid fiscal standing due in part to increased enrollment. They offer competitive compensation to staff. In seven years, Blue Oak has a positive ending fund balance with reserves of 20%.

Harold Rollin has been the chair for the Academies board since October 2017 and a board member since March of 2015. Blue Oak was modeled after Sycamore Academy. When the Blue Oak petition was denied by the district, he appreciated that our board approved the petition. Since July 2017, when Donya started, the charter has thrived. Harold thanked TCOE for working with Blue Oak Academy and looks forward to continuing that work.

Principal Dana Stinson has 15 years of experience at a traditional school. Blue Oak Academy is focused on using evidence-based gifted education strategies for all. As a parent, she has experienced the safe, loving environment at their middle school. The staff is open and eager to the continued collaboration with TCOE.

Janet Ceja is a parent to a 2nd grader and 8th grader who attend Blue Oak Academy. The school is one big family with a principal, who has an open door policy. Blue Oak supported her children academically, emotionally and behaviorally. Her son was the first student from Blue Oak to be a finalist for the pillar of responsibility.

The public hearing was closed at 4:17 p.m. with no additional comments received.

PUBLIC HEARING,
SYCAMORE VALLEY
ACADEMY -
CHARTER RENEWAL
PETITION

President Link opened a public hearing at 4:18 p.m. Dr. Donya Ball shared this petition is Sycamore Valley Academy's third charter renewal. For math, language arts and science, Sycamore Valley greatly exceeded the county performance percentage in those content areas. Language arts had an increased cohort growth of 3%. Six of eight grade levels met target growth in math. Four of eight grade levels met target growth in English language arts. The enrollment at Sycamore Valley has increased 15% in the last seven years because they have added TK and been able to sustain middle school enrollment. They have added options for clubs and extra-curricular activities. They have a good fiscal standing with ending fund balance of 40% reserves. They have a waiting list, mostly in kindergarten and primary grades. Their enrollment capacity is 400.

Harold Rollin shared that the board has great continuity. Their board is experienced, high functioning, and work well together. Being a board member is not always easy, but it is well worth doing. There is no work more important or noble than education. Harold thanked the Board for becoming Sycamore Valley's authorizer seven years ago and looks forward to continuing the relationship.

Principal Corey Morse shared the mission of their school is to provide a rich meaningful education in a nurturing environment where students are continually challenged and their natural curiosity, creativity, and talents can thrive. Students have fun desks that look like fish in the classrooms. Sycamore Valley promotes student voice and student-led conferences at the middle school. Community services and school involvement are promoted. They have 12 thriving clubs, including first Early Act club in the area, which promotes service above self in partnership with the Sunset Rotary.

Lindsay Tanner is a parent to a 1st grader and 4th grader at Sycamore Valley Academy. Her 2nd grader wasn't making progress with reading before moving to Sycamore Valley. Lindsay's daughter was supported and made progress in reading and other areas she needed. Lindsay's son is thriving in 1st grade. Some of the reasons that they chose Sycamore Valley and continue to support them is the communication, listening and follow through by staff, the academic support throughout the day along with art, music, Spanish and science and the new addition of the clubs. One of the main reasons drawn to the school is the social and emotional learning work that goes on including a social worker on campus. Caring administration, teachers and staff contribute to the community feel of Sycamore Valley Academy.

Ruth Dutton shared her support of the petitions as the founder of Sycamore Valley Academy. On October 11, 2011, the original Sycamore Valley Academy charter petition was approved by Visalia Unified. As parent of two Sycamore Valley Academy graduates, she has seen the longer term benefits. Among the reasons to support the charter petition are the smaller school size, TK-8 configuration, broad course of study, and field trips. These schools fill the void to deliberately address the needs of gifted students. Ruth thanked the board for their history of support and urge them to continue their support of these public school options.

Celia asked about chronic absenteeism rates. Dr. Ball explained these rates were from 2021-2022 during COVID years.

The public hearing was closed at 4:47 p.m. with no additional comments received.

RESOLUTION NO.
23/24-07 FOR
ESTABLISHING
APPROPRIATIONS
LIMITS (GANN)

Jody Arriaga requested the Board's approval on Resolution No. 23/24-07. The Education Code requires the board to adopt a resolution to identify the estimated appropriations limit for the current fiscal year and the actual appropriations limit for the preceding fiscal year on or before October 15 each year. For 2023-2024 fiscal year, we have an estimated appropriations limit in the amount of \$15,706,159.68 and for the 2022-2023 fiscal year identified the actual appropriations limit of \$15,013,811.73. It was moved by Maldonado-Arroyo, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the GANN, Establishing Appropriations Limits. Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Mr. Hire pointed out the CCBE Trustee Handbook in the Board's folders. He shared that the TUPE/FNL Leadership Training was held on September 21 at Adventure Park. Approximately 250 middle school students from 36 school sites were in attendance. Mr. Hire thanked the Board for attending the Educators of the Year dinner at Chinese Cultural Center. Additionally, he reported that 970 students from 29 high school in Tulare, Kings, Kern and Fresno counties and industry partners attended the TKCC Tulare/Kings Trades Day on

September 28 at the Porterville Fairgrounds. Last Friday, he attended the South Valley Industrial Collaborative at COS, in Tulare, where Keynote Jake Hall spoke about preparing kids for entering the manufacturing world. On Saturday, Mr. Hire gave the welcome at the Reimaging Early Learning Conference with 200 early educators and representatives from CDE attending. The keynote speaker talked about how to handle the increase in behaviors their experiencing with early learners. Mr. Hire attended an event last night about leadership and how to inspire people to become educators and administrators.

Superintendent Hire reminded the Board that CHARACTER COUNTS! Week is October 16 through October 20 and the Provident-Salierno Family Foundation Awards Reception will be November 1. Upcoming events include the War of the Worlds on October 27 and 28 at the Planetarium & Science Center, the Anti-Bullying Conference on November 2 at the Galaxy Theatres in Tulare and Expanding Your Horizons on November 4 at Porterville College (a new location). Mr. Hire also reminded the Board that the Excellence in Education Awards Breakfast is on October 25 in the Redwood Conference Center.

Mr. Hire shared a building update. We have signed an agreement for the property to the east of us. He drew attention to the map rendering of the location and layout in the Board's folders. By bringing everyone to one location, we can eliminate about \$1.5 million spent on annual leases and time and resources that it takes to drive between our various locations.

In order to alleviate concerns about one entrance and exit to this property, the cost of a parking structure and the limited size of the dirt lot behind this building, we engaged in conversation with Pipeline church. They also want to expand and had already been in conversation with the farmer who owns the property to the east. We came to an agreement to purchase 25 acres to the east of our property and the church is willing to do a property exchange to meet their needs and ours. This property allows us to eliminate the cost of a parking structure and multi-story building. The rendering includes 40,000 square feet in two buildings, a 40,000 square foot warehouse with a storage area, outdoor space, and a board meeting space. The board meeting space will be designated for board meetings but could be used for evening events. Other features include a daycare center, an enhanced Redwood Café, buildings to house classrooms for CBI students, walking paths with drought-tolerant, low-maintenance landscaping. The last potential building could be for a fitness center to improve employee attendance rates. There will be a large shallow ponding basin that can be used for events during good weather. Conference rooms will be included in each building, along with technology for itinerant staff, zoom rooms, and reservable office space. The Character Counts! pillars will be located in the middle of the courtyard with an avenue of flags to celebrate the districts that we serve. The Board meeting room will be designed as a focal piece for use as a special events center with an elevated patio.

Chris Reed asked if we could expedite the entrance and exit to Avenue 264. Mr. Hire explained that it would be needed for the construction. Celia Maldonado-Arroyo asked about the timeline for the construction. Mr. Hire explained that the construction must be complete within three and half years to accommodate staff from the Liberty site, which will free up space at Liberty for UPHS. Joe Enea asked about the financing of the project. Mr. Hire explained that TCOE will get a certificate of participation which is loan. Additionally, TCOE will be saving on lease payments and the potential income from the Doe Avenue Complex.

Chris Reed thanked Cori Bernal for her organization of staff for our participation in the corporate games. TCOE came in 2nd at the corporate games.

NEXT SCHEDULED
MEETING

November 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. Redwood Rooms CDEF

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.