

TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

The Tulare County Board of Education met on Wednesday, September 13, 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 Debby Holguin Celia Maldonado-Arroyo Chris Reed Tony Rodriguez Tim A. Hire, Ex-Officio Secretary
ABSENT Board Member	Judy Coble
PRESENT Staff Members	Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services Dedi Somavia, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Rob Herman, Communications Director, Administration Nayirah Dosu, Communications Specialist, Administration Chris Meyer, Assistant Superintendent, District Support Services Vanessa Cantu, Administrative Legal Assistant, Business Services Adam Juarez, Technology & Integrated Studies Staff Dev. & Curriculum Spec. Gene Mendes, Character Education Facilitator Kelley Petty, CHARACTER COUNTS! Coordinator Samantha Tate, Administrator, Educational Resource Services Jose Bedolla, Principal, La Sierra Charter School Jody Arriaga, Director, Internal Business Services Anthony Paz, Helpdesk Support Specialist, Information Systems Jeff Ramsay, Director, General Services Marlene Moreno, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Administration
GUESTS	Guests listed in the register include Desiree Serrano.
CALL TO ORDER Pledge of Allegiance/ Welcome	Board President Tom Link welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Tony Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.
ADA ACCOMMODATIONS	Mr. Link announced that ADA accommodations had been met.
PUBLIC COMMENT	Members of the public did not address any matter of jurisdiction.

<p>CONSENT CALENDAR</p>	<p>It was moved by Enea, seconded by Maldonado-Arroyo to approve the consent calendar which includes minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of August 9, 2023, Countywide Registration of Credentials, Temporary County Certificates, Emergency Permits, and listed donations. Maldonado-Arroyo asked what did we do with all the iPads donated from the Elections office. Mr. Hire advised that the devices were used for this year’s convocation registration check-in. Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez. Board member Coble was absent.</p>
<p>ADOPT RESOLUTION No. 23/24-04 PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2023 AS CHARACTER EDUCATION MONTH</p>	<p>Kelley Petty asked the Board’s approval on Resolution No. 23/24-04, proclaiming October 2023 as Character Education Month. Mrs. Petty also mentioned the CC! draw-string bag she gave to everyone. She read a couple of stories about students who were genuine examples of one or more of the CC! pillars. It was moved by Enea, seconded by Holguin to approve Resolution No. 23/24-04 (with correction of language in the resolution). Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez. Board member Coble was absent.</p>
<p>ADOPT RESOLUTION No. 23/24-05 PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 15 through OCTOBER 21, 2023, AS NATIONAL CC! WEEK</p>	<p>Mrs. Petty requested the Board to approve Resolution No. 23/24-05, proclaiming October 15 through October 21, 2023, as National CC! Week. It was moved by Maldonado-Arroyo, seconded by Reed to approve Resolution No. 23/24-05 (with correction of language in the resolution). Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez. Board member Coble was absent.</p>
<p>BUDGET REVISIONS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023</p>	<p>Jody Arriaga reviewed the Final Budget Revisions as of June 30, 2023. Jody went over the following: The County School Service Fund, LCFF, Charter School Fund for La Sierra and University Prep High School, Special Education Pass-Through, Child Development Fund, Cafeteria Fund for SCICON, Cafeteria Fund for La Sierra, Forest Reserve Fund and Foundation Trust Fund.</p> <p>It was moved by Reed, seconded by Rodriguez to accept the Budget Revisions through June 30, 2023. Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez. Board member Coble was absent.</p>
<p>2022-2023 UNAUDITED ACTUALS FINANCIAL REPORT</p>	<p>Jody Arriaga explained that she typically doesn’t go over this report because it is an information item.</p> <p>Tom Link and Superintendent Hire thanked Jody for her and her staff’s work in completing these reports.</p>

PRESENTATION OF
THE 2022-2023 TCOE
ANNUAL REPORT

Rob Herman presented the 2022-2023 TCOE Annual Report to the Board. He thanked Mr. Hire for allowing a summer student intern, Jackie Marquez, to assist in putting together some of the stories written in the report. The report included some data and featured impact stories from certain departments. Each future report will highlight other departments not previously mentioned. Mr. Herman said that the staff will get a digital copy. Hard copies will be mailed out to business partners, service clubs, legislators representing Tulare County, and district/state superintendents. Mr. Hire thanked Mr. Herman and Ms. Dosu for all their hard work in this report. He told the Board to let us know if they want additional copies. We would have them ready to pick up by the October board meeting.

The Board complimented the report. They said that the report was timely and very nicely done. This report will help the public to understand just how much we are doing for the students of Tulare County.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Hire decided to give his report as we waited for one other presentation and had time before the 4:30 p.m. agenda item.

Our district superintendents have met twice now since the new school year started. They are reporting a lot of poor behaviors seen in their schools. They want to look at data for completing six goals that all districts should reach. Thirty-seven of 43 of our districts use Sandy Hook, Say Something, an anonymous reporting system. Mr. Hire reported that he was at Sycamore Valley Academy on September 12 for their club day. It was nice to see students connecting with their choice of 12 different clubs.

The 2023 College Night occurred last night at the Visalia Convention Center with over 2,700 attendees. Tulare County Fair begins today and lasts through September 17. The T.U.P.E. Leadership event will take place on September 21 at Visalia Adventure Park. On the evening of the 21st, the 27th annual Educator of the Year dinner is at the Central California Chinese Cultural Center honoring three teachers: Renee Carson (Westfield Elementary, PUSD), Monica Robles (Burton Middle School) and Renee Thornburg (Woodlake High School).

The 2023 Excellence in Education breakfast will be on October 25, here in our Redwood Conference Center. A College and Career Resource Fair for students with disabilities is scheduled for October 18. Please see the 2023/2024 Student *Future Ready* Events brochure in your folders. The Expanding Your Horizons event will be held at Porterville College this year.

Ms. Holguin said she read that there was a lack of immunization in our county. What is Tulare County's status with that? Mr. Hire said that he had only

received one report that one child did not have proper immunization shots to attend school. Mr. Hire said the state is coming down hard on doctors who were easily writing doctor's notes to have children be exempt from these immunization shots. At this time, the Covid booster is not a mandated shot.

Mr. Hire reminded the Board how he held two listening meetings regarding an additional building to be built on the dirt lot just east of this building. The biggest concern was parking and the congestion that may occur when using the only entry/exit we have now. He went on to say that he and Jeff Ramsay have been in conversation with the church that is southeast of us. The church would like to expand east from their church facility they have now. They talked with the owner just east of them. The owner of the 24 acres is willing to sell the property to us. Tim feels that this newest project could save us \$7-\$15 million. This will allow for us to build single story buildings and not have to build multiple story buildings. There would also be room for a warehouse that could go north of the church and south of our current dirt lot. This would make it more like a TCOE campus or complex.

This would allow us to be creative in having more storage space. We can install an outdoor seating and eating area. We wouldn't have to modify the solar project. We can have a more modernized delivery/shipping system. An entrance/exit onto Avenue 264 will also be beneficial.

Mrs. Reed asked if the land near Liberty is already purchased. Mr. Hire said that we are currently in escrow. We still need to test the soil to make sure it is clear of contamination for students to be on that campus. This took a little longer than it should have because the final agreement involved the Tulare Irrigation District having to install a pipeline through an easement on the land.

Regarding the additional property being purchased at Liberty, Special Services is applying for funding that would be available to help with the construction. UPHS can move into the existing school buildings. We can have a small warehouse and farm that AP students and UPHS students can benefit from. Dual enrollment won't change for UPHS students. COS President, Mr. Calvin, said he can send staff to our new campus to teach students. By moving UPHS to the Liberty site, it allows students to have the option of attending the Tulare COS campus.

Regarding Doe complex, Mr. Hire has talked with the City of Visalia to partner with a number of organizations that are now being developed. They mentioned maybe turning the Doe site into a childcare and training center. Mr. Hire said he would prefer to hold onto this property and would consider leasing it. The community school north of the property would remain there as they are on a

different parcel of property. There will be a central kitchen made for ECE at Hurley and Akers (S.E.E. Building). TCOE would use the kitchen at Liberty to serve meals to UPHS and La Sierra High School students.

Thinking long term and available funding, Superintendent Hire would like La Sierra High School to be moved from its current campus on Houston. He doesn't think this is what a school site should look like. If it's possible, he would like to move La Sierra to Liberty with UPHS. TCOE currently pays over \$150,000 a year to lease the other half of the buildings/offices that make up the La Sierra campus.

By obtaining the 24 acres, it would also allow for CBI classes to be here to learn to prepare meals for staff and maybe offer a laundry service for towels and linens/napkins.

Mrs. Holguin is proud of Mr. Hire in offering to help recruit a new superintendent for Woodlake Unified School District. Their board has personally asked Mr. Hire to help them find the right superintendent. Their current superintendent will leave Woodlake USD for a job with us as an instructional consultant starting on September 22.

PRESENTATION OF
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE (AI)
REGARDING
EDUCATION

Adam Juarez gave a presentation to the Board on Artificial Intelligence (AI) regarding education. AI will make you more efficient. What would have taken hours to complete, now only takes minutes and/or seconds to do. Teachers are getting their time back.

A few AI definitions are the following:

Artificial Intelligence – the capacity of a computer program or machine to engage in cognitive processes and acquire knowledge through learning

Machine Learning – AI subfield focused on creating computer systems that autonomously learn and improve by accessing and utilizing data

Natural Language Processing – an area of AI that empowers computers to comprehend and generate human language effectively

There are about 90% of teachers who are not familiar with AI, at all, right now. Some people are scared that AI will take over their job. Mr. Juarez said it will replace aspects of your job. AI will not replace you. A person using AI will. Unfortunately, students are already using it to cheat on homework. Board member Maldonado-Arroyo said it is “scary” to her. It seems inequitable to people who don't know about it or how to use it to their advantage.

The danger of AI is what will they do with our data once they know it. Data privacy can be a danger.

The Board and Superintendent Hire thanked Mr. Juarez for this presentation of Artificial Intelligence.

PUBLIC HEARING
FOR
DETERMINATION OF
SUFFICIENT
INSTRUCTIONAL
MATERIALS/
TEXTBOOKS FOR
2023-2024

Tom Link opened a public hearing at 4:35 p.m. for any public comment regarding the Determination of Sufficient Instructional Materials/Textbooks for 2023-2024. Dedi Somavia advised that this public hearing gives parents an opportunity today to come and say anything about materials and/or textbooks. This is also a reason why we can't hold this hearing before 4:30 p.m. Textbooks are given to students for school and digital copies for home use. There were no public comments received. The public hearing was closed at 4:38 p.m.

RESOLUTION 23/24-03
DETERMINATION OF
SUFFICIENT
INSTRUCTIONAL
MATERIALS/
TEXTBOOKS FOR
2023-2024

Dedi Somavia asked the Board to adopt Resolution 23/24-03 for the Determination of Sufficient Instructional Materials/Textbooks for the 2023-2024 school year. It was moved by Maldonado-Arroyo, seconded by Enea to approve Resolution 23/24-03 in the Matter of Determination of Sufficient Instructional Materials/Textbooks for the 2023-2024 School Year. Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed and Rodriguez. Board member Coble was absent.

INTRODUCTION OF
VANESSA CANTU

Dr. Fernie Marroquin introduced Vanessa Cantu, Administrative Legal Assistant. She is the replacement for Shelly DiCenzo. Ms. Cantu thanked the Board and Mr. Hire for giving her the opportunity to work at TCOE.

REPORTS FROM
BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Enea said he and Mrs. Maldonado-Arroyo attended some of the same workshops at the CCBE Conference in Monterey. One of the things he heard from other board members was how our county does so much. Mr. Enea said he is proud of this organization and how many services we offer that other counties do not.

Mr. Rodriguez said he learned at the new board member workshop that right now there is a high turnover rate occurring for board members. He asked if he could get a CCBE board handbook. Mr. Hire asked Marlene to order handbooks for all TCOE board members.

NEXT SCHEDULED
MEETING

October 11, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.