

TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

10/09/2024 [03:00 PM]

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Welcome

Mr. Enea welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Tony Rodriguez led the Pledge of Alligience.

2. Board Members and Staff

Board members present: President Joe Enea, Vice President Debby Holguin, Judy Coble, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, and Ex-Officio Secretary Tim A. Hire. Staff members present: Jody Arriaga, Julie Berk, Tammy Bradford, Nani Dodson, Jennifer Fisher, Jaclyn Garcia, Sarah Hamilton, Robert Herman, Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Jamie McFarland, Chris Meyer, Helen Milliorn-Feller, Marlene Moreno, Anthony Paz, Kelley Petty, Freddy Reyes, Jeff Ramsay, Dedi Somavia, Courtney Venegas and Katelyn Williford. Guests present: Rob Hudson, Ed.D. and Desiree Serrano.

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.

Dr. Rob Hudson, Interim Superintendent at Ducor Union School District thanked TCOE for their support and are fighting to keep Ducor Union School District alive. He thanked Mr. Hire and Dr. Marroquin and for their help. He also extended his gratitude to Sarah Smigiera and Christina Loya. He went on to say that TCOE is stellar and that people don't realize how good they have it here. Dr. Hudson thanked TCOE, once more, on behalf of the Ducor Union School Board and all the Ducor staff.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. TCOE/Department Presentation -- The Dream Center, Courtney Venegas

Courtney Venegas brought two of her staff, Jamie McFarland, and Jaclyn Garcia, to help present The Dream Center. Homeless Youth Education Services coordinates with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which addresses the problems that homeless children and youth face when enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Our program ensures that students experiencing homelessness are enrolled and are provided with comparable educational services and resources to achieve academic success. Courtney went onto to say that our Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program provides support services for students who experience the trauma of being removed from their home, school instability, and multiple placements while in foster care. Our goal is to increase collaboration among child welfare, probation, education, and community agencies to improve the educational outcomes for students. TCOE's Dream Center is one off three Dream Centers in California.

Some of the basic needs that the Dream Center provides are: washer and dryer services (includes detergent), shower and bathing services (for the student(s) and their family), food distribution, personal hygiene products, school supplies and backpacks. It was shared that one of the foster youth, who toured UC Merced last year, was accepted into UC Merced. We currently have approximately 1,200 students in foster care in Tulare County. Jamie is in Porterville on a regular basis. They also offer food distribution every week. Donations are accepted at the Dream Center. As the weather begins to get cooler, jackets or coats will be needed. Eighty-five percent of our students complete their FAFSA applications. The Dream Center provides services to 788 students in Tulare County.

Courtney welcomed everyone to come by their center to get a tour. It has changed and expanded since they first opened in 2019. Chris Reed thanked Courtney and her staff for all of their hard work and for their presentation on The Dream Center.

b. Routine Matters

1. Consent Calendar

- a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of September 11, 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 Rick's Vending and Distributing (\$983.18) for AcCEL, CBI Tulare
- f. Approval of Donation from Rick's Vending and Distributing (\$1,147.51) for AcCEL, CBI Akers
- g. Approval of Donation from Rick's Vending and Distributing (\$350) for AcCEL, CBI Caldwell
- h. Approval of Donation from Charities Aid Foundation America (\$500) for AcCEL, L.B. Hill
- i. Approval of Donation from Pat Hunt Construction (\$750) for Liberty Campus

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

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

c. New Business

1. Consideration and Approval, Adopt Resolution 24/25-06, Proclaiming October 21-26, 2024, as National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week -- Kelley Petty

Kelley Petty requested approval from the Board to adopt Resolution No. 24/25-06 to proclaim CHARACTER COUNTS! week as October 21 through October 26, 2024.

Ms. Petty mentioned the CC! Provident Salierno Awards invitation for November 6. One story that was shared was about a young girl who did a self-evaluation. She didn't want to be a mean-spirited person anymore. She is doing well. Another person was an advocate for mental health (Project Aware). Three different people on one school campus nominated her. It is amazing to hear her life story. In Target, a foreign exchange student knew what to do when a woman passed out.

The newspaper ad that lists 4,700 kids with Character from 168 schools increased from two pages to four pages. Thirteen more schools participated this year.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Motion: Debby Holguin **Second:** Chris Reed

2. Consideration and Approval, Adopt Resolution 24/25-05, Proclaiming October 2024 as Character Education Month -- Kelley Petty

Kelley Petty asked for the Board's approval to proclaim October 2024 as Character Counts! month.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

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

3. Consideration and Approval, Grant Agreement for California Department of Education -- Nani Dodson

Nani Dodson asked the Board to approve a grant agreement for California Department of Education, that is funding which supports new partnerships with more chapters for local schools to be tobacco free.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Motion: Tom Link **Second:** Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

4. Consideration and Approval, Adopt Resolution No. 24/25-14 Grant Agreement Amendment #1 California Department of Public Health-Office of Problem Gambling -- Nani Dodson

Nani Dodson asked the Board for approval on Resolution No. 24/25-14, grant agreement amendment #1, California Department of Public Health – Office of Problem Gambling.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Motion: Chris Reed **Second:** Debby Holguin

5. Consideration and Approval, Grant Agreement for Office of Traffic Safety -- Nani Dodson

Nani Dodson asked for approval on a grant agreement from the Office of Traffic Safety which provides technical assistance for underage alcohol use.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Motion: Chris Reed **Second:** Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

6. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution No. 24/25-09, TCOE Red Ribbon Week, October 21 through October 25, 2024 -- Jennifer Fisher

Jennifer Fisher requested, from the Board, the adoption of Resolution No. 24/25-09 for TCOE Red Ribbon Week, October 21 through October 25, 2024. The TCOE theme will align with the national theme, “Life is a Movie. Film Drug Free”. Jennifer mentioned the flyer for the Tulare County Red Ribbon Celebration on October 24 at the Rawhide Stadium. For the TCOE Red Ribbon Week, there are scheduled activities including: movie night at the Galaxy Theatres, dunk tank, bake sales, food trucks and a raffle with all proceeds being given to CASA this year.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Motion: Celia Maldonado-Arroyo **Second:** Debby Holguin

7. Public Hearing for Adoption of Extended School Year Waiver for Tulare County/District Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) -- Sarah Hamilton

President Enea opened a public hearing at 3:43 p.m. for the Extended School Year Waiver for Tulare County/District Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Sarah Hamilton said that they wanted it reduced to 14 days so all program areas can align their calendars. They also don't run their AC on Fridays. No public comments were received. The public hearing was closed at 3:45 p.m.

8. Consideration and Adoption, Extended School Year Waiver -- Sarah Hamilton

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

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

9. Consideration and Approval, Adopt Resolution No. 24/25-12, Submission of Application to SJVAPCD (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District) for New Alternative Vehicle Grant -- Julie Berk

Julie Berk presented Resolution No. 24/25-12 to the Board. She asked, on behalf of Dianne Shew, the Board's approval for Circle J Norris Ranch to apply for a grant for a vehicle for Circle J Norris Ranch. It is conducive to the environment there. SJVAPCD offers \$20,000 per year for five years. After all discounts, TCOE will only have to pay \$38 for each vehicle.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

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

10. Consideration and Approval, Adopt Resolution 24/25-13 Authorizing Amanda Driver as Administrator to Implement New Alternative Vehicle -- Julie Berk

Julie Berk asked the Board to authorize Amanda Driver as the Administrator of the New Alternative Vehicle project and adopt Resolution No. 24/25-13.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Motion: Celia Maldonado-Arroyo **Second:** Chris Reed

11. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution No. 24/25-10 for Establishing Appropriations Limits (GANN) -- Jody Arriaga

Jody Arriaga asked the board to consider and adopt Resolution No. 24/25-10 for Establishing Appropriations Limits (GANN) for this year.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

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

12. Consideration and Approval, Selection of Lease-leaseback Contractor for the Administration Facility Expansion Project - Jeff Ramsay

Jeff Ramsay has had weekly meetings with Mr. Hire to share progress reports. Jeff meets with the architect firm to see if they need anything in the process. He also attends the architect meetings, which is helpful. We have been meeting with the church regularly (for the past year) to make sure we are on the same page.

Jeff shared current renderings with the Board. We will have an indoor/outdoor breakroom. Fans will be installed to move air on warm days.

We are looking, about January, to give the plans to the state for review and approval. We had a three-part process during the bidding process. Each question was given a point total. Then there was the percentage proposal as to what they would charge us to do this project. The top four contenders were selected for interviews. Only three were ultimately interviewed. We awarded the contract to Oral E. Micham. They will do the Mooney expansion. Jeff advised that the approximate square footage total of the expansion is 128,000 square feet. Mr. Ramsay went on to say that, at this time, our budget for this project is estimated to be \$60 million. The winning contractor said we designed a simple and functional project which will make it faster and cheaper to build.

13. Consideration and Approval, Adopt Resolution No. 24/25-11, Authorizing the Execution, Delivery & Sale of Certificates of Participation & Approving Related Documents & Actions -- Dr. Fernie Marroquin

Dr. Marroquin asked for approval on Resolution No. 24/25-11, authorizing the execution delivery and sale of certificates of participation and approving related documents and actions. Phase 2 is the Mooney expansion. We will be moving OTP on the Liberty campus, Phase 3. This resolution is covering Phase 2 and Phase 3 projects.

The COP lists \$122 million and that amount provides some flexibility should the cost of the buildings go up.

Exhibit A (item 1), approximate interest rate paid on COP. This did not include the rate reduction and maybe another future reduction rate. Interest rates continue to fall. We think the rate will be about 3.9 %, if not lower.

Exhibit A (item 2) lists the estimated charges for underwriting insurance and legal services. Purchasing COP insurance is at a discounted rate.

Exhibit A (item 3) total proceeds of certificates

Approving documents shown are not filled out yet because we have not purchased or sold anything. Next week, Jeff will finalize plans and get the cost from what contractor's costs are.

Part of the analysis that was done by our team was the following: we currently pay \$1.5 million to lease buildings throughout the county. This will save us at least \$1 million a year in lease fees. The Doe Avenue property could generate about \$850,000 in lease fees (the first year) that people are willing to pay. The solar project will save us \$8 million over the life of this project. Our fleet vehicles are already saving us money and will continue to save us money. The new warehouse will allow us to save money by having ample space to buy things in larger bulk. We won't have to pay a COS lease contract for UPHS to be on the COS campus. The new theater project will save us

money as well. OTP and the Redwood Café could generate more money. We are confident that we can maintain these projects.

Mr. Enea asked if we can renegotiate a new loan if the interest goes down even more once we are in the new loan. Fernie said that this is an option. We refinanced our current COP in 2019. We still have about 15 years left on this building. The expansion, the new COP, will finish in 2050. Please note, we don't start paying on the new COP until 2027.

Chris Reed made a statement, "I've needed a lot of hand holding leading up to this vote. Over the last year, I've spoken to Tim, Jody, Julie and Jeff. The last couple of days, I've spoken with Fernie. He answered all of my questions and gave me a tutorial on this agenda item. I would like to thank all of them for their patience and information. So, I'm casting my vote today because of all my conversations with staff and their assurances that we are good to go on this project."

Mr. Hire said because of what his predecessor and the business department did over several years, we were able to hold off on issuing the COP. We have had conversations with financial advisors every week. We have been able to carry expenses, architecture and design work so we didn't need to find or do a COP right away. Because we waited, we will be saving approximately \$1.2 million a year. Superintendent Hire said that we will still have the ability, for his successor, to have funds and not be confined or be handed over a financial constraint.

Dr. Marroquin estimates that both projects will cost approximately \$114 million. The Liberty Center will consist of a new library/media center, a new theater, new OTP, and a robotic/e-sports arena.

The plan to relocate UPHS is to move them to the Liberty Center. We previously mentioned moving La Sierra Military Academy to Liberty also. After more consideration, it was determined that this wouldn't be what's best for the students in that vicinity. COS is excited to know that UPHS students will now have the option to attend the COS Tulare campus. We have moved the Theatre Company staff into the Planetarium which gives students access to theater and dance options. As for La Sierra, we currently own half the buildings and lease the other half on Houston Avenue.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Joe Enea, Debby Holguin, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 0

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

6. Information (Non-Discussion Items)

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

Superintendent Hire advised the Board that the office is busy for the month of October with CHARACTER COUNTS! Month and Week, and Red Ribbon Week with numerous activities lined up. TCOE is currently in second place with the Visalia City Corporate Games. The TCOE Foundation will be recognized as SCE's Partner of the Year on November 8. Our partnership with SCE began with Randy Wallace with the Innovate grant. Along with WIB and CTE, this grant assisted in providing internship scholarships for local students.

Our annual Excellence in Education breakfast will take place on October 30. Don't forget to RSVP with Marlene. Mr. Hire wanted the Board to know that he is considering moving the board meetings to take place on the first Wednesdays of the month, instead of the second Wednesdays, starting in June 2025.

Mrs. Reed thanked Mr. Hire for the new laptops the board members were issued.

7. Next Scheduled Board Meeting

November 13, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.