

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting – March 10, 2011

Special Session 6:30 P.M.

Willows City Council Chambers

201 N. Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988

SPECIAL MINUTES

1. OPEN SESSION - CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call – President Geiger called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Present were: Mr. Ward, Mrs. Knight, Mr. Geiger, Mr. Parisio and Mr. Munguia.

2. CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:33 p.m.

2.1 Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiator – Agency negotiator: Mort Geivett. Employee Organization: WUTA/CSEA, Non-represented: Management and Confidential

At 6:59 p.m. the Board recessed from Closed Session and will reconvene back to Closed Session at the end of Open Session.

3. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

3.1 Roll Call – President Geiger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with all Board members still present.

3.2 Welcome to Visitors

3.3 Flag Salute was led by Joe West.

4. AGENDA

4.1 (**Action**) Approve Special Agenda for 3/10/11. Mr. Ward moved, seconded by Mrs. Knight, to approve the Special Agenda for March 10, 2011. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Suzanne Myra, former instructional aide, spoke in support of Kathy Parsons. She said she thought she was an excellent principal and asked the Board to retain her in her present position.

Mr. Larry Domenighini, Willows Music Boosters President, spoke in support of the Music Program since it is listed on the Cut List. He expressed that it is a fact that music helps students academically.

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR

6.1 (**Information/Discussion/Possible Action**) Solar Presentation Update from Seward L. Schreder Construction, Inc. Zane Schreder of Seward L. Schreder Construction, Inc. gave a handout to the Board which showed his proposal for the placement of the solar panels at the different school sites. The Board had previously stated to him that they wanted to preserve the field space so this proposal has the panels placed as shade structures. At the high school they would be placed over the bus yard which would also provide lighting for the bus area as well. The high school would also have a shade structure in the senior parking lot; the Murdock structure would be south of the school across the street in their parking area; and Willows Intermediate's structure would be in their main parking lot. Mr. Geiger suggested having a Town Hall Meeting to get input from the public. Mr. Schreder reiterated that there won't be any encroachment on the WUSD general fund. When the State funding comes in, payment for the system would begin.

Mr. Ward also thought a public meeting would be a good idea. The Board directed Dr. Geivett to set up a Town Hall Meeting. Dr. Geivett said he would take care of it.

6.2 (**Action**) Approve Waiver Request for Summer School Meal Waiver. Mr. Munguia moved, seconded by Mr. Parisio, to approve the request for the Summer School Meal Waiver. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.

- 6.3 **(Action)** Approve 2010/11 Second Interim Budget Report (available at District Office for preview). Ms. Skala addressed the Board. The Second Interim is due to GCOE by March 15th. She said that the District is certifying as “Qualified”. We are okay for the current year, but questionable for the two out years. By certifying as “Qualified” she will have to furnish an end of the year report. She discussed the general ledger and a few of the supplemental accounts. She stated she is concerned about the MAA revenue because not as many claims are being filed. The SELPA billing will come in at the end of the year and she hopes to have that included in the Third Interim. We are obligated to look healthy through 2012/13. She is using School Services recommendation of losing \$330 + \$19 per ADA for her budget. She mentioned that it is very difficult to budget with so many different factors. The State has proposed to extend the K-3 class size reduction for two more years. The State has also proposed a two year extension for the flexibility of categoricals. The 2012/13 budget gets problematic using up reserves. Ms. Skala stated that it is a tough budget. Mr. Munguia moved, seconded by Mr. Parisio, to approve the 2010/11 Second Interim Budget Report. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.
- 6.4 **(Action)** Approve Resolution #2010-11-19, Adopting Layoff of Certificated Employees for the 2011/12 School Year for Particular Kinds of Services. Dr. Geivett explained that this resolution replaces the resolution approved at the March 3, 2011 meeting. The change in the resolution was to increase the Various Multiple Subject Teaching Positions at Murdock Elementary School from 5.0 FTE to 6.0 FTE to adhere to the Cut List. Dr. Geivett shared with the Board the domino effect and wanted to send less RIF notices but with the bumping effect they had to send out additional RIF notices to protect the District. He stated that they cannot under notice since we never know what decision the Administrative Law Judge will make. He shared some good news with the Board. He said he, Mrs. Perez, and Ms. Skala have been discussing categorical funds and working on bringing back the counselors. Due to restrictions on categorical funds they cannot use them to bring back teachers. Counselors fall under categorical funds and there is enough funding for next year. Dr. Geivett is very confident with the decision that he, Mrs. Perez, and Ms. Skala came to and is happy to make this recommendation. Under the advice of Counsel it is recommended to strike the 2.60 FTE Various WUSD Counseling Positions from the resolution. Mr. Geiger and Dr. Geivett will initial the strike out and Dr. Geivett will sign the amended resolution. Mr. Geiger moved to approve Resolution #2010-11-19, with the amendment of deleting the 2.60 FTE of Counselors from the Resolution and Mrs. Knight seconded the motion. Mr. Parisio thanked them for working to fund those counseling positions. Roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.
- 6.5 **(Discussion/Possible Action)** Cut List. Mr. Larry Massa addressed the Board in support of the Music Program and shared a little history about it. He said that years ago the Music Program was cut and it took a lot of people to get it reinstated. He also shared that music benefits students academically. His request to the Board was to maintain some level of a music program. Joyce Ksander, WIS teacher, addressed the Board. She also spoke in support of keeping the Music Program. She also thanked Mr. West and Mrs. Pastorino for all of their hard work in building and keeping the program strong.

Heather Baker, parent, addressed the Board. She spoke in support of extra-curricular activities. She said we need music, athletics, and the agriculture programs in our schools. The goal of the schools is to educate our children to be functional and successful citizens. She also said to receive college scholarships students need to have participated in those programs and list them on college applications to be considered. She wants everything kept available for the students in order to grow great adults.

Mr. Geiger asked Dr. Geivett in reference to the Cut List which items correlated with the March 15th deadline. Dr. Geivett stated through the resolution Items #8 & #9 (Certificated Teaching positions) and #21 (Elimination of WCHS), were taken care of. He said other items that were connected to the March 15th deadline were: Item #26 (Assistant Principal Position); Item #27 (WIS Music Program); Item #28 (WHS Music Program); and #29 (Ag Programs) because teachers are involved with those programs. Summer layoffs were also discussed. Dr. Geivett informed the Board that if the Doooms Day budget comes to be many districts will face summer layoffs.

Daryn Montz, parent, addressed the Board. She stated she has fought to help keep students in our District. She is very concerned about negotiations and hopes they begin to go in a positive direction or she is concerned there won't be anything left to offer our students. She said that the parents and the students are the clients of the District and there needs to be compromises made at negotiations. She hopes that in negotiations everyone does what is right for our students.

Ellen Pastorino, retired WUSD teacher, spoke out in support of the Music Program. She stated it is an academic class and is cost efficient as well.

Dr. Geivett explained that some changes had been made to the Cut List. #11 (Water Coolers) had been moved up on the list; #12 (Part-time Technology position) is not a restored position for next year. Ms. Skala and Dr. Geivett will work on the Cut List to make it a little easier to understand. Items #22, #23 & #24 (Secretary I positions) have been delineated according to sites. Item #17 (Eliminate Technology Director) was discussed. Dr. Geivett has been researching the possibility of contracting out with GCOE for technology services. He received information from various districts serviced by GCOE and they are moderately to exceptionally pleased with their services. Ms. Skala and Dr. Geivett met with Roberto Herniman, GCOE Technology Director, who said he is mostly the “nuts and bolts” part of technology. Although, not part of the contract but as a service of GCOE, Shirley Diaz and her department of Ed. Services would be very willing to help with our vision of growing in technology. Dr. Geivett said it looks more favorable than negative at this time to contract with GCOE, but certainly there are trade offs when you don’t have your own in-house person. Ms. Skala stated that GCOE’s recommendation would be to keep James Stevens’ position, the District part-time technology assistant. Mr. Herniman told them he has a team of five individuals beside himself so we would get a variety of expertise with the team effort. We would also be sharing software programs. The savings of contracting with GCOE could save the District up to \$60,000 - \$70,000 a year.

Heather Baker addressed the Board and wanted to clarify a statement about whether GCOE would provide instruction to the WUSD staff as part of their proposal or part of their mission statement of helping the Districts. She thought whether or not we contract with GCOE we should take advantage of them providing in-services, etc. Dr. Geivett said GCOE will supply in-service workshops through Shirley Diaz in Ed. Services with districts within the county, not as part of our contract, but free of charge as a support service.

Item #26 (Eliminate Assistant Principal position) was discussed in more detail. Dr. Geivett said that this position could possibly be filled with a teacher on special assignment like we are doing at the high school. Michelle Thomas, parent, said if we cut this position she was worried about safety issues. If the District cuts the Secretary I time and the Health Aide’s time, the sites are at minimal help so that is a concern. Keri Conklin-Tafuro, WHS teacher, shared her concerns to the Board about the elimination of an Assistant Principal. As both a teacher and parent she feels strongly about keeping the position in tact. Mr. Ward stated if the District and unions don’t come together in negotiations, with the lack of funding, he said we will lose a lot of students.

Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Mr. Ward, to approve Items #17 (Director of Technology) and #26 (Assistant Principal) as cuts.

Sherry Brott, parent, addressed the Board and asked when and how many negotiation dates have been set with both unions and how often before all these cuts will take place. Mr. Geiger said that both WUTA and CSEA have negotiations set for the week of March 21st. Mrs. Knight asked if several meetings could be set up and then cancel them if they aren’t needed. Dr. Geivett said that could happen. Mrs. Brott said she appreciates all the cuts that have been taken to date, but more cuts are needed to balance the budget.

Mrs. Knight expressed her concern about eliminating the Assistant Principal position. Mrs. Montz stated to the Board that the majority of parents who left for the charter school left because of safety issues. She stated again that negotiations need to work. Dr. Geivett said that student and employee safety is very important to him also. He said if the Board chooses to go in the direction of cutting the assistant principal position, and if the Board directs him to fill that position with a lead teacher, he will promote to provide the safest environment he can for students and employees.

Shelley Amaro, WUTA President, addressed the Board. She wanted to clarify that teachers are willing to negotiate and take cuts, but it is a process. She said they are willing to set up more dates to help speed up the process. They realize the sense of urgency and care deeply about the students. Heather Baker said she was encouraged to hear WUTA was willing to negotiate more often. She brought up that she heard that teachers said they paid 100% of their own benefits. Mr. Geiger said insurance benefits are capped at \$11,611 per employee. BOSS was discussed and goes toward the employee’s retirement. Dr. Geivett told Mr. Geiger if there is a list of questions from the public that they could direct Dr. Geivett to answer them. The public could submit their questions to the Board and the Board could direct him to answer, make phone calls or provide correspondence. He cautioned the Board from responding too much to speakers.

MINUTES Special Meeting – Board of Education – March 10, 2011 Page 4 of 4

The motion failed 2-3 to approve Item #17 and Item #26 as cuts at this time.
(Opposed – Mr. Parisio, Mrs. Knight and Mr. Munguia)

Mr. Parisio moved, seconded by Mrs. Knight, to add Item #17 (Director of Technology) as an approved cut. The motion passed 4-1. (Opposed – Mr. Ward).

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. with a recess before going into Closed Session. The Board will reconvene with Item 2.1 in Closed Session. President Geiger will report out in Open Session upon the conclusion of Closed Session.

7. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session began at 9:17 p.m.

7.1 Pursuant to Government Code §54957: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release

7.2 Pursuant to Government Code §54957: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Reassignment.
Certificated Administrator.

7.3 Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(a): Conference with Legal Counsel: Existing Litigation (2 cases)
Tim Crews v. Willows USD, et. al, Case No. 09CV00697 and Case No. 10CV00860

At 9:58 p.m. the meeting reconvened to Open Session. President Geiger reported out:

Item 2.1: Update given to the Board.

Item 7.1: The Governing Board took action in Closed Session by the following vote 5-0 to non-reelect a
Certificated Teacher as required by Education Code Section 44951.

Item 7.2: The Governing Board took action in Closed Session by the following vote 5-0 to notify a
Certificated Administrator of a change of assignment as required by Education Code
Section 44951.

Item 7.3: Direction given to Superintendent.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.