

MINUTES  
March 18, 2004

- CALL TO ORDER**    The meeting was called to order by President Clyde at 1:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag and an inspirational reading led by Armen Bacon.
- ATTENDANCE**        Members present: President Clyde, Vice President Eubanks and Members Delbert Cederquist, Dr. Sally Tannenbaum, and Barbara Thomas.
- Participating staff: Superintendent Peter G. Mehas, Donald Collins and Daniel Pietro, Deputy Superintendents; Armen Bacon, Senior Director to the Superintendent, External Communications; Jan Biggs, Senior Administrator to the Superintendent, Legal Department; Elizabeth Torres, Board Secretary.
- Visitors: Lori Hamada, Carl Veater, Patty Lehman, and Nydia Mendoza.
- AGENDA**             Member Eubanks moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Member Thomas; motion carried.  
Approved
- MINUTES**            Member Cederquist moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2004; seconded by Member Tannenbaum; motion carried.  
Approved
- EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**    This month the Fresno County Office of Education and the Fresno County Board of Education are honoring Lori Shigley as their April Employee of the Month.
- The superior teaching and caring approach that Lori Shigley demonstrates on a daily basis has benefited so many of her students with serious social and emotional disabilities. Lori's students enter her classroom through district referrals following frequent episodes of classroom disruptions, outbursts, suspensions and after most local resources are exhausted. As a strong, dedicated student advocate, Lori has developed a classroom environment that is warm and supportive but also structured and precise. Through steady communication, Lori has also fostered mutual support and respect with parents and many key agencies with who assist our students.
- Another key measure of success is that Lori has successfully transitioned a number of students back to their home school where they are doing well and in many cases are thriving.
- All fellow staff members working along side Lori consider it a pleasure to have such an intelligent and dedicated instructor providing top-level programming and support to such needy young people.
- Thanks to Lori for being all these things and more to the students of Fresno County. You are indeed a treasure and we are proud to recognize you as the April 2004 Employee of the Month.
- Your enthusiastic attitude, dedication and constant commitment to broaden the educational experiences of the students in Fresno County demonstrates your high standards and professionalism to the success of the Fresno County Office of Education. Your service to the Special Education program and the county office is to be commended.
- It is with sincere appreciation that we present this certificate to Lori Shigley. Congratulations, Lori, for a job well done.
- The Board Members congratulated and thanked Ms. Shigley for her dedication and hard work.

**MOVED TO:**

SPECIAL  
RECOGNITION

Literacy Awards  
Recognition

Nydia Mendoza, President of the Fresno Area Reading Council, recognized Patty Lehman, Fresno County Office of Education English/Language Arts Coordinator, as the recipient of the John Martin Literacy Award.

Assistant Superintendent Collins thanked Patty for creating the Literacy Institute.

The Board Members and Superintendent Mehas thanked Ms. Lehman for her hard work and dedication to the students of Fresno County.

MOVED TO:  
SPECIAL  
PRESENTATION  
Math On Call

Carl Veater from the Curriculum & Instruction Department presented on the Math On Call program utilizing PowerPoint:

- Math on Call provides an inquiry-based tutorial for K-AP Calculus.
- All tutors are certificated math teachers.
- Calls are taken Monday – Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:25 p.m.
- The Program is broadcasted live on cable channel 14 Monday – Wednesday and channel 49 on Thursday.
- The calls primarily come from Fresno County.
- In the new retrieval system of calls, calls go directly to the tutors.
- The program is projected to increase by 100% in the 2003-04 school year.
- The program applied for and received a \$4500.00 Lottery Grant. The following was purchased with these funds: noise reducing headsets and a multi-line phone system.
- Partners and Supporters are: F.C.O.E., F.U.S.D., Region VII A.V.I.D., C.T.A.P., Central U.S.D., Texas Instruments and Great Source Education Group.
- Partners and Supporters from F.C.O.E. Departments are: C & I, S.L.M.S., I.S.T., and External Communications.

The Board sought questions from Mr. Veater regarding the future of the program.

The Board thanked Mr. Veater for his coordination of the program and thanked him for his presentation.

MOVED TO:  
COURT &  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS  
Court Schools  
Annual WASC  
Report

Pamela Bowling-Coronado, Coordinator and Marisa Gamboa, Teacher, Court & Community Schools reported on the Annual WASC progress report and recommendation.

The Board asked questions regarding the report and recommendations.

MOVED TO:  
HUMAN  
RESOURCES/  
CREDNETIAL/  
LEGAL  
Civil Claim  
Irma Guererro

The Board and Superintendent Mehas thanked the ladies for their presentation and hard work.

Member Thomas moved to deny the civil claims brought forth by Irma Guererro; seconded by Member Cederquist; motion carried.

Discuss Edison-  
Bethune Charter  
Academy Renewal  
Application

The Edison Bethune-Charter Renewal Application was given to the Board, Superintendent Mehas, and Deputy Superintendents Collins and Pietro. The information was provided to the above persons to be reviewed prior to its future placement on the Board agenda as an action item.

MOVED TO:  
BUSINESS  
SERVICES

Resolution No.  
2004-09,  
Authorization to  
Issue Tax Revenue  
Anticipation  
Notices

Member Cederquist moved to approve Resolution No. 2004-09, Authorization to Issue Tax Revenue Anticipation Notices; seconded by Member Thomas; motion carried.

Authorization to  
Bid for Fencing of  
The Kermit Koontz  
Education Complex

Member Cederquist moved to award Bid No. C2004-02 to Torres Fence Company, the lowest responsible bidder, to install fencing at the Kermit Koontz Education Complex; seconded by Member Eubanks; motion carried.

Acknowledge  
Quarterly  
Disclosure of  
FCOE's  
Investment Policies

Member Thomas moved to acknowledge the receipt of the Quarterly Disclosure of the Fresno County Office of Education's Investment Policies; seconded by Member Tannenbaum; motion carried.

MOVED TO:  
TRUSTEE  
ACTIVITIES

Approval of  
Meetings to Attend

Member Thomas requested to attend the CSESA/ACSA Legislative Day in Sacramento, CA in April 2004

Members Cederquist and Thomas requested to attend the Delegate Assembly in May 2004.

The Board Members unanimously approved Members Thomas and Cederquist's requests to attend the above-mentioned meetings.

Member Tannenbaum offered the usage of monies from her budget, if necessary, in order to augment the funds needed for Member Thomas's travels.

Approval of Travel  
Expenses by Board  
Members

None.

Receipt of  
Correspondence

None.

Comments by  
Board Members

Member Cederquist gave an update on the March 16<sup>th</sup> Fresno County School Trustees Association's Executive Meeting. The Executive Trustees decided to move forward with a subcommittee meeting in order to develop an agenda for a meeting with Mayor Autry. The subcommittee will consist of representatives from the nine school districts that are within the Fresno City limits. In this meeting the Trustees Association's plan to communicate their position on school board appointments.

Member Cederquist encouraged all board members to attend the next Fresno County School Trustees Association Dinner meeting at Washington Union High School.

Member Cederquist reminded the Board that Member Thomas is in the position of President Elect with CCBE.

Member Thomas attended CSESA PTA Conference. The turnout at the conference was encouraging. In 2006 there will be a joint conference between the Legislative and CSESA PTA.

There was a realignment of dues for CCBE due to the varying ADA in California. Member Thomas will mail out a letter to all of the board members within the region on the dues issue.

Member Tannenbaum thanked Armen Bacon for the Academic Decathlon Reception on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Armen Bacon acknowledged Jennifer Quinn's work on the Academic Decathlon. Ms. Bacon also acknowledged the exemplary sportsmanship displayed by the Fresno County student participants.

Member Tannenbaum reported that Mr. Chu Chang had been approved by Fresno Unified School Districts to start a 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Charter School. He wants to establish the Charter in the downtown Fresno area. Dan Fitzpatrick is one of his resources in trying to secure a site for development.

Superintendent Mehas suggested two gentlemen as knowledgeable resources of the downtown area: Bobby Fina and DeWayne Zinkin.

**MOVED TO:  
SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Superintendent Mehas reported on the following item:

- The Drug Summit: School districts were well represented. The White House supports the opinion that communities and local school boards are to decide on the issue of random drug testing. The White House strongly believes that drug testing should be voluntary. The White House also advised that drug testing is a waste of time and money if all that is done is drug testing alone. San Juan Capistrano has a unique voluntary program in place in which the role of the school is to merely facilitate. The program is set up to commence a dialogue between kids and their parent.
- State Academic Decathlon: South California has historically dominated the State Academic Decathlon due to their large pool of students and heavy focus on recruitment. Edison has now placed third twice, and has placed second this year. The students of Fresno County claim they are motivated by the Fresno County Office of Education's emphasis on the Academic Decathlon.
- Due to the passage of proposition 55 the county offices of education are eligible to receive charter school bond money. The Edison Corporation is looking to explore the option of a Downtown Charter. They will report to the Fresno County Board of Education following their exploration.
- Pentathlon Adventure on March 20<sup>th</sup>: This year the event is a combined effort between Infinity Broadcast, the City of Fresno and F.C.O.E. The event is at the Fresno Fairgrounds Racetrack beginning at 8:30 am.
- Employee Survey: A survey will be mailed to all F.C.O.E. employees requesting the prioritization of all benefits that the employees are interested in. These surveys will be due by April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The information will then be turned over to Dr. Pietro and used in negotiations with our health providers.
- At the request of Superintendent Mehas, Dr. Pietro explained to the Board the financial reporting that districts are required to provide to Dr. Mehas on an annual basis.
- California State University Faculty Association requested that Superintendent Mehas participate in their press conference concerning the Coalition to Save the CSUs. Superintendent Mehas explained his position to the Board on this issue.
- State Superintendent Jack O'Connell will be visiting Fresno.

- Senator Deidre Alpert is anticipated to come to Fresno. The tentative date is April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Secretary of Education Richard Riordan has accepted our invitation to come to Fresno on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

MOVED TO:  
EXPULSION  
APPEAL  
HEARING

Fresno Unified  
School District  
(Closed Session)

The hearing was called to order at 3:10 p.m. Those present at the hearing included: student, parent, and family friend; Debra Garabedian, Legal Counsel, Fresno County Office of Education; Kevin Torosian, Administrative Manager, Robert Harris, Assistant Superintendent, and Bob Pankratz, Executive Director for Student Services, Fresno Unified School District.

Board members sought responses from those present.

The Board moved into deliberations at 3:22 p.m. and reconvened into closed session at 3:28 p.m.

Member Tannenbaum moved to uphold the expulsion; motion seconded by Member Eubanks.

ROLL CALL:

Member Cederquist	Y
Member Eubanks	Y
Member Tannenbaum	Y
Member Thomas	Y
President Clyde	Y

Motion carried. The Board upheld the expulsion of the student.

The Board moved forward to the next expulsion hearing.

Parlier Unified  
School District

The hearing was called to order at 3:30 p.m. Those present at the hearing included: student, parent, and Prudence Hutton, Attorney; Edward Van Hoose, Director of Student Discipline, Parlier Unified School District.

Board members sought responses from those present.

The Board moved into deliberations at 3:42 p.m. and reconvened into closed session at 3:46 p.m.

Member Eubanks moved to reverse the expulsion; motion seconded by Member Thomas.

ROLL CALL:

Member Cederquist	Y
Member Eubanks	Y
Member Tannenbaum	Y

Member Thomas Y

President Clyde Y

Motion carried. The Board overturned the expulsion of the student.

The Board moved forward to the next expulsion hearing.

Caruthers Unified  
School District

The hearing was called to order at 3:50 p.m. Those present at the hearing included: parent and translator Sandra Vargas, employee of Caruthers Unified School District; Dwight Miller, District Superintendent, Roxi Martin, Assistant Principal and Diane Garrigus, Principal, Caruthers Unified School District.

Board members sought responses from those present.

The Board moved into deliberations at 4:05 p.m. and reconvened into closed session at 4:18 p.m.

Member Cederquist moved to remand the case back to the school district and to conditionally uphold the expulsion; motion seconded by Member Thomas.

ROLL CALL:

Member Cederquist Y

Member Eubanks Y

Member Tannenbaum Y

Member Thomas Y

President Clyde Y

Motion carried. The Board conditionally upheld the expulsion of the student.

The Board moved forward to the next expulsion hearing.

Caruthers Unified  
School District

The hearing was called to order at 4:25 p.m. Those present at the hearing included: student, parent, and translator Sandra Vargas, employee of Caruthers Unified School District; Dwight Miller, District Superintendent, Roxi Martin, Assistant Principal and Diane Garrigus, Principal, Caruthers Unified School District.

The Board moved into deliberations 4:33 at p.m. and reconvened into closed session at 4:36 p.m.

Member Eubanks moved to uphold the expulsion; motion seconded by Member Cederquist.

ROLL CALL:

Member Cederquist Y

Member Eubanks Y

Member Tannenbaum	Y
Member Thomas	Y
President Clyde	Y

Motion carried. The Board upheld the expulsion of the student.

The Board reconvened to open session at 4:38 p.m.

SPECIAL  
THANKS

Member Eubanks expressed his gratitude toward Deborah Garabedian for her efficiency in providing the Board with summaries on each of the expulsion hearing.

Jan Biggs also complimented Ms. Garabedian and expressed his gratitude with respect to the hard work involved in the preparation of the summaries provided to the Board.

COMMUNITY  
INPUT

None.

FUTURE  
AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved to adjourn at 4:44 p.m.

/et