

MINUTES
November 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 Allen Clyde, Vice President Keith Eubanks, and Members Delbert Cederquist and Barbara Thomas.
- Participating staff: Superintendent Peter G. Mehas and Deputy Superintendent Daniel Pietro; Jan Biggs, Senior Administrator to the Superintendent, Legal Department; Armen Bacon, Senior Director to the Superintendent, External Communications; Elizabeth Torres, Administrative Assistant to the Board.
- Absent: Board Member Sally Tannenbaum and Deputy Superintendent Don Collins.
- Visitors: Pam Coronado, Tante Tacata, Jake Bloodworth, Randy Mehrten, Linda Shelton, Cindy Kirby, John Minkler, Don Reed, Tammy Tucker, Ken Campbell, Lou Telesmanic, Patricia Gutierrez, and Marisa Gamboa.
- AGENDA
Approved Member Cederquist moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Member Thomas; motion carried.
- MINUTES
Approved Member Thomas moved to approve the minutes of October 21, 2004; seconded by Member Cederquist; motion carried.
- EMPLOYEE OF THE
MONTH Patricia Gutierrez has been an outstanding FCOE employee since the day she was hired. Over the past ten years, Patricia has worked for the Court Schools Program, first as a Paraeducator and most recently as an Office Assistant.
- While working as a Paraeducator, Patricia enrolled in adult school classes to become skilled in the use of Microsoft Suite including Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and the like. When Court Schools was awarded the SB 1095 grant, Patricia was called on to use these skills in entering and tracking data for this grant. This project comprised of approximately 15,000 lines of data. In addition to this, when staff needed assistance in tracking fixed assets, Patricia stepped forward and again her skills in utilizing databases helped the program tremendously. In Patricia's current role, she oversees all the data in our fixed assets database.
- Patricia exhibits excellent character, in that she is trustworthy, honest, caring and very conscientious. Patricia has an engaging personality and truly enjoys learning new job skills. Patricia goes over and above in providing services to the Court & Community School programs, and we are fortunate to have her as a part of the FCOE team. Patricia is truly a catalyst for student success.
- Patricia is well liked and respected by all those she comes in contact with and is an excellent representative for FCOE, no matter what she is doing or where she is.
- Thanks to Patricia 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 December 2004 Employee of the Month.
- Congratulations on this outstanding accomplishment!
- MOVED TO:
SPECIAL
PRESENTATIONS Ms. Gutierrez thanked the County Office and her co-workers for all of their support.

Three Board Proposals
For Board Project 2005

Superintendent Mehas gave an overview of the selection process for Board Projects.

Randy Mehrten, Director of the Safe & Healthy Kids Department introduced those of his staff that would be presenting: Dr. John Minkler, Coordinator; Linda Shelton, Coordinator; Cindy Kirby, Project Specialist; and Tammy Tucker, Project Specialist.

Proposal #1: Dr. Minkler thanked the Board for opportunity to present a proposal for the Board Project. He then gave an overview of the programs he oversees. He further explained that through the Dare to Dream and the Fresno County Youth Service Council programs students participate in service learning projects that are based on teaching the five elements of leadership as developed by Jim Coiner, Leadership Academy Coordinator and Randy Mehrten, Director. In addition, students are taught the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, civic virtues, democracy and community service. Utilizing PowerPoint, Dr. Minkler reported on the many projects students carried out during the 2003-04 school year. Dr. Minkler proposed working with researchers from CSU Fresno requesting research based documentation on how teaching students civic responsibility affects the behavior and academic success of students. The findings will indicate that there are Fresno County schools using service learning, leadership training, and civic engagement strategies that are having tremendous impact on the community. This information will then be share with the community.

Members Thomas and Cederquist and President Clyde commented on the importance of Dr. Minkler's mission and agreed on the need to document the program's affect on the lives of students.

Superintendent Mehas commented on the success of the Stories of Service program and thanked Dr. Minkler for all of his work.

Proposal #2: Linda Shelton proposed a series of innovative physical education trainings to address the growing obesity problem among the youths of Fresno County. The goal of the project is to increase cardiovascular fitness in the students of Fresno County. She further stated that the youth obesity problem is actually an epidemic of poor nutrition and inactivity. One of the project's goals is to expand the SPARK workshops in the participating schools in the County. Another goal is to research the correlation between physical fitness and student academic achievement. A comparison would be drawn between a district that has a physical fitness education specialist and a district that does not. The data sought would show the effectiveness of these types of programs in Fresno County.

Board members asked various questions.

Proposal #3: Randy Mehrten explained how the participants in the Pentathlon Adventure have traditionally been 5th – 8th grade students. Through some discussion, the coordinators of the Pentathlon Adventure event arrived at the idea of hosting a High School Pentathlon. This event would be called the "High School Adventure Challenge." The venue selected for a "High School Adventure Challenge" is Scout Island. The basic concept is to have a course of 10 different challenging events. Cindy Kirby and Tammy Tucker used PowerPoint to present the details of the project to expand the Pentathlon. Teams of four students each, grades 9-12, will be selected from participating Fresno County high schools. The events of the day will serve to challenge students to make choices, problem solve, communicate, trust, and work collaboratively. Students will begin by receiving clues and instructions that will take them in different directions over the course. Each event has to be completed before a team can move on. One particular event will involve crossing the River. It was reported that approximately 20 participating schools would be a manageable number in the first year of this event. The goal of the event is to develop an understanding of the mindset students need to have in order overcome the many obstacles they face on a daily basis. A few of the challenges confronting our youth are cultural diversity, peer pressure, and the alarming factors associated with obesity.

There was some discussion that a “High School Adventure Challenge” event could meet the goal of each of the proposals presented, particularly because all of the proposals came from the same department. Other discussion surrounded the idea that this type of event would draw educators attention to the efficacy of the use of Scout Island.

RECESS

The Board thanked all of the presenters for their hard work.

MOVED TO:
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES

The Board recessed at 2:17 p.m. and reconvened at 2:32 p.m.

Adoption of Resolution
No. 2004-32, Williams
Settlement
Approved

Member Cederquist moved to approve the adoption of resolution No. 2004-32, affirming that the schools operating by the FCSS possess sufficient textbooks or instructional materials for each of its pupils as required by the Williams Settlement statute; seconded by Member Eubanks; motion carried.

MOVED TO:
COURT &
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS

Court Schools Report
Received

Dr. Lou Telesmanic, Director and Tante Tacata, Coordinator reported on the Scantron Performance Series Assessment standard based online computer testing system.

Court & Community Schools has adopted a system by which one instrument of testing will be administered to the students at the Teilman Educational Center, the Violet Hines Education Academy, and Juvenile Hall. This system allows for online access of a student’s most recent academic performance. The system has been approved by the State Department of Education to measure the A.S.A.M. indicators of alternative programs. Scantrons will be used to pre and post test students in order to measure academic growth. Immediately following the completion of testing the program produces an assessment of the skills and goals that the student has not yet mastered. Teachers have immediate access to diagnostic information enabling them to develop learning objectives for a population of students that are remedial and highly mobile.

MOVED TO:
BUSINESS SERVICES
2003-04 Budget Actual
Comparison
Acknowledged

Superintendent Mehas congratulated the Court & Community School staff present on a successful Boot Camp graduation.

Approval of 2004-05
FCOE Budget Revisions
Approved

Deputy Superintendent Pietro of Business Services reported on the 2003-04 Budget Actual Comparison. The Board acknowledged the report.

FCOE’s First Interim
Financial Report for
2004-05
Acknowledged

Member Cederquist moved to approve the 2004-05 Budget Revisions; seconded by Member Thomas; motion carried.

Deputy Superintendent Pietro of Business Services reported on the 2004-05 FCOE First Interim Financial. The Board acknowledged the report.

MOVED TO:
TRUSTEE

ACTIVITIES

- Approval of Meetings to Attend Member Cederquist reminded the Board that the Trustees Association reception is scheduled to take place on Friday, December 3, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm, at the San Francisco Marriott during the CSBA Conference.
- Approval of Travel Expenses by Board Members Member Cederquist moved to approve the mileage request of Vice President Eubanks in the amount of \$213.75 for mileage incurred September 2004 – October 2004; seconded by Member Thomas; motion carried.
- Approval of Board Project 2005 Member Thomas move to accept the “High School Adventure Challenge” as the Board Project for 2005; seconded by member Eubanks; motion carried. (The vote was unanimous. Member Tannenbaum was absent. During the November board meeting Member Tannenbaum voiced her interest in a board project that would utilize the Scout Island facility.)
- Receipt of Correspondence None.
- Comments by Board Members Member Cederquist informed the board that at the conclusion of the December CSBA Conference, Member Thomas will become the CCBE President. He further informed the board that Member Thomas will be officiating over her first Conference to take place in Monterey, March 2005.
- Member Cederquist reported that CSBA is putting together a high school reform task force and that CSBA President David Pollock called him personally to request he serve as a county board member on the task force. Member Cederquist will be accepting.
- Member Thomas asked if anyone was interested in taking the opportunity to fill the CCBE Region X Director position. Vice President Eubanks voiced interest in the position and will further discuss his interest with Member Thomas. Member Thomas requested that Vice President Eubanks stand as the voting member for the County Office in the December meeting. Vice President Eubanks accepted.
- President Clyde appointed himself and Vice President Eubanks to the Board/Cabinet Seminar planning committee. The scheduled date of the seminar is February 14, 2005 at the Scout Island Facility. Armen Bacon will schedule a committee planning meeting for early December.

**MOVED TO:
SUPERINTENDENT’S
REPORT**

- Superintendent Mehas reported on the following items:
- Congratulations to our County Board Incumbent’s on their election successes.
 - Brief on Board/Superintendent Policy: Jan Biggs, Senior Administrator and his staff have been working diligently to bring the FCOE Policy Manual current. All policies: administrative regulations, board, superintendent and board/superintendent, will be carefully reviewed. Those appropriate for the FCOE organization will be adopted verbatim **or** re-crafted to bring them up to current standards. They will all be called Board-Superintendent Policies. They will be broad statements of policy. Any reference to administrative regulations will be eliminated and replaced by FCOE Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This will be done one department at a time. The Business Services department section of the policy manual will be presented for discussion at the December 2004 board meeting. It will then be brought before the Board for action January 2005.
 - Update on Williams Settlement: Jan Biggs, Senior Administrator, Don Collins and Dr. Dan Pietro, Deputy Superintendents, and Superintendent Mehas have had conference calls with CSESA. The funds from the State are scheduled to arrive December 15, 2004. Kitty Catania, Director of School Support and Compliance of the Williams Settlement, will be doing all of the site visitations of schools in deciles 1-3. Those board members interested in visiting school sites in their given areas will be given the school site visitation schedule. Board members will not be placed on the visitation committee. Committee

members must attend all school site visits.

- FUSD FCMAT Report: On behalf of FCOE, Superintendent Mehas and Deputy Superintendent Pietro are drafting an in depth letter making recommendations for the FUSD fiscal crisis. The letter will be addressed to State Superintendent of Schools, Jack O’Connell.
- Charter School Letter to State Superintendent Jack O’Connell: Per the request of the Board, Deputy Superintendent Pietro drafted a letter of the board’s concerns of charter school’s mishandling of funds. Vice President Eubanks asked that the letter include language holding Charter schools accountable for inappropriate spending of start up monies. Both President Clyde and Vice President Eubanks asked that the letter state the need to bond a minimum of \$35,000.00 of start up monies. Member Cederquist requested language explaining that a few poor examples of charter schools are jeopardizing the continuance of successful charter schools.
- Selma USD Recently Denied a Charter School Request: A committee has been formed to review charters planning to come before the County Board. Vice President Eubanks agreed to represent the County Board on the review committee. The committee is scheduled to meet on November 24. Questions will be generated at this committee meeting and then presented to the charter school district. It is possible the recently denied charter will come before the board in December 2004.
- Federal Government Surplus Property: In response to phone calls from Congressman Jim Costa and Congressman George Radanovich, Superintendent Mehas has sent a letter to the USDA via CDE expressing interest in the Agricultural Research Service property located on Peach Avenue in Fresno. At this point no commitments of purchase have been made by FCOE.
- Board/Cabinet Seminar: The seminar is scheduled for February 14, 2005 at Scout Island. A planning committee has been formed and will meet in December in preparation for the Seminar.
- FTA press conference: The press conference was not done in the spirit of problem solving as it alluded to theft and fraud. The purpose of the press conference was to upstage the FCMAT report and discredit their findings. Superintendent Mehas is confident the FCMAT report will support both FUSD and FCOE’s fiscal report findings. Superintendent Mehas has scheduled a press conference for November 29. Those scheduled to attend are FCMAT, Walter Buster, Paul DiSario, and Dr. Dan Pietro.

COMMUNITY INPUT None.

FUTURE AGENDA
ITEMS None.

ADJOURNMENT Moved to adjourn at 3:40 p.m.

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