

MINUTES
January 20, 2005

- CALL TO ORDER President Eubanks called the meeting to order 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 Keith Eubanks, Vice President Delbert Cederquist, and Members Barbara Thomas, Dr. Sally Tannenbaum, and Dr. Allen Clyde.
- Participating staff: Donald Collins and Daniel Pietro, Deputy Superintendents; Armen Bacon, Senior Director to the Superintendent; Jan Biggs, Senior Administrator to the Superintendent, Legal Department; Elizabeth Torres, Board Secretary.
- Absent: Dr. Peter G. Mehas, Superintendent of Schools.
- Visitors: Kathy Ramirez, Claudia Flores, Mike Robinson, Rhonda Dieter, Jake Bloodworth, Virginia Waring, David Swain, Rosalina Garcia, Ken Campbell, Patty Lehman, Lisa Rocha, Rhonda Lodridge, Kitti Catania, Jeremy Benton, Skye Hinojos, and Vicky Stotts.
- AGENDA
Approved Member Cederquist moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Member Clyde; motion carried.
- MINUTES
Approved Member Thomas made a motion to approve the December 16, 2004 minutes with the following amendments: under section titled ATTENDANCE, add Dr. Don Dorough, and under section titled TRUSTEES ACTIVITIES, Meetings to Attend, change the location of the CCBE Conference to Monterey, CA; seconded by Member Cederquist; motion carried.
- EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH This month the Fresno County Office of Education and the Fresno County Board of Education are proud to honor Bernadette Baptista as the February 2005 Employee of the Month. Better known as Berni, who is currently a Program Secretary in the Special Education Department.
- Berni started her career with the Fresno County Office of Education in September of 1976 as a Paraeducator for Special Education. Her first assignment was at Ramacher School working with severely disabled students. Berni's love, commitment and dedication to the Special Education program, staff and students have been evident ever since.
- After serving as a Paraeducator, Berni became the school site secretary at Ramacher. For over 25 years, Berni diligently served the students, staff and parents at Ramacher. Two years ago, Berni became the Program Secretary for the ED/Intervention Program within Special Education. Berni is such a valuable member of the Special Education 8th floor team.
- Berni is a joy to work with and is very well respected and liked by everyone. Her cheerfulness, enthusiastic attitude, people skills and eagerness to lend a helping hand demonstrate her professionalism and commitment to the success of the Fresno County Office of Education. Her dedicated service to the Special Education program and the county office is to be commended. Even on the most hectic days, she never gets frazzled, she actually will respond with humor and a cooperative spirit.
- It is with sincere pleasure that we honor Berni as the Fresno County Employee of the Month. Congratulations!

MOVED TO: Ms. Baptista thanked her parents and colleagues for adding to her success on her job.
PUPIL PERSONNEL
Adoption of
Resolution No. 2005- 01, Member Cederquist moved to approve Resolution No. 2005-01, School Psychology week; seconded by
School Psychology Week Member Clyde; motion carried.
Adopted

RECESS
Recess at 1:37 p.m. for a reception in honor of the employee of the month. The meeting was reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

MOVED TO:
COURT &
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Approval of
Consolidated
Application Part II
for 2004-05
Approved
Member Cederquist moved to approve the consolidated Application Part II for 2004-05; seconded by
Member Thomas; motion carried.

Approval of Single
School Site Plans,
Court & Community
Schools
Approved
Tom Read, Coordinator of Court & Community Schools, requested the board approve the Single School Site Plans for the Court & Community Schools.
Member Clyde moved to approve the Single School Site plans as submitted; seconded by Member Cederquist; motion carried.

Approval of
Accountability
Report Cards
Approved
Member Tannenbaum moved to approve the Accountability Report Cards for Court & Community Schools; seconded by Member Cederquist; motion carried.

MOVED TO:
SPECIAL
PRESENTATION
Court & Community
School Report
Victoria Stotts, School Psychologist at the Forward Bound Academy, and two students Jeremy Benson and Skye Hinojos, presented on the Explorer program of the Boys Scouts of America. The boys presented their experience and involvement as Explorers.

MOVED TO:
HUMAN RESOURCES/
LEGAL/CREDENTIALS
Adoption of Resolution
No. 2005-04, Early
Retirement (PERS) FCOE
Adopted
Member Cederquist moved to adopt Resolution #2005-04, open window for two additional years of service credit to qualified classified employees (6/1/05-9/1/05); seconded by Member Tannenbaum; motion carried.

Adoption of Resolution
No. 2005-02, Early
Retirement (PERS) FCOE
Adopted
Member Tannenbaum moved to adopt Resolution #2005-02, open window for two additional years of service credit to qualified classified employees (10/1/05-1/6/06); seconded by Member Cederquist; motion carried.

Adoption of Resolution
No. 2005-05, Early
Member Thomas moved to adopt Resolution #2005-05, open window for two additional years of

Retirement (STRS) FCOE service credit to qualified certificated employees (6/1/05-9/1/05); seconded by Member Cederquist; Adopted motion carried.

Adoption of Resolution No. 2005-03, Early Retirement (PERS) Riverdale Jt. USD Adopted Member Cederquist moved to adopt Resolution #2005-03, open window for two additional years of service credit to qualified classified employees of Riverdale Jt. USD (6/1/05-8/31/05); seconded by Member Thomas; motion carried.

Adoption of Revised Board Policies – 3000 Series Tabled Member Thomas recommended that the board item, Adoption of Revised Board Policies 3000 Series, be tabled until April 2005. She also recommended that following the Board/Cabinet Seminar on February 14, 2005, the board would determine whether or not they need to schedule a meeting to review and discuss the proposed changes in the 3000 Series of the board policies.

Member Cederquist moved to accept tabling the item until April 2005 and to wait until after the Board/Cabinet Seminar to determine the need for a separate meeting to discuss the proposed changes of the 3000 Series of the board policies; seconded by Dr. Clyde; motion carried

MOVED TO:
BUSINESS SERVICES
Approval of Apportionment of Forest Reserve Receipt Approved

Member Cederquist moved to approve the Apportionment of Forest Reserve Receipts for 2004-05; seconded by Member Thomas; motion carried.

2003-04 Audit Report

Ray Cowles, Auditor, Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., reviewed the annual audit report for fiscal year 2003-04. There were no exceptions found. The Fresno County Office of Education fared well. The Board acknowledged the audit report for the 2003-04 fiscal year as reported.

Dr. Pietro thanked Ray Cowles, Sue Hunsbarger, and the FCOE finance staff for working diligently.

On behalf of Superintendent Mehas, Deputy Superintendent Collins commended Dr. Pietro, Sue Hunsbarger and their staff for the tremendous job they do to keep FCOE's finances running so efficiently.

Approval of Selma Learning Academy Charter Petition

Dr. Pietro gave a brief update on proceedings with the petitioners of the Selma Learning Academy Charter.

President Eubanks made note that a representative of the Selma newspaper was present and asked if anyone objected to his presence at the meeting. None objected.

Ms. Allison Pierce, chief petitioner for the Selma Learning Academy Charter, presented her responses to the list of concerns she received from the Charter Review Committee. Those present and also representing SLA were Board Members Carrie King and Laurie O'Brien. Ms. Pierce also identified as a visitor, Dr. David Guthrie of Education Synergy Consulting.

Member Thomas voiced concern with SLA's plan for the provision of Special Education services. SLA's plan is to negotiate with another district within SELPA to provide Special Education. This is not in compliance with the mandate of Policy CS#05. The policy states that the chartering entity, in this case potentially FCOE, shall be responsible to render Special Education services to the students of the

charter, and would receive the Special Education funds. Member Thomas recommended that an MOU be drafted to state that SLA would assume responsibility for any Special Education encroachments.

Darlene Hill, Director of Special Education at FCOE, expressed concern on the availability of funds to provide continuum of services to potential Special Education students.

Jan Biggs, Senior Administrator the Superintendent, explained that County Offices do not operate as a traditional school as it relates to providing Special Education to its' students.

Deputy Superintendent Collins stated that the provision of service is not an issue because it is mandated. Continuum of service, however, does pose a serious issue, as does any potential encroachments. He further stated that the issue of encroachments needs to be specified and clarified in terms of how it is to be handled.

Darlene Hill explained that there is no current policy in place that outlines how a County Office would operate as a Special Education provider to a charter school. She recommended creating a policy that would deal with the funding and programmatic issues. She also stated that the timeline for creating a policy would take a minimum of two months.

Member Thomas stated that another option SLA has is to declare themselves the LEA. This would prolong the opening of their school even longer, due to the timeline the SELPA has. SLA would not be able to apply for SELPA admission until October of 2005. If their application was approved their status would not take affect until July 2006.

President Eubanks recommended postponing the decision to approve or deny the charter due to many questions still needing to be answered.

Dr. Don Holder outlined his requirement that SLA needed to provide details of methodological, structural, and procedural elements of their programs; in particular the ELL program. He is also requiring that the job descriptions of teachers match the requirements of their program goals.

President Eubanks, Member Clyde, and Deputy Superintendent Pietro expressed concern with the hiring of a qualified financial manager for the charter.

Ms. Pierce expressed concern with the 60 day timeline that the County Board has to approve or deny a charter.

The County Board members unanimously expressed the need to discuss the various issues prior to approving or denying the SLA charter.

Member Cederquist moved to deny the Selma Learning Academy Charter; seconded by none; motion died.

Member Clyde moved to table the approval of the Selma Learning academy Charter until the February 17, 2005 board meeting in order to provide time for FCOE to develop questions regarding current issues and to provide time for SLA to give their responses; seconded by Member Thomas;

ROLL CALL:

Member Thomas Y

Member Cederquist N

Member Tannenbaum Y

Member Clyde Y

President Eubanks N

Motion carried by a 3-2 vote.

MOVE TO TRUSTEES
ACTIVITIES:

Approval of Meetings
to Attend

Member Thomas requested payment of the registration fee for the Federal Relations Network meeting in Washington D.C., on January 29, 2005.

Member Cederquist moved to approve Member Thomas' request to have her registration fee paid for the Federal Relations Network meeting; seconded by Member Clyde; motion carried.

Members Thomas, Clyde, Tannenbaum, Cederquist and President Eubanks requested approval to attend the CCBE Conference in Monterey, CA, March 2005. Member Cederquist moved to approve attendance to the CCBE Conference in Monterey, CA; seconded by Member Clyde; motion carried.

Approval of Travel
Expenses by Board
Members

Member Thomas moved to approve reimbursement of expenses to Member Tannenbaum for the CSBA Annual Education Conference in the amount of \$661.57; seconded by Member Cederquist; motion carried.

Committee
Appointments
Approved

President Eubanks requested the approval of the following committee appointments:

- A. ROP Advisory Board of Management Committee – Member Cederquist
- B. SARB – President Eubanks
- C. Trustees Association – Member Cederquist
- D. California County Board of Education Liaison – Member Thomas
- E. Fresno Chamber of Commerce – Member Thomas
- F. Facilities – Member Cederquist
- G. Board Project – All

Comments by
Board Members

Member Tannenbaum received a phone call from a concerned uncle in Fowler whose niece was expelled from a school in Fowler Unified. Member Tannenbaum explained the appeal process to him and referred him to the FCOE Legal department.

Member Clyde gave an update on the 2004 Board Project.

Member Thomas looks forward to working with Legislators on the NCLB benchmarks. CCBE will be lobbying for a more attainable goal for benchmarks.

Member Tannenbaum commended Superintendent Mehas for his most recent editorial recognizing the importance of special events. It was a great opportunity to applaud past sponsors of special events.

Receipt of
Correspondence

None.

MOVED TO:

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

On behalf of Superintendent Mehas, the following was reported:

- Running Horse Update: Jan Biggs, Senior Administrator to the Superintendent reported that the appeal was rescheduled to March 2005. The chief staff member at the State Board in charge of school district re-organization items informed Mr. Biggs that he had already made the recommendation to the Board to not even consider the appeal.
- Board/Cabinet Seminar: Armen Bacon, Senior Director to the Superintendent reported on the Board/Cabinet Seminar agenda. The Board was reassured they had time for questions.
- FUSD Update: Deputy Superintendent Pietro reported that the County Office currently has stay and rescind authority over financial matters. All hiring, spending, new agreements, etc. have to come to the County Office for approval.
- Briefing on Governor Schwarzenegger's Proposed Budget: Dr. Pietro reported that Governor Schwarzenegger has given some things and has taken some things away. For example, he is taking some STRS money that could cost FCOE approximately \$170,000.00; while on the other hand, he has given a good cola and a deficit reduction. The May revise will give us a better picture of the budget.

Deputy Superintendent Collins reported on the programmatic implications of a charter LEA.

RECESS

The board recessed at 4:20 p.m. and reconvened at 4:25 p.m.

Deputy Superintendent Pietro asked for the board to provide him with direction as to how the Charter Review Committee should proceed.

President Eubanks called a special meeting to discuss the concerns with the approval of the SLA charter. The meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, 2005, 3:00 p.m., room 301. Those required to attend are the County Board and the Charter Review Committee.

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

**FUTURE AGENDA
ITEMS**

Member Clyde requested future discussion on the funds available for future Board Projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Cederquist moved to adjourn meeting at 4:50 p.m.; seconded by Member Thomas; motion carried.

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