

**WHEATLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES**

**6.30 PM**

Thursday, September 9, 2009

District Office

**1.1 CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Ish Medina, Board President

**1.2 ROLL**

Present were Board Members: Ish Medina, Nicole Crabb, Denis O'Connor, Wayne Bishop

Sue Abe entered the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Major Julie Newlin– BAFB Liaison –was also present

Others present: Superintendent Debra Pearson, Angela Gouker, Jodie Jacklett, Tamara Johnson, Brenda Harter, Roger Abe, Patrick Matthews, Paula Lamb, Michele Delao, Tom Page, Kristen Newton, Roy Crabtree, Dean Avila, Gary Hawk, Leann Weldon, Cindi Pugh, Brandi Loutzenhiser, Cindy Hardee, Dr. Terri Cook, Shannon Nystrom, Alisa Bradbury, Amanda Thornton, Bridget Webb, Bill Elkins, and Connie Walczak.

**1.3 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDA –  
Action Item – 09/10-07**

It was MSC (O'Connor/Crabb) to approve this action item.

**1.4 CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2009 were approved as presented.

B. Approved the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of August 17, 2009

C. Approved the corrected Board Minutes of June 30, 2009

D. Approved Warrants

E. Personnel Items:

Be it resolved that the following personnel activities were approved:

**NEW HIRES**

Asher, Sharon	Preschool Asst/Teacher	3.75	08/13/09	Presch
Bailey, Teagan	Preschool Asst/Teacher	4	08/24/09	Presch
Chavez, Adela	Preschool Asst/Teacher	3.75	08/31/09	Presch
Clem, Gayla	Preschool Asst/Teacher	2.5	08/24/09	Presch
Hurtado, Jessica	Preschool Asst/Teacher	3.75	08/17/09	Presch
Keller, Sarah	Preschool Asst/Teacher	3.75	08/13/09	Presch
Martinez, Amanda	Preschool Asst/Teacher	3.75	09/03/09	Presch
Parades, Janet	Preschool Asst/Teacher	3.75	08/17/09	Presch

Sisk, Kathleen	Teacher		08/17/09	LT
Soska, Scarlett	Preschool Early Interven.	2.5	08/24/09	Presch
Steenberg, Nichole	Preschool Early Interven.	2.5	08/24/09	Presch
Thornton, Amanda	Preschool Early Interven.	2.5	08/04/09	Presch
Topete, Salvador	Custodian	8.0	08/12/09	LT

**SEPARATION FROM SERVICE**

Gomez, Manuel	Custodian		08/10/09	BR
Shuler, Rachel	Preschool Asst. Teacher		06/03/09	Presch

**PROMOTIONS**

Brown, Bobbie	Para Ed/Lifeskills	5.5	08/17/09	WE
Harris, Rosetta	Preschool Teacher	7.0	08/14/09	Presch
Price, Tonya	Preschool Asst. Teacher	3.75	08/10/09	Presch
Steinke, Gretchen	FRC-Event Facilitator	7.0	09/01/09	Grant
VanZandt, Marie	Admin Asst	6.25	09/01/09	Grant

### **3.0 INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **3.1 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Pearson stated that the AYP reports have been received, however the administrators are still going through them. She said that the Board will receive a report next month.

Ms. Pearson reported that the Impact Aid survey will be conducted on the same day as CBEDS. This is always the first Wednesday in October. Ms. Pearson stated that last year we pulled the information for Impact Aid in October and in December and it confirmed that the highest number of military related students is in October. Ms. Pearson said that she will be attending the NAFIS conference in Washington D.C. in October.

Ms. Pearson stated that the District's enrollment continues to decline:

Bear River	down 36 students
Lone Tree	down 9 students
Wheatland El	down 21 students

Mr. Bishop asked Ms. Pearson why there is a decline in the enrollment at Wheatland Elementary. He said that typically Wheatland Elementary does not see a decline. Ms. Pearson stated that she is not sure why there

is a decline. Mr. Bishop stated that he has received calls from parents regarding class sizes. He said that Ms. Pearson had assured the Board that

*Board Minutes  
September 9, 2009  
Page Three*

class sizes would top out at twenty six. Ms. Pearson stated that some class sizes are over the early estimation. She said that students have been transferred to Lone Tree to balance it. Wayne Bishop asked about adding Para Educators if needed. Ms. Pearson said that is a possibility. Sue Abe said that she is also receiving calls about class sizes. Ms. Abe said that she would like a printout of class sizes per class. Ms. Abe said that thirty two in a class is too many. She said that we were planning for twenty six and now have thirty two. Ms. Pearson stated that we have several options. She stated that some of those students are R.S.P. and are only in the classrooms partial days. Tami Johnson said that we could use ARRA funds to help with the staffing.

Ms. Pearson gave an update on Grant Services. The After School Program has been nominated as a “national model”. Cory O’Neal applied for and received the Mental Health Grant last year. The District has used part of those funds for Responsive Classroom Training. Cory O’Neal also oversees the Mentoring Grant. Ms. Pearson stated that Major Julie Newlin has secured twenty one mentors for the District. She said that Tammy Upton has added two full day preschools to her program. She also has four half day preschool programs.

Larry Allen has officially retired. Ms. Pearson stated that she has given the Board a copy of the redistribution of duties for the maintenance and bus drivers. Nikki Crabb asked Ms. Pearson why we do not have a crossing guard. Ms. Pearson stated that there are only three students crossing the highway.

Ms. Pearson introduced Cindi Pugh, the Vice Principal at Bear River/Wheatland Elementary. She also introduced Dr. Cook. She is the Beale Air Force Base Educational Service Representative.

### **3.2 ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Angela Gouker stated that the opening of school went very smooth. The staff was great. The community and parents really supported the schools. Ms. Gouker reported that they are preparing for Marilyn Bates. She said that Dean and Dino Webb moved the ball sheds for them. Mr. Roy Crabtree donated a lot of school supplies and backpacks for the students.

Ms. Gouker stated that “Back To School Night” was successful. She received a lot of great ideas from parents. Ms. Gouker said that Lynn Etzler is running the music program. Linda Sohrakoff will be returning to

*Board Minutes  
September 9, 2009  
Page Four*

organize the “Friday At The Flagpole”. Ms. Gouker reported that she has contacted Wheatland High School to set up an articulation meeting for transition of our students into high school.

Cindi Pugh thanked the Board and Ms. Pearson for the opportunity to work for the Wheatland School District. She said that she is very familiar with the K-8 situation. Ms. Pugh stated that she is working on the Safety Plan. She said that she has been on the “Perfect Attendance Patrol”. It will help to promote and maintain the ADA.

Jodie Jacklett reported that the parents have been wonderful about volunteering for various projects. Ms. Jacklett said that one parent is a “self appointed” crossing guard. The traffic flow is much better thanks to this parent. Russ Clark, the owner of the local Carl Jr’s brought backpacks to all of the 1<sup>st</sup> graders. “Back To School Night” went well. Ms. Jacklett reported that some of the staff will be attending a “Reni Planning” trip to Susie Lund’s cabins soon. Ms. Jacklett stated that Lynn Etzler is doing a great job with the music program. Ms. Jacklett stated that the Board is encouraged and welcome to visit their campus at anytime.

Patrick Matthews reported that Lone Tree School is up and running. The last of the computers will be set up this weekend at Bear River. Patrick stated that he has been working closely with Sherri Staas. He said that the teachers have been very cooperative and understanding during this process.

- 3.3** A Public Hearing was held on the Certification of Instructional Materials. There were no comments from the community.

#### **4.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Wayne Bishop stated that while this may not be a popular comment, he was under the impression that the use of consultants would be discontinued until the budget crisis turned around. Mr. Bishop said that he feels that by using them this year, that we are being dishonest. He stated that when the survey of the teachers was done last year on cost saving suggestions, that most said that the District should discontinue the use of the consultants. Ms. Pearson stated that consultants for the 2009/2010 school year have been cut back 60%. Mr. Bishop said that we need to

look at the money that we are spending on consultants. He asked if that money could be used for additional para educators to help with the large class sizes. Denis O'Connor said he remembers the discussions about cutting back on consultants.

*Board Minutes  
September 9, 2009  
Page Five*

Sue Abe stated that it is her understanding that consultants were going to be discontinued until finances improved. Angela Gouker reported that the District has cut back significantly on consultant costs. She said that Gail Elkins is no longer consulting with the District. The Administrators are doing the "Step Up To Writing". Leanne Weldon said that it was a general understanding that consultants were going to be cut. She said that everyone was shocked when they showed up on the first day and consultants were on the schedule for the days events. Michele Delao said that she was surprised when Marilyn Bates was there in light of all of the employees who have lost their jobs. Alisa Bradbury stated that she has tried not to say anything at the board meetings; however, she appreciates Mr. Bishop's perception that parents, staff, and the community all thought that the consultants were being eliminated. Ms. Bradbury said she has a video of several meetings and it specifically shows that the consultants were to be eliminated.

Mr. Bishop said that he did not think that consultants would be used this year. He said that he has heard a lot of good things about the consultants but, due to economic reasons, they were to be eliminated this year. Mr. Bishop wants an accounting of what we will be spending this year on consultants.

Sue Abe said that she came in after the approval of the Consent Agenda, but she has some changes in the minutes. She said that minutes were not taken at the June 30<sup>th</sup> Board Training. Ms. Abe said that the minutes for June 30<sup>th</sup> do not include that Mr. Sandrini said that there was friction between the Yuba County Treasurer and the bond company. Ms. Abe stated that she does not want Mr. Sandrini to do any more trainings or workshops. Ms. Abe said that Ms. Walczak was asked to leave and to lock the doors. Ms. Abe said that she should have spoken up at that time. Johnna Bartholomew asked if the Board training on June 30<sup>th</sup> was a closed session. Ms. Pearson said that it was not a closed session.

She said that the minutes are the Board's responsibility. Ms. Walczak was not at the meeting. Ms. Abe said that the discussion at the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting did not include the comments regarding the postmark on the board packets. Ms. Abe said that Mr. Boylan did not say that the Brown Act was being violated by discussing the Bond. Mr. Boylan stated that we were off track by discussing it.

Sue Abe asked Ish Medina and Ms. Pearson what was specifically done to notify the community about the meeting regarding the bond. Ms. Abe stated that

regarding the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>, she has grave concerns about the bond company promoting and having subsidiaries. She said it is clearly a conflict of interest. Ms. Abe said that it is skirting the legal requirements.

*Board Minutes  
September 9, 2009  
Page Six*

Wayne Bishop asked that all of the corrections to the minutes be typed in and highlighted.

Johnna Bartholomew stated that the history of the board is not to have minutes done verbatim. She said that there has always been a summary. Ms. Bartholomew asked if there was a new policy regarding the minutes at board meetings. Mr. Bishop stated that usually a summary of the minutes will suffice, but circumstances has required that detailed minutes be recorded for the past three or four months.

Ms. Pearson reported that she has been in contact with Marysville regarding the maintenance of the swimming pool. She said that the pool in Marysville is twenty five years old. She said that the estimated costs to maintain the pool is:

\$15,000	Chemicals	Yearly
\$650	Water	Monthly
\$2500	General Maintenance	Monthly

Ms. Pearson stated that she has contacted Sierra Self Insurance and that insurance rates for liability will not be increased for the swimming pool.

Ms. Pearson stated that the Board has three options:

1. The District can pay for a master plan. That is very expensive.
2. If we proceed, we would add a board member to the oversight committee.
3. Postpone the issuance of the bond and plans.

Ms. Pearson recommends that we add a board member to the oversight committee. She said that we need to decide what to do. She said that we need to set a time within the next year as to whether to assess the community.

Ms. Abe stated that she has a problem with the process. She said that during the past month she has been talking to Mr. Kennedy, Yuba County Treasurer. Ms. Abe said that she has a moral issue with all of this. She said that for the past month she has been requesting documents and talking to the Yuba County Treasurers Office. Ms. Abe said that the Board was notified about the last meeting on a Friday at 3PM for a meeting on Monday. She said that Mr. Isom put on a presentation. She said that Mr. Isom stated that he has no interest in seeing that the bonds are

sold. Ms. Abe said he does have an interest. He has a \$240,000 interest. She said that he is supposed to be impartial. Ms. Abe said that the financial advisors are prohibited by law to solicit the bond. Ms. Abe stated that Eighth Floor is a subsidiary of Dale Scott and Company.

*Board Minutes  
September 9, 2009  
Page Seven*

Ms. Abe reported that the Measure R Committee received funds for the campaign from:

De La Rosa	Bond Underwriter	\$4400
Jones Hall	Bond Council	\$3500
Eighth Floor	Survey	\$5085
Stafford Assoc.	Architect	\$500
Enita Elphinick	Wheatland Mayor	\$500
Kingsley	Attorney	\$400

Ms. Abe stated that only the donation by Enita Elphinick is local. She said all of the other donations are from people who will make a tremendous amount of money on this bond. She said she has a problem with this. Ms. Abe said that Wayne Bishop and herself has been trying to get information about all of this for over a year. Sue Abe stated that the Oversight Committee has been misrepresented also. She said that the Oversight Committee members have to complete the 700 conflict of interest form. They are supposed to be an impartial body that assures that the money is spent properly.

Wayne Bishop stated that this information is important. De La Rosa made the contribution to the Measure R election fund in March. A few months later we were told that it is better to do a private sale rather than a public sale. The underwriter contributed to the Measure R committee. Mr. Bishop stated that there are too many unknowns. It leaves us with a cloud of suspicion. Denis O'Connor said that right now we do not have any money on the tax rolls. Mr. O'Connor questioned whether or not we are locked in with De La Rosa. Ms. Abe said that under the Citizen Ethic Policy Statement is spells out ethical standards. She said that every month she pulls more skeletons out of the closet. Ms. Abe said that until all of this is cleared up, she wants nothing to do with this.

Denis O'Connor said that we do not have to move forward with De La Rosa. He said that the Board should be able to come to a consensus. Mr. O'Connor said that we need to come up with a plan. He said that he is a firm believer that the community overwhelmingly voted in Measure R. Ms. Abe said that even though she has uncovered a considerable amount of discrepancies, that she wants to hire someone to look into things. Wayne Bishop stated that we have approved contracts

with two people that is now in question. Mr. Bishop said that he shares Ms. Abe's concerns. Denis O'Connor said that if we signed contracts and committed ourselves to these companies that could present a problem.

*Board Minutes  
September 9, 2009  
Page Eight*

Johnna Bartholomew stated that there seems to be some confusion. She said that the campaign committee were the ones who worked the phones and walked door to door. She said that the Oversight Committee works under the Board to get the projects planned and completed. Ms. Bartholomew said that the community will benefit from all of the planned projects.

Sue Abe stated that his whole thing smells. She stated that she is not against the projects that were planned. Denis O'Connor stated that it appears that the advisor was not upfront about telling the Board that the Measure R campaign money came from locals. Ms. Pearson said that we could get an independent opinion outside the district. Sue Abe said that this does not pass her ethical values. She said that this is not okay. Ms. Abe said that we try to teach ethics, honesty and values. Ms. Abe said that she knows where she stands on this morally and ethically.

Wayne Bishop said that the issuance of the bonds needs to be tabled until we can do some research and find out some additional facts.

Sue Abe made a motion to postpone the bond at this time. She said that she wants to make sure that all five board members are present when this is discussed.

Shannon Nystrom asked who reviewed the contracts and who approved them. Wayne Bishop stated that he can not recall if the Board received that contract or not. Sue Abe reported that she has never seen it.

Kristen Newton stated that she is sorry that it was ever on the ballot. She said that Wheatland may look silly for not issuing the bonds and moving ahead with the proposed projects. Ms. Newton said that the when and if the projects are completed, it would make Wheatland a more attractive place to live.

Ms. Pearson said that if the Board gives a directive to get a legal opinion, she will follow through. Sue Abe said that it is important to have all of the ducks in a row before moving forward. She said that we need to get more definitive maintenance costs before moving forward. She said the we need to see who is going to contribute to those costs. Ms. Abe stated that she is not sure that we can get out of the contracts. She said that Marysville paid their financial advisor \$50,000 on a \$35 million bond. Ms. Abe reported that the Wheatland School District, under the current contract, will be paying \$75,000 for our bond. Mr. Bishop stated that he

was not aware that it would take twenty years to receive all of the money from the bonds.

Ms. Bartholomew stated that she has been to most of the meetings and it was discussed on several occasions that the cost was \$75,000. She said that the

*Board Minutes*

*September 9, 2009*

*Page Nine*

company has not been paid one cent. Ms. Bartholomew said that they have done all the work to get this bond passed, and we are now talking about ethics. Wayne Bishop said that the bond was approved by the Board on the assumption that the District would get \$5.7 million.

Ish Medina said that the District can get a legal opinion. Denis O'Connor said that Sue Abe must think that something illegal was done.

Kristen Newton asked to Board to continue to explore all possibilities to get the projects done that the voters approved. Paula Lamb stated that a lot of children in Wheatland play sports. She said that she hopes that the sports fields are completed. Ms. Lamb said that we should consider using the Wheatland Elementary School site as the library. She said it is on the highway and has easy access for the community. It could be modified without too much expense.

Debbie Pearson said that there is a plan. The money can only be spent on the specific projects that went out to the community prior to the election. Dean Avila said that the company that he works for would like to bid on some of the planned projects. Mr. Avila said that he has a lot of good resources and would be able to help with the plans.

Wayne Bishop said that he would like to see a number nailed down for the maintenance of these projects. He said that he would like to see where the money will come from for the ongoing maintenance and other costs. Roger Abe said that Mr. Crabtree asked him to express that all "ducks need to be in a row" before we proceed. Mr. Abe asked if any discussions have taken place with the City of Wheatland or Wheatland High School regarding shared maintenance and use. Mr. Abe stated that the cost will be huge. Mr. Abe suggested that we develop a plan and try to get out of the contracts. He said that we probably need a legal opinion. Sue Abe said that we need to get someone that we trust. Ms. Bartholomew said that the District made a contract with someone who stated the costs all along. She said that they have already done work. Wayne Bishop stated that we agreed to pay him that amount on a \$5.7 million bond. Mr. Bishop said that this is all of the information that we had. Mr. Bishop said that he is either very bad at his job or he lied to the Board. Mr. Bishop said that he would like to suggest that he just is not very good at his job.

Sue Abe stated that she wants to make a motion that five board members must be present when the bond is discussed and moved upon. Also, Ms. Abe was a minimum of a ten (10) day notice of any meeting to discuss the bond. Wayne Bishop seconded that motion. (Action Item – 09/10-10). Ish Medina said that he did not agree with that. He has no problem with a shorter notice of a meeting.

*Board Minutes  
September 9, 2009  
Page Ten*

Wayne Bishop gave some directives to the Superintendent. He would like costs of maintenance, operations, and construction of the proposed projects. Mr. Bishop would like a list of those who would contribute and the amount that they are willing to commit to. He would like to know if a pool can be built for \$1.6 million. Mr. Bishop said that he would like to know if we can get out of the contracts that have been signed.

Wayne Bishop made a motion to table the issuance of the bond and to reverse the action that was taken in June to move forward. He said that no bonds will be issued until further action is taken by the board.  
Sue Abe seconded that motion.

Ish Medina said that as soon as we get more information that we could act on it. Wayne Bishop said that there is no specific timeframe. Ish Medina said that we should have a timeframe. Mr. Bishop said that he would like to see some information from Dean Avila.

Sue Abe said that she feels that the Yuba County Treasurer's Office should sit in on the interviews for a new financial advisor.

Sue Abe said that she would like to record our meetings. Ish Medina said that she needs to bring it up at our next meeting.

Mr. Bishop directed a comment to Alisa Bradbury. Mr. Bishop told Ms. Bradford that she should never apologize for being passionate about her children's education. He said that everyone has been part of the audience at one time attending a meeting because they wanted to be informed. Mr. Bishop stated that he is glad to have Ms. Bradbury at the meetings and that she should speak up anytime.

## **5.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **5.1 ADOPTED THE 2008-2009 UNAUDITED ACTUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND THE BUDGET REVISIONS FOR 08/09 CONTAINED THEREIN – Action – 09/10-08**

It was MSCU (Bishop-Crabb) to approve this Action Item.  
Tami Johnson presented a PowerPoint presentation of the 08-09 Unaudited Actuals beginning with an update on the ARRA (American

Recovery & Reinvestment Act) Stimulus dollars. She discussed with the Board the three main sources of these funds along with the restrictions and reporting requirements. Ms. Johnson presented the proposed budget revisions for the ARRA funds, stating that she wanted

*Board Minutes  
September 9, 2009  
Page Ten*

to do these revisions early (prior to First Interim) to make sure that we were covered for the new Federal requirements.

She went through a detailed slide presentation on the 08-09 Revenues and Expenditures for the Unaudited Actuals explaining each line item on the SACS financial reports. Ms. Johnson also explained that the positive increase in the fund balance of \$460,827.08 was due to a distortion caused by receiving the one-time ARRA funds of \$606,979.00 which were booked as a restricted ending fund balance instead of the normal Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) of deferring these dollars into 09-10. She informed the Board of the possibility of an audit adjustment due to the irregular accounting required by the State and cautioned that these were one-time restricted funds. Ms. Johnson continued with a reconciliation between the 08-09 Estimated Actuals (June 2009) versus the 08-09 Unaudited Actuals (September 2009) explaining that the difference between the two reports was due to the following changes since June: ARRA Funds \$606,979.00, School Site Carryovers \$101,514.54, Additional Restricted Carryovers \$642,083.20, and Miscellaneous Adjustments of \$37,305.83.

**5.2 ADOPTED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE FUNDING FOR PUPIL TEXTBOOK AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS – Resolution – 09/10-01**

It was MSCU (Crabb-O'Connor) to approve this resolution. Ms. Pearson stated that this does not budget for or allow for any new textbook adoptions.

**5.3 APPROVED THE BUDGET REVISIONS FOR THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT FUNDS – Action Item 09/10-09**

It was MSCU (O'Connor-Crabb) to approve this Action Item

**5.4 APPROVED TO TABLE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS UNTIL FURTHER ACTION IS TAKEN BY THE WHEATLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES. ALL MEETINGS REGARDING THE BOND WILL BE SCHEDULED WITH A TEN (10) DAY NOTICE - Action Item- 09/10-10**

It was MSCU (Bishop-Abe) to approve this Action Item.

*Board Minutes  
September 9, 2009  
Page Eleven*

**6.0 CLOSED SESSION**  
**No action was taken in closed session**

**7.0 RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**8.0 ADJOURNMENT**  
The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra Pearson  
Superintendent  
Wheatland School District