

**TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

The Tulare County Board of Education met on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. for a regular board meeting in the Redwood CDEF meeting room at the Jim Vidak Education Center, 6200 S. Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, California.

PRESENT Board Members Joe Enea, President
Debby Holguin, Vice President
Judy Coble
Tom Link
Celia Maldonado-Arroyo
Chris Reed
Tony Rodriguez
Tim A. Hire, Ex-Officio Secretary

PRESENT Staff Members Julie Berk, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services
Marlene Moreno, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Rob Herman, Communications Director
Jennifer Fisher, Administrative Secretary
Jeff Ramsay, Director, General Services
Sam Tate, Administrator, Educational Resource Services
Jose Bedolla, Principal, La Sierra Military Academy
John Davis, Administrator, Leadership Support Services
Jody Arriaga, Director, Internal Business Services
Nani Dodson, Interim Administrator, CFNLP
Joe Andrade, Principal, Court/Community Schools
Sarah Hamilton, Administrator II, Special Services
Helen Milliorn-Feller, Interim Principal, UPHS
Gilbert Hernandez, Director, Information Systems
Jack Schreuder, Director, Operational Services
Dedi Somavia, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Amanda Richard, Administrator II, Human Resources

GUESTS Guests as listed in the register including Hugo Luna and Joshua Whiteside.

CALL TO ORDER Board President Joe Enea welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.
Pledge of Allegiance/ Debby Holguin led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Welcome

ADA Mr. Enea announced that ADA accommodations had been met.
ACCOMMODATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Fernie Marroquin introduced Gilbert Hernandez, who is replacing Bruce Storer as Director of Information Systems. Mr. Storer retired in December. Gilbert has been with TCOE for more than 27 years.

Jeff Ramsay introduced Jack Schreuder, who has 26 years with facilities and maintenance departments at various school sites.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Reed, seconded by Coble to approve the consent calendar to include minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of December 13, 2023, Countywide Registration of Credentials, Temporary County Certificates, Emergency Permits, and listed donations. Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

**RED RIBBON
DONATION TO BOYS
& GIRLS CLUBS OF
THE SEQUOIAS**

Jennifer Fisher asked for the Board’s approval to donate the 2023 TCOE Red Ribbon proceeds of \$6,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias. It was moved by Maldonado-Arroyo, seconded by Holguin to approve the donation to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias. Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

President Enea and Superintendent Hire thanked Jennifer and the Red Ribbon committee for their hard work in raising a record amount.

**GRANT AGREEMENT
FOR THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA, OFFICE
OF TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Nani Dodson requested the Board to approve a grant agreement with the State of California with the Office of Traffic Safety for federal funds allocated not to exceed \$280,000. This youth driven project will engage and develop youth leaders in positive social norms and merchant education campaigns to reduce alcohol access to minors and shift social norms of underage drinking behaviors. It was moved by Link, seconded by Maldonado-Arroyo to approve the grant agreement for the Office of Traffic Safety. Motion unanimously carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

**2022-2023 SCHOOL
ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT CARD
(SARC) FOR COURT
SCHOOLS**

John Davis reported that all schools are required to publish a School Accountability Report Card (SARC) by February 1. The SARC contains information for the public regarding the condition and performance of the school. The data reported in the LCAP is required to be consistent with the data in the SARC. Because data has been delayed from the state, the SARC appears to be incomplete. CDE suggested approving the SARC with all of the available data in order to meet the February 1, legal requirement, date. The approved SARC will be posted on the TCOE website for the public and updated once the rest of the data is released. Joe Andrade advised the board that staffing is adequate at this time for their 49 students. Building trades class is very

popular with the students. Parents are fully engaged. Their chronic absenteeism also improved last year. Four students graduated last year even though the data shows “0” graduated. He asked for the Board’s approval of the Court Schools SARC. The board expressed concern about approving the SARC with incomplete data. After discussion, it was moved by Coble, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the Court Schools SARC. Motion carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

2022-2023 SCHOOL
ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT CARD
(SARC) FOR TCOE
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS

Joe Andrade presented the community school SARC. As of this date, they have 10 students. This year, they have two teachers, a reduction from last year. Regarding the facility, he advised that they had two new AC units installed. Their building trades class is very popular with the students. They’ve helped build planter boxes to grow green houses. Their student café continues to thrive. Chronic absenteeism is now 66% down from 90%. The suspension rate is down from 18.75% to 16.67%.

There is a small support program on campus which encourages students to come to school. Mrs. Coble asked if students graduate from the community school. Joe answered that these students do not graduate because of the time that they are at the community school. Mrs. Holguin asked Mr. Andrade if he thinks the café has motivated the student to come to school. He believes that it does motivate them to attend school more regularly. Café hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Joe will email the board the café’s address. It was moved by Maldonado-Arroyo, seconded by Reed to approve the 2022-2023 Community Schools SARC report. Motion carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

2022-2023 SCHOOL
ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT CARD
(SARC) FOR SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Sarah Hamilton asked for the Board’s approval, for Special Education SARC. Student enrollment is currently 337 which includes grade 12 (also 17- to 22-year-old students). They used a modified curriculum for Special Education data. Some findings were reported at Yetteem school. However, all have been resolved. We have a much higher absenteeism rate, especially since Covid. Sarah said the dropout rate lists 43.9%. This is an incorrect number. They have a 94% graduation rate. The support staff, (students) in the grid on page 17, reflect all personnel in Special Services.

John conveyed that Mr. Hire was very clear that accurate data is needed. But we are at the mercy of CDE. CDE asked that we update the Board as we get our updates from them.

Tim informed Mr. Rodriguez that he wrote a letter a year ago with the inaccuracy and incompleteness of data that we had to work with. We still need some time to double-check the data before it gets placed on our website. We

will send it to the Board before it gets placed on the website. Maldonado-Arroyo asked for minutes to reflect discussion took place of the inaccuracy of the report. The Board wants the public to know that they have paid attention to the inaccurate data information. It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by Link to approve the Special Education SARC report. Motion carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

2022-2023 SCHOOL
ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT CARD
(SARC) FOR LA
SIERRA MILITARY
ACADEMY (LSMA)

Jose Bedolla reported on the La Sierra Military Academy SARC. This past year, we offered credit recovery course options for students to take during the school day and/or after school. For the 2021-2022 school year, La Sierra had a graduation rate of 87%. In the 2022–2023 school year, La Sierra’s graduation rate increased to 97%. One area of improvement that LSMA is continuing to work on is the development of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Jose thanked his staff for this past year’s success and is looking forward to more growth during the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Reed asked if LSMA has social workers, nurses and/or psychologists as part of their staff. Mr. Bedolla said that La Sierra does not have a social worker. But they do have a part-time school psychologist, school nurse, and a full-time counselor. It was moved by Maldonado-Arroyo, seconded by Coble to approve the LSMA SARC report. Motion carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

2022-2023 SCHOOL
ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT CARD
(SARC) FOR
UNIVERSITY
PREPARATORY HIGH
SCHOOL (UPHS)

Helen Milliorn-Feller requested the board approve the SARC report for UPHS. Celebration—Four percent of their students met or exceeded the ELA standard. Helen gave a shout out to English teachers which reflect on the ELA scores. They have 62% of the students who meet or exceed the Math standards. Students are doing quite well. They have multiple opportunities to show that they have mastered the different math concepts. There is always room for improvement. Staff are really dedicated to teaching the kids and making sure that they understand everything they are being taught.

Ms. Milliorn-Feller pointed out that the data showed they had 63% of graduated students who were qualified to have eligible entry into a UC or CSU. Every student met all requirements last year. All were eligible for entry into a UC or CSU. Going forward, UPHS wants all their students achieving at levels that are expected of them. Data showing the 11.3% dropout rate is not accurate. No students have dropped out. In fact, they have a 100% graduation rate. Some students receive their COS graduation status before they graduate from UPHS. Motion moved by Holguin, seconded by Maldonado-Arroyo to approve the UPHS SARC report. Motion carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

2022-2023 ANNUAL
AUDIT FOR TULARE
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION (TCOE)

Jody Arriaga introduced Hugo Luna from Christy White & Associates. Mr. Luna reported that an unmodified opinion was issued on TCOE's financial statements, which is the best opinion that can be given by an auditor. There were no significant deficiencies to report. Long term entries and journal entries were reviewed. There were no material weaknesses to report. \$92.7 million was spent in federal funds. The three programs that were looked at in detail were: ESSER, CFNLF and Head Start.

Mr. Luna complimented Jody, Dr. Marroquin and their team for gathering all of the documents needed for the audit. Everything was in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. There were no findings. It was moved by Link, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the 2022-2023 audit for TCOE. Motion carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, Reed, and Rodriguez.

Mr. Enea thanked Mr. Luna for his report. He and Mr. Hire also thanked Jody, Dr. Marroquin, and their staff for their time and effort in working with Mr. Luna.

Mr. Enea requested that the minutes reflect that board member Reed had to leave the board meeting early. She left at 3:45 p.m.

RESOLUTION 23/24-08
ADOPT PROCEDURES
AND GUIDELINES
FOR SELECTION OF
LEASE-LEASEBACK
CONTRACTOR

Jeff Ramsay asked for approval on resolution 23/24-08, lease-leaseback contractor. This allows us to bring a contractor on early in the project, maybe by this spring. It will allow them to do preliminary estimates to help us better monitor our budget. Joe asked if we are selecting a contractor before we know what the cost will be. Mr. Ramsay confirmed that is what we will be doing. Once we adopt a resolution, we can request proposals from various contractors, via an open solicitation. We can then review the proposals and have the option to shortlist and interview several contractors to determine who will be the best contractor qualified to do this project. It was moved by Maldonado-Arroyo, seconded by Coble to approve Resolution 23/24-08, adopt procedures and guidelines for selection of a lease-leaseback contractor. Motion carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, and Rodriguez. Board member Reed was absent.

AUTHORIZATION TO
SEEK BIDS FOR
LEASE-LEASEBACK
CONTRACT FOR NEW
ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING PROJECT

Jeff Ramsay asked for approval for authorization to seek bids for a lease-leaseback contract for the new administration building. Maldonado-Arroyo asked what kind of timeline we had for the RFP. Mr. Ramsay said approximately 30-45 days is the timeline they were looking at. He went on to say that the entire process could take about two to two and a half months. Mr. Enea asked if construction costs are increasing or decreasing. Jeff said construction costs are slowing down some. It's hard to predict. However, bringing on a contractor early can help with trying to have a better prediction. It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by Maldonado-Arroyo to approve

authorization to seek bids for lease-leaseback contract for the new administration building project. Motion carried with the following votes: Ayes: Coble, Enea, Holguin, Link, Maldonado-Arroyo, and Rodriguez. Board member Reed was absent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Hire wished everyone a Happy New Year. Student Future Ready Events will keep us busy this spring.

We have closed escrow on 24 acres to the east of us. We are talking to City of Visalia to annex that portion of the 24 acres. We continue to talk to the Pipeline Church, south of us, about selling a portion of the property to them. Jeff Ramsay, Bethany Radar, and Mr. Hire spent time talking about the new theater that is going to be built on 30 acres at the Liberty site. They have been visiting several theaters to gain a better understanding of what they want in our theater.

Mock trial, Academic Decathlon will begin this month. Poetry Outloud is on February 2. National History Day is on February 8.

Next week on Thursday, January 18, is the District Leadership Institute. There will be timely breakouts, dinner, and a CSBA PACER keynote speaker lined up for the evening.

Tim complimented Bethany and her staff on the *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Jr.* production this past December. He had asked Bethany, two years ago, to scale back on large productions and focus more on "On-stage", two-week performances. Due to its popularity, we are unable to fill all the requests from the schools. We are in every school at VUSD. Mrs. Holguin said these productions are really nicely done in the two weeks span they are given. Our kids get exposed to performing arts. Students who performed in major productions are people we are now hiring to help with the on-stage training.

The new theater may allow a festival to be on a Saturday for students to perform all day. The theater size they are considering will seat about 500-550 people. COS theater seating is about 400. We looked at the MET (Mercedes Edwards Theater) in Clovis. The seating capacity there is 650. Mr. Enea applauded all the players involved with all the theater successes. Mr. Link conveyed to the Board that the *Sound of Music* will be performed by Green Acres Middle School students beginning February 8.

Maldonado-Arroyo commended Mr. Hire on the effort of wanting and having more students experience the theater programs. Mr. Rodriguez said that the Arts are so valuable for kids. Bethany said it has the most diverse group of kids she has had from around the county.

Today at the State Capitol, the bill Mr. Hire helped write describing ActVnet is being heard in the Assembly Education Sub Committee. We anticipate that it will be passed.

Mr. Link asked if we have any other out-of-state clients. Superintendent Hire said we do not have any right now. Michigan, Texas, and New Mexico are interested. We will be hiring more graphic artists to prepare for a possible increase in school districts.

We have done other trainings or presentations with other districts in our county and outside of our county. The link with Aeries to ActVnet was being tested over the Christmas break. It is ready, Tulare City Schools said they will come back in as well as a few other large districts.

VUSD is not coming in yet. We are thinking about doing a pilot program with Goshen Elementary.

NEXT SCHEDULED
MEETING

February 14, 2024, 3:00 p.m., Rooms CDEF

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.