TULARE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON
SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES

The Tulare County Committee on School District Organization met and held a Special Meeting and Public
Hearing on March 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Citrus South Tule School District in Room 2, 31374 Success Valley
Drive, Porterville, California.
The County Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joe Hallmeyer at 6:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT  Carl Carlson, Rick Chappell, Joe Hallmeyer, Mickey Hirni, Melissa Janes, Bob
Line, Bob Pugh, Helen Renteria

MEMBERS ABSENT  John Beck, Mary Helen Espino, and Victor Pérez

COUNTY STAFF  John Caudle, Deputy Superintendent; Marlene Moreno, Administrative
Assistant to the Superintendent, and Shelly DiCenzo, Administrative Legal
Assistant

OTHER GUESTS  Harold Wood, Chief Deputy County Counsel and Stephanie Smittle, Deputy
County Counsel
Board members: Susan Qualseth and Jane Dignam (Citrus South Tule School
District), Sharon Gill (Porterville Unified School District)
Dave Hutchingson, Superintendent, and Denise Young, Executive Secretary,
Citrus South Tule School District
Nate Nelson, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Technology,
Porterville Unified School District
Other guests in attendance are listed on the sign-in sheet.

DISABILITY-RELATED
MODIFICATION OR
ACCOMMODATION

ADA accommodations have been met

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public did not address the Committee on any agenda item, or
other item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the committee
during the public comment period.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Bob Line, seconded by Melissa Janes and carried
unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2014 organizational
meeting as written.
Vote: Aye – Carlson, Chappell, Hallmeyer, Hirni, Janes, Line, Pugh, and
Renteria; No – None; Absent – Beck, Espino and Pérez

REVIEW INFORMATION
IN SUPPORT OF THE
LAP SATION OF CITRUS
SOUTH TULE SCHOOL
DISTRICT INTO
PORTERVILLE UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Harold Wood provided an overview of the history and process for the lapsation
of Citrus South Tule School District into Porterville Unified School District.
Mr. Wood explained that a lapsation is a form of reorganization provided for in
the California Education Code. In this particular instance, financial issues are
the ongoing concern as well as student enrollment (only one student lives in the
boundaries of Citrus South Tule and the remaining 27 students are on
Interdistrict Attendance Agreements from Porterville Unified). Due to these
concerns, Citrus South Tule School District requested assistance from the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) and the California Department of Education (CDE). CDE recommended simplifying the process and both school district governing boards passed resolutions requesting the lapse and submitted requests to the State Board of Education for waivers of specific Education Code requirements in order to streamline the lapse process.

Mr. Wood explained that the County Committee’s role in this process is very narrowly defined – hold the public hearing to take public input and order the territory annexed to be effective July 1, 2015.

At 6:47 p.m. the Public Hearing was opened to take public comment.

Nate Nelson addressed concerns raised by several guests. Mr. Nelson stated that Porterville Unified School District recognizes that Citrus South Tule is a special place and the intent is to maintain the site. The staff from Citrus South Tule will be employed by Porterville Unified and Porterville Unified will continue to leverage its resources (trainings, wireless technology, etc) for Citrus South Tule. Other options will be explored such as modifying grade levels served. The students will likely attend Vandelia, Sante Fe or any number of other sites within Porterville Unified if the school closes. A Citrus South Tule board member requested to be notified when Porterville Unified will be making decisions about their students and site so the current board can attend and have input. She said the community wants the school to stay open. The community of Citrus South Tule is concerned about the legacy and retaining the historical value of the school site – the original schoolhouse still stands on the site.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:54 p.m.

A motion was made by Rick Chappell, seconded by Mickey Hirni and carried unanimously to approve the lapse of Citrus South Tule School District into Porterville Unified School District as stated in the Order of Lapse (County Committee Resolution No. 2015-1)

Vote: Aye – Carlson, Chappell, Hallmeyer, Hirni, Janes, Line, Pugh, and Renteria; No – None; Absent – Beck, Espino and Pérez

Mr. Vidak announced that this is Harold Wood’s last meeting with the County Committee as he will be retiring as of Friday. Mr. Vidak and the committee expressed their thanks for Mr. Wood’s service.

As there was no further business, Chairman Hallmeyer adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Vidak, Ex-Officio Secretary
County Committee on School District Organization