

Wasco Union High School District
Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting
Boardroom Room 2 Science
August 13, 2009
6:00 p.m.
Adopted Minutes

I. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Wasco Union High School Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Boardroom by President Jesse Acebedo.

Board Members Present

Mr. Jesse Acebedo, President
Mr. Wayne Wallace, Clerk

Mr. Barry Braun
Mr. Tim Holtermann

Mr. Craig Fulwyler arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Administrators Present

Mrs. Elizabeth McCray
Mrs. Lori Albrecht
Mr. Joseph Elwood
Mr. Rob Cobb

Mr. Martin Lonza
Mr. Raul Rangel
Mrs. Pat Rissi

Classified Management Present

Mr. Joe Salazar
Mr. John Yanez

Secretary Present

Mrs. Gracie Saldaña

Visitors

Mr. Danny Brown, Nallely Casillas, Mr. Walt Desatoff, Samantha Dominguez, Vanessa Gardea, Mayra Gomez, Mr. Jon Isom, Kenny Meacham, Hailey Mehlberg, Ana Orozco, Mrs. Denise Ortiz, Mr. Jose Rios, Mr. Frank Russell, Samantha Saldaña, Eric Sanchez, Chandler Snow, Ileana Soto, Mr. Steven Warren

Flag Salute

The flag was saluted.

II. Adopt Agenda

It was moved by Braun and seconded by Wallace to adopt the amended agenda as presented. Motion carried. Ayes: 4; Noes: 0; Absent: 1.

III. Public Comment

No Public Comment

IV. Executive Session

The meeting convened in executive session at 6:04 p.m.

Regular Session

The meeting reconvened in regular session at 7:05 p.m.

Announcement of Executive Session Actions

None

V. Reading and Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Braun and seconded by Wallace to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 9, 2009. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

VI. Public Comments

Mr. Steven Warren from Assemblyman Danny Gilmore's Office invited the Board Members and everyone in attendance to the Back to School - Stuff the Bus Event on Friday, 8/14/09 between 10 AM to 7 PM at the KMart Parking Lot. The event is to collect items (school supplies) for kids in the community; we will be literally stuffing a bus. Also on August the 21st, they will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting in Wasco at the Veteran's Hall from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. The purpose for the Town Hall is to inform the community of the Budget, what was passed, what money is coming to Wasco and what programs are coming to Wasco. The local panel will consist of a State Official, Assemblyman Danny Gilmore and Local Officials' such as Dr. Paul Chounet, Superintendent from the Elementary District, Mr. Armendariz from the (Sheriff's) Sub Station and a host of others. Mrs. McCray called to the attention of the Board the invitation included in the packet.

Mr. Danny Brown, Economic Development Coordinator from the City of Wasco, extended an invitation to the Board Members and Administration on behalf of the City of Wasco Mayor and City Council to the Highway 46 Dedication Ceremony in the Name of Medal of Honor Recipient, Staff Sergeant Larry S. Pierce who was killed in action in Vietnam. He is the only recipient of the Medal of Honor from Kern County. Mr. Pierce lived in Wasco and owned property here in Wasco at the time of his death. Dignitaries from around the country will be in attendance. This event could be a potential government teaching event for your High School Students.

Mr. Frank Russell, a teacher from Wasco High School addressed the board regarding the conservation of energy. The Superintendent and Administration have made some changes resulting in the cut back on number of classroom refrigerators. In our department it was cut back to two very small refrigerators and quite honestly it is not adequate to hold our lunches, water or whatever else we want to keep chilled during the day. I use my refrigerator and I am there for my kids. I don't leave during lunch time and I am there before school. My refrigerator kind of becomes my home away from home. I would ask of the Board to consider having a policy drafted that would allow teachers who want to pay for the privilege of having their refrigerator in their classroom to be able to do so. I have approached the Superintendent and Mr. Elwood and I am willing to pay \$100 per year for this privilege. It is that valuable to me. The going rate, I checked it out at Kmart, is \$17 per year according to the yellow tag. I would like the Board to consider that, if at all possible, and draft such a policy that we might be able to put in place. I know I am not the only teacher who is concerned about this and would be willing to take advantage of it. Again we understand the need to cut back and save as much money as we possibly can and we feel this would serve both our interests.

VII. Items From Board Members

Mr. Wayne Wallace asked Mr. Lonza what are the four pilasters that are in front of the Tennis Court. He replied there is an entry there.

Mr. Jesse Acebedo shared that he took a tour of the Sports Complex a week ago, it was totally impressive. Once that thing is finished it is going to be the top sports complex in Kern County. It was amazing, a great tour.

VIII. Reports

1. Ileana Soto, Student Board Representative introduced the 2009-2010 ASB Officers; Eric Sanchez-President, Chandler Snow-Vice President, Kenny Meacham-Treasurer, Mayra Gomez-Secretary, Hailey Mehlberg-Social Chair, Ana Orozco-Publicity Manager, Ileana Soto-Board Representative, Nallely Casillas-Yearbook Representative, Samantha Saldaña-Spirit Commissioner, Vanessa Gardea and Samantha Dominguez-Cheer Representatives. She reported the Freshmen Orientation that was held on July 31st was a success. The Link Crew & Freshmen Dance is going to be on August 28, 2009. Campaigning for Class Officers starts next week and the forum will be on August 28, 2009.
2. Mr. Fulwyler had no report for NKVTC. NKVTC Board Meeting was not held last month.
3. Mrs. McCray shared with the Board in the State of California education took the biggest cut of over 48%. The Back to School Breakfast was wonderful and the kick off of "Raising Expectations...Broadening Horizons" video was a perfect tool to set the tone for the new school year. She introduced Mr. Joe Elwood and Mr. Martin Lonza to share with the Board the overview of the start of school.

Mr. Elwood shared with the Board the summer was busy with the DSLT-District Site Leadership Team. DSLT consists of teachers and administrators who worked together during the summer to get ready for some programs we want to start this year in the classroom. At the same time we had people working on the Link Crew, which is the orientation we do for the Freshmen Training. We also had 35 of our staff go to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools for 5 days, hands on training in English Language Professional Development. This is one of the best things we have ever done. As far as getting the staff excited and getting them focused on what we need to teach and how we reach students. This was a fantastic start to the year. Link Crew started and we had over 300 freshmen students in attendance. These freshmen got to meet the Advisors and tour the High School Campus. This made for a really good start this year and any one on campus would tell you this was the less disruptive and smoothest start we have ever had. Registration went really well. Mr. Elwood commended Mrs. Pat Rissi for her hard work. We were also able to get all the text books out in the first week, so we get the students in the classroom early and start teaching. We hired three new fantastic teachers, two of the math teachers are both Wasco High Graduates. This speaks volumes to the students when they see alumni come back to be teachers. This is my fifth year and I don't think we have ever had a year where we are so focused on where we want to go, as we are this year. Our whole staff is on line and charging forward. We are going to have a great year and I expect to see scores going up, students learning and I am excited to be part of it.

Mr. Lonza agreed with Mr. Elwood that the start of the school year has been excellent. We have seen, at both schools, a positive change take place. The Professional Learning Community is no longer a phrase or concept, I believe, is truly becoming a reality. We seem to be addressing things in a different manner. I have been impressed with the staff at both schools as far as being professional and moving forward with gusto. The EL training over the summer was instrumental to us. I think the presentation made at the second day of school which Mr. Russell lead was indicative of what was happening with the teachers coming out and presenting what they had learned as far as techniques and that really drew the staff into it because it was not us (administration) presenting it, it was the teachers. People stepping up to the plate and becoming part of it and I think many are going to be commended for their actions. On a smaller scale, at

Independence High the teachers are equating the EL Training to another milestone/stepping stone to the redefinition of the next level is coming and we are taking another step in a positive direction toward a land mark year as far as change. I trust we will be able to continue that through out the year and move positively into the future. We are off to a good start.

Mrs. McCray shared that she truly believes the start of school is indicative of our exceptional site leadership; Mr. Lonza and Mr. Elwood with their teams have done a fabulous job in getting it started. Also both campus and all of the district facilities look fantastic thanks to Mr. John Yanez and his team. All of the new technology is in place, up and operable thanks to Mr. Joe Salazar and his team. I use the word “team” because that is exactly what it has been. Everybody has worked diligently together to have everything ready for the start of school. We have had a great first week, it has been very smooth and the tone has been very positive. We know that there will be challenges ahead for us this year with many of the budget issues that we have. The challenges will continue for a few years until it settles down or revenue picks up in the State of California. We have worked closely with Mr. Jose Rios and the classified staff and Mrs. Sandy Fisher with the certificated staff to understand what our challenges are and what we are faced with. We have had great cooperation and that is very important for us to all work together in the best interest of our students. We are here to do what is best for the students that come to us and we touch their lives each and every day and I want to make sure that we all help to provide the best possible education for every student who enters the doors of our schools.

Mrs. McCray reported on enrollment. She stated last year’s enrollment for the district was 1765 with 1589 students at Wasco High and 176 students at Independence High. As of today we have 1773 students in the district with 1622 students at Wasco High and 151 students at Independence High. So a little bit of an increase but we did do the drops yesterday and we will continue to keep a watch on enrollment as we progress through this month. We started to increase at the end of the first week last year. We were expecting to have 445 freshmen, which is less than what we had last year. We will also be tracking the no shows to keep a record of the movement within the District. The new classrooms opened and they look great. All three of the new wings are completed. We will be planting some trees to get some shade out there. The Sport Complex is moving along nicely. They have been working on Palm Avenue and the in street lighting. Mrs. McCray expressed her appreciation to City of Wasco and the City Representative in attendance for allowing the closing of Palm Avenue from Fifth Street to Seventh Street during the construction. Upon the completion, there will be lights in the street and flashers as the students cross the street at two cross walks in the middle of Palm Avenue.

Mrs. McCray commended the community of Wasco for their support, being able to construct three wings of classrooms and the sports complex, is fantastic. We would not have been able to do any of this with out the support of the Community in passing the Bond and the support of the staff in working with us along with Jon and Greg Isom and the Dale Scott Team. I have had community members call me if they see a gate left open or they are concerned about what is going on. They watch what is going on, they ask questions about “what is that big building in the corner”. I understand the Board gets frustrated sometimes with us as we bring the Change Orders but what is more impressive is not what was missed, or the small things that may have been missed or the small things that may have been wrong. But to think about the complexity of three full wings of classrooms and a sports complex, the way that it is developing, how few things have gone wrong and how many things have gone right. But even more

importantly than that, we have not received one complaint from any member of the community about our building projects. That tells me something about the Wasco Community and the support that this community has for Wasco High School District. We are very pleased that they are with us, that they are behind us, they are watching us and they are excited to see this happening. The Sport Complex, as Mr. Jesse Acebedo mentioned earlier, is going to be quite a boon to the community of Wasco. The projects look great. Mrs. McCray commended Mr. Lonza for overseeing all those projects and commended Mr. Elwood for his involvement in determining all of the things that go in the classroom and collecting of the staff input. It has been quite a journey. I know we are all looking forward to first time the lights go on out there and we can watch the kids compete. We have some of our senior softball girls sitting here tonight and I always feel badly when I talk to them because four years ago we were telling them “We are going to have a Sport Complex”. Well, we haven’t made it, yet, but hopefully the grass will grow and we will be able to have one game on the field this year. I am optimistic. Mrs. McCray thanked everyone for a great new year and the community of Wasco for the support for this District. Thank you to all of our Board Members because you had the vision and gave us the support and guidance to go forward and make this all happen for our kids.

Mr. Jesse Acebedo asked Mr. Lonza if we were on schedule with the Sport Complex. Mr. Lonza replied, yes actually maybe even ahead. Fences are going up right now. We are down to the small stuff. Pumps should be here within two days. Water will start going in there along with sprinkler heads. They are getting close. A lot of things are popping right now. The question is when we can get the grass planted, that is the question as far as use of the fields goes. It is moving along pretty good.

Mr. Barry Braun asked what is the status on the Wasco High School fence. Mrs. McCray replied that the mandatory walk was done yesterday. We anticipate six potential bidders. It closes on the 19th of August, so we will know more at that time.

Mr. Wayne Wallace asked if we were going to have one Wasco High sign on the Sport Complex. Mr. Lonza replied, yes that is the main/grand entrance of the Complex.

IX. Discussion and Action

1. It was moved by Braun and seconded by Wallace to approve the following personnel items. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
 - a. Accept Letter of Resignation from Kaylene Fraley, Classified Staff Member
 - b. Approve Coral Ceiley-Jackson as Adult Education Teacher for 2009-10 School Year
 - c. Approve Sandra Fisher as 2009-10 Counselor Department Chair
 - d. Approve Micheryl Butler as Cafeteria Assistant I- 2 ½ hours
 - e. Approve the following Substitute Cafeteria Assistants pending fingerprints and TB clearances.
 1. Yadira Alvizura
 2. Wanda McClain
 3. Teresa Ybarra-White
 - f. Approve Eric Alvarez as returning Colorguard Instructor for 2009-10 School Year
 - g. Approve the Assistant Girls' Tennis Coaches, Volunteers
 1. Charles Guyton
 2. Dennis Groseclos
 3. Rebecca (Becky) Landin
 4. John Steward

5. Matt Steward
 - h. Approve Anthony Gonzalez as Football Coach, Volunteer
 - i. Approve Kaylene Fraley as Snack Bar Supervisor (Paid by ASB)
 - j. Approve Irene Adams as Ticket Booth Clerk (Paid by ASB)
2. It was moved by Wallace and seconded by Braun to approve the Board Resolution 0910-2 to apply for Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB). Motion carried. Ayes: 4; Noes: 1; Absent: 0. (Holtermann)
3. It was moved by Fulwyler and seconded by Wallace to approve the Participation in Kern County Consortium for Special Education (SELPA). Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
4. It was moved by Fulwyler and seconded by Braun to approve the Farm Lease Agreement for 2009-2012 with Wesley Funk & Son. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
5. It was moved by Braun and seconded by Fulwyler to approve the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) Agreement. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
6. It was moved by Wallace and seconded by Braun to approve the Fresno County Office of Education Piggyback Bid for Technology. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
7. It was moved by Wallace and seconded by Braun to approve the Participation in E-Rate for 2009-10 Year 13. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
8. It was moved by Fulwyler and seconded by Wallace to approve the Paramount Farming Company - Wasco Union High School District - McFarland Unified School District - College Board - SpringBoard Program Grant Agreement. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
9. It was moved by Wallace and seconded by Braun to approve the CAHSEE Waiver Request for Designated Special Education Students. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
10. It was moved by Braun and seconded by Wallace to approve the Computer Graphics Course of Study (previous ROP Course). Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0
11. It was moved by Braun and seconded by Fulwyler to approve the Farm Power Course of Study (previous ROP Course). Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
12. It was moved by Holtermann and seconded by Wallace to approve the Field Trip Request submitted by the Ag Department. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
13. It was moved by Braun and seconded by Wallace to approve the Facilities Requests Submitted by Bengals Football Team (Golden Empire Youth Football). Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
14. It was moved by Holtermann and seconded by Fulwyler to approve the Interdistrict Transfer Requests. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

15. It was moved by Fulwyler and seconded by Holtermann to approve the Donations received by ASB and Golf Club. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

X. Discussion and Information

1. Correspondence from the Assembly California Legislature.

XI. Claims, Transfers and Accounts

It was moved by Wallace and seconded by Fulwyler to approve the claims, transfers and accounts for Batches 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 and Payrolls in the amount \$3,847,764.58. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

XII. Adjournment

It was moved by Braun and seconded by Wallace to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Any materials required by law to be made available to the public prior to a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the District can be inspected at the following address during normal business hours: District Office, 2100 Seventh Street, Wasco, CA 93280. Any individual who requires disability-related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the Board meeting should contact the Superintendent's Office.