

Wasco Union High School District
Wasco Union Elementary School District
Boards of Trustees
Special Board Meeting
Wasco Union High School District
Cafeteria
August 8, 2012
6:00 p.m.
Adopted Minutes

I. Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.

A special meeting of the Wasco Union High School District and Wasco Union Elementary School District Boards of Trustees was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Wasco Union High School Cafeteria, by WUHSD President, Mr. Craig Fulwyler and WUESD President, Mr. Marty Jones.

Wasco Union High School Board Members Present

Mr., Craig Fulwyler, President	Mr. Barry Braun
Mr. Jesse Acebedo, Clerk	Mr. Wayne Wallace

Wasco Union High School Board Members Absent

Mrs. Patricia Sanchez

Wasco Union Elementary School Board Members Present

Mr. Marty Jones, President	Dr. Jim Forrest
Mr. Richard Reding, Clerk	Mr. Cruz Rodriguez

Wasco Union Elementary School Board Members Absent

Mr. Ernie Sanchez

Administrators Present

Mrs. Elizabeth McCray	Mr. Martin Lonza
Mrs. Lori Albrecht	Mrs. Jennifer Long
Mrs. Susan Andreas-Bervel	Mrs. Rafaela Lopez
Mr. Danny Arellano	Mr. Brad Maberry
Mr. Rob Cobb	Mrs. Lisa Ornelas
Mr. Joseph Elwood	Mr. Raul Rangel
Mrs. Debbie Escobar	Mr. Kelly Richers
Mrs. Regina Green	Mr. Sam Torres
Mr. David Bowling	Mrs. Monique Polk

Classified Management Present

Mrs. Karen Evans	Mr. Joe Salazar
Mr. Jeff Payne	Mr. Rick Sanchez
Mr. John Yanez	Mrs. Gale Huffaker

Secretary Present

Mrs. Gracie Saldaña
Mrs. Esmeralda Quintana

Visitors

David Abernathy, Raquel Acebedo, Anna Balentine, Steve Balentine, Christine Beelner, Joelle Blanchard, Dwaine Chambers, Janice Clement, Terry Clement, Merrilee Desatoff, Walt Desatoff, Felix Garcera, Rafael Gonzalez, Regina Green, John Houlihan, Randy Hunt, Anthony Leonis, Mary Ann Lucas, David Lucas, Bill Phillimore, Anna Poggi, Josh Reaves, Patty Reaves, Brett Redd, Jose Rios, Christina Rodriguez, Martin Rodriguez, Vanessa Rodriguez, Karen Rowe, Randy Rowe, John Sandford, Rob Sanchez, Cheryl Stephens, Alice Stowe, Dennis Stowe, Marlene Swan, Kevin Tallon, Maria Torres, Jackie Villa, David White, Richard Winters (apologies if we missed anyone)

Flag Salute

The flag was saluted.

II. Adopt Agenda

It was moved by Forrest and seconded by Reding of the Wasco Union Elementary School District to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried. Ayes: ; Noes: 0; Absent: 1 (Sanchez).

It was moved by Wallace and seconded by Acebedo of the Wasco Union High School District to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried. Ayes: ; Noes: 0; Absent: 1 (Sanchez).

Mr. Fulwyler, President of the Wasco Union High School Board, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then explained the purpose for the meeting.

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Reports

Superintendent, Mrs. Elizabeth McCray introduced Mr. Dwaine Chambers of School Law Consultants who shared with the Board a PowerPoint Presentation (posted on the district's website) concerning the unification plan, its procedural requirements, organizational/community effects, and fiscal impacts.

Mr. Chambers thanked the Presidents, Board Members and Superintendent. He shared that this is a very momentous evening. On December 6th 2011, the Board Approved this event. The Resolution is before you this evening. He reviewed the 5 step process, where we are now in the unification process, the things to expect and the timelines. Mr. Chambers reviewed the feeder districts that currently enter into the Wasco Union High School District. Maple, Semitropic and Lost Hills have chosen to not become a part of this Unification. That information is included in the Resolution.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if the new board will need to return to the elections office. Mr. Chambers explained that is correct and the top 5 elected members will become the new board.

We are looking at a probable election date of March 6th 2013 or June 5th, 2013. The new unified district will be formed the following year of July 1, 2014. We can ask for that to be waived and move up to the end of 2013. The first initiative on the ballot will be the Districts Unification and then the voting of the Board will follow on the ballot.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if a new Board comes on after this upcoming election, can this unification be changed. Mr. Chambers responded No, if this resolution passes it will then be in the hands of the Kern County Community School Organization. Mr. Rodriguez asked if the new High School Board can reject the current contract with the Elementary. Mr. Chambers explained that the contract would have to be reviewed.

Mr. Wallace asked if the certificated staff positions were not guaranteed. Mr. Chambers reported as for that part it does not change, all districts have a March 15th layoff notification date mandated by the State.

Dr. Forrest confirmed that there are no new special rights to the new board, such as reduction in staff. Mr. Chambers agreed with Dr. Forrest and reiterated that the Board does not make changes, that is correct.

Mrs. McCray reviewed page 6 of the Fiscal Analysis and shared that on the bottom of this page it is reflected the same yet blended revenue. The proposed District will receive the same total, no loss. The State also will give an additional \$300, 080 on top of what we will already receive due to the unification. Dr. Forrest reiterated that the extra money that is given to the unified district is to assist in the unification process. He then clarified that we have consolidated our efforts to give extra to our children. Mr. Rodriguez asked why we would want to disrupt their education (Lost Hills, Maple and Semitropic). Those people have the right to opt out and I am glad they chose not to participate. Dr. Forrest shared that Mr. Wallace asked on page 12 under conclusions, "Increased deficit spending". Mrs. McCray shared that due to the state budget we are all deficit spending. Mr. Wallace asked isn't Wasco Elementary in worse financial situation than we are. What is their reserve compared to ours. Mrs. McCray shared that the Wasco Elementary does have a reserve that is taking them through these difficult time. Wasco High does have funds that Wasco Elementary does not.

Mr. Braun asked for an explanation on why other small districts have unified. Mrs. McCray shared that Buena Vista took on Panama and that assisted the District with additional revenue and it was beneficial to students. One of the things we need to look is not only the funding but also the savings that we will accomplish. We also have articulation that we have not had in the past. Mr. Wallace shared that the cooperation between the WUESD and WUHSD is fantastic, maybe he is selfish but he is doing what is best for the High School. Keep up the good work teachers. Mr. Fulwyler asked about the budgets, wouldn't each ratio remain the same. Mrs. McCray shared that it is the intention. Mr. Fulwyler shared that his intention is to serve on the new board to ensure the follow through. Mr. Jones shared that we live in a community with a division that should not exist. We don't need two Superintendents, we have proven that. He knows we serve a larger community but he is talking about the children we serve. This beautiful Wasco High School campus is not because of these guys (pointing to the Wasco High School Board of Trustees) but because of the community who shared that they were ready for a beautiful campus. We don't need to be splitting our money up. This is about the children and our community.

Mrs. Rosalinda Chairez reviewed page 7 of the fiscal report. What components make up the certificated compensation. Mrs. McCray explained that WUESD has more teachers and they have a planned unit program. Also it is total compensation, base, subs, masters, extra time, it is all included. Mrs. Chairez asked on the process of the contracts. Mrs. McCray explained that once the community passes this unification we have until the following July to complete the contracts. Mr. Chambers explained that it is at the discretion of the board but ideally we will begin shortly after to begin those negotiations.

Mr. Leonis commended and thanked all the bargaining teams during negotiations and their success in completing the contracts for the new year. He shared that this is not only a good place to live but also a good place to work. These Board Members here are cooperative and came up with an agreement that will work. We are here for one purpose and that is education. He shared that after what he seen at the negotiation tables this year, that should not be an issue.

Mr. Walt Desatoff asked who are the members of the County Committee. He then asked for clarification regarding the other feeder districts that have opted out. Mrs. McCray confirmed that the other feeder districts did chose not to participate. Mr. Desatoff stated he has a problem with that, as there won't be that control. This is not good, and a loss of rights. He shared that he has heard that the certified staff will lose their rights. Mr. Desatoff then stated that he is recommending a 7 Board Member Board of Trustee for the Unified Board.

Mrs. Merrilee Desatoff then asked Dr. Forrest regarding the saved revenue how will you turn over that saved money for the benefits for the children. Dr. Forrest shared that the articulation between Elementary and High School will eliminate the mystery of the transition from Junior High to High School. He then stated that money is in such short supply, he doesn't believe something can get better by throwing money at it. We are all in difficult times; both the Elementary and High School are looking at where we can get the most bang for our money. Mrs. Desatoff agreed, she shared that she also sees a need for money to be spend on the students at the student level such as field trips rather than at the academic level or professional level. She then reported that she has heard this evening what will not change but what will change. Mr. Jones shared that you will have one Board, one Superintendent. We have the ultimate goal and that is all about the students. Mrs. Desatoff shared that she needs to have some kind of validation such as text books, etc. Mr. Fulwyler shared that the bus routes, administrators, these types of situations we can become streamlined, as well as coordination in curriculum but the bottom line are the students. Student success is our main goal and what is best for them. We are both running tight budgets. As we see money that is saved we can do things that we have not been doing in the past. Bottom line is what is best for students and that is the direction. Mr. Braun shared that student learning has improved and he feels that it would be terrific to see those methods in student learning to be sent throughout the system so that students coming up through lower grades are prepared in the same manner that they are going to be at the High School level. He can only imagine the scores and student learning improving. Mr. Acebedo shared that people in general are afraid of change. This unification is a very positive change; the fruits of this will be a dramatic revelation in a few years. Mr. Reding agreed and shared that the field trips are an important part in education, and once we stream line these jobs we can possibly afford those trips again. Dr. Forrest shared that he is elected to serve on the school board therefore we hire capable competent people to educate our children. We do not develop the curriculum, or say what is good or bad for the children; we rely on the people we hire to do that job. Dr. Forrest shared that an awful lot has changed since his retirement in the last twenty years.

Mr. Bill Phillimore of Paramount Farms shared that they have many employees whose students attend these districts. We are extremely encouraged by the progress and we are in full support of the unification of these districts. This is a great move for the children and families in the community of Wasco.

Mr. Joe Blanchard asked if we unify do the elementary bonds get spread out and back to the ADA what happens to those students from Lost Hills. How will their financial situations come into play. Mrs. McCray shared that in the fiscal report it is reflected that any debt the Districts have become one under the unified District. It does not change the property taxes. We will still be bringing in the same amount of money. The other districts will continue to feed into Wasco Union High School and we will provide the staff and facilities for the students who enter our schools.

Mr. David Abernathy asked how many jobs will be lost by unification. We obviously have lost a Superintendent. Mrs. McCray shared that we do have jobs that are duplicated but at this point we would need to put together a plan. He then asked regarding the contract for certificated, how will we work together to get input. Mrs. McCray explained that this will be done through negotiations. Mr. Abernathy asked how seniority will work. Mrs. McCray shared that seniority will come together by hire date and there will be one list for the unified district. Mr. Abernathy asked if the bell schedules will be affected due to the grade range. Mrs. McCray shared that there are designated minutes according to grade level. Mr. Abernathy then asked if we can continue on with the collaboration with out unifying. Mrs. McCray shared that we are doing that now.

Mr. Martin Rodriguez stated if it is not broken then why fix it. It has been discussed regarding the Classified and Certificated contracts but what about the Superintendent's contract. Mrs. McCray explained that the Elementary Board approached her regarding providing Joint Administration Services that resulted in her becoming Superintendent for both Wasco Union High School and Wasco Union Elementary School District. If anyone is looking for her to leave or if that is someone's goal, then please vote for unification. Upon unification she intends on retiring. Seriously though, this is the right time and the right thing to do for our students. So, what's in it for me is believing that our shared services between the districts and the eventual unification, will provide even more opportunities for our students. The new board will hire the Superintendent for the Unified District.

Mr. Cruz Rodriguez stated that Mrs. McCray's statement was not funny since she is the sitting Superintendent.

Mr. Rafael Gonzalez thanked Mr. Wallace for pointing out that we are already working together but the public needs to make that decision with facts. Who knows how much money we will be saving. I would hate to think the board is doing this all for money, what money is being projected to be saved to improve the education of our students. But no one is going to say. It makes no sense to make that decision. Mr. Jones stated that we have people who do those calculations all the time at both the Elementary and High School level. Our budget is like riding a bucking bull, it is not as easy as it seems. Much like at our homes both districts have reviewed numbers. Mr. Fulwyler reported that money is a factor of course, but the collaboration has been great and we have already seen those benefits. If no savings happens, the benefit of what we have already seen is worth the unification.

Mrs. Chris Beelner asked how she will be affected on the seniority list. Mrs. McCray shared that the seniority lists will come together.

Mrs. Kyna Mecham stated that it has been mentioned how this is going to benefit the students but how is this going to benefit the employees. Mr. Fulwyler shared that our philosophy has always been to keep the employees that we have. We have the same

number of campuses whether we are unified or are separate. We appreciate our people and our intention is to keep each one of them.

Mrs. Anna Balentine asked who we will be negotiating with on the board side. Mrs. McCray explained that within the year we will have three boards. Mrs. Chambers explained that we will have one board waiting until the day they take office. Additionally authorization can be given to the new board by the existing boards. Initially the administration will reach out and negotiate with both groups but the final agreement will be presented to the Board and become in effect on or after July, 2014.

Mr. Rodriguez stated I can't guarantee you anything, I feel your concern. These guys are talking two years, good luck.

V. Discussion and Action

1. It was moved by Braun and seconded by Acebedo of the Wasco Union High School District on the approval of the Joint Resolution and Petition of the Unification of the Wasco Union High School District and Wasco Union Elementary School. District. Motion carried. Ayes: 4; Noes: 0; Absent: 1 (Sanchez).

It was moved by Reding and seconded by Forrest of the Wasco Union Elementary School District on the approval of the Joint Resolution and Petition of the Unification of the Wasco Union High School District and Wasco Union Elementary School. Motion carried. Ayes: 3; Noes: 1 (Rodriguez); Absent: 1 (Sanchez).

Motion carried by both Wasco Union High School District and Wasco Union Elementary School District, for the Joint Resolution and Petition of the Unification of the Wasco Union High School District and Wasco Union Elementary School.

VI. Adjournment

It was moved by Wallace and seconded by Braun of the Wasco Union High School District to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Ayes: 4; Noes: 0; Absent: 1 (Sanchez).

It was moved by Forrest and seconded by Reding of the Wasco Union Elementary School District to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Ayes: 4; Noes: 0; Absent: 1 (Sanchez).

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.