

Wasco Union High School District
Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting
Boardroom NKVTC Room 4
June 14, 2013
7:00 p.m.
Adopted Minutes

I. Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Wasco Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Wayne Wallace.

Board Members Present

Mr. Wayne Wallace, President	Mr. Craig Fulwyler
Mrs. Patricia Sanchez, Clerk	Mr. Cruz Rodriguez
Mr. Jesse Acebedo	

Administrators Present

Mrs. Elizabeth McCray	Mr. Joe Elwood
Mrs. Lori Albrecht	Mr. Martin Lonza
Mr. Robert Cobb	Mrs. Pat Rissi

Classified Management Present

Mr. Jeff Payne	Mr. John Yanez
Mr. Joe Salazar	

Secretary Present

Mrs. Gracie Saldaña

Visitors

Susan Andreas-Bervel, Barry Braun, Karen Fulwyler, Marty Jones, Mike McCray, Jose Rios

Flag Salute

The flag was saluted.

II. Adopt Agenda

It was moved by Acebedo and it was seconded Fulwyler by to adopt the agenda. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Executive Session

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

Regular Session

The meeting convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m.

Announcement of Executive Session Actions

V. Reading and Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Fulwyler and seconded by Acebedo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 9, 2013. Motioned carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

VI. Public Hearing on Adoption of Budget for 2013-14 School Year

A public hearing was convened by Mr. Wallace to address questions or comments from the public regarding the Budget for 2013-14 School Year. There were no comments from the public. The hearing was closed.

VII. Public Comments

None

VIII. Items From Board Members

Mrs. Patty Sanchez thanked everyone for another amazing year. She enjoyed attending the graduations and end of year events.

Mr. Rodriguez shared that he planned on going to the Wasco Independence High School Graduation Ceremony but he was with his wife who was thought to be having a heart attack.

Mr. Fulwyler thanked everyone for their efforts in the Unification. He shared that although it did not pass, sometimes it is disappointing when your goal doesn't come to pass but we can still make things as efficient as possible through our collaboration. He thanked Superintendent McCray, Administration and staff for another great year.

Mr. Wallace reported that the Wasco High Graduation was great. He shared that appreciated the kids holding on the beach balls after asked by the Superintendent. He reported that we have great kids. He enjoyed the Wasco Independence High School Graduation, he shared that the young man reading off the names did a better job than the principal. Mr. Wallace then reported that as all of you know I am opposed to the GPA system that we are using right now. It is interesting that we, the administration chose to only inflicting this percentage on one grade level. I have to ask, Mr. Elwood what research did you do to arrive at this 67%. Mr. Elwood shared that he just reviewed the grade distribution for this past semester and it is the 3rd highest since I have been here. It is the single highest since we started the grade bump. We have a higher percentage of students scoring A's and B's than ever. 77% of our grades are a C or above. The C to D ratio is lower than it has been in over 8 years. Mrs. McCray asked Mr. Wallace and the Board if they would like Mr. Elwood to have a presentation at the next board meeting regarding this topic. Mrs. McCray asked Mr. Wallace for clarification on "inflicted only on one grade level". Mr. Wallace reported that he has suggested this at one of the meetings, why didn't we raise the A level to 97% and B level. Mr. Cobb shared that there is a fair amount of research that is available that shows many schools on the east coast have eliminated the D altogether. Mr. Wallace stated that's fine on the east coast they don't have all the field workers and the schools that we have with the lower income. It bothers me very, very much.

Mr. Cobb reported that the research that is requested can be obtained. Mr. Elwood shared that lower income doesn't mean lower achievement. This is a big thing at Wasco High, we are committed to achievement of all schools regardless of income.

Mr. Wallace shared that his problem here is there are a lot of students that are not getting diplomas. Without a diploma in this day and age, they can't even go work at McDonalds or go in the Service. We have a school 7-8 miles away that, I have been told naturally, that they are graduating more student than we are. He shared that he has taught, he taught mechanical class and basic math. He reported that had we run this particular grade point average percentage when he taught a lot of his students probably would not have made it. But they would make a 65% or 66% range. Once these kids that only seem to operate in that category, when you start failing these kids, pretty soon they just quit. They don't care, send them to independence study or whatever.

Mr. Wallace then requested that at the next board meeting to put to a vote to return to the 60% like the rest of the County. Mrs. Sanchez reported that she agrees with Mr. Wallace because she thinks for some families, she didn't want to say I give up college is not an option but she thinks that diploma is it, that is the top, the max that they will obtain. And if it means the difference between having that diploma and not, she agrees that it should go back to the 60%. Mr. Elwood requested the option to review this information in a presentation. Mr. Wallace responded, No, he wants it on the agenda next month. Mr. Elwood shared that he would like the opportunity to show how many students do not graduate due to that difference. Mr. Wallace responded ok, that's fine but he would like it on next month's agenda. Mr. Elwood then reported that we have passed that school 7-8 miles away. We have much higher achievement than that school is now, I don't want to look back. We have achieved a certain level now, we have worked years to get to. I don't want to be reduced to a level "because kids can't do it", our kids can do it and I think they have proven it. We should be proud of our students with 77% with C's or better, highest percentage than we have ever had, that is a positive thing. Mr. Wallace then asked if we have met our AYP. Mr. Elwood responded no we have not. Mr. Wallace asked if that is not being affected by the graduation. Mr. Elwood explained that we did not make the AYP due to graduation. It is affected by certain standards, if we lower our standards by grades, we will fall in further behind. Mr. Wallace and Mr. Rodriguez responded no. Mr. Rodriguez responded those are made by the students. Mr. Wallace responded I am sorry, no.

Mrs. McCray shared that she is unsure that the board has all of the facts. So we need to have a presentation to allow Mr. Elwood to share this information with the Board. She shared that 2013 class is the largest graduating class from Wasco High School and Wasco Independence High School. Also back in 2003, we have had 7 Golden State Merit Seal Awards, this year we had 49. We are doing something right. We do not want to lower the expectations, we want to raise the expectations. With the common core state standards coming, if we lower the expectations now, we will never get anywhere with our students. We know they can do it. I think that if we take a step back now, before you have data or research you are making a decision that is only emotional. We need to have the data, my suggestion would be to do a presentation at the next meeting. If the board considers they want to go forward, we will bring this back at the August Board Meeting. Mr. Wallace stated, okay so then in other words you are telling me that we doing better than Delano. Mrs. McCray responded we are going to continue to raise the bar, we know they can do it, we cannot go backwards. She reported that she is in agreement with Mr. Elwood whole heartedly, administrations body language was evident in this room when this was brought up. I will stand here, speak for this group and we are not going to lower standards for Wasco High School District Students. We have raised the standards, we have raised the bar. We will continue to raise the bar because we do want to produce the best students that we absolutely can. We know they can do it, we have seen them do it. We can't go backwards. We have not missed the AYP because of graduation. There

are schools throughout the State of California that are up and down, we are doing darn well. We need to really express to you, we need to give you the data and make sure the community knows that we don't make decision based upon our emotions. We make decision based upon data and research. We have that data.

Mr. Wallace responded that he asked at the beginning what research was done to come up with 67%. Mrs. McCray reported that one of the answers that Mr. Cobb provided was that there was research back east and Mr. Wallace your response was there is no low socioeconomics back east. She explained that you have New York, Chicago, you have low socioeconomics all over the United States. But we are not looking at that, we are looking at the students who come into the classroom each and every day. It doesn't matter what the student looks like or where he came from. He has the right to sit in that classroom and do the best possible job he can do because of the motivation of our excellent teachers. You may be talking to a couple of teachers who don't like it but majority of our teachers support the grade change and they have done well. We have raised expectations, we have broadened the horizons. We have prepared students for college. If we were not doing our jobs, we would not have students attending Stanford, Harvard, UCLA, etc. Our children in Wasco are now prepared for the opportunity to be able to have a college education. If they choose not to go to college, that is their choice but we are going to provide them the opportunity, to give them what they need to get there. I would be disappointed to see it come from the board level, where you set the direction of the school district to lower our expectations. You should be raising our expectations. From what I have already seen in common core, the rigor that is coming to us is with common core state standards is going to far surpass the California State Standards or other standards we have seen. It is going to be much more difficult and if we are going to bring our standards down, that is going to be a huge disservice to our students and our community. Mr. Wallace stated, it is interesting you brought up going to Stanford and UCLA, guess what, we use to do the same thing with the old system, isn't that amazing. We sent kids to UCLA, we sent them to Stanford, we sent them to West Point, we sent them to the Air Force Academy, we did all of that under the old system. Mrs. McCray shared with Mr. Wallace that we don't have an old system, we have moved on. Mr. Wallace responded, I know you don't. Mrs. McCray explained that we are not back to when you or I were teachers, we have moved beyond that. We have come a long ways, don't put us backwards, please do not put us backwards.

Mr. Fulwyler reported that he appreciated the concern from Mr. Wallace. He shared that he would hate to see a student not graduate if there is something little like that. But at the same time I think we need to make informed decisions. I think it would be great to have more information brought out and some of it we have talked about it before, but we need to be reminded. We need to review current data and look at the other reasons why we do what we do. Then make a decision later on if necessary. I understand it takes time, and effort to put it together. There is nothing worse than seeing a kid missing the mark, but why is he missing the mark. We really need to understand the whole picture to get an understanding of what that is. He understands that in the past students did just enough to attain the D, did that work. These kids now they are doing that little extra. The paper (diploma) is important, your right but that piece of paper needs to mean something. I have difficulty when the paper (diploma) doesn't mean anything. I have had difficulty, in the past, Independence High produced a piece of paper that I don't know if it really meant a lot and we have moved a great deal from that, from where we were. If we can get some more information for all of us, I think that would be wonderful. Mr. Rodriguez stated that by that piece of paper (diploma) give them the opportunity. If they don't have that piece of paper they are not going to have that opportunity. Mr. Wallace has a good

point. Mrs. McCray shared that there are many variables to student achievement in class. I still am a firm believer that if you would witness the collaboration that took place last week between Thomas Jefferson, Wasco High School and Independence High, you would see the benefits of where we are going. It makes a difference as to what happens K-8 and what happens 9-12. The foundation has to be built before they come into Wasco High School. For years we had feeder schools who were not teaching Algebra. If they were not taught Algebra in their feeder school and come into Wasco High as a Freshman, they were already behind. Fortunately a lot of that has changed, people are doing what they need to do. That collaboration is important to see the challenges at every grade level leading up to high school. Students are moved from grade to grade in K-8, there is no graduation, it is only a promotion from 8th grade. It is not mandated that there be an 8th graduation. The most important graduation and we all concur is the High School Graduation. Our Teachers and Administration are working diligently to get better each and every day to support our students and get them to the level they need to be and earn that diploma with meaning as referred by Mr. Fulwyler.

Mr. Wallace stated that no one is questioning that, nobody here was questioning that. Mr. Rodriguez stated that all his grandkids came from Maple School, they were all 3. and above, so Maple has done a great job with my grandkids. Mr. Wallace stated that we will go with the study.

IX. Reports

1. Estela Pruneda, Student Board Representative was not present
2. Mr. Fulwyler, North Kern Vocational Training Center reported there is nothing new.
3. Superintendent Mrs. Elizabeth McCray shared that we don't have a budget but it is anticipated for Saturday. She introduced Mr. Jeff Payne who presented on the 2013-2014 Budget. He also reported that proposition 30, is money that is going to supplant our State Aide, this is not extra money. He reviewed the Revenue, Expenditure and Multi-Year Projections

Mr. Fulwyler asked with the increased retirement costs, should we reconsider our retirement reserve. Mr. Payne explained that these include retirees from 55-65 retirement benefits.

Mrs. Sanchez thanked Mr. Payne for meeting with her, she shared that he does make himself available when needed and explains the budget so well.

Mrs. McCray commended Mr. Payne for his presentation and information.

Mrs. McCray introduced Mrs. Karen Rowe regarding the Pivot End of Year Report. Mr. Wallace asked Mrs. Rowe on the first page, down here it says "teaching and learning a top priority", is that, do you have to put that in there. I mean isn't that understood. Mrs. Rowe responded that since we are a program improvement district. Mr. Wallace stated no need to say no more. Mrs. Rowe then stated that there is always room for improvement, even if it wasn't. We always want to keep our eye on the primary target of teaching our students at high levels.

Mrs. Sanchez referred to page 9 and ask for clarification on what is school dude. Mr. Elwood explained that this is a web based program that is going to be utilized for Field Trips, Transportation and Facilities Requests. We just started implementing this program. Mrs. Sanchez then asked, when you say “just” do you mean this summer”. Mr. Elwood shared that his office staff is trained for it, we need to get the teachers up to speed and plan on using this web based program in the fall. Mrs. Rowe reviewed the last page of the report where 91% is fully or substantially completed. This is good stuff, this speaks to the level of efficiency in this District. Hats off to the people who work in these Districts. There are a lot of good things happening at both Districts. There are wonderful things that are happening for our kids K-12. The articulation between the High School and Middle School is great. To see the Departments from WUHSD and WUESD collaborating around the common core is wonderful. Mr. Wallace shared that what bothers him is the literature he has been reading is that we are going to teach this but we don’t know how to test. Mrs. Rowe shared that the literature is not true, we do know how we are going to assess it. The way we are going to assess it is through authentic assessment. Such as portfolios, reading and writing has a lot to do with the portfolio. High level thinking is the goal, reading, forming an opinion and writing about it. Our students need the opportunity to do the reading thinking and writing. This is what is going to bring the United States up the level it needs to be and Wasco will be ahead. Mr. Rodriguez said we’ll see, we will wait and see. Mr. Fulwyler reported that he has a nephew who is extremely intelligent. He almost didn’t graduate from his university because of a couple of basic classes that involved taking information, forming an opinion and writing about it. Mrs. Rowe shared that that is not okay, what happened to his nephew is not okay. It is imperative that we provide students with the opportunity to think about what they are learning, to learn to write about what they are learning, to show they understand in ways that will take them somewhere.

Mrs. McCray commended Mrs. Rowe and Pivot for their hard work. It’s been a good year, we have accomplished a lot. Their hard work shows in this report. Mrs. McCray shared that we are all servants and may not always say this but our administration team and teachers do one heck of a job and it show in this report. It shows in the classrooms, at the administration level and throughout campus. Mrs. McCray apologized if her passion offended anyone earlier in the discussion but she is passionate about our students. We need to give our students every opportunity we can and not diminish that. Our Administration does that and Pivot has been a huge part of our success. These reports are great tools. We learned from what we do, we learn from the good and from the ugly. We know the direction for next year. Mrs. Albrecht and Mrs. Andreas-Bervel have done an excellent job. Mrs. McCray shared that she is very proud of the accomplishments of both Districts and glad to be a part of it.

X. Discussion and Action

1. It was moved by Acebedo and seconded by Rodriguez on the approval of Personnel Consent Agenda. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0
2. It was moved by Rodriguez and seconded by Sanchez on the approval of the Budget for 2013-14 School Year. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
3. It was moved by Fulwyler and seconded by Sanchez on the approval of the

Education Protection Account Resolution No 1213-10 and Expenditure Plan for 2013-14. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

4. It was moved by Acebedo and seconded by Rodriguez on the approval of the District's Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for 2013-14 School Year. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
5. It was moved by Fulwyler and seconded by Acebedo on the approval of the 2013-14 Local Education Agency Plan (LEAP) Revised Action Plan Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
6. It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Acebedo on the approval of the 2013-14 Ag Incentive Application Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
7. It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Fulwyler on the approval of the 2013-14 Consolidated Application for Funding. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
8. It was moved by Acebedo and seconded by Rodriguez on the approval of the 2013-14 Carl Perkins Career Technical Education Application. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
9. It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Acebedo on the approval of the 2013-14 Agreement for Joint Use between Wasco Union High School District and North Kern Vocational Training Center. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
10. It was moved by Fulwyler and seconded by Acebedo on the approval of the Student Teaching Agreement TCH0842 with California State University, Bakersfield. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
11. It was moved by Fulwyler and seconded by Sanchez on the approval of the Certification of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Workers' Compensation Unfunded Cost of Claims Reserve. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
12. It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Fulwyler on the approval of the Interdistrict Requests for the 2013-2014 School Year. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
13. It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Fulwyler on the approval of the Field Trip Requests. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
14. It was moved by Fulwyler and seconded by Sanchez on the approval of the Donations. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

XI. Discussion and Information

1. Pivot Learning Partners End of Year Report was reviewed with the Board.
2. Supplemental Instructional Materials were introduced to the Board.
3. Course of Study, College and Career Readiness were introduced to the Board.
4. Textbooks for Basic English and Library Science were introduced to the

Board.

5. Correspondence from Forum Musical Festivals regarding Wasco High School Steel Drums and Band was shared with the Board.

XII. Claims Transfers and Accounts

It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Acebedo to approve the claims, transfers and accounts for Batches 82,84,through 91,93, and Payrolls in the amount of \$1,410,333.95. Motioned carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

XIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Fulwyler and seconded by Acebedo to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.