

**CORCORAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 9, 2010
6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Robert Alcorn, President of the Board, called the regular meeting of the Corcoran Unified School District Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Office.

TRUSTEES PRESENT/ABSENT

Trustees present were Robert Alcorn, Steve White, Karen Frey, Raul Lerma, and Mary Wadsworth.

OTHERS PRESENT

Others present were Rich Merlo, Steve Brown, Ed Ochoa, Marie Cates, Maria Sanchez, Mary Taylor, Elizabeth Mendoza, Ashley Garcia and Donnetta Murray

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Alcorn welcomed those present and led the flag salute.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board approved the agenda for November 9, 2010.

Motion: Karen Frey

Second: Mary Wadsworth

Board Vote: 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 26, 2010

Sign the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 12, 2010

Sign the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of October 15, 2010

Purchase Order Numbers 110574 - 110616

Warrant register for October 22, 2010 for \$329,548.00

October 29, 2010 for \$106,085.33

November 3, 2010 for \$54,773.69

Payroll warrants register for October 29, 2010 for \$1,477,507.26

Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints for First Quarter

Motion: Karen Frey

Second: Steve White

Board Vote: 5-0

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

High School ASB Member Ashley Garcia informed the Board of several events taking place at the High School. The FFA Cotton Judging A Team earned a second place in State competition with the B Team taking fifth place. Matt Dawes was the State Champion for the A contest. Fall baseball would begin November 11, which is also a holiday honoring veterans. WASC would be at the high school the following week and the students have been preparing for it by learning their ESLR's and having focus lessons. ASB has been making Welcome WASC posters. The Theatre Club will be offering their fall production of "Is He Dead" on Tuesday and Wednesday. Sports see football playing Woodlake and cross country participating in an event at Woodward Park in Fresno.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Property: Superintendent Rich Merlo advised the Board that he had received a call from Chevron concerning the property the District has considered purchasing on the corner of 6½ and Orange avenues. Currently, the District and the property owner have a gentleman's agreement for a future purchase when enrollment and funds would support a new school. The Chevron representative apprised Mr. Merlo of an oil pipeline adjacent to the property. When the District had the property surveyed and tested, there

appeared to be no problem concerning oil deposits on the property. Chevron said they would be testing the adjacent property. Although the pipeline is not on the property the District has been considering, its proximity could pose a problem.

Budget Committee Meeting: Mr. Merlo informed the Board that the second Budget Committee Meeting was held on November 2. Again, there was a good showing of staff and community present at the meeting. They reviewed the results of the hearings held at the Board meetings during the summer. The group was asked to prioritize their top five areas to keep in the budget. Preserving community contact positions was one of the priorities of the group and there was also discussion on staying away from the classroom.

Instructional Rounds: Mr. Merlo reported on his trip to Sacramento to an Instructional Rounds Workshop. The workshop prepared the California participants for the Instructional Rounds Conference they will be attending in Harvard this December. He demonstrated the principals of the instructional core of the student, teacher and content surrounding the task. He said that an administrator should not just talk about what teachers are doing, but talk about what the kids are doing in class. He demonstrated the simple model for instructional core that can easily tell how to improve instruction. Instructional Rounds have four steps: 1) identifying a problem of practice; 2) observing; 3) debriefing; and 4) focusing on the next level of work. Mr. Merlo is looking forward to attending the conference and starting the practice in Corcoran Unified as he feels it will fit in well with the direction the District is going.

AR 5131.7 – Weapons and Dangerous Instruments: The Administrative Regulation accompanies a proposed updated Board Policy that includes additional dangerous instruments and for administration to notify law enforcement when a student has a firearm at school.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Trustee Wadsworth: Mrs. Wadsworth reported there had been a Technology Sub-Committee meeting. Although there was a lot on the agenda, they will need to meet again to review the iPad program. The District has expanded its access points allowing teachers a faster connection to the Internet. Teachers who had one time shied away from using the computers because of the time involved to connect are now interested in using them in their teaching. Trustee Wadsworth said the committee talked about the Technology Learning Center and the lack of Wi-Fi service for everyone. She understands that E-rate is supporting the access and can only be used for educational purposes. Mrs. Wadsworth feels that since some of the partners in building the center use the facility for functions they should be able to have Wi-Fi access. Perhaps there is a competitive grant that would help resolve the situation.

Trustee White: Mr. White also attended the Technology Sub-Committee meeting. He stated that he was impressed with the gain of speed on the Internet. Steve Brown, Director of Educational Services, added that the High School had gone wireless earlier that day.

VISIT TO SANGER UNIFIED

Director Brown and a group of CUSD staff visited Sanger Unified, a school district that has received accolades in recent year for its efforts in raising student achievement. There were over 100 people from various districts taking part in the daylong event. Mr. Brown stated that the thing that stood out the most during the day was a summit report by a Sanger principal. He said that it validates what Corcoran is doing in the same manner. He added that Sanger has a very focused message from the District on down. Accountability can be seen at all levels in the District through assessments, DPA's, principals holding teachers accountable, administrators holding principals accountable, etc. One area that Corcoran surpasses Sanger in is technology. Mr. Brown added that Corcoran is not far off comparative scores to Sanger. He hopes that means that the District's technology along with continued work on strategies will raise Corcoran's scores to a similar level as Sanger.

CUSD NEW WEBSITE

Mr. Brown informed the Board of Trustees that the District's new website is now up, but still a work in progress. He demonstrated a few of the schools sites and features of the website.

INFORMATION ITEM

Information Items – Student Trip approved by Superintendent Rich Merlo

- a. A trip for five High School students with the KCOE Career Advisor Sarah Partlow to West Hills College – Lemoore on Friday, December 10, 2010. Use of requested Corcoran van to be paid by Kings COE.

ADOPTION OF BP 5030 – STUDENT WELLNESS

The Board held the second hearing and approved adoption of Board Policy 5030 – Student Wellness. The policy is being updated to keep the District in compliance. Board members questioned whether the policy would eliminate snack bars at sporting events. CBO Marie Cates stated that the policy mostly controls foods that would compete with the regular food program (during the school day).

Motion: Raul Lerma Second: Steve White Board Vote: 5-0

ADOPTION OF BP 3555 – NUTRITION PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

The Board held the second hearing and approved adoption of Board Policy 3555 – Nutrition Program Compliance. The new policy is mandated for any district that receives federal financial assistance in its food programs.

Motion: Karen Frey Second: Raul Lerma Board Vote: 5-0

ADOPTION OF BP 5131.7 – WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

The Board held the second hearing and approved adoption of Board Policy 5131.7 – Weapons and Dangerous Instruments. The mandated update of this policy reflects a new law, which requires the principal or designee to notify law enforcement when a student possesses a firearm or explosive, or sells or furnishes a firearm at school. It also reflects another new law, which expands the list of prohibited weapons and dangerous instruments to include razor blades and box cutters as well as ice picks.

Motion: Karen Frey Second: Mary Wadsworth Board Vote: 5-0

TITLE III PLAN

The Board voted to approve appointing Eduardo Ochoa, Director of Special Services, to create and submit the District's Title III Plan.

Motion: Karen Frey Second: Steve White Board Vote: 5-0

JOHN MUIR OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

The Board voted to approve discarding obsolete equipment at John Muir Middle School.

Motion: Mary Wadsworth Second: Karen Frey Board Vote: 5-0

RESOLUTION NO. 1020 – CIF POSITION STATEMENT

The Board voted to approve Resolution No. 1020 – Superintendents' Inter-League Council Central Section California Interscholastic Federation Position Statement.

Motion: Karen Frey Second: Steve White

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Karen Frey, Raul Lerma, Steve White, Mary Wadsworth, Robert Alcorn

NOES:

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION NO. 1021 TABLED

The Board voted to table action on Resolution No. 1021 – Adopt 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Documents. Trustee Wadsworth would like the resolution to demonstrate that the District is not responsible for market changes, which could possibly bear financial risks for the District. Mrs. Cates will research possible changes for the resolution.

Motion: Raul Lerma Second: Mary Wadsworth Board Vote: 5-0

BOARD TABLED COUNSELOR POSITION ITEM

The Board voted to table an action item that would eliminate the High School CAHSEE Counselor position, re-assign Alejandra Sanchez to fill the College of the Sequoias/High School Counselor position, and fill the High School Resource Teacher position that is currently vacant. Mr. Merlo informed the Board that College of the Sequoias notified Principal Chuck Gent that the person in the C.O.S. Counselor position would need to have a masters degree in education. The Board noted that they would like to keep the COS/CHS Counselor position for at least a period of time. Mr. Merlo recommended tabling the item.

Motion: Raul Lerma

Second: Mary Wadsworth

Board Vote: 5-0

STAFF DEVELOPMENT TRIP APPROVED

The Board voted to approve the following staff trip.

- a. A trip for John Muir staff Teresa Carlos-Contreras and Jennifer Steffen to *High Quality Professional Development* to be held Tuesday, November 30, 2010 in Bakersfield, to be paid by EIA funds.

Motion: Karen Frey

Second: Steve White

Board Vote: 5-0

MEETINGS

1. Finance Sub-Committee Meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
2. Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room
3. Curriculum Sub-Committee Meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. in TLC#3
4. Budget Committee Meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at 4 p.m. in Technology Learning Center
5. Organizational Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room
6. Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room

THE BOARD ADJOURNED FOR CLOSED SESSION 8:08 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

President Alcorn returned the Board to open session at 8:38 p.m. He announced out the following:

EXPULSIONS

1. The Board voted to approve the expulsion of EH 2010-11/19 for the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 semesters with placement at Kings Community School in Hanford. Drug counseling services are recommended. A rehabilitation plan was set with provisional readmission date of September 1, 2011.

Motion: Karen Frey

Second: Raul Lerma

Board Vote: 5-0

ADJOURNMENT was at 8:42 p.m.

Motion: Mary Wadsworth

Second: Raul Lerma

Board Vote: 5-0