

**Lake Tahoe Unified School District
1021 Al Tahoe Blvd
So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2004**

Board Members Present: Wendy David, Madeline Fernald, Sue Novasel, Barbara Bannar, Doug Forte.

Student Representative: Mari Peshon

Staff Members Present: Lorraine Garcy, Anita McIntosh, Barbara Davis, Steve Morales, Mike Curran, Becky Fortier, Suzy Krazaczek, Jodi Dayberry, Pedro Aluiso, Jackie Nelson, Susan Ware, Irene Kaelin, Nancy Muller, Anne Aaron, JoAnne Bottini, Judy Schwartz, Cynthia Horn, Brittainy Lehman, Jimmy Vaughn, Patrice Gillam, Karen Gillis-Tinlin.

Guests Present: Billy Ferchland, Rob Davenport, Cynthia Terry, Laura Sears, Dailee Perucci, Peter Butler, Bill Crawford, Sandie Finkel, Angela Swanson, Chris Champion, Mark Garratt.

Items 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:42 p.m. by Wendy David in the Board Room of the Lake Tahoe Unified School District Office at 1021 Al Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

Item 2. Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Novasel made a motion to approve the agenda; Mrs. Fernald seconded. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Item 3-4. Announcement of Items to be Discussed in Closed Session/Adjourn to Closed Session

Wendy David announced the items for discussion and the meeting adjourned to closed session at 4:43 p.m.

Items 5. Reconvene into Regular Session

The Board reconvened into regular session at 6:05 p.m.

Item 6. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Item 7. Action on Items from Closed Session

**A. Conference with Labor Negotiators
No Action.**

B. Personnel Order No. 2004/05-09

- i. Hire: Teachers, Substitutes
- ii. Hire for Extra Duty Services: Lead teachers; curriculum leaders; department chairs; GATE, bilingual, alternative ed. coordinators; music, athletics, activities choral music directors; NJROTC coaches.
- iii. Accept Resignation: Instructional assistant.
- iv. Accept change in Status: Teacher.
- v. Approve Reclassification: Heavy equipment mechanic.
- vi. Approve Leaves of Absence: Teachers.

Mrs. Fernald made a motion to approve the personnel order; Mrs. Novasel seconded. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None. Absent: None.

C. Discipline

- i. *Expulsion Recommendation No. 2004/05-04* - The student was under the influence of marijuana and in possession of a glass pipe for smoking marijuana. This is the second drug related offense. A suspended expulsion is recommended.

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the recommendation, Mrs. Bannar seconded. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None. Absent: None.

D. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release

No Action.

Item 8. Public Hearing Session

Judy Schwartz and Nancy Muller spoke to the Board about the first week of school and how smoothly it went thanks to the hours of work that the teachers at Tahoe Valley put in on their own time. It took anywhere from 35 - 100+ hours per teacher to create that smooth start. They did it without compensation and would like the Board to know that they deserve to be thanked for their efforts.

Cynthia Horn addressed the Board about equitable class sizes and prep time for the elementary teachers. She feels that the elementary teachers have more subjects to prepare for than the Middle School and High School teachers and yet the secondary teachers have more prep time. She would like the Board to look at hiring PE specialists for all three elementary sites which would provide the teachers with more prep time.

Jodi Dayberry spoke about looking at a parcel tax and the Board needs to be responsible to the needs of the students. She called for fiscal responsibility and the need to appease those families that are drawn to the idea of a charter school. She asked about the high cost of using laid off teachers as subs and how this will impact

the budget; the reasoning behind using substitutes for CELDT testing instead of retired administrators; why services are not being given to the students who need them; and why the aides at her site are not scheduled or providing services to the students.

Item 9. Announcements, Correspondence, and Reports

- A. Swear In STHS Student Representatives and Report by Students**- Wendy David welcomed and administered the oath of office to Mari Peshon (Megan Roberto was unable to attend). Mari reported that homecoming, which was held last weekend, had a great turnout and the game was exciting. South Tahoe played Carson and won. The floats were paraded and judged with the seniors coming in first. Seven hundred tickets were sold for the dance and everyone had a great time. There were no incidents.
- B. Report by South Tahoe Middle School Student Government**- Suzy Krzaczek proudly reported on the success of the kid-a-thon that was held last week. Participants numbered 910 and in the end they raised \$44,200. The community has been so generous. Ms. Krzaczek thanked the parents who helped. She did not know what she would have done without them. Cynthia Terry, who is running for Student Body President, told the Board about the dance that was held last Friday. The theme was Aloha, the students dressed in tropical attire, and they had a Disc Jockey. Dailee Perucci, who is running for Vice President, will be spending next week campaigning for the upcoming elections. Francesca Cooley, who is running for Secretary, told the Board about the after school leadership program that allows all students to participate in activities. Rob Davenport and 69 other students attended the Woodland conference in Northern California. He had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities. Laura Sears, who is also running for President, said her goal is to make all students feel connected and build leaders for the future. A poem about the light of a candle was read.
- C. STAT - Save Tahoe Athletic Teams** - Mark Garratt updated the Board on the current standings of our teams so far this season. The golf tournament raised \$12,000 with the help of Ted Long; the Village Center has offered matching funds up to \$15,000 for monies raised during the month of December; \$2,320 was raised from the Adidas program; the High School ASB donated \$15,000; and STAT is in the process of applying for funds through Soroptimists. Mark Garratt presented the Board with a check for \$48,067, thus bringing the total to approximately 148,000. The Board thanked Mark for his leadership and the work done by all of the STAT volunteers.

D. Director of Facilities Report

Steve Morales updated the Board on the ridership totals for the month of September. Compared to this time last year the ridership has increased 5.22% over last year to 55.75% which is well above the State average of 16%. The national average for ridership is 55%. This is the first week that passes are being checked and citations are being issued. We currently have 2,434 being used. If participation increases as the weather changes, we have the space on the buses and have plans in place should buses become full. Questions about the policies for children lost/missing from bus stops and how this is handled were asked.

E. Board of Education Report

Doug Forte attended Back-to-School nights at the Middle School and Sierra House Elementary. It gave him the opportunity to see familiar staff and parents. He was at the High School and saw some of the preparations for Challenge Day.

Sue Novasel was impressed with the community support for the Kid-a-thon at the Middle School. She took the opportunity to formally thank all the teachers for the extra time and work they put into the start of this school year. The entire Board appreciates all they do. The homecoming game was exciting and thanks to STAT for all they have done for our sports teams. Ms. Novasel and Mr. Forte are scheduled to meet with Marta Reyes at the State Department of Education regarding charter schools.

Madeline Fernald visited Tahoe Valley and the Middle School for Back-to-School. She has been impressed with the staff at the sites and hopes to get to the other sites soon. Jackie Nelson is doing a great job at the Middle School. She is looking forward to Challenge Day and the experience. This is a different approach to learning how to address each other and understanding how they see each other. Ms. Fernald is glad to be a part of this District and working for a good end.

Wendy David was glad to hear from the teachers and their concerns. She heard from parents at Sierra House who were impressed with the passion that the teachers bring to their jobs. The teachers have done a great job at all the sites and continue to go do good things for the children. November 6th is the Trustees Institute in El Dorado County. They will discuss budget issues along with guest speakers Jim Callum and Dave Pollock. A flyer will be provided with more details. The School Boards Association has asked for nominations for annual awards in the areas of educational statemanship, boardmanship, and community volunteer. If you have any suggestions, please notify Ms. David. Nominations are due in December.

F. Superintendent's Report

Lorraine Garcy has been involved with community meetings, dealing with the concept of the parcel tax, gathering input and hearing the concerns. She enjoyed the homecoming game, very exciting. One question that she has heard often is "What are we doing about the declining enrollment? Research is underway and the preliminary information looks like many of the students have been lost to other districts and out of state. There is an open seat on the County Committee on School District Organization if anyone you know of would like to serve, let Ms. David know. Our area has two seats, Dave Kurtzman holds one.

Item 10. Discussion and Action

A. Parcel Tax

Public Comments: Bill Crawford spoke to the Board about his background in education with the continuation program and his service to the teachers' union. He has concerns about the quality of education that the primary grades receive and the dumping grounds at the High School. Mr. Crawford provided a historical retrospect of the superintendents that have worked for the District. He also shared his concerns about the need for a parcel tax and feels that even if it passes it could divide the community.

Sandie Finkel said she is willing to help again with a parcel tax attempt but only if the rate is lowered and if it keeps the District from using the stage at Sierra House for a classroom. The timeshares need to feel that they are not unfairly taxed this time.

Dr. Garcy went over what has been done in preparation for making a decision to go for a parcel tax. This includes meetings with different groups of community and staff members, which will continue over the next few weeks; setting up a no-response email address for people to send their ideas/comments (superintendent@ltusd.org); and working with a financial advisor, tax attorney, and the county assessor. The Board did not have the opportunity to look at other options for the parcel tax last time and currently there are four options that are being explored. These will be presented with more detail at the next meeting on October 19, 2004. The first decision that the Board will need to address is will we go forward with a parcel tax and if so what date do we target for the election. A few of the areas where decisions are needed are: a survey; tax rate; exemptions; how will the funds be used; what will the community support. The county will give us until November 12th to submit our resolution if we decide to put a parcel tax on the March 2005 ballot. Dr. Garcy will make sure that she brings everything the Board needs to make an informed decision. The March 9th ballot would allow us to avoid sending as many layoff notices to the teachers and classified staff should the election be a success.

Next meeting will be October 19, 2004 at 6:00 pm.

Jodi Dayberry said on behalf of the teachers that she appreciated Dr. Garcy's concern for avoiding layoff notices, but if we need to hold an election later in order to have a successful outcome then to go ahead and make the necessary layoffs.

Item 11. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Fernald made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Mr. Forte seconded. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Item 12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. David at 7:42 pm.

**Lorraine Garcy, Superintendent and Secretary
To the Board of Education**