



**LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
September 27, 2005**

**SIERRA HOUSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1709 Remington Trail, South Lake Tahoe**

**5:00 p.m. Special Closed Session
6:00 p.m. Special Open Session**

Board Members Present	Staff Members Present		Guests Present
Wendy David Sue Novasel Madeline Fernald Doug Forte Absent: Barbara Bannar Student Rep: Mari Peshon	Dr. James Tarwater Angie Freeman Steve Morales Denise Pillsbury Jackie Nelson Michael Davis Karen Gillis-Tinlin	Ali Kipkee Scott Ramirez Jim Watson Jodi Dayberry Valerie Mansfield Gail Harnett Marie Meagher	Janelle Blocher Lynn Norton Audrey Olmer Chris Campion Jim Weinberg Norma Santiago Del Laine

ITEMS 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session of the special meeting of the Lake Tahoe Unified School District Board of Education was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Multi-purpose Room of Sierra House Elementary School by Wendy David.

ITEM 2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Wendy David announced the items to be discussed in closed session.

ITEMS 3-4. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION / RECONVENE INTO SPECIAL SESSION

Wendy David adjourned the meeting to closed session at 5:01 p.m. and moved to the teachers' lounge. She reconvened the meeting to regular session at 6:00 pm.

ITEM 5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ITEMS 6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ITEMS 7. ACTION ON ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION

A. Personnel Order No. 2005/06-03

- i. *Hire:* teachers, instructional assistants, coaches, and substitute teachers
- ii. *Promotion:* secretary
- iii. *Accept Resignations:* coach.

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

B. Discipline

- i. *Recommendation for Revocation of Suspension of Expulsion No. 2004/05-35*

The student was placed on a suspended expulsion in April 2005 for fighting with another student and hitting him over the head. He was also in possession of an air soft gun at school on another occasion.

The student was suspended on 9/7/05 for swearing at a counselor and leaving campus. **The suspended expulsion is revoked and the student is expelled until April 15, 2006.**

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the discipline recommendation as submitted; Mrs. Fernald seconded the motion. *Ayes: David/Fernald/Novasel/Forte. Noes: None. Absent: Bannar*

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ITEM 8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC.

Janelle Blocher told the Board that she is teaching a class called "Six Successful Techniques for Teaching Reading" and asked for their support in promoting this class which she feels would be beneficial for teachers and aides. Ali Kipkee asked if the District could consider salary credit for this class. The Board directed Ms. Blocher to contact the Superintendent's office.

ITEM 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND REPORTS

A. Report by Sierra House Elementary School

Principal, Jim Watson, thanked the community and the Board for being forward-thinking in supporting school modernization. He also thanked Steve Morales, Daryl Quandt and the maintenance crew, Wendy Copple, Bobby Jones, Ken Gerrard, Cindy Farmer, staff and volunteers for their incredible support during the recent modernization project. He took the Board and the audience on a tour of the new facilities.

B. Student Representative Report

Mari Peshon reported on the Homecoming activities last weekend at South Tahoe High School. The parade was one of the biggest to date and over 700 students attended the dance. Although the football team did not win, there was lots of spirit. The Homecoming royalty paraded at the STMS field for the soccer team's half-time. That team won 4-0.

C. Board of Education Report

Madeline Fernald is seeking individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of Latino families for a training, sponsored by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, which takes place October 14, 15, 16, and 17. The Parent School Partnership Program will empower parents to be involved in their children's education and to be community leaders. **Sue Novasel** had a busy weekend, enjoying Homecoming on Saturday and the STAT Golf Tournament on Sunday, which raised \$12,000 for athletics. **Wendy David** attended the Alumni Lane dedication and barbecue, among other events. She was enthused to see the pride that former grads have in supporting LTUSD programs in the community. Wendy read a letter from Mayor, Kathay Lovell, expressing the City's willingness to pursue some formal discussions with the District concerning opportunities for shared facilities. **Doug Forte** warned Mr. Watson that he would be returning to his home turf for the Walk-a-thon.

D. Superintendent Report

Following up on the letter from the City, Dr. Tarwater said that he had a conversation with Mayor Lovell with a view to looking at the possibility of working on some joint facilities, such a sports and performing arts facility or shared offices. The District has about six acres that could be used at the back of Al Tahoe and the State encourages joint projects by providing funding for such ventures. The opening of school was smooth, transportation schedules are being tightened, and a new bus has been purchased.

ITEM 10. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. Fiscal Crisis Management Assessment Team (FCMAT) Recommendation

Chris Campion explained that most of the Funding Committee members who reviewed the FCMAT report are not professional educators, but gave their recommendations based on their business experience. He applauded the District's efforts over the past few months in establishing the Magnet School, the Kid Zone child care program, and the PREPPIE Kindergarten program, but he said that things can change quickly and we're not out of the woods yet. The committee feels that Dr. Tarwater is strong in both the CFO and Curriculum areas but is concerned that he might "burn out" with the duties of four administrative positions. Their recommendation is to conserve resources and avoid unnecessary expenditures for now. He recommended using school business consultant, Theresa Ryland at least until the Spring and use current administrators in dual roles as principals and curriculum directors at the elementary and secondary level until we see how the State initiatives and elections go in November and how enrollments fall out over the next few months. The Funding Committee continues to meet and is still lobbying legislators to work for the benefit of our unique mountain community. Their next meeting is on November 4th at 7:00 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce and anyone is welcome to attend.

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ITEM 10. DISCUSSION AND ACTION (CONTINUED)

A. Fiscal Crisis Management Assessment Team (FCMAT) Recommendation (continued)

Dr. Tarwater indicated that the District has already implemented many of the FCMAT recommendations, but a big piece is organizational structure and staffing. The District has a unique opportunity at this time with the vacancies in both the CFO and Assistant Superintendent positions. In reviewing the FCMAT report in this area, Dr. Tarwater said that we're fairly comparable to other similar districts and no two districts are going to be structured exactly alike. He explained the direction he wants the District to take with regard to programs to enable every child to achieve success. He believes that intensive intervention programs for students who need help must be established, as much resources as possible needs to be kept at the school sites and not the Ed. Center, social promotion should not be tolerated, a pre-school program should be established, English Learners must become proficient, and the GATE program needs to be improved to meet the needs to our high achieving students. Dr. Tarwater presented his recommendations to the Board and a discussion ensued regarding the options.

Mrs. Fernald made a motion to approve a contract with Theresa Ryland, CPA, to serve as a school business consultant for the 2005/2006 school year and to revisit the discussion as to whether or not to hire a CFO in March 2006. Mr. Forte seconded the motion. Ayes: David/Fernald/Novasel/Forte. Noes: None. Absent: Bannar.

Mrs. Fernald made a motion to establish four positions – a) Principal/Director of Elementary Curriculum, b) Principal/Director of Secondary Curriculum, Education Services Specialist, and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, which are existing positions with additional duties, upon bringing back financial information and roles/responsibilities to make a formal motion on the establishment of these positions. Mrs. Novasel seconded the motion. Ayes: David/Fernald/Novasel/Forte. Noes: None. Absent: Bannar.

ITEM 11. CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. David noted that Item 11Dii. should have read "Mick Clarke" not Mike Clarke and that Rick Angelocci should have been included as contributing significantly to the EMS sign.

The Board approved a payment order, reimbursement agreements with parents of Nevada students, the quarterly Williams Act report, donations, and an agreement with nonpublic nonsectarian school.

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

ITEM 12. ADJOURN

Mrs. David adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

**DR. JAMES R. TARWATER, SUPERINTENDENT
AND SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**