



**LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2005**

EDUCATION CENTER BOARD ROOM
1021 Al Tahoe Boulevard

5:00 PM - REGULAR CLOSED SESSION
6:00 PM REGULAR OPEN SESSION

Board Members / Reps.	Staff Members Present		Guests Present
Wendy David Barbara Bannar Doug Forte Madeline Fernald Absent: Sue Novasel Student Rep: Mari Peshon	Dr. James Tarwater Beth Delacour Steve Morales Angie Freeman Harriett Lacey Jackie Nelson Scott Ramirez	Mark Romagnolo Becky Fortier Louise Ann Simon Jim Watson Teri Houser Pat Harnett Karen Gillis-Tinlin	John Falappino Angela Swanson

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session of the regular meeting of the Lake Tahoe Unified School District Board of Education was called to order by Wendy David at 5:03 p.m. at the Education Center Board Room.

Items 2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Wendy David announced items to be discussed in closed session at 5:03 p.m.

Items 3-4. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION/ RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Wendy David adjourned the regular meeting to closed session at 5:04 p.m. and reconvened into regular session at 6:13 p.m.

Item 5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Item 6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Item 7. ACTION ON ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION

A. Personnel Order No. 2005-06-07

- i. Hire:* instructional assistant and substitute teachers.
- ii. Accept Leave of Absence:* school office assistant.
- iii. Accept Resignation:* instructional assistants.
- iv. Accept Retirement:* teacher.

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

B. Conference with Labor Negotiators

Dr. James Tarwater, Superintendent and Beth Delacour, Director of Human Resources conferenced with the Board regarding negotiations with South Tahoe Educators Association (STEA) and California School Employees Association (CSEA). **No Action was taken.**

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Item 8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC

No comments.

Item 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND REPORTS

A. Report by John Falappino, Executive Director, Schools Insurance Group

John Falappino from Schools Insurance group (a partnership of 33 school districts which was formed in 1978 in response to the rapidly escalating costs of insurance) updated the Board on the Workers' Compensation costs both historically and for the future. He presented statistics regarding the number of claims, types of claims, and how the District is working to keep costs down. Back injuries seem to be the most common problem, along with slipping and falling on ice. The District realized a 13% drop in rates from 2004/05 to 2005/2006 (\$3 per \$100 of payroll down to \$2.86). There were 42 claims last year. The OUR System, which was introduced in recent years, has been cost-effective in bringing workers back to the job faster by putting them to work in jobs they can handle while they heal from their injury.

B. Update on Program Improvement Schools

Jim Watson, Jackie Nelson, Karen Tinlin, and Mark Romagnolo told the Board what steps are being taken at Bijou and the Middle School to avert the possibility of those two schools going into a third year of "Program Improvement" status due to them not meeting their API/AYP (Academic Performance Index/Annual Yearly Progress) goals. They are making a lot of changes in curriculum, assessments, staff support, training, and technology. Mrs. Tinlin said that principals are in the classrooms every week talking to teachers. They are monitoring and adjusting all the time using the newly-introduced Individualized Assessment Profile. They've also introduced "High Point" and "READ 180" to motivate struggling readers and English Learners. "Edusoft" is a web-based, data-driven software product that is being used to allow administrators and teachers to access and analyze test results, identify individual students who need additional help, and to create lesson plans, tests and answer sheets. Smart Boards (electronic white-boards) have also been brought into many classrooms. School cultures are changing with the introduction of leadership classes, AVID, and service learning. Jim Watson said that he's honored to have such skilled and caring staff members working to return the District to a level of stability that's been lost in the major upheavals of the past few years with the closing of schools, changing of boundaries, layoff and rehiring of teacher, etc. He feels that we should look at last year's test scores as a baseline and go from there. His one wish would be that we can work towards providing some staff collaboration time so that they can discuss the data and monitor student progress, while maintaining a high quality of instruction. Dr. Tarwater agreed that the issue of collaboration time should be revisited.

C. EVERYBODY COUNTS AND EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Dr. Tarwater kicked off the EVERYBODY COUNTS AND EVERY DAY COUNTS! Campaign to support school efforts to increase attendance rates from 92.7% district-wide in 2004/05 to 97%. Kids need to be in school in order to learn and schools have come up with strategies, goals for improvement, an intervention protocol, and stronger penalties for students who exceed the District's very liberal threshold of 95% or 10 days absent. Some students may have to attend Saturday school to make up lost days or provide a doctor's verification of illness. Others, will eventually end up being referred to the School Attendance Review Board and given directives to attend school with assistance from outreach services, if needed. Some parents may even be prosecuted. Students who do attend on a regular basis will be eligible to receive fun prizes and privileges such as ski, swim, and skating passes; restaurant gift certificates; movies; IPODS; preferred parking, free dance passes, etc. Jack Stafford is working on providing a grand prize at STHS of a new car. A poster will be placed in every classroom and around town to remind everyone that EVERYBODY COUNTS AND EVERY DAY COUNTS! The District does not get paid by the State for excused or unexcused absences, so if the attendance rate is increased to 97%, the District will receive an extra \$800,000 in revenue.



D. Student Representative Report

Mari Peshon reported on the Dodgeball Tournament to be held on November 9th and 10th, a Halloween carnival on October 31st, playoffs next week, and a concert on the 17th. "Crimes of the Heart" will be playing at the theater on November 3rd-6th.

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Item 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND REPORTS (continued)

E. Board of Education Report

Barbara Bannar attended the recent fund raiser at Applebee's, the Drug Store Project meeting, and announced the Harvest Festival at the Magnet School on October 28th to raise funds for the fifth grade field trip to San Francisco. **Madeline Fernald** said that MALDEF training for trainers to instruct and educate Latino parents to be involved in their children's schooling was successful and she appreciated the City's involvement. She asked if the District had consulted the College on the calendar development for the 2005/2006 school year. **Doug Forte** enjoyed the NJROTC inspection, the Board of Education candidate forum at Sierra House and the Applebee's fund raiser. **Wendy David** is busy with the election forums, adding that the last one will be on November 2nd. She enjoyed tonight's presentation regarding improvements in literacy and thanked Dr. Tarwater for his leadership. She informed the other Board Members that she is on the Board of the Child Abuse Prevention Council and noted that the Department of Human Services is bringing back the Child Resource Team (CRT).

F. Superintendent Report

Dr. Tarwater has been out visiting schools and talking to teachers. He said that technology is a service that needs to be improved and long-term goals set. He feels that third grade class sizes need to be analyzed. He also wants to look into the possibility of building a performing arts/sports facility in the community.

Item 10. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. Proposed Reassignment of Duties Related to SARB (School Attendance Review Board)

The FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis Management Assessment Team) report recommended examining every position that opens up through attrition. The District's Child Welfare and Attendance Specialist, Becky Fortier, recently took another job at the Middle School. Dr. Tarwater, after thoroughly examining the position, recommended splitting the SARB duties between Jack Stafford at the High School and Jim Valdes at the Middle School, and having the elementary principals monitor the attendance at their respective schools. As principals and Vice Principals, they are very knowledgeable about their own students' attendance patterns and they know when intervention may be needed. Mr. Valdes and Mr. Stafford will receive an annual allowance of \$2,400 each to make home visits. **Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the reassignment of duties related to SARB subject to negotiations with the California School Employees Association (CSEA); Mrs. Bannar seconded the motion. Ayes: David/ Bannar/Fernald/ Forte. Noes: None. Absent: Novasel.**

B. Williams Act Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report

Dr. Tarwater explained that there were no reportable complaints from July through September regarding the Williams Act. The Williams Act is a landmark Superior Court case which ensures that all students have equal access to instructional materials, safe schools, and quality teachers. **Mrs. Fernald made a motion to certify the Williams Act Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report; Mrs. Bannar seconded the motion. Ayes: David/ Bannar/Fernald/Forte. Noes: None. Absent: Novasel.**

Item 11. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved the following items:

Contracts: i. *General Agreement for Non-Public, Non-Sectarian School/Agency Services;* ii. *Reimbursement Agreement Between LTUSD and Holly and Clifford Hansen;* and iii. *Fifth Grade Ski Program Agreement.*

Resolutions: *Resolution No. 2005-2006-09, Resolution to Improve Student Attendance*

Increase in Long-term Substitute Teacher Rate: from \$101 to \$111 per day.

Donations: \$1,000 from Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra to the Drug Store Project.

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

Item 12. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

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