



**LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2007**

EDUCATION CENTER BOARD ROOM  
1021 Al Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA

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

Board Members / Reps.	Staff Members Present		Guests Present
Barbara Bannar Angela Swanson Sue Novasel Wendy David Doug Forte  <b>Substitute Student Rep.</b> Sebastiani Romagnolo	Dr. James Tarwater Beth Delacour Debra Yates Steve Morales Angie Freeman Jim Watson Mark Romagnolo Denise Pillsbury Joel Damerall Jenny Dickenson Rhonda VanDeusen Charna Silver	Steve Hayward Jackie Nelson Karen Gillis-Tinlin Susan Earnest Ivone Larson Mike Patterson Cat in the Hat – Bijou Carla Zezula Sue O'Connor DC Burtraw	Liz Muckerman Lynn Ervin Randy Peshon Mark Garratt Ken Weitzman Kathy Haven Brooke Laine Jen Spina Larry Green Joe Marzocco Heidi & John Drum Kae Reed Cory Ritchie Melissa James

**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 Barbara Bannar at 5:05 p.m at the Education Center Board Room.

**Items 2-4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION/ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION/ RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Barbara Bannar announced the items to be discussed in closed session, adjourned the regular meeting to closed session at 5:06 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 6:02 p.m.

**Item 5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Item 6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Bannar requested that *Item 11. A. Approve Payment Order* be pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted upon separately. **Mrs David made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Ms. Swanson seconded the motion. Ayes: David/ Bannar/Novasel/Swanson/ Forte. Noes: None.**

**Item 7. ACTION ON ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION (Government Code Section 54954.5)**

**A. Personnel Order No. 2006-07-12 (Government Code 54957)**

- i. *Hire*: substitute teachers, assistant softball coach, instructional assistant, and teachers.
- ii. *Accept Promotion*: registrar.
- iii. *Accept Change of Employment Status*: teachers from “Temp” to “Prob”.
- iv. *Accept Resignation*: instructional assistants and NJROTC instructor.
- v. *Accept Retirement*: teacher.
- vi. *Accept Request for Family Medical Leave of Absence*: school nurse.

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

**B. Discipline (Education Code 35146 and Government Code 54950)**

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

**i. Recommendation for Suspension of Expulsion No. 2005/06-24**

The student was expelled in May 2006 for verbally abusing and threatening a teacher. All conditions of expulsion have been met and **the student shall return to Mt. Tallac High School on a suspended expulsion.**

**Item 7. ACTION ON ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION (Government Code Section 54954.5) (continued)**

**C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code 54956.9(a))**

The Board conferenced with Dr. James Tarwater, Beth Delacour and legal counsel (via telephone), Gayle Tonon regarding litigation in Case No. SC2006-0116. **No action was taken.**

**Item 8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC**

Parent, **Lynn Ervin**, said that students recently received new schedules from STHS but would not be meeting with counselors individually. She asked whose decision this was and why?

**Susan Earnest, Charna Silver, and DC Burtraw** invited everyone to come to Bijou School on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> for the “Read Across America” party.

**Item 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND REPORTS**

**A. Recognition of Outgoing Board Member and Presentation of Commemorative Plaque**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: Brooke Laine**, on behalf of Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation, and personally, thanked Doug Forte for all he has given to the community during his time as a teacher, administrator, and Board Member.

**Lt. Randy Peshon**, on behalf of Sheriff Jeff Neves, and his daughter Mari, read two letters thanking Doug Forte for his many years of caring.

Barbara Bannar presented a plaque to Doug Forte in appreciation of his service to the Board of Education from 2003 to 2007.

**B. Update on Insurance Benefits for LTUSD Employees**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mike Patterson** said that with CVT (Central Valley Trust) we had a deal with Barton Hospital. He said “we’re being gouged by Barton” and asked if this is because Aetna hasn’t negotiated a deal. He also asked if Board Members, administrators, and confidential employees are also paying out of pocket the same as the rest of the employees.

**Beth Delacour**, Director of Human Resources, recapped the history of the District’s health benefits and said that the decision to switch from CVT to Aetna in 2005 was made in an effort to keep costs down and obtain a history to position the District to seek competitive rates for insurance and health costs. After analyzing the claims history since 2005, she discovered that more than \$900,000 of the \$1.3 million ambulatory dollars paid out in claims went to Barton Hospital, so she and **Mark Garratt** (Benefit Resources Group) have been meeting with the CFO of Barton in an effort to get them to offer more competitive rates. She distributed a chart comparing costs at Barton with Carson City facilities such as Lab Corp, Quest Diagnostic, Cash Clinic, and Great Basin Imaging. She is encouraging employees to consider traveling to Carson for services to save money for both the District and the employees. Ms. Delacour said that she will continue to negotiate with Barton Hospital to seek an agreement in the best interests of the District. In response to Mr. Patterson’s question, he was told that all employees and Board Members are offered the same insurance terms.

**C. Status Report Regarding a Two-Way Bilingual Immersion Program**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ken Weitzman** said that he cannot find any solid, scientific data that supports a Two-Way Immersion program (TWI).

**Liz Muckerman** said that she doesn’t understand why someone with no children in the system would oppose this. She hopes the Board will keep an open mind and consider starting a program in 2007.

**John Grom** thanked teachers and administrators for researching this program and said that the scientific data is out there. He said that such a program will retain families in the District.

**Jen Spina** thanked the Board for the continuing efforts to get this going and understands that there may be some kinks if it starts in 2007 but she’s willing to have her child “take one for the team”.

**Karen Tinlin** explained that preliminary information regarding this program, which integrates English learners and English-speaking students for instruction in and through two languages, was presented at the January 9, 2007 Board Meeting. She and Sue O’Connor updated the Board on what they have been doing since obtaining conceptual approval to move ahead, such as meeting with the Bijou staff, compiling questionnaires, visiting a similar program in Kings Beach, conducting enrollment studies, reviewing facilities needs, etc. Dr. Tarwater explained how this program would impact staffing and facilities. Mrs. Tinlin said that they are not ready at this time to recommend the implementation of the program because there are still factors that need to be discussed, but will return on March 13, 2007 with their recommendation.

**Item 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND REPORTS (CONTINUED)**

**D. 2006-07 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs (Part II)**

Debra Yates presented the Consolidated Application for the Board's review and said that the purpose of the application is to give the State a snapshot of what we plan to spend. Part I of the Application is generally approved by the Board in May of each year.

**E. Student Representative Report**

Sebastiani Romagnolo filled in for Ashley Rumble and reported that Winter Formal is March 3<sup>rd</sup>; the National Honor Society is organizing a Geography Bee for elementary schools; Elliot Pekar and Miles Wallace advanced to state in wrestling; Rand Norberg, Kyle Conroy, and Melissa Ewing performed with the NorCal Honor Band last weekend and will be going to All-State in Fresno; "Crazy for You" must have been great because Mrs. Larson didn't have to keep her husband awake once; the next performance is "The Diary of Anne Frank" at the end of March; and they're looking at ways to educate students on the dangers of alcohol.

**F. Board of Education Report**

Doug Forte complimented his fellow Board members and said we were fortunate in hiring Deb Yates and Jim Tarwater – the best Superintendent he ever worked with. He said that the "experiences we share shape the way we view the world" and he recalled experiences he has had over the 30+ years with LTUSD, as a teacher, principal and Board Member. The one he will least miss is salary negotiations and the people who say "we don't value them"... "no one is more committed than the Board and Jim", he added. He closed in saying "it's been a good ride!" The remaining four Board members expressed their appreciation for all that Mr. Forte has done for the District.

**G. Superintendent Report**

Dr. Tarwater said that attendance rates are continuing to improve over prior years, despite absences caused by the flu. Most of the schools were at 95% for month four and the average for month five was 94.7%. This is due to the 95/10 campaign which is aimed at increasing attendance rates over the 2004/05 base year of 92.7%. Dr. Tarwater added that it is critical to maintain this average until P2 at the end of March. With regard to Doug Forte's retirement, he said that Doug could look back and be proud and that he is honored to have been his superintendent.

**Item 10. DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**A. Approve Recommendation Regarding South Tahoe High School's Membership in the Northern Nevada 4A Athletic League**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Lynn Ervin encouraged the Board to support South Tahoe High School administration's recommendation to remain a member of the 4A Athletic League.

Jack Stafford explained how the proposal to switch classes came about last August and how the administration reached their decision to remain in the 4A league. He and Ivone Larson said that it was a very difficult decision but the bottom line was "what's best for kids?" Mrs. Novasel made a motion to approve the recommendation as submitted; Mr. Forte seconded the motion. Ayes: David/Bannar/Novasel/Swanson/Forte. Noes: None.

**B. Adopt of Resolution 2006/2007-14, Determination of District Needs for 2007/2008**

Beth Delacour explained that, in past years, when it has become necessary to make cuts in certificated staffing, criteria is needed to determine the seniority order since many of the teachers have the same seniority date. Mr. Forte made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2006/07-14 as submitted; Mrs. David seconded the motion. Ayes: David/Bannar/Novasel/Swanson/Forte. Noes: None.

**C. Approve Single School Plans for Student Achievement**

Dr. Tarwater explained that each school that operates programs funded through the Consolidated Application must develop a Single School Plan for Pupil Achievement. Four schools submitted their plans for approval: Bijou Community School, Sierra House Elementary School, Tahoe Valley Elementary School, and South Tahoe Middle School. He asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the plans and there were none. Mrs. David made a motion to approve the four single school plans as submitted; Mrs. Swanson seconded the motion. Ayes: David/Bannar/Novasel/Swanson/ Forte. Noes: None.

**Item 10. DISCUSSION AND ACTION (continued)**

**D. First Reading of the 2007/2008 School Calendar**

The Board reviewed the draft calendar and comments that have been given by staff and the community. A conversation ensued regarding starting school before Labor Day. The Board expressed a desire to have the Superintendent form a Calendar Committee to explore other options and establish a three-year calendar commencing with the 2008/2009 school year. Additional comments will be accepted until 2/28/07 and the calendar will be placed on the March 13, 2007 agenda for adoption. **No Action was Taken.**

**E. Award Construction Contract to Fregoso Builders, Inc. For the South Tahoe Middle School Gymnasium Locker Room Modernization**

Steve Morales explained the scope of the modernization project and told the Board that six bids were received. The lowest bidder was Fregoso Builders of Sacramento at \$2,877,250 and he recommended that the Board award the bid to that company, which has done two other projects for the District. This project will deplete the balance of the bond money. **Mr. Forte made a motion to award the construction contract to Fregoso Builders, Inc. ; Ms. Swanson seconded the motion. Ayes: David/ Bannar/Novasel/Swanson/ Forte. Noes: None.**

**F. Approve Purchase Order for the Youth Community Sports Complex Artificial Turf**

**Steve Morales** said competitive prices are available through the California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS) and a specification for the artificial turf has been selected. He requested approval to issue a purchase order for the installation of 90,000 square feet of 2.5" artificial grass with sand and cryogenic rubber infill, at a price not to exceed \$473,075. He said that this doesn't include demolition, soil preparation, drainage, or other improvements required prior to the installation of the turf, but the following contractors have confirmed their intention to donate services: Jim Ferguson, Tom Haen, Ron Fuller, Steve Harding, Mike Garcia, Russ Crawford, John D. Marchini, Greg Herbeck, Dave Galicia, Bob King, along with help from the City and the County. He also told the Board that the County was able to secure \$100,000 in funding from the California Integrated Waste Management Board under the Tire-Derived Product Grant Program. **Mrs. Novasel made a motion to approve the issuance of a purchase order through CMAS for the artificial turf; Mrs. David seconded the motion. Ayes: David/ Bannar/Novasel/Swanson/ Forte. Noes: None.**

**Item 11. CONSENT AGENDA**

*The Board approved the following items:*

Resolution 2006-07-15 to revise observance of "Lincoln Day" holiday; renewal of revocable licence for Tahoe Adventure Learning; schedule a special board meeting on March 1, 2007 at 6pm; accept donations; and minutes of January 23, 2007.

**Mrs. David made a motion to approve the Items B through F of Consent Agenda; Mrs. Novasel seconded the motion. Ayes: David/ Bannar/Swanson/Novasel/Forte. Noes: None**

Angela Swanson recused herself from voting on Item 11. A. Payment Order No. 2006/07-12 due to a conflict of interest.

**Mrs. David made a motion to approve the Item A. of the Consent Agenda; Mr. Forte seconded the motion. Ayes: David/ Bannar/Novasel/Forte. Abstain: Swanson. Noes: None**

**Item 12. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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