

**MINUTES OF  
FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
(YOSEMITE JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL & COARSEGOLD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT)  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 2005**

**I. OPENING PROCEDURES**

- A. Dr. Sally Frazier, Madera County Superintendent of Schools called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in rooms 3 and 4 of the State Community College District, Oakhurst Center.
- B. Johnny Green from Coarsegold Elementary School led the audience in the flag salute.
- C. 1. Roll Call Governance Board Members  
3 Year Terms  
Priscilla Pike  
Greg T. Schoonard  
Christine Wilder  
1 Year Term  
John E. Reynolds  
Monika Young Moulin
2. Dr. Frazier welcomed everyone in attendance to the first meeting of the new unified school district. Dr. Frazier congratulated each Board member for their successful election to serve on the new unified Board and stated that the Madera County Office of Education is prepared to assist the new district during the transitional phase. Dr. Frazier acknowledged Mr. Bill McCabe, Superintendent of the Yosemite Joint Union High School and Coarsegold Union School Districts for his leadership in the formation of the new unified school district. It was noted the electorate showed strong support with an almost 65% passage.
- D. Administration of Oath of Office  
The administration of the oaths of office to the newly elected governing Board members was administered by Sheriff John Anderson. Each Board member was presented a certificate of election prepared by the Madera County Clerk Recorder, Rebecca Martinez.
- E. Comments from the Public  
[This time is offered to members of the public wishing to address the Board on matters NOT listed on the agenda. Board members may listen but not discuss matters not on the agenda. (G.C. 54954.2)]

Danielle Vawter, President of CSEA at Yosemite Joint Union High School congratulated the new Board members and requested that when the Board deliberates on naming of the new unified school district, that they include the name Yosemite because it identifies the community. Ms. Vawter also stated that when the Board prepares to name the new superintendent, to consider that Bill McCabe has worked very well with CSEA and in leading the unification effort. She feels he would do a good job as superintendent of the new unified school district.

Ginny Moody, President CSEA at Coarsegold Union School District. Ms. Moody congratulated the new Board and stated she was very excited about the unification and what it will mean to the community. Ms. Moody expressed her support for Bill McCabe as superintendent of the new district.

Meg King, Coarsegold Elementary School, stated that she has worked for several superintendents and feels that Mr. McCabe is a good leader and would be the best choice as superintendent of the new district.

Joe Smith congratulated the new Board and expressed his appreciation to all who worked on the unification effort. He encouraged the Board to work together and to make the best decisions for the students of the new district.

## **II. ACTION ITEMS**

### **F. Election of Officers**

Dr. Frazier opened the floor to nominations for a President from among its members who shall serve until the following annual organizational meeting. She reminded Board members that a second is not needed when placing a name in to nomination.

Priscilla Pike nominated Christine Wilder for the President. John Reynolds moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Christine Wilder, seconded by Greg Schoonard. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Frazier congratulated President Wilder and handed the gavel to her.

President Wilder continued with the meeting and asked for nominations for clerk of the Board. John Reynolds nominated Priscilla Pike as clerk of the board. Monika Moulin moved that nominations be closed and cast a unanimous vote for Priscilla Pike. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Reynolds inquired about selecting a representative to serve on the executive committee of the Madera County School Boards Association. Dr. Frazier advised that this item will be discussed at the next MCSBA meeting scheduled for January 31, 2006. The MCSBA will invite the new unified school district to join the association. This item has been placed on the MCSBA agenda for discussion.

### **G. Naming of District**

President Wilder invited the audience to participate with any suggestions of names for the new unified district.

Randy Haggard, Principal, Coarsegold Elementary School, stated that his staff took a vote on the naming of the district and 23 voted for Yosemite Joint Unified School District and 1 vote for Yosemite Gold Joint Unified School District.

Joe Smith stated that he would encourage the Board to consider a generic name that would be suitable for both school districts by keeping the name Yosemite when naming the new district.

Bob Rose, Principal of Rivergold Elementary School, stated his staff also took a vote and 1 voted for the name Yosemite Gold Unified School District and 28 voted for the name Yosemite Unified School District.

Irene Keener, from Coarsegold Elementary School stated that she would like to encourage the Board to name the school this evening in order to facilitate the paperwork that will be necessary when the transition is made.

Judith Durr, Web Master for Yosemite Joint Union High School, stated that she would suggest the Board keeps in mind the color schemes of the two school sites. Ms. Durr advised that blue and gold do make a good color combination.

A question was asked to whether the word “joint” has to be in the name of the new school. Geri Cox advised that joint must be in the official name because the territory in question is in more than one county. She cited Education Code 87 and referenced her research with representatives of the California Department of Education.

Priscilla Pike moved to name the new district *Yosemite Joint Unified School District*, seconded by Greg Schoonard. Motion carried unanimously.

#### H. Setting of Regular Meeting dates, time and location

President Wilder asked the Board for discussion on setting regular meeting dates, time and location.

Priscilla Pike presented a tentative schedule of meeting dates proposed to be in effect until the end of June, 2006. The schedule calls for the meetings to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Pike recommended the meetings be held at the district office in order for the Board to have access to any information during meetings. John Reynolds stated in order to allow residents access to the meetings, the Board should consider alternating meeting locations, such as Oakhurst and the Coarsegold area.

Mrs. Pike stated that all resources are at the district office which makes it more feasible for staff and the Board. Mr. Reynolds stated that staff has gone to Board meeting in Coarsegold and it has never been a concern in the past. Mr. Reynolds stated that perhaps during the transition staff can accommodate the Board by meeting in alternate locations. Member Moulin stated she does see a benefit to meeting in alternate locations during this transitional period. Greg Schoonard recommended the Board meet at the district office during the transition period. The district office is a professional setting in which to conduct district issues.

Pat Hansen-Sedor stated she would like to see the meetings held at one location as it would be less cumbersome for staff and the person taking the minutes to be at one location. Joe Smith stated he would like to caution the Board to be aware of the perception of where the meetings are held.

After further discussion, John Reynolds moved to hold the meetings at the district office during the Transitional period and after June 30, 2006, revisit the issue and perhaps set alternate meeting locations, seconded by Greg Schnooard. Motion carried unanimously.

### III. INFORMATON ITEMS

#### I. Board Orientation Workshops

President Wilder asked if there was an interest by the Board to attend any board orientation workshops. Member Moulin asked if it would be appropriate at this time to attend a workshop. Dr. Frazier advised that would be a matter for the Board to decide. Information sessions could be provided by the staff at the Madera County Office of Education or the Board could elect to contact the California School Boards Association. The Board will inform the County Office of their preference at a future date.

#### J. Formation Guidelines

Geri Cox advised the Board of Equalization has acknowledged the formation of the new unified school district which becomes effective for all purposes July 1, 2006. Mrs. Cox advised that a resolution will need to prepared and submitted to the Board of Supervisors to acknowledge the formation of the new unified district. Also procedures need to be set in place to obtain a CDS code for the district. Mrs. Cox

advised that the new district will be included in the county-wide financial system and the Board will have to place an item on the agenda and pass a resolution to open a general fund.

Mrs. Cox stated that Education Code 87 and 83 states that a unified school district means a district maintaining grades kindergarten or 1 through 12. A unified district may comprise territory in more than one county and a school district lying in more than one county is a joint school jurisdiction.

Mrs. Cox advised that during the interim period of operation, the district will have some operating expenses. A budget will have to be developed and adopted for staff and will need to be hired. Mrs. Cox advised that the California Department of Education does have available start up funds which can be used to operate the district during the transition. The funds must be back on CDE schedule. The amount available to the district is \$60,000. Mrs. Pike asked what the interest rate would be. Mrs. Cox advised that there would be little or no interest rate applied. Mrs. Pike stated that Yosemite Joint Union High School District may be in the position to absorb the initial operating costs until July 1, 2006. Mrs. Cox advised caution regarding borrowing public funds from another district. She noted she has discussed this matter with Srinivasan and suggested he consult with his auditors or legal counsel to determine if this would be a legal expense.

#### **IV CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS**

The Board adjourned at 7:45 p.m. to room 7 for closed session.

The Board came out of closed session at 8:10 p.m. Christine Wilder reported the Board had discussed hiring an interim superintendent for the district. Greg Schoonard moved to appoint Bill McCabe as the Interim superintendent of the Yosemite Joint Unified School District subject to parties agreement of terms, seconded by Priscilla Pike. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **V. CONSIDERATION SETTING A DATE FOR SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

The Board agreed to hold a special meeting with Mr. Bill McCabe, on January 5, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Yosemite Joint Union High School District Office in Oakhurst.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Greg Schoonard moved to adjourn the first meeting of the Yosemite Joint Unified School District, seconded by John Reynolds. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally L. Frazier, Ed.D.  
Madera County Superintendent of Schools

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

Date \_\_\_\_\_