

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
50200 Road 427
Oakhurst, CA 93644

**NOTICE OF COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2006
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: BOARD ROOM

A meeting of the Yosemite Unified School District Steering Committee was convened on Monday, August 28, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the district Board room.

Present: Bill McCabe, Steve Raupp, Chris Baker, Priscilla Pike, Darylsue Stephansen, Roberta Savolskis, Danielle Vawter, Roberta Tackett, Monika Moulin, Srinivasan, Debbie Elliott, and Debra Dufresne.

Minutes – It was moved by Chris Baker and seconded by Priscilla Pike to approve the minutes of August 15, 2006. The minutes were accepted by a unanimous vote.

Agenda – There was basic discussion on the agenda prior to its approval that we would target items 5.0, 6.0, and 10.0 first and any other items that were not completed would be rolled over to the next meeting. Also, it was noted on our next meeting we would put a topic in regards to the structure and purpose of the steering committee. It is the intent of the Superintendent to make the steering committee an advisory committee to the Board and the Superintendent in regards to critical issues that come before the district. This will be agenzized at the next meeting. It was moved by Steve Raupp and seconded by Darylsue Stephansen to approve the agenda as amended. This passed by unanimous consent.

Grants for Unified District – We had a focused discussion in regards to some of the grants available to a unified district. The first item dealt with gas tanks in our bus barn area. Currently, the district has underground tanks at Yosemite High School and above ground tanks at Coarsegold. A grant available is 2% money that can be borrowed by the district to fund gas tanks. The preliminary estimates are that it will cost at least

\$ 180,000 to put in a 10,000 gallon diesel above ground tank and a 5,000 gallon gasoline tank. This is being brought up because what is currently happening is we are spending a large amount of money to maintain these below ground tanks. The below ground tanks are not environmentally sensitive. Last year we had to pull them out, and put liners in them. This year to recertify them looks like approximately a \$ 26,000 fee.

The group was consulted in regards to the viability of an above ground tanks and the approach the district should take. It was consensus of the group we should move forward with a more environmentally conscious approach and take advantage of the grant of 2% dollars to borrow the money necessary to put in the above ground tanks.

Solar – We had a brief conversation in regards to solar energy and we are looking at grants potentially, to put solar energy on our campuses. Comments from the group indicated this is good leadership. We should lead the community in renewable energy sources and model what people should be looking for. This would also have a positive impact upon our bills currently consumed for energy. It was stated this is a way of the future and with the amount of sunshine we have; it would be a very positive thing for our area. One person noted, solar companies would compete for your business and perhaps you can find a better deal, especially, if we are talking about a potential project that would have a pretty sweeping impact on the school district as a whole. A discussion developed in regards to selling power back to the grid and utilizing this renewal energy source to the benefit of the district. Details on this are sketchy and it was noted they may be difficult to establish selling power back to P.G. and E.

It was noted most educational grants are slowing. The economy, although, robust this last year is stalling to a certain degree, which is evident by the housing market and the rapid drop in housing, almost \$ 100,000 plus in many areas. Those grants available we have Earlene Ward, who has done an excellent job in applying for grants and making sure those funds are available to the district. Over the years, Earlene can be credited with millions of dollars worth of grants to our school district.

Foundations – It was noted a 501C3 foundation should be utilized to work with our school district to potentially bring funds in. Darylsue noted a 5013C that worked over in

the area where she was previously employed which provided grants to classrooms and needed dollars to the school district. This is one area we could continue to develop. Priscilla Pike is currently the chair and founder of the El Capitan Foundation and it seems we need to get several people together and see how we can help re-unite and shape other directions of an existing foundation for the betterment of our school district.

Discussion on increasing ADA compared to starting enrollment – We reviewed the enrollment sheets that showed the enrollment of 2572 within the district and ADA projected at 2299. The schools were calculated at enrollment at 94% to get ADA and some of our alternative schools were at 70% on enrollment to get ADA so we could calculate where we need to be. It was noted a 1% increase in district ADA would yield in excess of \$ 100,000. Strategies to that end could be real helpful in achieving more dollars into the classrooms for focused purposes that directly impact kids and instruction.

One area brought up was Saturday school. It was noted that a 4-hour Saturday school will recoup one day of attendance and this could be created at the elementary level as well as it is currently at the high school level.

There was also a discussion in regard to SARB reforms that we can look at how we are going to manage that to strengthen attendance. Positive rewards are given at all the schools to encourage attendance and we didn't want to spend 90% of our time on 10% of our students. It is still noted a 1% increase is a significant amount of revenue that could be used in any of the schools.

The calendar was a critical issue stated by the group. It was noted we would be doing a 3-year calendar with all the school districts and pulling that together so we could effectively have the same calendar. It was noted in the Coarsegold attendance area they take the 2 days off before Thanksgiving because we have buy-back days during that time. The attendance both in other feeder schools and the high school dips during that week because we only attend 2 days and people feel comfortable in actually leaving and not attending those 2 days.

Independent study was mentioned you need 5 days in order to get independent study otherwise, it doesn't happen.

The last thing is communication, communication, communication, getting the word out to parents if they will bring their children in for a brief time during the day, even if they have appointments in Fresno and were going to go the entire day, they allow us to maintain the revenue that is needed in order to teach their students. We need to do things, especially, with back-to-school night because parent education is key to the success in this area.

Testing Data – We went over all the testing data in regards to our student populations and Steve Raupp gave a presentation on the high school and noted there is a good growth in many areas and areas we still need to work on.

Both Rivergold and Coarsegold presentations were developed and created a real positive influence in regards to the success each of those schools have had and again, there are areas there isn't success.

Roberta Tackett reviewed the test data for the alternative schools, which generally had mixed results. They were significantly lower than the rank in file data just because of the special needs that population has.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 19, 2006

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: YHS Board Room

Items on the Next Agenda:

1. Purpose and composition of the committee
2. Election of Officers
3. Discussion on parent education
4. Discussion on out reach for businesses
5. Student involvement/community service
6. Budget
7. Facilities

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.