

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
50200 Road 427
Oakhurst, CA 93644

**NOTICE OF COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2006
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: BOARD ROOM

A meeting of the Yosemite Unified School District Steering Committee was called to order on October 17, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. by Chris Baker, President in the district Board room.

Present: Bill McCabe, Chris Baker, Darylsue Stephansen, JoAnne Steffke, Karen Fruth, Debbie Elliott, Deb Dufresne, Randy Haggard, Monika Moulin, Srinu Vasani, and Kirk Moulin.

Minutes – It was moved by Randy Haggard and seconded by Darylsue Stephansen to approve the minutes of September 19, 2006. The minutes were passed, unanimous vote. **PASSED**

Agenda – It was moved by Monika Moulin and seconded by Srinu Vasani to approve the agenda. Motion passed, unanimous vote. **PASSED**

Discussion on Parent Education – An extensive conversation was held in regards to parent education. The point was made that parents need to invest in the system, care about it, and learn how it functions, so they can be more effective parents in the way they interact with our educational programs. Many issues came up, such as attendance, school safety, to name a few. There is a need to develop strategies on attendance matters, so parents know what the expectations were and could better understand and adapt to them. Some possible strategies for getting the word out would be a FAQ sheet on the website through the PTA, the newspaper, Sierra Star, or newsletters, which would let parents know how the attendance matters operate. It was noted that many of these provisions pertaining to attendance matters were currently in play and just need to be updated and expanded. The Superintendent indicated he felt if people would develop questions for a FAQ the school would respond and post those answers.

Safe school – It was brought up the schools had gone through a number of lock downs and planning has taken place as far as school safety, and it was acknowledged there was always the possibility of a breach in safety procedures. Chris Baker mentioned he had entered OES, OCI, and YHS on numerous occasions and never been challenged. There were things people needed to know and there should be a **“did you know”** information sheet for visitors to review and sign in when visiting the schools, to aid in guiding people correctly. .

Outreach for Businesses – Outreach for Businesses has many aspects: Workforce, Partner in Education, are some of the primary goals, but also, actively trying to tie the community with kids who will ultimately graduate and become members of a work force. Providing students with marketable skills to make them successful within the workforce was a paramount and primary goal. Discussion was held about the resources within our community: artists, authors, and geologist to name a few, who could come in and be active in the classroom and provide a real value to our educational organization. A comment was made the District should be more active in the Chamber and potentially put together a Chamber Mixer and maybe even a joint mixer between Coarsegold and the Oakhurst Chamber. Since we are approaching our first Birthday it might be a value. Chris Baker offered to follow-up on obtaining an available date would such a mixer, and see if we could get businesses to come into the high school and enjoy a Chamber Mixer. Items of discussion could be: Job Faire, rental information, resources available through the school and businesses, etc.

Discussion on Student Involvement/Community Service – There was a brief discussion on senior projects and the multitude of items that kids are involved in during their high school years. Randy Haggard mentioned Coarsegold classes undertake a year-long project in community service. For example, Amanda Hallmeyer’s classes were **“change bandits”** for Valley Children’s Hospital. In other instances, classes adopt parts of the campus for renovation, plus work in many other areas that were community service oriented.

In the high school service learning area, there were many active groups involved, such as the Key Club, Interact, FFA, to name a few, and all engaged in activities of service to the community; the rodeo, clean-up, working with senior citizens, etc. The primary goal of

any service learning is to create a well-rounded student who then becomes a productive creative citizen, with a favorably service oriented proclivity as they enter adulthood.

It was mentioned that Rivergold also had service learning projects, where students participate in a display in May and June to present their accomplishments. They also adopt parts of the school, and carry out many other community service activities. It was mentioned that perhaps classes could adopt a senior citizen and write letters, help and be a classroom based activity or could even be actively working in the field -- depending on the age of the student. It was recognized that there were many opportunities existing in service learning, that this was certainly something desired for our students, and should be promoted throughout our organization.

Board Meeting – October 3, 2006 – It was mentioned the first part of the Board meeting was just a mutual back slapping session and really didn't have a productive value. Chris mentioned that many of these items could be put in writing and given to the Board as opposed to going through them and consuming time in the Board Meeting. It was also pointed out by others that it was important to acknowledge people at the Board Meeting. The last Board Meeting people had participants who were normally not there, but made presentations that would not have been made in the past. He noted the need to develop a system where parents could be more easily engaged in the process, given the tools to empower them so they understand how to put an item on the agenda, and address the Board in a parliamentary manner. The system could point out what was necessary to speak to the Board, and what they **“can and cannot say”**. His experience had been that the Board would merely acknowledge an item and potentially put it on a future agenda for conversation.

Calendars – It was just mentioned that we have had a little bit of a glitch in Connect Ed. Connect Ed is a wonderful system for conducting a survey; however, you can only conduct one question in the survey. We are looking at options for our Connect Ed program. Four questions were placed on the system covering parental input as we create the next three years of calendars. In the future, Connect Ed messages will go out effectively, and could bring in data to help us have an informed decision-making process.

Facilities – Solar Energy – Chris Baker mentioned there was a consortium for renewable energy in town that Barry Barney is heading. There was an interest from the group to continue pursuing solar energy and set up a meeting for discussion with individuals about the potential of solar energy. It was also mentioned that Google was now deploying quite a bit of solar energy as a leader and working towards advancements in this area for the future.

Budget – CEO Srini noted both audits had been completed and were successful with no major findings. There may be minor findings that come about, but for the most part, it was very good. The auditors were extremely thorough in gathering all of the information. He also mentioned right now on the Web you could find the results of many of our budgetary items, plus we just put up both collective bargaining agreements in their final form.

NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2006

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: YHS Board Room

Items on the Next Agenda:

1. Growth – Ray Beech
2. Next Step Parent Education
3. Student Health Issues – Pandemic Flu
4. Name of this Committee
5. Web Site
6. Facilities
7. Chamber Mixer

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

BMcC:jmp