

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
50200 Road 427
Oakhurst, CA 93644

**NOTICE OF COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2006
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: BOARD ROOM

A meeting of the Yosemite Unified School District Steering Committee was convened on September 19, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the district Board room.

Present: Bill McCabe, Chris Baker, Darylsue Stephansen, Lawna Porter, Roberta Savolskis, Danielle Vawter, Steve Raupp, John McMillen, Randy Haggard, Monika Moulin, Srinivasan, John Corippo, and Cheryl Airey.

Minutes – It was moved by Roberta Savolskis and seconded by Chris Baker to approve the minutes of August 28 2006. The minutes were accepted by a unanimous vote.

PASSED

Agenda – It was moved by Chris Baker and seconded by Danielle Vawter to approve the agenda. Motion passed, unanimous vote.

PASSED

Purpose and composition of the committee – It was discussed that the steering committee was originally designed to review only transitional issues with the District Unification. At this time however, the Committee indicated they wanted to expand its purpose to act as a Special Committee of the Unified District Board for advisory purposes the Board and its Superintendent. Various issues will be presented for discussion, which will become the format for ideas of the committee's thoughts and recommendations. The group was in consensus it would be a good thing to transition the committee and leave it at a time frame where community members could access the process.

Election of Officers – For Chair – Srinivasan made a motion to nominate Chris Baker and Steve Raupp seconded the motion. The approval was unanimous. Secretary – Steve Raupp made a motion to nominate Bill McCabe and Chris Baker seconded the motion. The approval was unanimous.

PASSED

2007 – 2010 District Calendar Discussion – The committee was presented with three calendars school calendars that covered 2007 through 2010. Their review indicated the following areas of concern:

1. Focus on student achievement
2. Maximize the resources to the district
3. Coordinate a common calendar with surrounding districts

The Committee was informed a calendar committee meeting would be held September 28th at 9:00 a.m. at the Bass Lake District Office neighboring Superintendents', certified and classified staff members. The Committee discussed starting the school year earlier, with ideas that ranged from a full week to a partial week. Many of the Committee members felt it would be more advantageous to have a full week because students needed to be more fully engaged at the beginning of the year, and the fact that readiness for learning was much higher at that time than at the end of the year so. They indicated the need to shift some of the educational time and lengthen the semester for high school students would be a real advantage.

Additionally, the Committee discussed the November Thanksgiving week, noting when classes were held that Monday and Tuesday it resulted in attendance dropping off 15% – 20% those days. It was believed it would be more helpful just to take the entire week off. The Coarsegold staff was currently taking it off as they used it for buy-back days so taking the entire week off would result on aligning both calendars as for student participation, and to best mitigate attendance impacts.

In December the Committee discussed the vacation days when getting close to the Christmas break. It was noted this year would be the same; however, next year we would stop the 21st of December. Then, the following years it goes to the 19th and then the 18th of December, which gives ample time for that particular break. Several people

noted they actually liked having the break as is, so we would have the week after New Year's to do different activities with families and vacations.

The February week was discussed and it was the Committee's consensus that February would be appropriate with a 4-day weekend format. There were individuals who felt strongly that a week off in February was appropriate for ski purposes, but for the most part individuals supported a format change to shorten the school year.

It was noted that Easter break should be before Easter, mainly due to our sports program, which needed to be kept in mind, because of the number of students who would potentially miss school as opposed to taking the Easter break after Easter.

The last item discussed was ending that first week in June. Again, it was important to understand this would minimize the down time students were disengaged from learning. It was noted by one person that oftentimes after testing the seniors shut down, and the juniors follow shortly thereafter. In the elementary grade levels sometimes it was also less than a productive time, so if we can minimize that time by pushing the testing window as far out as possible, it would minimize the nonproductive time for students, and consequently serve our population more effectively.

One other item noted was the 2008 school year with Veteran's Day being on a Tuesday, with the suggestion to consider taking the 10th as well primarily, because, in most cases, parents would make that a long weekend, and students would not attend that particular day. This topic will be brought forward at an upcoming agenda as far as the progress of the Mountain Area School's Calendar Committee and their success in getting a calendar that would align more closely with our student academic needs and resources for the District and also, having a common early ending.

The Committee determined it would be helpful to do a phone survey for the calendar, covering specific interests of parents in regards to breaks, especially, Easter, Christmas, and Thanksgiving, etc. The results of the survey would be discussed at the Committee meeting. The Superintendent assured the Committee he would be working towards a common calendar throughout our District and feeder Districts.

Facilities – This area was discussed in detail, and it was noted that at the present time these needs were many and varied. At Coarsegold School they currently are

undertaking a \$1.3 million stage addition; a \$1.2 million modernization, covering a kitchen remodel, modular restroom buildings directed towards capacity issues, realigning the transportation paths where students access the busses, bringing in 5 modular buildings and replacing 4 modular buildings, currently in poor condition.

At the Rivergold campus we brought in 7 modular buildings, and are working on the ingress/egress of the campus with the help of a traffic engineer, along with doing master planning on that site.

At Yosemite High School – Yosemite has had a \$ 30 million facelift with new and modernized facilities. Currently, 2 projects are pending; a soccer field, and agricultural arena. The arena was being evaluated by an advisory committee for AG to make sure it covered students and the community's needs. In addition, there was a third site for K-5 under valuation for possible future needs. The Committee discussed these various projects and this will be an item that will come back on future agendas as we get into various decision points in regards to school construction.

Budget – Srinivas gave a review of the budget for the District. In that budget there was a considerable conversation in regards to last year's ending for Coarsegold and Yosemite. Last year, Coarsegold ended approximately \$ 450,000 in the red. The reason for that were some unique expenditures in technology and in salary settlements. Yosemite ended up in the black \$ 129,000. This was because of unanticipated funds coming into the district that were paid and normally have a three-year lag time from mandated costs and other areas. Srinivas also pointed out the amount that carried forward from Yosemite on restricted funds was \$ 16,000 and that was spending the budgets for today's kids, for today's purposes, and well done.

Coarsegold, carried over a considerable amount of their restricted funds. One of the goals would be to spend restricted funds in the years received as much as possible. It was also noted the projection sheets showed the actuals for last year and then went two years, the current budget, and the year after. There were two different sheets because of closing out 2 districts. For the most part our \$ 20 million budget it is managed appropriately and we are moving the district forward in the right direction.

Extending Meeting – It was discussed whether we should extend the meeting. The group felt at this time they would just as soon roll the items over into the next meeting agenda.

NEXT MEETING:

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: YHS Board Room

Items on the Next Agenda:

1. Discussion on Parent Education
2. Discussion on Outreach for Businesses
3. Student Involvement/Community Service
4. School Calendar
5. Facilities Update
6. Update on Solar Energy

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

BMcC:jmp