

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CALIPATRIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 23, 2009

The Board of Trustees of the Calipatria Unified School District met in Special Session this date in the Board Room located at 501 West Main Street, Calipatria, California.

Present: Edgar R. Self, President (arrived at 5:45 p.m.)
Patty Dockstader, Clerk
Marcia A. Carter
Michael Fong
Augustine Sadorra
Glenn B. Sampson (arrived at 5:50 p.m.)
Holly Widmann

Absent:

Others Douglas T. Kline, Supt.
Present: Betty J. Raceles, Adm. Asst.
Lori Wigg, Business Manager

090. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Dockstader, Clerk of the Board, at 5: 40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Widmann.

091. PUBLIC FORUM (Comments Limited to Agenda Items Only)

There were no comments from the public.

BUSINESS

092. Establish 2009-10 Board Priorities and Objectives

The Governing Board shall annually conduct a self-evaluation in order to demonstrate accountability to the community and ensure that district governance effectively supports student achievement and the attainment of the district's vision and goals. The evaluation may address any areas of Board responsibility, including but not limited to Board performance in relation to vision setting, curriculum, personnel, finance, policy, collective bargaining and community relations. The evaluation also may address objectives related to Board meeting operations, relationships among Board members, relationship with the Superintendent, understanding of Board and Superintendent roles and responsibilities, communication skills, or other boardsmanship skills. (Board Bylaws 9400)

Trustee Dockstader opened the floor to comments, suggesting that each member speak in sequence around the table.

Trustee Carter said that the staffing was good and that the curriculum was good and did not require any changes. She commented that the district should keep relations open with the City of Calipatria and asked if there had been any follow up on the meeting with the City Council. Trustee Fong commented that the City does not have any funding, but they needed to look at grant funding for their programs. The Board discussed business and commercial developments that were coming into the district. Trustee Carter also said that the Board should look at the Superintendent's contract and talked about ongoing communication from the Superintendent.

Trustee Fong thought there needed to be an effort to make the community more aware of the Board, saying that people in the community, especially students, were not aware of who the Board members were. He suggested that pictures of Board members be on display.

Trustee Dockstader thought that there needed to be more staff recognition, perhaps by honoring Teachers of the Month selected by their peers. She suggested that they be presented with gift certificates. The Board discussed various fund raising activities. They discussed the possibility of having recognition bulletin board placed in the Board Room, or recognizing teachers by having student projects on display in the Board Room. The Board also talked about honoring staff members who have served the district for many years, perhaps at longevity increments. There was discussion about having the high school publications class do a power point presentation when employees are being recognized. The Board also discussed displaying championship banners in the gymnasium and talked about trophy displays.

Trustee Fong thought that there needed to be more open discussion at the Board meetings. He later commented that the Board should spend more time on issues of substances and less time on non-issues, such as choosing color schemes. Trustee Dockstader thought that the Board made good use of time at the meetings and that communication between Board members was good.

Trustee Sadorra thought that there was good community relations, saying that the community did not have any trouble finding out who the Board members were when there was a complaint. He also said that the Board was kept up to date on matters of finance and policy. Because there was no money, collective bargaining updates wouldn't be an issues, but that the Superintendent kept them informed.

Trustee Sampson talked about the role of the Board, saying its job was to develop policy and make sure that it is implemented. The Board should not try to "micro-manage" the operations of the district, which is the role of the superintendent. The Board needs to help management succeed. He believes that the Board should form a list of what it is looking for. Trustee Sampson also said that there needed to be more parental involvement, especially regarding the attitude of some Hispanic families who seemed to dissuade their girls from going to college, asking what the Board could do to help change that attitude. It was suggested that the Migrant Program be involved in the solution.

093. BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Kline took the opportunity to inform the Board that the district teachers had not come to an agreement on the new English Language Arts selection. However, because of the state budget crisis, the adoption deadline had been pushed back. He also agreed that there was a good staff and new teachers are receiving mentoring and support. He was also pleased to report that some of the new teachers at the high school site are becoming involved with sports activities. He reported that he would be issuing reports to the Board on a bi-weekly basis, or more often as needed. He also commented that the schools should no longer be targeting an API score of 800, but be pushing for 900. There were several teachers in the district who have had 900 scores. He commented some watering problems at Young Middle School and reported that work needed to be done on the school farm. He is already planning for dust control around the swimming pool and in the parking lot and driveways. Ben Saiza had recommended that they install sprinklers the parking lot and driveway so the areas can be sprinkled down on a regular basis. He is also planning for a swim team and planning for swim clinics to be taught by himself, Mr. Gertenbach and Ms. Corella. The after school drum line and rock combo class is being well attended, but says that the district needs to spend about \$3000 for new equipment. The class is open to high school and middle school students. There are eligibility requirements. There are already plans to take field trips to Central Union and Calexico High Schools band programs. Trustee Carter also reported on plans to visit the Marine Corps Band.

Trustee Carter asked that Board about hanging a prayer banner in the gymnasium. The Board would need to check policy and law on public prayer in schools.

094. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Sadorra, seconded by Trustee Carter and passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas T. Kline, Secretary

APPROVED AND ENTERED INTO THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISTRICT THIS DAY

Date

Patty Dockstader, Clerk of the Board