Adopt Minutes

I. Call to Order – 5:30 p.m.
A regular meeting of the Wasco Union Elementary School Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom by President Jim Forrest.

Board Members Present
Dr. Jim Forrest, President                       Mr. Cruz Rodriguez
Mr. Marty Jones, Clerk                          Mr. Ernie Sanchez
Mr. Richard Reding

Administrators Present
Mrs. Elizabeth McCray                           Mrs. Jennifer Long
Mrs. Susan Andreas-Bervel                       Mrs. Rafaela Lopez
Mr. Danny Arellano                              Mr. Brad Maberry
Mrs. Regina Green                               Mr. Kelly Richers
Mrs. Debbie Escobar                             Mr. Sam Torres
Mrs. Jan Hummel

Classified Management Present
Mrs. Karen Evans                                Mr. John Yanez
Mrs. Gale Huffaker

Secretary Present
Mrs. Gracie Saldaña

Visitors
Mrs. Lorna Jones

Flag Salute
The flag was saluted.

II. Adopt Agenda
It was moved by Jones and seconded by Reding to adopt the agenda as presented.
Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 5

III. Public Comments
None

IV. Executive Session
The meeting convened in executive session at 5:32 p.m.

Regular Session
The meeting reconvened in regular session at 6:35 p.m.

Announcement of Executive Session Actions
None

V. Reading and Approval of Minutes
It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Jones to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 8, 2011. Motioned carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

VI. Conduct Annual Organizational Meeting with Election of Board Officers
Dr. Forrest turned the meeting over to Mrs. McCray.

Mrs. McCray asked for nominations for Board President. Mr. Rodriguez nominated Mr. Richard Reding as Board President. Mr. Reding nominated Mr. Jones as Board President. Dr. Forrest asked if these two nominees were willing to assume the position of President. Mr. Jones responded that he is willing. Mr. Reding responded that he will but reluctantly. Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Sanchez voted in favor of Mr. Reding. Dr. Forrest, Mr. Jones and Mr. Reding voted in favor of Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones was elected Board President.

Mrs. McCray asked for nominations for Clerk of the Board. Mr. Redding was nominated by Mr. Jones for the Board Clerk, no other nominations were given. It was motioned by Mr. Forrest and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

Mr. Rodriguez shared that we are elected and we need to step up.

It was moved by Rodriguez and seconded by Sanchez to designate Superintendent Elizabeth McCray and Assistant Superintendent Susan Andreas-Bervel as the Authorized Representatives. Mrs. Elizabeth McCray will continue to be the Secretary of the Board. Motioned carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

Mrs. McCray asked for nominations for Trustee Representative. Mr. Sanchez nominated Dr. Forrest for the Trustee Representative. It was motioned by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Sanchez. Motioned carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Rodriguez to designate the Board Meetings to begin at 5:30 p.m. for closed session and 6:30 p.m. for regular session on the second
Tuesday of the month. Please note the April Board Meeting will be one week later due to Easter Vacation. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

Mrs. McCray then shared that we are keeping the July meeting as an option. We are keeping this date in the event that we hold that meeting. Mr. Jones agreed with Mrs. McCray.

Mrs. McCray thanked Dr. Forrest for his service to the Board as President and Mr. Jones for his service as the Clerk of the Board. She congratulated Mr. Jones, Mr. Reding and Dr. Forrest. The meeting was then turned over to President Jones.

Mr. Jones thanked Mrs. McCray for conducting the election of the officers. He also thanked Mrs. McCray for her kind words. He then commended Dr. Forrest for his exceptional service on the Board. Mr. Jones shared that Dr. Forrest is a great mentor, colleague and friend. He then congratulated Mr. Reding as the new clerk of the Board. He also thanked those in attendance.

VII. Public Hearing of Annual Account of School Facilities Fees
A public hearing was convened to certify the district’s compliance with Education Code 60119 concerning the Annual Accounting of School Facilities Fees. Hearing no comments, the hearing was closed.

VIII. Public Comments
Mr. Richers addressed the Board regarding the naming of Thomas Jefferson Middle School in 1995. There were serious issues on hand during that time. After several changes throughout the school, the staff and leadership applied and qualified for the name change. Those of us involved in this process take great pride. Mr. Richers then presented a Thomas Jefferson Middle School shirt to Dr. Forrest.

Dr. Forrest thanked Mr. Richers and the staff he greatly appreciated it.

IX. Items from Board Members
Mr. Rodriguez reported on the conference at California School Board Association Conference. It was all a learning experience and all for program improvement. Even though we are in lack of budget money, it was a spent wisely on his conference attendance. There were a lot of good sessions but I did walk out on some since it had the same presenter. There was only one session that stayed with me, the presenter was a very intelligent young man. He thanked Mrs. McCray for the questions clarification pertaining to unification at the Special Meeting. He shared that he appreciated the lawyer speaking to the classified. Mr. Rodriguez then shared that after the meeting he looked up the CDE. He reported that he learned that upon unification the Board is not bound to the superintendent’s contract. Mrs. McCray shared that Mr. Rodriguez was absolutely correct. He shared that he wanted to share this information with his fellow board members.
Mr. Sanchez reported on the conference of California School Board Association Conference. There was a speaker who spoke on a reaching out to the community. Community Mapping, he utilized this tool as a teacher. He commended the teachers for knowing how to teach and for keeping the interest and the growth of our students. He shared that he participated in a unification meeting session at CSBA Conference but he walked out.

Dr Forrest shared that it has been a pleasurable year. It has been a true revelation. He has been a teacher, superintendent and board member but he did not realize the behind the scenes. He commended his fellow board members and thanked them for the opportunity to serve as Board President.

Mr. Rodriguez also shared that there were three workshops about budgets.

Mr. Jones shared that we have challenges this year and I believe that we are better prepared in this district with a very rare commodity and that is leadership. We are also fortunate that we have operating capital. That’s always a good thing but that is not the only thing. We have good leaders here. Not just good management but good leadership. He commended Mr. Reding and Dr. Forrest for their leadership and commended the leaders in the meeting. The most precious commodities are our children. We will have to continue to utilize our leadership skills, every bit of it from the classroom, to the superintendent and to this table. We are going to have to quit the petty arguments and bickering. We need to get together and move ahead. This is just the coach coming out in me, it’s late in the game and we are behind. Let’s get it done, we have big challenges ahead of us and I know we can do it. Lord help us to get it done.

X. Reports

1. Mrs. McCray introduced Mrs. Karen Evans who reported to the Board on the First Interim Budget Report. She shared that fortunately the trigger was only partially pulled. She also shared that the audit report will be presented at a later date due to the Auditor having health issues. Mrs. Evans reported that we will receive $13 per ADA reduction. These cuts will go into next year. The 2012-13 school year is not any brighter. She also reported on the budget. She was projecting a reserve of 3% but this will look much better now with the results of the smaller trigger. The trigger was based on the revenue that was coming in to the State. Will this result in helping other districts asked Dr. Forrest. Mrs. Evans shared that if they were already in trouble, this is not going to help those districts. She then reported on the Fund Balance.

Mrs. McCray reminded the Board of the combined Wasco High School and Elementary School Christmas Concert at 7PM at the Wasco High School Auditorium.

2. Mrs. McCray then shared that she was contacted by Mr. Juan Flores regarding a community garden. The City of Wasco suggested that he come speak to us. The
center on Race Poverty and the Environment is willing to provide the liability insurance for this project. She asked the Board that if they are interested in pursuing this opportunity. As you know community gardens are getting started everywhere. Mr. Rodriguez motioned to do that. It was explained that a motion is not necessary. Dr. Forrest asked if there is any available property south of John L. Pruiett. Mrs. McCray shared that Mr. Yanez will look into that property. Mr. Jones asked if this garden will be accessible to all the community. Mrs. McCray shared that she is not sure but can pursue it if the Board so choses to do so.

Also Mrs. McCray shared that she met with the executive cabinet with both districts. If there was ever evidence today was the day. We had 10 leaders sitting in my office sharing exactly what is happening in our schools. The bottom line is children and student achievement. The open communication, the sharing and the questions were very powerful during the meeting. This was the first meeting with both districts and it was absolutely fabulous. Then it continued in the superintendents council. This was a celebration day to see this type of collaboration between the districts. Mrs. McCray then shared that she was very pleased with the joint special board meeting and Mr. Chambers’ presentation. She shared that the presentation was posted immediately on the Wasco Union High School Webpage and it is now on the Wasco Union Elementary School District Webpage. We have all learned a lot from the process of Joint Administration to now and she set up 5 points as to why we are doing this unification. We need to share the understanding why we are pursuing unification. And for those who are against it, I would like to know why. From July to now a lot of the issues are referring the adults in the system. Mrs. McCray shared the following; Why should I support unification? By unifying we will; 1. Establish a unified school district that will be responsive to the needs of our student population, providing safe and academically successful schools. 2. Provide a coordinated, sequential educational program for our students from preschool through twelfth grade. 3. Increase collaboration between elementary staff, secondary staff and the community in our pursuit of national, state, county and local educational goals. 4. Create a unified educational system whereby expectations and accountability are driven by a single Board of Trustees and a single administration representing the community. 5. Provide a more effective use of district resources. This is the message I believe we should be sending to the community. There is still a lot of misinformation, but if there are any questions she has asked the administrative team to forward those questions to her to get the answers. The purpose of last week’s joint meeting was to provide information of the process. Now as a District we go get that information and the budget information from the County Office. As a result of the Joint Special Board Meeting we will now see it all in a plan and at that point the board will have the opportunity to decide what is best for the District and the Students of the District. She also clarified that when Mr. Chamber stated “she” it was in reference to the County Superintendent, he was not referring to Mrs. McCray. She then referred to Mr. Rodriguez’s statement regarding the Board not being
bound to the superintendent contract upon unification. She reminded the Board that she was approached to take on this responsibility. She shared that she is willing and well able to get done what needs to be done but more than anything else this is the right time to do it. We are getting everyone moving in the right direction. This is something she feels strongly about for the children of this community. This is why I am in this profession to see the success from the smiling faces of our students. I am not worried about my contract and not worried about my job. I am here for the best interest of the children of this community. Dr. Forrest then stated Amen to Mrs. McCray’s comments. She then wished a Merry Christmas to all and asked to remember the reason for the season.

XI. Discussion and Action
1. It was moved by Forrest and seconded by Reding to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
   a. Approval of Certificated Employee(s) Letter of Resignation
      1. Brian Chavez, Teacher – Math, Thomas Jefferson
   b. Approval of Certificated Employee(s)
      1. Marina Gonzalez, Academic Specialist – 3.5 hours, John L. Prueitt
   c. Approval of the Classified Employee(s) Letters of Resignation
      1. Ryan Martin, Technology Intervention Specialist – 6 hours, Palm Avenue
      2. Dina Simpkins, Food Service Manager, Karl F. Clemens
   d. Approval of Classified Employee(s)
      1. Additional Assignment for 2011-12 School Year
         a. Noemi Gonzalez – Student Monitor, Substitute – All Sites
      2. Change of Position
         a. Tammy Hinojosa, Food Service Manager, 7 Hours – Karl F. Clemens Short – Term Assignment
      3. Short – Term Assignment
         a. Marsha Dill, Instructional Aide – Special Education
      4. Classified Substitutes
         a. Linda Tomlin, Food Service Assistant, Food Services
         b. Dina Simpkins, Food Service Assistant, Food Services

2. It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Rodriguez to approve the First Interim Budget Report for 2011-12. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

3. It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Forrest to approve the Resolution of Annual Accounting of Development Fees for 2010-11. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

4. It was moved by Rodriguez and seconded by Reding to approve the Resolution to Award Software Contract and Piggyback Designation to award bid to SHI, Inc in the amount of $26,005.05 and Resolution No. 1112-4 to allow for other school
districts in California to purchase software and service utilizing this bid award “piggybacking”. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

5. It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Forrest to approve the John L. Prueitt Elementary School Single Plan for Student Achievement. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

Mr. Jones shared that he realizes the plans are a lot of work. He then commended and thanked the administration.

Dr. Forrest shared that he recognized that there was a general format but that there was a great disparity on the reporting of information. He felt that if we are going to do them if we could work a little more on comparing the plans and a little more commonality. Mr. Torres shared that the plan is for the administrator team to get together before the next school year. Mrs. McCray shared that before the end of the year we will also have a revised LEA plan.

6. It was moved by Reding and seconded by Sanchez to approve the Karl F. Clemens Elementary School Single Plan for Student Achievement. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

7. It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Forrest to approve the Palm Avenue Elementary School Single Plan for Student Achievement. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

8. It was moved by Rodriguez and seconded by Sanchez to approve the Teresa Burke Elementary School Single Plan for Student Achievement. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

9. It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Forrest to approve the Thomas Jefferson Middle Elementary School Single Plan for Student Achievement. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

10. It was moved by Rodriguez and seconded by Sanchez to approve the food Service Agreement between Wasco Union Elementary School District and Buttonwillow School District. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

11. It was moved by Rodriguez and seconded by Sanchez to approve to Declare Classroom Items and Miscellaneous Items Obsolete. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

12. It was moved by Rodriguez and seconded by Forrest to approve the Unit Approval Committee for College Units. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.
13. It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Reding to approve the Donations. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

XII. Discussion and Information
1. Correspondence from Kern County Superintendent of Schools regarding Palm Avenue School Improvement Monitoring Report was shared with the Board
2. Suspension List was shared with the Board
3. December Menu was shared with the Board

XIII. Claims, Transfers and Accounts
It was moved by Jones and seconded Reding to approve the claims, transfers and accounts for 20, 21, 22, 23 and Payrolls in the amount of $1,913,868.13. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

XIV. Adjournment
It was moved by Sanchez and seconded by Forrest to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0.

Any materials required by law to be made available to the public prior to a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the District can be inspected at the following address during normal business hours: District Office, 639 Broadway, Wasco, CA. 93280. An individual who requires disability-related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the Board Meeting should contact the Superintendent’s Office.