

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting – March 31, 2010

Special Session 5:00 P.M.

Willows City Council Chambers

201 N. Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call - President Parisio called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Present were: Mr. Ward, Mrs. Brott, Mr. Parisio, Mr. Geiger and Mrs. Domenighini
- 1.2 Welcome to Visitors
- 1.3 Flag Salute led by Mr. Parisio

2. AGENDA

- 2.1 Consider approval of Special Agenda for 3/31/10. Dr. Olmos asked to have Item 3.4 (WUSD Certificated Teachers Salary Schedule for 2009/10) pulled from the agenda at WUTA's request. Dr. Olmos then read a letter from Curtis Lyon of CTA stating the reasons they wanted the salary schedule pulled from the agenda which included that it may have the result of invalidating the entire Tentative Agreement. Dr. Olmos then read the response from Robert Kingsley, legal counsel for WUSD. It stated that the action to temporarily modify the salary schedule was agendized because the County Office advised that this was the best way to ensure that each employee received credit for a full school year (a component of the Tentative Agreement that he thought was very important to WUTA). Mr. Kingsley advised the Board, at WUTA's request, to take action to approve the Tentative Agreement, **but not** to take any action to adopt the revised salary schedule. (copies are attached to the minutes) Mrs. Brott moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger, to approve the Special Agenda, excluding Item 3.4. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.

3. OPEN SESSION

- 3.1 **(Action)** Cut List. Dr. Olmos said the Cut List had been updated to include Item #22 – Reduce one Cafeteria Helper I @ Murdock from a 8 hour to a 3.9 hour position. It is a savings of just under \$29,000. Mrs. Brott moved, seconded by Mr. Ward, to add Item #22 to the Cut List. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.
- 3.2 **(Action)** Consider approval of Resolution No. 2009-10-16, Elimination of Classified Services Effective May 15, 2010 and/or at the conclusion of the 2009-10 school year. Karen Hansen, CSEA President, addressed the Board. She said she had great concerns regarding the resolution. She stated she believed that CSEA was given the choice by the District to give up days or jobs or a combination of the two. The membership voted and decided not to give days. They understood the aides were being eliminated for the 2010/11 school year. She thought they had given up those positions in February and were approved by the Board at that time, which amounted to \$356,000 (CSEA's fair share). Her question to the Board was why the positions in the resolution needed to be cut before the end of the current school year. She stated it was a complete surprise to the CSEA employees. CSEA has many different hourly positions and wages. They were also told to keep from taking the furlough days they would need to give up 15.72% of their income to save all positions. She asked the Board not to approve the resolution since it will be very devastating to the employees on the resolution. She also brought to their attention that the District has already saved between \$26,000-\$27,000 this year by not replacing the Media Specialist at Murdock and one aide position that resigned at the end of January. She brought up questions about the ARRA funding. She was told that there was \$190,589 funded to Murdock for 2009-10 school year. She also was told there was \$140,000 for next year through School Site Council. She wondered why they were cutting positions this year and why this money couldn't be used to save jobs. The aides wondered why they should give up four days when they are losing their jobs next year. Ms. Skala said that Title I/ARRA funds, which are restricted, in the amount of \$253,000 were already used to save positions for this year and next. For the 2010/11 school year the District is trying to save Aide II positions, but there isn't enough to support all positions. We need set asides of 20% by being in PI status. ARRA funding ends next year.

Carlo Tarantola, CSEA Organizer, addressed the Board. He said he thought it was suspicious that a special meeting was called with only 24 hours notice, a day before a regular meeting, to layoff 30% of the classified employees that work in the schools. He spoke in favor of keeping the aides. He said the Education Code prohibits volunteers from doing the work of CSEA employees. He said CSEA would be vigilant in monitoring and ensuring that the law was adhered to and that no volunteers did any work of the CSEA employees. He also said any parent volunteers in the classrooms right now would have to be removed since the aides would no longer be there. Four furlough days would result in a 15% cut to the lowest paid employee. He stated to the Board that they serve on the Board as trustees, trustees of the community's welfare and he is calling on them tonight to direct the Superintendent to put the welfare of the children first and rescind these cuts. He said the Board's first duty is to ensure the best education and safety to the children and not to protect the salaries and interests of the administration. He then said to make it very clear that if the Board can't discharge that duty tonight the community will find those who can come November. Mr. Geiger said that he took Mr. Tarantola's last statement as a threat and Mrs. Brott took it the same way. Mr. Tarantola said it was a statement of fact. Mr. Geiger asked him if he had any alternatives where to cut? He said he hadn't studied the list and that was what negotiations were for. Mrs. Brott said the layoff of the aides wasn't retaliation, but WUSD is 1.6 million dollars in the hole. Her question to Mr. Tarantola was if he really cared about students why he doesn't want parent volunteers in the classroom. She stated we are in PI status and got there with 20-1 ratio in the classroom, with aides, so she said it is a good time to re-evaluate while the District is in this budget crunch. Mrs. Brott, personally, is disappointed with negotiations. Mr. Ward responded to the short notice of tonight's meeting that the Tentative Agreement was signed Monday so in order to get the furlough days ratified we had to have a special meeting this evening.

Suzanne Myra addressed the Board in support of keeping the aides. Mr. Parisio said the Board is not questioning the value of the aides but the budget calls for cuts. He is sorry this has to happen. Michelle Thomas addressed the Board and said to save the elimination of Item #10 – Elimination of Instructional Aide I positions (\$45,550) she thinks the administration should take another 5% cut to cover the aides. She gave a handout to the Board. More discussion followed regarding the layoff of the aides. Kathy Zabell also addressed the Board regarding the impact on the classroom would have by the layoffs. Mrs. Brott moved, seconded by Mr. Parisio, to approve Resolution No. 2009-10-16. Roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 4 yes votes – 1 no vote (Mrs. Domenighini).

- 3.3 **(Action)** Ratification of Tentative Agreement between the Willows Unified School District (WUSD) and the Willows Unified Teachers Association (WUTA) for 2010/11. Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Mrs. Brott, to approve the Tentative Agreement with WUTA. Mrs. Brott brought up the concern she had with WUTA pulling the salary schedule off the agenda and she hoped WUTA was communicating with every single member about service credit years. Mrs. Domenighini agreed she wants to make sure the teachers get their full benefits and doesn't want to see the teachers lose something that is valuable to them. When School Services and the County said that we needed to revise the salary schedule, and we clearly did it for administration for the same reason, she hopes they aren't making a mistake. Mrs. Domenighini also stated that STRS is very strict with its numbers – they go right down to the day. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.
- 3.4 **(Action)** Consider approval of WUSD Certificated Teachers Salary Schedule for 2009/10. - **PULLED**
- 3.5 **(Action)** Consider approval of Form for Public Disclosure of Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement in accordance with the requirements of AB-1200 and GC 3547.5. Mrs. Brott moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger to approve the Form for Public Disclosure of Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mrs. Domenighini was glad to see that they added the piece to add mediation in the grievance procedure. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 P.M.