

TRINITY ALPS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

Weaverville Elementary School Library Monday, October 6, 2014
31020 State Hwy 3 Business Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Weaverville, California

Trinity Alps Unified School District Governing Board:

George Tkach, President - Present
Keith Groves, Vice President/Clerk - Present
Sadie Fagan - Present
Daniel Beans - Present
Krista Gogan – Present

Also Present: Tom Barnett, Superintendent
Cindy Blanchard, Director of Business Services
Keith Sprague, WES/TPA Principal
Christine Camara, THS Principal

1.0 Formal Opening

- 1.1 Call to Order – **6:00 PM**
- 1.2 Flag Salute – Led by Trustee Tkach
- 1.3 Additions or Changes in Agenda - None

2.0 COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON OPEN SESSION AGENDA - Audience member Don Methley let the Board know that he was going to video record the meeting. Mr. Tkach read the directions for public comment.

Tanya Mortimeyer, Business Manager at Junction City School (JCS) read a lengthy statement that included allegations of prior harassment by Trustee Tkach toward Trustee Fagan and asked Board members Beans, Groves and Gogan to reconsider going forward with tonight’s agenda item. The following people agreed with Ms. Mortimeyer’s statement: Susan Martin, JCS Board member, Shazey Senter, Melanie Holmes, Roget Rogers, Larry Mortimeyer, Becky Madden, Erin McCulley, Al Baldocky, Greg Miller, Lynn Plew, Megan Coller, Maria Madden, Dawn MacLaren, Heidi Van Dine, Tom Kelly, Jim Cloud, Madison Nourse.

Sandy Bradford, owner of Imaginations and mother of WES student gave a timeline of the events that transpired with her student serving a detention for sharing food and her decision to speak to the media. She stated she does not know anything about incidents cited in Ms. Mortimeyers statement. She wants to set the record straight that she spoke to all the appropriate administrators prior to speaking with the local media and has refused interviews with national news reporters. She is not happy with KRCR’s reporting of the incident and her complaint is that only one out of three students sharing lunch received a detention.

Don Methley states that most people in the audience do not know what the issue is and he would like the Board to continue with the agenda item tonight.

3.0 ACCEPT OPEN SESSION AGENDA

Motion by Trustee Groves, Second by Trustee Beans: Roll Call Vote; Trustees Gogan, Beans, Groves and Tkach Aye; Trustee Fagan Nay.

4.0 BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE

- 4.1 Review Board Member Conduct/Admonishment of Board Member

ITEM 4.1 CONTINUED

Trustee Tkach read from the Attorney General Office regarding the Brown Act, which clarifies why the Board must discuss Board member conduct in open session and that concerns over Board members conduct are the sole responsibility of the Board.

Mr. Barnett read background of the incident regarding direct retaliation by an individual Board member toward a parent who issued a complaint regarding actions taken by the school district.

Trustee Fagan apologized to the audience members and to Ms. Bradford. She thought it was her place as a Board member to investigate any complaints brought to her. She is shocked that it has gotten to this point and felt her prior apology was sufficient. She regrets feeding into social media and has since exited herself from social media. She wants the Board to look at our policies and does not know why she as a Board member had not been informed that the district may be participating in a free breakfast and lunch program in the next few weeks. She feels retaliated against by the Board President and uninformed by the Superintendent. She previously asked for a Special Board meeting regarding the lunch incident but was denied. She briefly went over the procedures for a Board member recall and that the Board President does not have authority to ask her to step down from the Board. She states that she is going to file a complaint against Board President Tkach for an incident she alleged happened last school year as well as his currently asking her to resign.

Trustee Tkach opened the floor to the rest of the Board and reiterated that a School Board cannot remove a fellow Board member but they can ask for a resignation. Each Board member then asked Ms. Fagan questions, made suggestions, thanked the audience for attending, invited the audience to attend regular Board meetings as they are all important, discussed Board member trainings, discussed the role of a Board member and the role of administration and why this meeting was necessary.

Trustee Tkach thanked everyone for coming. He explained again that the meeting had to be held in a public forum. This Board does not want to do things in secrecy that would undermine the public's trust in us. There was retaliation and we need unity so that people can complain for whatever reason they wish without fear of retaliation and we need to listen to complaints.

Trustee Tkach asked the Board if there was a motion to take any action.

Trustee Groves moved to end the meeting with no action taken, Second by Trustee Beans: Roll Call Vote; Trustees Gogan, Fagan, Beans, Tkach and Groves Aye.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT – 7:00 PM