

**Cottonwood Union School District  
20512 W. First Street  
Cottonwood, CA 96022**

**MINUTES for Tuesday, FEBRUARY 18, 2014, 6:30 P.M.**  
Regular Board Meeting, West Cottonwood Library

Members Present: Mr. Iles, Mr. Kohler, Mr. Lucero, Mr. Vazquez  
Members Absent: Vacant Seat  
Others Present: Superintendent Lowden  
Principals: Doug Geren, Don Ray  
Laura Merrick, Business Manager  
Staff: Four staff members were present along with seventy-five community members and students.

- 1.0 **Call Regular Meeting to Order** – Mr. Iles called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- 2.0 **Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. Iles led the flag salute.
- 3.0 **Approval of Agenda**  
**ACTION:** Mr. Vazquez moved, seconded by Mr. Lucero, to approve the agenda as presented.  
**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
- 4.0 **Recognition (Students, Staff, Curriculum Review)** – Mr. Ray recognized the Star Performers who were chosen by their teachers for a variety of reasons and Mr. Geren recognized the students of the month. Nineteen students were present to be recognized by the board.
- 5.0 **Public Forum/Hearing of Persons Wishing to Address the Board** – None at this time.
- 6.0 **Consent Agenda**
  - 6.1 Review of Consent Agenda
    - 6.1.1 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for:  
Regular Board Meeting held on January 21, 2014;
    - 6.1.2 Approval of Commercial Warrants,
    - 6.1.3 Consider acceptance of Letter of Retirement from **Jan Anderson** – Title I Teacher
  - 6.2 Approval of Consent Agenda  
**ACTION:** Mr. Lucero moved, seconded by Mr. Vazquez, to approve the consent agenda.  
**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
- 7.0 **Discussion/Action Items:**
  - 7.1 **Review and accept corrective action pertaining to the 2012/2013 Audit Findings and Recommendations.**

Mr. Lowden explained the two findings to the board. One finding was for the timing of student body deposits and one for a teacher credential issue. The corrective action taken on each one was outlined and explained to the board for their approval.  
**ACTION:** Mr. Lucero moved, seconded by Mr. Vazquez, to accept the corrective action pertaining to the 2012/2013 Audit Findings and Recommendations.  
**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
  - 7.2 **Board members to complete Statement of Economic Interest Forms. (Due to District Office by April 1.) The Form 700 and Reference Pamphlet are available for download at <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/index.php?id=500>**

Mr. Lowden reminded the board of the annual requirement to complete a Form 700.

**7.3 Consider approval of the 2014 Local Agency Biennial Notice and review of BB 9270, Conflict of Interest Code.**

**ACTION:** Mr. Kohler moved, seconded by Mr. Lucero, to approve the 2014 Local Agency Biennial Notice and Review of BB 9270, Conflict of Interest Code.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**7.4 Discussion of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).**

Two short videos from West Ed were shown at this time. Mr. Lowden shared about components of the LCAP. A discussion was held on how this new system should work and about how education may look next year.

**7.5 Review of 2014/2015 Draft School Calendar.**

Mr. Lowden shared this is the first look at the calendar for the board. There are a few days that are different from the high school. For the most part, we try to stay close to the county calendar due to special education transportation needs. Mr. Lowden explained the difference in proposed minimum days. The calendar will be brought back for approval from the board.

**7.6 Discussion on Establishing an Irrevocable Trust for Retiree Benefits per GASB 45.**

Mr. Lowden shared some pros and cons of having an irrevocable trust. A discussion was held about assumptions, PERS vs. other providers, and whether we could do our own trust. Several board members felt they needed more information before a decision could be made on this topic. Mr. Lowden and Mrs. Merrick agreed to do further research and bring back more information to the board at a later date.

**8.0 Informational Items:**

**8.1 CTA Report:** Mrs. White shared that teachers are learning about Common Core now, but are concerned about the Smarter Balance testing. There is inconsistency between Common Core and the new testing she felt. She said the teachers appreciated the time spent with Supt. Lowden on the calendar.

**8.2 Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Lowden reported 1) Welcome back to Ms. Loftus, 2) Legal workshop on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, 3) Superintendent Search update (brochure done, ad purchased in Ed Cal and posted on EdJoin starting next week). It is also on the district's website. 4) Mr. Seale has resigned from the board, so the board will need to appoint someone in the next 60 days, and 5) Math adoption process.

**8.3 Principal's Report:**

Mr. Ray reported on 1) Star rewards trip to see Enterprise Starship Variety Hour, 2) Treasures Training is going on now, 3) computer training tomorrow after school for interested staff, 4) math curriculum to be adopted has been disappointing to our staff, 5) grant received for the Raising a Reader Program, 6) Math Madness night on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. and 7) Dr. Seuss day on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Geren reported on 1) Common Core training, 2) Workshop next week on administering the new tests, 3) April 7<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of the testing window, 4) Father-Daughter dance raised about \$6,000 with over 500 tickets sold, 5) spring pictures, 6) Renaissance bowling, 7) Ag day at West Valley, 8) SARB process, 9) pump issues in the West Cafeteria and 10) baseball tryouts start Friday.

**9.0 Information/Communication Items:** Two items were included for information only.

**10.0 Governing Board Discussion Items:** None at this time.

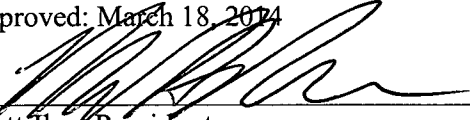
11.0 Future Meetings:


11.1 Regular Board meeting, **Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 6:30 p.m.** in the West Cottonwood School Library, 20512 W. First Street, Cottonwood, CA 96022.


12.0 Closed Session: None at this time.

13.0 Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

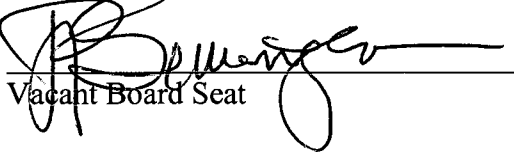
Approved: March 18, 2014

  
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Matt Iles, President

  
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Gerald Kohler, Clerk

  
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Fred Lucero, Member

  
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Tom Vazquez, Member

  
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Vacant Board Seat