

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

**MINUTES for Tuesday, OCTOBER 21, 2014, 6:30 P.M.**  
Regular Board Meeting, West Cottonwood Library

Members Present: Mr. Iles, Mr. Kohler, Mr. Lucero, Mrs. Semingson, Mr. Vazquez  
Members Absent: None  
Others Present: Superintendent Dr. David Alexander  
Principals: Doug Geren and Don Ray.  
Laura Merrick, Business Manager  
Staff: Three staff members were present along with approximately twenty-eight parents and students.

**1.0 Call Regular Meeting to Order** – Mr. Iles called the regular meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**2.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. Iles led the flag salute.

**3.0 Approval of Agenda**

**ACTION:** Mr. Lucero moved, seconded by Mr. Vazquez, to approve the agenda as presented

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**4.0 Recognition (Students, Staff, Curriculum Review)** – There were nine students recognized from West Cottonwood School as Students of the Month.

**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 September 16, 2014, and

6.1.2 Approval of Commercial Warrants

6.1.3 Approval to hire: **Brittney McAlpin – School Counselor, Marie Welch – Inst. Aide, Raechelle Gilliss – Health Clerk, Maria Dickerson – Cafeteria Assistant, Debra Boontjer – District Administrative Assistant.**

6.1.4 Approval of the following contracts for 2014/15:

AUHSD – Tech Systems Assistant and General Technology Support

6.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

**ACTION:** Mr. Lucero moved, seconded by Mr. Kohler, to approve the consent agenda.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**7.0 Discussion/Action Items:**

**7.1 Presentation by David Souder, GTI Solar (Power Purchase Agreement).**

Mr. David Souder shared with the board about the solar market, services his company can provide and a couple of financing options. He briefly mentioned Prop 39 funds, but wasn't that familiar with the program. After meeting with Dr. Alexander and Mrs. Merrick earlier today, he felt the Prop 39 program wouldn't be the best way to finance a solar project. He said his staff had worked up the cost to install solar at West Cottonwood School as a starter project. He estimated the cost at \$612,000 which would payoff in 7-8 years. If the district is unable to enter into a lease or PPA, his company (GTI) is willing to make the investment and have the school district make payments to them. The payments would be less than the district's current electric bill to PG&E. They would be leasing the system back to us. He estimated a savings of \$31,000/year. If the district didn't realize the savings projected or want to continue with solar in the district, GTI would uninstall the system at no cost to the

district. Mr. Souder did share with the board the panels have a 25 year warranty. The board asked some questions and discussed the project with Mr. Souder. They felt they wanted to see some drawings and concrete numbers on paper before they would be ready to make a decision. Mr. Souder said he would have his staff work on the requested items and return next month to continue the discussion with the board.

**7.2 Presentation by Dr. David Alexander, Supt., on “Tying it All Together” Past, Present and Future: Longitudinal data, Program Improvement, Essential Program Components, Continuous School Improvement Using Effective School Research, Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), our dreams and first steps.**

Dr. Alexander shared his presentation on “Tying it All Together” with the board. He shared data on our district’s test score history compared with the state and some other local districts. He emphasized that it will be crucial for us to implement effective school research to give our students the best education possible. The next step will be to work on specific action plans. The county office (SCOE) has agreed to help in any way they can (meetings, training, etc.) as we begin our task of implementing effective school research strategies.

**7.3 Approval of the following Personnel Request Form:**

**Add ¾ hour to existing 3.0 hr/day position – Instructional Aide**

**ACTION:** Mrs. Semingson moved, seconded by Mr. Lucero, to increase the existing 3.0 hr/day Inst. Aide to 3.25 hr/day.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**7.4 Update on Cafeteria Lunch Charges.**

Mrs. Merrick shared the steps that have been taken since last month in order to collect on student accounts. She also shared the number of students who have open charges and the dollar amount owed totally. The current efforts of sending letters home appears to be having very little impact on our parents/guardians. The next step is to make phone calls. A discussion was held about providing an incentive to those who pre-paid their account. Mrs. Merrick mentioned she was looking into the possibility of the district paying for the service charge of \$1.95/transaction on the MySchoolBucks website to encourage parents to pay online. The district is making preparations to begin serving an alternate lunch to students who have an account balance of \$25 or higher. A note will be sent home prior to the alternate lunch so parents/guardians are aware of the consequences of an excessive charge balance.

**7.5 Discussion on potential sale of property to Cottonwood Creek Charter School and Facilities Use Agreement with Shasta County Head Start.**

Dr. Alexander discussed the potential sale of East Cottonwood School to the charter school and how that might affect any other lease agreements we had in place. The Shasta County Head Start program wants a five-year minimum lease which would limit the district’s ability to do something with the property during that time. Any prospective buyer could not be obligated to fulfill a lease agreement that we signed. The board discussed getting rid of the portables on the far eastern side of the property, whether DSA would have to be involved if the portables are removed and whether the local fire department can be involved in the removal of buildings. The board felt they needed to keep the district’s options open at this time and therefore, felt it best not to enter into a use agreement for five years with Shasta County Head Start. Dr. Alexander will continue to research the process of declaring the property as surplus and whether we could enter into a lease to purchase agreement with the Charter School and maintain the note.

**8.0 Informational Items:**

**8.1 CTA Report:** Mrs. White shared the score of the Giants game without a spoiler alert.

**8.2 Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Alexander shared that he plans to provide attendance updates monthly in the board packets. He also shared the charter school renewal is due by the end of June so that process would begin in the next few months. The LCAP review will be coming at the January board meeting; we will go through our current goals and review the progress as part of the mid-year planning. Mrs. Merrick mentioned that the Charter School waiver has been reduced to \$9,000 after a review by CDE.

**8.3 Principal's Report:**

Mr. Ray said his new employees are working well with the staff, teachers are working hard with the new curriculum, and the K-2 Fall Festival is coming at WVHS. He shared about a student at North Cottonwood who is the Shasta County Punt, Pass & Kick champion. He will compete next week in Sacramento and if he wins there, he competes in San Francisco in December.

Mr. Geren shared about the Treasures and Go Math curriculum, fire drills, lockdown, safe schools, parent conferences, new counselor started last week, and the Veteran's lunch to be held on Monday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**9.0 Information/Communication Items:** One item was included for information only.

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

**11.0 Future Meetings:**

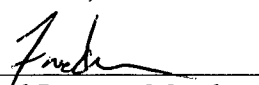
**11.1** Regular Board meeting, **Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.** in the West Cottonwood School Library.

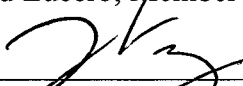
**12.0 Closed Session:** The board adjourned at 8:48 p.m. Dr. Alexander said the closed session item would be postponed until next month. No closed session was held at this time.


**13.0 Adjournment** – the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

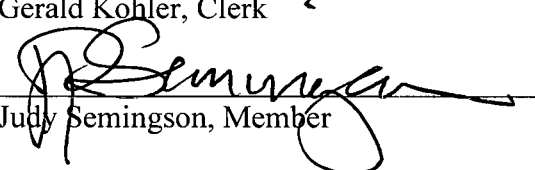
Approved: November 18, 2014

  
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Matt Iles, President

  
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Fred Lucero, Member

  
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Tom Vazquez, Member

  
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Gerald Kohler, Clerk

  
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Judy Semingson, Member