

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

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

Members Present: Mr. Iles, Mr. Kohler, Mr. Lucero, Mr. Vazquez, (Mrs. Semingson appointed)  
Members Absent: None  
Others Present: Superintendent Lowden  
Principals: Doug Geren, Don Ray  
Laura Merrick, Business Manager  
Staff: Three staff members were present along with twenty 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. Kohler moved, seconded by Mr. Lucero, to approve the agenda as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**4.0 Recognition (Students, Staff, Curriculum Review)** – Mr. Geren recognized the students of the month. Five 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 February 18, 2014;

6.1.2 Approval of Commercial Warrants,

6.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

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

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**7.0 Discussion/Action Items:**

**7.1 Consider appointment of new board member.**

Mr. Lowden reported that the board vacancy was advertised in the Record Searchlight and that one letter had been received in response to the ad. Mrs. Judy Semingson, parent of a seventh grade student at West Cottonwood, has expressed an interest in serving on the school board. The board was in favor of appointing her to the board.

Mr. Lowden administered the **Oath of Office** to Mrs. Semingson at this time.

She was welcomed by the board members and joined them at the board's table.

**7.2 Board members to complete Statement of Economic Interest Forms. (Due to District Office by April 1.)** This was a reminder that forms are due to the District Office by April 1. Three members turned in their forms at this time.

**7.3 Consider approval of 2014/2015 School Calendar.**

Mr. Lowden said there are no changes to the calendar since last month. He would like to get approval of the beginning and end dates and holidays. There may be some changes to minimum days; however, he would like to get approval of the calendar at this time.

**ACTION:** Mr. Lucero moved, seconded by Mr. Vazquez, to approve the 2014/2015 School Calendar.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**7.4 Discussion of Smarter Balanced Field Test.**

A nine-minute video was shown at this time which explained an overview of the new Smarter Balanced Field Test. Mr. Lowden shared that there will be no scores this year. Test results should be back to the students/district within a few days of taking the test. This is a big improvement over the STAR test which is taken in the spring and results are returned in the fall. Mr. Lowden explained that we are in the second wave for the test this year. The first wave was supposed to begin yesterday; however, it has been postponed until next week. The district has purchased headphones for students to use for the test. Students will be using the computer labs at both sites to take the test. The 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will take the STAR science test as well this spring. Students in grades 2-8 who take the CAPA test will do that as well.

**7.5 Consider approval of mowing contract for 2014.**

One bid was received to provide mowing services for the district for the 2014 year. It is a slight increase from last year, but he does a good job. He is actually a former student of the district, so it's nice to see he is successful in his work finishing school. He would have a start date of April 1.

**ACTION:** Mr. Kohler moved, seconded by Mr. Vazquez, to approve the mowing contract with Ryan's Lawn Care as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**7.6 Second Interim for the 2013/2014 fiscal year.**

Mrs. Merrick presented the Second Interim report to the board. In her presentation she covered the changes to the district's budget since the First Interim report was prepared. The district's enrollment/ADA have remained fairly consistent so far this year. Revenues and expenses have both increased; however, there is still a projected surplus of \$150,439. The district's ending fund balance is projected to be \$2,374,539 with a projected cash balance of \$1,280,046. Mrs. Merrick explained the GAP percentages that were used in the multi-year projections which are the same as School Services of California. They are more conservative than the DOF recommendations. The multi-year projections show surpluses for the current year and two subsequent years. Worksheets were provided to show changes that were made to the multi-year from year to year; both revenue and expenditure changes were listed. The SACS report was also provided in the packet. The district has a **positive certification** at this time. A discussion occurred which covered topics such as preschool, LCAP meeting and requirements, music, performing arts, foreign language and graphic design.

**ACTION:** Mr. Kohler moved, seconded by Mr. Lucero, to approve the Second Interim report for 2013/2014.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**8.0 Informational Items:**

**8.1 CTA Report:** Mrs. White shared the teachers have testing concerns with the new Smarter Balanced Tests. She commented on Math Adoptions and Open House in May.

**8.2 Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Lowden reported 1) Superintendent search progress, 2) Food program for students headed up by Cottonwood Pharmacy, 3) LCAP meeting held last week, 4) Long Valley charter will be leaving next year, 5) Head start program is interested in renting space at East Cottonwood, 6) Cafeteria audit in early April; Cascade was audited last week, 7) additional Microsoft money to the district around \$30,000, 8) Math Adoption, 9) California

Conservation Corp will be on campus over the next few days doing an energy audit for the Prop 39 funds, 10) April board meeting will be the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month (April 22).

**8.3 Principal's Report:**

Mr. Ray reported on 1) outside lighting needs new fixtures. New lights won't fit in the fixtures. 2) Dr. Seuss day, 3) Math Madness night was well attended. Thank you to the four board members who attended. 4) Star students saw the "Shrek" play at AUHSD; we rented the whole auditorium so all could attend, 5) Math Adoption, 6) Grandparent program to help grandparents who are raising grandkids.

Mr. Geren reported on 1) sports update, 2) Principal for a Day with Judy Semingson, 3) Ag Day at WVHS, 4) Textbook adoption, 5) third quarter ends next week, 6) Renaissance day at Viking Skate Country, 7) Day on the Green will be last day of school, 8) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation has been moved to Friday morning. School is over and all teachers will be able to attend.

**9.0 Information/Communication Items:** None at this time.

**10.0 Governing Board Discussion Items:** A general board discussion was held at this time about the textbook adoption process.

**11.0 Future Meetings:**

**11.1** Regular Board meeting, **Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 6:30 p.m.** in the West Cottonwood School Library, 20512 W. First Street, Cottonwood, CA 96022.  
(NOTE: this is the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month not the 3<sup>rd</sup>.)

**12.0 Closed Session:** Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, the board adjourned to Closed Session at 8:13 p.m. to consider and/or take action on the following item:

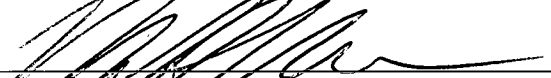
**12.1** Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Superintendent


**Public Notice of Action Taken in Closed Session**


The board reconvened in Open Session and announced that no action had been taken during closed session.

**13.0 Adjournment** – the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

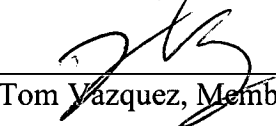
Approved: April 22, 2014

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Iles, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald Kohler, Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Lucero, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Semingson, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Vazquez, Member