

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes

Special Budget Workshop

February 4, 2008

5:30 p.m.

The Board of Education of the Colton Joint Unified School District met in a Special Budget Workshop Session on Monday, February 4, 2008, 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the CJUSD Student Services Center, 851 So. Mt. Vernon Avenue, Colton, California.

Trustees Present

Mr. Robert D. Armenta, Jr.	President
Mr. Mel Albiso	Vice President
Mr. Frank A. Ibarra	Clerk
Mr. Kent Taylor	
Mr. David R. Zamora	

Trustees Absent

Mr. Mark Hoover	(Unexcused)
Mrs. Marge Mendoza-Ware	(Unexcused)

Staff Members Present / *Excused

Mr. James A. Downs	Mr. Roger Kowalski
Mr. Casey Cridelich	Mrs. Ingrid Munsterman
Mr. Jerry Almendarez	Mrs. Julia Nichols
Mrs. Yolanda Cabrera	Ms. Sosan Schaller
Mr. Rick Dischinger	Dr. Patrick Traynor
Mrs. Bertha Arreguín	Ms. Katie Orloff
Dr. Diane D'Agostino	Mrs. Chris Estrada
Mrs. Mollie Gainey-Stanley	Mr. Michael Townsend
*Mrs. Alice Grundman	

Call to Order

Board President Robert Armenta called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board member Taylor led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Public Comment

Public Comment—None

1. Budget Update: Superintendent Downs provided a brief overview of the impact of the Governor's proposed budget to the District. The Administration began evaluating the projections issued and will work with a Budget Committee, comprised of certificated and classified staff members, parents, and community members, to address budget issues. All budget categories, one-time monies and ongoing revenues will be reviewed in order to develop a strong fiscal plan that includes a reduction program that will keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. All suggestions will be discussed with the Budget Committee and the Board will be apprised of discussions on a weekly basis.

Assistant Superintendent Casey Cridelich provided the 2008-09 budget development process and explained the components of the powerpoint presentation:

Excerpts: Assumptions relative to the Governor's 2008-09 budget proposal for worst case scenario planning ;

- 2007-08 *one-time* Prop 98 guarantee reduction: \$1,119,382
- 2008-09 *ongoing* revenue reduction 4.94% COLA less 6.99% deficit: \$5,646,359
- Fiduciary duty of the District: solvent in the current budget year and two future years at any point in time
- Next Steps to make up the one-time Prop 98 loss of \$1,119,382: freeze spending 50% of remaining site and department budgets (\$473,000) and do not fill current non-critical vacancies (\$646,382)

See attachment "A" for the complete powerpoint presentation.

The Budget Committee will meet on February 27 and 28, 2008, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.; minutes will be taken.

Committee composition—24 members: 6 certificated, 6 classified, 6 community members, 6 management; teachers and classified staff will have release time. All committee ideas and updates will be shared with the Board through Board Correspondence on a weekly basis and during study and information at Board meetings. It was suggested that the number of management members be reduced by two to allow one additional certificated and classified member on the committee since all recommendations would be reviewed by the Superintendent's Cabinet.

2. Board members shared individual comments, concerns, and suggestions. Following discussion and by Board consensus, the following issues will be addressed:

- Provide all input from the Budget Committee in priority order
- Provide Committee with surrounding districts' plans
- Provide numbers regarding declining enrollment and the financial impact
- Draft a surgical plan—how will some positions be realigned or paid with categorical funds
- Research early retirement plans that may save money (classified and management)
- Draft a plan on how employees will be repaid in the future in return for making budget cuts/ reductions
- Consider utilizing the 5% reserve to offset costs
- Identify non-critical vacancies and include names and dollar amounts for Board determination
- Carefully review student/staff ratios (CJUSD has the lowest high school student/high school counselor ratio)
- Consider ways management can assist with budget cuts (i.e., reduced work year for Directors)
- Consider temporary furlough days for employees rather than reducing staff
- Minimize financial impact to the classroom
- Review all options in order to provide services to students
- Share the information district wide and with the community; post a "frequently asked questions" document on the District website; include contact information; contact newspaper staff

Adjournment: At 6:20 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to the next Regular Board of Education Meeting on February 7, 2008, 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Student Services Center, 851 South Mt. Vernon Avenue, Colton, California.