

WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
*Special Meeting*  
Closed Session 3:30 p.m.  
Open Session 5:00 p.m.  
Willits High School Media Center  
299 North Main Street, Willits, California  
Wednesday, April 23, 2014

*Public Comments- Individuals may address the Board on regular session agenda items at the time they are under consideration.*

**MINUTES**

1. Call Meeting to Order

Board President Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

2. Agenda Approval

MSP(Carni/Harris) to approve the agenda.

Ayes: Harris, Carni, Neary, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Absent: Bowlds

Abstain: None

3. Public Comments on Closed Session Items

No comments were received.

4. Recess to Closed Session

Board President Rodriguez recessed to closed session at 3:36 p.m.

A. Conference with Labor Negotiators: WTA, CSEA, Administration, Confidential Classified, District Representative: Superintendent (*G.C. 54957.6*)

B. Existing Litigation, CFW v WUSD, Napa County Superior Court Case Number 26-59822 (*G.C. 54956.9*)

5. Reconvene to Open Session

Board President Rodriguez reconvened to open session at 5:02 p.m.

6. Report out of Closed Session

Superintendent Johnson reported that no action was taken during closed session.

7. Flag Salute

Board President Rodriguez led the flag salute.

8. Notice of Special Meeting

Board President Rodriguez read the notice of special meeting.

Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Section 54956.5), no business may be considered at a Special Meeting other than what is specified on the written agenda.

Board Member Neary explained that he has a prior commitment and will need to leave at 5:20 p.m. He shared that his preference is for the loan with the county office, rather than the bond, for this amount of money. He stated that he believes that the district will reach a settlement concerning the lawsuit and the cost of the needed loan will be for less than currently projected.

8. Action

A. \*Approval of Request for Allowance of Attendance Because of Emergency Conditions

Superintendent Johnson explained that this request will shorten Sherwood school calendar by two days so that the attendance percentages will be based on 178 days instead of 180. This process is also called a materials decrease request.

MSP (Carni/Harris) to approve the Request for Allowance of Attendance Because of Emergency Conditions, as presented.

Ayes: Harris, Carni, Neary, Rodriguez  
Noes: None  
Absent: Bowlds  
Abstain: None

B. \*Approval of Revised Willits Unified School District Calendar 14/15

Superintendent Johnson explained that the only revision is the removal of the May 22 District Discretionary professional development day, and the addition of a non-student day on the Monday prior to Veterans' Day.

MSP (Harris/Carni) to approve the revised WUSD School Calendar 14/15.

Ayes: Harris, Carni, Neary, Rodriguez  
Noes: None  
Absent: Bowlds  
Abstain: None

9. Information

A. Bond Anticipation Note Repayment Options Discussion

Superintendent Johnson explained that this meeting was requested by the board to hear how the community and staff feel about the repayment options being presented to the board. She explained that the board will make a decision on May 7, and that this is an opportunity for them to hear from stakeholders. She shared a presentation that outlined the history and current status of the board issuances for WUSD since 1999. She explained the options for repayment for the Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) including general fund through reductions, issuance of another bond, and a loan from county office, which would be repaid from the general fund.

Greg Randrup asked how the county has money to loan to struggling districts.

Superintendent Johnson explained that county offices have a higher reserve than school districts. She stated that the COE board designates a percentage of these funds to assist district who have an issue with cash flow at a 1% interest rate. These are one year loans, that must be requested each year.

Bill Barksdale shared his concerns about bonds as a way to avoid the protections of Prop 13 and then impact bonds have on taxpayers, especially on those taxpayers who are on a fixed income. He stated that he does not support another issuance, and urged the board to consider the hardship it could cause to the community.  
SEE ATTACHMENT B.

Bernard Kamaroff shared his concerns about this bond measure from the beginning. He explained that many people do not support the district because of the bond, issues that arose from it, and how it has impacted their lives. He suggested the district find a solution that will not extend the debt a single dollar.

Paula Nunez stated that she is in favor of the county office loan, and does not support another bond issuance. She shared her concerns about the projections and additional payments that taxpayers will need to make. She stated that she feels the county office had a responsibility to advise the district about this bond and BAN.

Valerie Kanonchoff shared her concerns about how the left over money would be spent if the second option were chosen by the board. She stated concern about the financial impact of an increase of property taxes on a low income community like Willits. She suggested getting creative with a solution for this repayment.

Bill Schafer shared his opinion about the community not being able to afford another bond issuance, and stated that bonds are not sustainable.

Bud Garman asked what recourse the community and district has to against the people who brought this to Willits Unified. He stated that he thinks the companies who market these bonds, the financiers, and the architects and builders are all in on it together. He stated that he doesn't believe the taxpayers in this community can afford another issuance.

Board President Rodriguez thanked the community and staff for their input and for coming to the meeting.

## 10. Adjournment

MSP (Carni/Harris) to adjourn at 6:10 p.m.

Ayes: Harris, Carni, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Absent: Neary, Bowlds

Abstain: None

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Patricia Johnson, Superintendent

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Cynthia Carni, Board Clerk