

REEF-SUNSET UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL JOINT CITY MEETING  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2013  
AVENAL THEATER / PEGASUS ROOM

A special joint city meeting of the Reef-Sunset Unified School District Board of Trustees and Avenal City Council was held on this date in the Avenal Theater/Pegasus room located at 233 E. Kings Street, Avenal, CA 93204

Mr. Casida, City Mayor, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Gail Monohon, Leticia Lopez, Chris Collins, Ricardo Verdugo, David East, Suzy VanDerMolen, Harlin Casida, Alvaro Preciado, Bill Woolley, Melissa Whitten, Rusty Stivers, Enrique Jimenez, Gloria Preciado, and a parent were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR November 26, 2012:

Motion by Gail Monohon seconded by Chris Collins to approve the minutes as presented.

UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT: A parent expressed her concerns regarding her eighth grade student being bullied at school and asked for help. Members present gave her direction on how to address her concern.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*Update on Strategic Planning – Community Input:*

Dr. East stated that the Strategic Planning Community Input meeting has been rescheduled to February 23, 2013 from 9am-12pm in the District Board room. District is working on creating a five year plan and the district and Board encourages all community members and district personnel to attend and give their input so that an effective plan is in place.

*Update on Stadium Project:*

Dr. East reported that at the December regular meeting the Board chose a stadium plan that will allow for a natural turf and home bleachers will remain on the North side, with an all-weather track, with separate restroom facilities. The entrance will be on the South West corner. Ground breaking will start within two weeks. The process for selecting the plan was painful but productive. The senior class has voted to hold their graduation ceremony on the baseball field and the school is preparing for the event. District will have bond rating results within a week.

*Update on Progress from the Responsible Athletes Program (RAP):*

Enrique was not present at the time the item was addressed, however; Mr. Casida reported that he and Enrique attended an end of the month breakfast at the Tachi Palace where all the proceeds go to a non-profit organization. Enrique came in late, but was given an opportunity to report on current and upcoming activities and programs available to the community through the RAP program.

*Update on Gang Awareness Outreach:*

Ms. Whitten reported that the Gang Awareness Outreach program was postponed and rescheduled to February 23, 2013 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. it will be held at the Avenal High School gym and everyone is welcome to attend as it is open to the community. There will be free food.

*Update on WHC Avenal Facility:*

Mr. Casida reported that Ms. Whitten, Ms. Monohon, Dr. East, Dr. Gornick, Mrs. Ivans, WHC architect and a Bank of America representative met at City Hall to discuss the WHC Avenal facility. He stated

that ideas were bounced around and ended up that none of the suggestions made by the City met their expectations. Three options were discussed to start a joint facility renovation at the high school; they are the science wing, the auto shop area, or the corner of the high school parking lot. District and City officials stated that they haven't received any plans for the discussed joint facility. Discussion was made regarding the original plans of the WHC Avenal facility bond and possible locations the City had offered to WHC personnel to start the facility in Avenal. Members present expressed their discontent with the current outcome. There was also discussion regarding the classes that WHC will offer at Avenal and whether or not it would benefit community members. Ideas for next steps were discussed. Ms. Whitten stated she would share original bond documentation with Dr. East. There was also discussion about adult ed program possibly losing funding and state giving that funding to community colleges. Members present expressed the importance of having a separate facility from the high school so that community members interested in college courses may experience the 'college experience'. Discussion was made about possibly having a public meeting to invite community members as well as college students and also setting another meeting with WHC, the City and Board of Trustees to further discuss the WHC Avenal facility.

*School Safety:*

Dr. East reported that the district has met with principals, teachers, facilities committee members and have had many discussions in regards to fencing, cameras, door locks to keep our schools/students safe. He has also met with Avenal Police Department Chief, Assistant Chief and JSO to discuss active shooter procedures. Ms. Monohon shared a CSBA handout regarding school safety and having local police work closely with our schools to discuss and improve school safety. Assistant Chief Stivers stated that they are currently working with schools to address this issue. Discussion was made regarding social service workers coming to Avenal to provide services to our troubled youth. There was discussion regarding traffic congestion at the Avenal Elementary School preschool location.

*Consider Scheduling Next Joint Meeting:*

The next joint city meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2013 at 5:30 p.m., at the Avenal Theater.

*Closing Comments:*

Mr. Woolley reported his excitement to see a past student being part of the local school board. Ms. Lopez expressed her interest in regards to the WHC Avenal Facility. Mr. Preciado would like the city and school district work together more closely to get the community more involved. Ms. Whitten expressed she would like to move on with the WHC Avenal Facility. Ms. Monohon agreed with everyone's comment and reported on the upcoming Academic Decathlon that will be held at Corcoran High School and encouraged everyone to attend and support our students. Dr. East pleased with the district moving on with the AHS renovation project. Mr. Collins expressed he would like to find more ways to have community involvement. Mr. Verdugo expressed he is in favor of moving along with the WHC Avenal facility. Everyone was given an opportunity to comment. Most everyone expressed their desire to move on with the WHC Avenal Facility and to work on ways to have better community involvement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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Secretary to the Board