

**CHICO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Special Session  
Wednesday, May 20, 2009  
Closed Session 5:30 p.m.  
Open Session 6:00 p.m.

Chico City Council Chambers  
East Fourth and Main Streets, Chico, CA 95926

**AGENDA**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

**Opportunity for Public Comment on Agenda Items**

*The Governing Board welcomes and encourages public comments. Members of the public may comment on items included on this agenda; however, we ask that you limit your comments to three (3) minutes so that as many as possible may be heard (Education Code §35145.5, Government Code §54954.3)*

2. **CLOSED SESSION** (5:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.)

1. **Public Employee Appointments**  
Per Government Code §54957  
Title: Bidwell Jr. High School Principal  
Title: Citrus Elementary Principal

3. **RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION**

1. Call to Order
2. Report Action Taken in Closed Session
3. Flag Salute

4. **DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR**

1. BUSINESS SERVICES
  1. **Information/Discussion:** Discuss Current Budget Status, Including the Impact on Class Size Reduction, and Solicit Preliminary Input Regarding Federal Stimulus Funds (Jan Combes)
  2. **Discussion/Action:** Consider Issuance of a Request for Qualifications for a Consultant to Perform a Parcel Tax Survey (Jan Combes)
  3. **Discussion/Action:** Chico Unified School District Foundation Fund Balance (Jan Combes)
2. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
  1. **Information:** Closed Campus for PVHS Freshmen (John Shepherd)

5. **CLOSED SESSION**

1. **UPDATE ON LABOR NEGOTIATIONS**

Employee Organizations:

CUTA

CSEA, Chapter #110

Representatives:

Kelly Staley, Superintendent

Bob Feaster, Assistant Superintendent

Jan Combes, Assistant Superintendent

2. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation**

Per Government Code §54957

Title: Superintendent

3. **Public Employment: Terms of Contract**

Per Government Code §54957

Title: Superintendent

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Jann Reed, President  
Board of Education  
Chico Unified School District

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: **Discuss Current Budget Status, Including the Impact on Class Size Reduction, and Solicit Preliminary Input Regarding Federal Stimulus Funds**

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Prepared by: Jan Combes, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

☐ Consent

Board Date May 20, 2009

☒ Information

☐ Discussion/Action

**Background Information:**

At the Board meeting on April 29, 2009, the Board heard from members of the audience that they would like the Board to further discuss Class Size Reduction. This request follows a Board action taken on March 25 which directed staff to plan for thirty students per teacher for 2009-10 at the Kindergarten, First, Second and Third grade levels.

The Board action in March came after the State announced its 2009-10 Budget. The State is projecting a 13% deficit for 2009-10, and CUSD funding is expected to be about \$10 million less than previously anticipated. The State Budget includes flexibility in application of Class Size Reduction Program penalties. School districts will continue to receive 70% of the funding for the Class Size Reduction program even if the average number of students per teacher exceeds 25.

The decision to load classrooms at 30:1 was made as part of budget adjustments needed early so that the District could qualify for Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANs). The selling of these tax exempt notes is part of a financing pool being put together by the Butte County Office of Education. It will allow the District to borrow against its December, 2009 and April, 2010 local property tax receipts in order to not run out of cash for obligations in September, 2009. At the April 29 Board meeting the Board took subsequent action to participate in the TRANs pool with the expectation of short term borrowing of \$17.5 million in order to meet its obligations next school year.

As we move into May, the District is developing its preliminary 2009-10 Budget for presentation on May 27, 2009. Staff will also take this opportunity to share what they know, and do not know, at this time about state and federal income dollars slated for Chico USD in the current and subsequent fiscal year.

**Fiscal Implications**

The action to load classrooms at 30:1 instead of 20:1 at grades K-3 results in an estimated net savings of \$1.8 million for CUSD.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Consider Issuance of a Request For Qualifications for a  
Consultant to Perform a Parcel Tax Survey

Prepared by: Jan Combes, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

☐ Consent

Board Date May 20, 2009

☐ Information

☒ Discussion/Action

**Background Information:**

On April 29 the Board heard a presentation from William Berry Campaigns regarding Parcel Tax and what it means. Subsequently the Board has asked to have this item put on the agenda for discussion and possible action.

The first step in determining if a Parcel Tax is something that the community of Chico has any interest in supporting is determined through the use of a survey. A survey could provide insight to what programs and services the community sees as most valuable to retain for its students.

Those results can then be used to help develop budget priorities and/or to determine if there is sufficient interest in moving forward with putting such a measure on an upcoming ballot.

During these tough economic times many school districts are looking at local tax increases to retain programs and services.

**Fiscal Implications**

We expect that a survey would cost about \$25,000. The cost of the survey is a legal cost for a public entity to bear. If the District were to move forward with a Parcel Tax the campaign must be conducted outside of school business, and any and all costs for such a campaign would be raised independently. The school district may bear the cost of the survey and, if such a measure is placed on the ballot the school district would pay their share of the cost of that election.

**Recommended Action**

No recommendation. The Board will have an opportunity to discuss this matter in public and hear public comment.

After the discussion the Board may wish to direct staff to develop a Request for Qualifications regarding a potential Parcel Tax Survey. The results of the RFQ would then be brought to a public meeting of the Board for discussion and action regarding whether or not to proceed with such a survey, depending on cost of interest at that time.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Chico Unified School District Foundation Fund Balance

Prepared by: Jan Combes, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

☐ Consent

Board Date May 20, 2009

☐ Information

☒ Discussion/Action

**Background Information:**

On February 20, 2008 the Board approved establishment of the Chico Unified School District Foundation Fund, a part of the North Valley Community Foundation.

On August 20, 2008 the Board united the new Foundation Fund with one that was originally established by a former Board of Trustees that had a balance of \$6,554.91. The combined balance as of June 30, 2008 was \$8,640.67.

Under the terms of the original agreement, the Board is required to review the balance in May of each year and assess if the fund will be used to provide any school expenditures in the following year. If so, the Board will direct the Assistant Superintendent of Business to build these dollars into the budget for the upcoming year.

**Fiscal Implications**

As of March 30, 2009 the Chico Unified School District Foundation Fund had a balance of \$16,859.07.

To put this balance in perspective, if distributed to schools for 2009-10 it would be approximately \$1.35 per student.

NVCF charges the Foundation Fund a one-time 2% fee of all gifts made to the fund during the year, so these dollars will not incur any additional fees if we allow them to stay on deposit.

**Recommended Action**

It is recommended that we allow the fund to continue to grow, soliciting additional donations over the 2009-10 school year.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Closed Campus for PVHS Freshmen

☐ Consent

Board Date 5/20/09

☒ Information Only

☐ Discussion/Action

Presented by: John Shepherd

**Background Information**

To create an educationally-sound transition for in-coming ninth grade students and to further pursue a consistent, district-wide approach to the positive educational and social development of students in the CUSD, the staff at Pleasant Valley High School is requesting the ability to close the campus during lunch for ninth grade students.

**Educational Implications**

During lunch students will have access to a variety of intervention and enrichment opportunities to address the guiding questions embedded in the vision of P.V.H.S.

**Fiscal Implications**

The closure of the campus may positively impact the nutrition services department due to increased sales.