

## MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:35 p.m., Board President Reed called the Special Session Meeting to order at the Williams Theatre at Chico High School, 901 Esplanade, Chico, CA 95926.

Present: Jann Reed, Rick Anderson, Dr. Kathy Kaiser and Rick Rees

Absent: Dr. Andrea Lerner Thompson

2. **INFORMATION**2.1 **Proposed Resolution #1011-08 – Reduction of Staff**

Superintendent Kelly Staley gave a brief history of CUSD's current budget situation. The District was already looking at a \$3 million deficit in 2008-09. When the Governor presented his budget in January, it included cuts for this school year, as well as next year. Those cuts drove the CUSD deficit to over \$8 million. To allow the Board maximum flexibility, and since 91% of the budget is made up of personnel costs, the Board will decide on February 20, 2008, at a regular board meeting whether to approve this resolution in whole or in part to eliminate or reduce certain kinds of service.

Assistant Superintendent Bob Feaster presented a list of positions up for reduction or elimination. Seniority, credentials, loading, student enrollment, state and federal guidelines, state requirements and board policies will all have an impact on which positions and eventually employees will be reduced. In addition to this list there will be a release of current temporary teachers.

At 6:45 Board President Reed opened the floor to public comment.

George Young, CUTA President, voiced his concern that electives would become competitive and teachers from those electives should be given an equal chance to market their course to students. Susan Christenson pointed out the inequity of grant funding in classrooms. Parent and employee, Marisa Sayre, was concerned that there would not be sufficient electives to allow students to meet entrance requirements for a four year college. Parent Mark Leach offered that historical data would not be a good base to determine a fair system in choosing electives to be offered. Also, the district might consider paying higher teacher salaries from grants and lower teacher salaries from the general fund.

George Young asked that a decision be made as soon as possible to those who will be laid off. Marisa Sayre asked that the same on behalf of classified staff. Stephanie Starmer, teacher, asked where athletics and extra pay positions fell in this list. Assistant Superintendent Feaster indicated that coaches don't come under this process. Nick Jesta, former student, asked what if it gets worse next year. Assistant Superintendent Feaster responded that this was a multi-year recovery and to plan on a long-term process.

*Andrea Lerner Thompson arrived at 7:45 p.m.*

Eric Nelson, teacher, asked if the District had the pulse of the community on this issue and whether the district office should review past decisions which brought the district to this point. Superintendent Staley indicated that Assistant Superintendent Jan Combes and Director Janet Brinson were giving budget presentations to sites, as well as other staff speaking at clubs and organizations. The deficit was not brought about wholly from past district office decisions, but by a variety of things: economy, declining enrollment, Governor's budget, encroaching mandates, etc. Many voiced their opinion that the community should be brought into the equation, to not only contact political representatives about their concerns, but to also seek community assistance and input.

3. **Items from the Floor**

Board President Reed indicated that since this was a special session, only those items on the agenda could be addressed, but if any member of the community would attend the February 20 meeting they would be given the opportunity to address anything they wished to bring before the board.

4. **Announcements**

None

5. **Adjournment**

Board President Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

**MINUTES**

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APPROVED:

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Board of Education

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Administration