

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
FARMERSVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

December 15, 2015

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Farmersville Unified School District was held at the District Office Board Room, 571 E. Citrus, Farmersville, CA on December 15, 2015.

DATE & PLACE

TRUSTEES
ATTENDANCE

Lupe Fernandez, Clerk
Al Vanderslice, Trustee
John Vasquez, Trustee
Jorge Vazquez, Trustee

Administration Present

Frank Silveira, Chief Academic Officer
Rachel Mendez, Hester School Principal
Melinda Canning, Snowden School Principal
Raymond Navarro, Director of MOT & Facilities

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Don Mason.

CALL TO ORDER

The members of the assemblage pledged allegiance to the flag.

FLAG SALUTE

On a motion by Trustee John Vasquez and seconded by Trustee Lupe Fernandez, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

ADOPTION OF
AGENDA (4.1)

Rhonda Thatcher and Suzanne Simon, Hester School teachers, shared their opinion in support of the Superintendent, Ofelia Ceja-Lariviere. Mrs. Simon has been a teacher here for 20 years. Mrs. Thatcher has been a teacher here for 25 years. At Hester, they have had positive experiences and have seen positive improvement because of what she has brought to our school district. As teachers, they have felt very supported. We have never had a superintendent that understands early childhood like she does which is where we build a strong foundation. The programs and curriculum that she brought to Farmersville have been excellent and we would love for this to continue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(8.0)

Joeann Benitez, Acting President of CSEA Chapter 518, addressed some concerns from members of the CSEA unit. To the Board of Trustees at Farmersville Unified, CSEA has had a long history of working with the District until recently. Over the last year and a half, CSEA has seen instructional aides layed off and then those aides were not rehired properly according to law. The result was CSEA having to force this District to rehire layed off employees who wanted to come back to work. There were many valuable employees who would not return to work for this District due to the handling of the employees. There were employees who cared for the kids here and worked for Farmersville because they still live in this community. CSEA used to be able to settle things with the District informally. Now recently, it seems everything we do or request has to go through attorneys. A cost to the District that could be utilized for other programs and/or staff

that would support our kids and/or provide direct services to them. CSEA has recently found out that the Food Services Department is utilizing substitute employees illegally. When asked, the District stated the reasoning behind it was that the Board did not approve the new food service positions. The department had to do something so that was their solution. But in looking at the violation, going back a few years, at least two, we do not believe that this is the sole reason substitutes are being hired still in the illegal manner. CSEA has always been able to negotiate with the District. Only this year, we get to negotiate with the attorney hired as the District's representative. Again, money that could go to school programs and direct services to our students of Farmersville. It appears as though the superintendent has no respect for classified employees by the actions that have been demonstrated thus far. Whether it is laying off employees and then hiring more management staff at a perception that can't be ignored or creating new job descriptions for librarian positions without even bargaining those creations and then creating the fear those current classified employees working in positions, even library positions, are going to be layed off but then that they can reapply for jobs very similar to the position they currently hold. The idea of using fear in this manner in order to keep your job is inappropriate at best. We can only hope that you, as the board, will hear our concerns and with the new board meetings calendared for 2016 help us find a solution and get these issues addressed as soon as possible.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(CONTINUED)
(8.0)

Sylvia Ramos, Academic Coach at Hester School, stated it was very unfortunate about the layoffs. She was an instructional aide in the late 80's. She worked 6-1/2 hours and all aides got layed off back to 3 hours. She stated she is sure it has to do with money and the funding and hopes it gets resolved. We have been moving in a new direction. Hester School was lost for a while. Now it seems like we have a vision, we know where we're going, we have support from the administrators, and we are collaborating together as teachers and I see us going in the right direction with the right materials and training. We need the training to provide the best practices for our students because the bottom line is we need increased student achievement and that is the vision of our administrators, our superintendent, our teachers, our community and family members. We all want increased student achievement. I think we are going in the right direction. Like the song says, we've only just begun but we need to keep going. We can't give up. We have to keep going for progress.

The Board adjourned to closed session at 6:09 p.m. to discuss: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Gov. Code § 54957) .

CLOSED SESSION
(20.0)

The Board returned to open session at 7:54 p.m.

OPEN SESSION
(21.0)

During closed session, the governing Board took action to place the Superintendent on paid administrative leave. The action was taken on a motion by Trustee Lupe Fernandez and seconded by Trustee Al Vanderslice and carried: (Ayes: Don Mason, Lupe Fernandez, Al Vanderslice; Noes: John Vasquez, Jorge Vazquez; Absent: None).

APPROVAL TO PLACE
SUPERINTENDENT
ON PAID
ADMINISTRATIVE
LEAVE (21.1)

On a motion by Trustee John Vasquez and seconded by Trustee Lupe Fernandez, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF
MEETING (22.0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Ofelia Ceja-Lariviere, Superintendent

Approved by,

Lupe Fernandez, Clerk of the Board