

**Minutes of the Special Joint School Boards Meeting of the
Escondido Union School District and Escondido Union High School District
April 13, 2011**

<p>The special joint school board meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by EUSD President Linda Woods. Rick Beebe, EUSD CSEA president led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>	<p>Call to Order; Pledge</p>
<p>Board members present: EUSD – Linda Woods, Zoe Carpenter, Marv Gilbert, Joan Gardner, and Marty Hranek; EUHSD – George McClure, Tina Pope, Randy Garcia, Kurt Marler, and Jon Peterson. Superintendents present: Jennifer Walters, EUSD and Ed Nelson, EUHSD.</p>	<p>Present</p>
<p>It was moved by Marv Gilbert, seconded by Randy Garcia, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda with no changes.</p>	<p>Approval of Agenda</p>
<p>President Woods introduced Marisa Ploog and Debi Deal from Fiscal Crisis Management and Assistance Team (FCMAT) who gave a an overview of the FCMAT study on the fiscal impacts of a potential reorganization of the Escondido Union School District and the Escondido Union High School District.</p>	<p>Unification Study Presentation</p>
<p>Marisa Ploog gave background on FCMAT and how they have worked with other districts. She explained the process by which an elementary district and a high school district are reorganized into a unified district serving students in K-12. Reasons why districts consider unification include the reduction of expenditures through consolidation of services and the elimination of some staffing redundancies that could provide some cost savings. Based on the 2009-10 fiscal year, the unified district would generate \$458.70 total add-on per ADA. However, Ms. Ploog explained that the revenue would be reduced by the equalization of salaries (potential “level up” costs for movement to common salary schedules and health benefits, although not required by law). She said that revenue limit adjustment dollars may not be sufficient to cover costs of developing a common salary schedule. Ed Code prohibits the release of any classified employee from employment or the reduction in benefits for two years, so it’s likely that savings may not be for two years out. Total projected “level up” costs for both certificated and classified staff would be \$6,930,052. She explained that some districts adjust their salary schedules over a period of time. It’s not required to adjust, but it’s a natural assumption this would occur. Other factors to be considered are enrollment trends, transportation, food service, facilities, merit system, and retiree benefit plans. There are nine criteria for reorganization listed in the Ed Code and the fiscal study is only one of the criteria. Ms. Ploog stated that there is a typical 18-month timeline for the unification process.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carmen Miranda strongly supports the unification.• Jose Fragrozo stated that he was excited about the possibility of the unification.• Ms. Mareck asked about current liabilities, understands the district has done several studies, and suggested the educational benefit to students be central to the conversation.	<p>Oral Communications</p>

- Lance Barry asked what happens if one of the four bargaining units doesn't come to a tentative agreement? FCMAT would have to get back to the district with that answer.

Marisa Ploog and Debi Deal handled questions from board members, and members from each board shared their feelings with one another about the potential unification, pro and con.

Unification Study Discussion

There was consensus on scheduling another joint meeting before the end of the year for further articulation. What is best for the community, a unified district or two well-articulated union districts? The next meeting will provide discussion around the districts' educational programs and perceived barriers preventing high educational attainment for all students.

It was moved by Marv Gilbert, seconded by George McClure, and passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:51 p.m.

Adjournment

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct copy of the actions of the Board of Education at a special meeting, as recorded in these minutes.

Certification

Jennifer Walters, Superintendent/Secretary

Marv Gilbert, Clerk