

Corning Union High School Special Board Meeting

DATE: August 31, 2017

TYPE OF MEETING:
Special

TIME: 6:00 PM

MEMBERS ABSENT:
None

PLACE: Corning Union High School
Library

VISITORS:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Patton
Pauletta Bray, Jim Bingham
Todd Henderson, Ken Vaughan

SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:

Jared Caylor, Ineterim Superintendent
Sally Tollison, Associate Principal
Jason Armstrong, Associate Principal
Christine Towne, Chief Business Officer
Jessica Marquez, Admin. Assistant to Superintendent

Lisa Johnson, Larry Johnson
Shannon Albers, Myndee Albers
Dan Jackson, Suzette Jackson
Joi Evans, Renee Dent
Steve Kimbrough, Luke Alexander
Cara Hood, Ben Myhre, Nancy Taylor
Dan Taylor, Troy Bell, Carol Bell
Jackie Humphing, Ruby Radgus, John Geer
Marilyn Vaughan, Barbara Polster
Sally Young, Ted. Polster, Karrie Roth
Nancy Helmick, Cindy Hanse
Mr. and Mrs. Lester, Lynette Messmer
Diana Talley, Dee Blackburn, Ms. Weaver
Debbie Camacho, Dede Gunsauls, Jill Dais
Sherry Fissori, Janice Johnson, Ron Johnson
Cindy Sutfin, Mr. and Mrs. Strack
Mr. and Mrs. Davies, Jessica Burch Spangler
Micah Spangler, Bethany Burch -Vaander
Dussen, Matt Vander Dussen, Donna Whipple
Forest Whipple, Diana Moltan, Allan Honore
Nicolitte Honore, Dave Siemueus
Carla Siemeus, Steve Barrett, Ginny Barrett
Jim Long, Susan Long, Ruth Mynre,
Julie Johnson, Corine Maday, Jackie Coleman
Marleigh Williams, Andy Farrell, Kelley
Jardin, Shawni McBride, Kurt Wilkins, Jason
Weston, Clementina Torres, Marsha Patrick,
Brandon Lengtat, Carment Lengtat, Chris
Goniae, Brad Martin, Claudia Martin, Debbie
Bryant, Gary Fortenberry, Matt Russell, Gary
Pope, Deanna Glover, Lorenzo Casia,
Mr. Patrick, Chris Fissori,
Legal Counsel- Roman Munoz

THE CORNING UNION HIGH SCHOOL –

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Board President, Scott Patton.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT / OPEN SESSION:

Board President Scott Patton thanks the audience for being present and asked if there was any public comment.

Ted Polster shared the following with the Board and audience:

I have known John Burch for over 33 years. I have witnessed his work ethic, in the classroom as a math instructor, as math department chair, as a basketball coach, as the faculty representative of the teachers union to the district, as an associate principal and as the administrator in charge of Student Services.

I have seen John Burch deal with difficult situation with parents, students and staff. He has always been respected as a fair, honest, intelligent, insightful and creative problem solver. I see him having continued along these lines as the superintendent of Corning Union High School.

I believe that with John Burch at the helm of the district you will continue the positive evolution that you have had over the past five years.

I know that John has the best interest of this district as his primary goal. This includes the betterment of the students, staff and the reflection of Corning High in this community.

Successful leadership depends on the building of relationship between the students and staff. The creation of opportunities for all to excel and to exceed beyond their own expectation. And to be inclusive and welcoming to all partners in the educational process.

You have a rare treasure in the administrator. One with the vision, integrity, high ethical standards and steadfast determination to do what is best for this school and community.

The motivation for any accusation brought against Mr. Burch are at the very best, questionable. My hope is that you exercise wisdom and discernment and can look carefully, especially after discussion directly with Mr. Burch, at any accusations and start the course with a most capable, dedicated and ethical individual.

Thank you for your careful attention to this issue and for your dedication to every facet of this district. I have one question: At what point is Mr. Burch going to have the opportunity to address each of the accusations made against him face to face with the board?

The audience clapped and Board President Scott Patton shared that we do not know at this time and the Board is following the lead of the attorney. He will be allowed the opportunity at some point. School Board member Ken Vaughan shared that yes, of course he will.

Jill of Red Bluff High School stated that the worst thing that ever happened to Red Bluff High School was that Mr. Burch left. She knows him on a professional and a personal level. Personally her son grew up with his kids. She wanted to speak on the integrity and the morale of John Burch. She worked side by side with him for approximately thirteen years. She did not work off campus but right by him and she saw his work on a personal level. She saw how he was with the students, the staff and the community. He was always taking the time to listen, counsel and wow, what an awesome man he is. Jill shared that she never attends school board meetings, not even her own but when she got word of what was going on with Mr. Burch at Corning Union High School, and she had to attend. He is a God fearing man and a man of integrity. He needs to be given a fair opportunity to speak. Kids always came first and I pray that he is given a second change.

John Geer spoke and stated that he spoke at the last meeting and as he is now back in the community. Last week he asked if Mr. Burch was allowed on campus and the answer was somewhat a no, is he? Scott Patton shared that he is not allowed on campus while he is on Administrative leave. The next question was why and Scott just shared because he was placed on Administrative leave he was not allowed to be. If he is found guilty will Mr. Burch be let go completely. Is there a process? Mr. Patton shared that this process is still being completed. John asked if he was not found guilty could he return and take legal action. Mr. Patton stated that he was not sure yet and that the Board was following the process and after asking to repeat the second part of the question. If he is innocent will he return as Superintendent will he be allowed to take legal action, Scott replied, "he does not know yet". John asked if the Board felt as though this investigation is being held appropriately and Scott did share that yes, it is being held perfectly just as the Board would like. John did want to know if the community could be of help in any way and the reply from Mr. Patton on behalf of the Board was, "no, not at this time". The audience clapped. Board Member Ken Vaughan shared to the audience that the Board would like for this to end just as soon as everyone else would.

Luke Alexander spoke and said since this is being called an evaluation, is there a cost for all of this? The answer from President Scott Patton is yes, there is a cost and cannot disclose that information right now because of the Administrative Leave. Scott asked if Luke knew the laws of Brown Act as an acting board member and why he would even ask this question in public if he knows the answer. As a board member he should know better. Luke asked as a board member himself, is there any conflict of interest between CUHS Board Members and Administrators and if so, should they refuse themselves from being part of this ongoing investigation/evaluation? Scott replied that. 'This is a question for our legal counsel'. Luke asked that this be asked to legal counsel in closed session. Is there any conflict of interest? Brothers and sisters who are administrators? The audience clapped. Scott did share that we have to defend our decision and the people can refuse themselves, if it is relevant.

**3. ADJOURN TO
CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to closed session at 6:10 PM

**4. REOPEN TO
PUBLIC SESSION:**

The Board returned to Public Session at 7:55 PM

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF
DECISION MADE IN
CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board announced to the audience the following:

The Board of directors has a request to conduct an audit based of California Education Code 1241.5 B This is audit of the expenditures and internal control of the school district if there is believed that fraud, misappropriation of funds, or other illegal fiscal practices have occurred. The Board seeks and audit on 2012-13 to 2016-17 school years. This is a separate audit from any internal audit which may already been in place. Superintendent John Burch is still to be placed on Paid Administrative Leave

California Code, Education Code - EDC § 1241.5

At any time during a fiscal year, the county superintendent may review or audit the expenditures and internal controls of any school district in his or her county if he or she has reason to believe that fraud, misappropriation of funds, or other illegal fiscal practices have occurred that merit examination. The review or audit conducted by the county superintendent shall be focused on the alleged fraud, misappropriation of funds, or other illegal fiscal practices and shall be conducted in a timely and efficient manner.

The county superintendent shall report the findings and recommendations to the governing board of the school district at a regularly scheduled school district board meeting within 45 days of completing the review, audit, or examination. The governing board of the school district shall, no later than 15 calendar days after receipt of the report, notify the county superintendent of its proposed actions on the county superintendent's recommendations. Upon review of the school district governing board report, the county superintendent, at his or her discretion, and consistent with law, may disapprove an order for payment of funds consistent with Section 42638.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Pauletta Bray, seconded by Jim Bingham and all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM.

At that time, Steve Kimbrough spoke to the Board and audience from the public seating area and shared that he felt as the Board could have requested an audit from the County Office and this is perhaps an overreaction to something. This in not being handled in the manner that it should be. There are steps that could be taken.

A female in the public shouted, "why not go to the Superintendent of School to let them handle the audit in an appropriate fashion".

Scott Patton shared one last time that the Board is following the Brown Act and cannot respond.

Approved

Scott Patton, President

Pauletta Bray, Clerk

Corning Union High School District Special Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, August 31, 2017

TIME: 6:00 PM

TYPE OF MEETING: Special Meeting

PLACE OF MEETING: Corning Union High School Library

Open Session:

1. Call meeting to order and flag salute-
2. Public comment on Closed Session:
3. Adjourn to Closed Session -

Info./
Action

3.1 Public Employee Evaluation Title: Superintendent

4. Reopen to Public Session-
5. Announcement of decision made in Closed Session-
6. Adjourn

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Board Meeting 8/31/17

1. Lisa Johnson
2. Larry Johnson
3. Shannon Albers
4. Myndee Albers
5. Dan Jackson
6. Suzette Jackson
7. Joi Evans
8. Benee Dent
9. Steve Kimbrough
10. LUKE Alexander

You are not required to sign but it would be appreciated if you did!



Board Meeting 8/31/17

1. Chad Hood
2. Ben Myhre
3. Nancy Taylor
4. Jan Taylor
5. Troy Bell
6. Carol Bell
7. Jackie Humphrey
8. Ruby Radgus
9. JOHN GEER
10. Marilyn Vaughan

You are not required to sign but it would be appreciated if you did!



Board Meeting 8/31/17

1. Barbara Foester
2. Sally Young
3. Karrie Roth
4. Dana Helms
5. Cindy Haase
6. Steve M. Hensen
7. Don Blackburn
8. David & Ruth Lester
9. Spette Massman
10. Joan Tolley

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Board Meeting 8/31/17

1. Dubbie Camacho
2. Dede Gunsauls
3. Jill Davis
4. Sherry Fission
5. Janice Johnson
6. Ron Johnson
7. Cindy Butler
8. Gary + Clara Strack
9. Tom + Shirley Davis
10. TED POLSTER

You are not required to sign but it would be appreciated if you did!



Board Meeting 8/31/17

1. Jessica Burch Spangler
2. Micah Spangler
3. Bethany Burch - Vander Dussen
4. MATT VANDER POSSEN
5. Donna + Forrest Whipple
6. Diana Mahler
7. Alan Honore
8. Sandy Honore
9. Nicollette Honore
10. Dave & Carla Siemens

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Board Meeting 8/31/17

1. Steve + Ginny Barrett
2. Jim + Susan Long
3. Paul Mynre
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

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