



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - END OF YEAR: Mr. Hernandez reported a fine ending of the school year, including the irony of having snow on June 10, which happened to be a snow make-up day.

SOARS/CVA REPORT: Mr. Hernandez presented his annual report on the district's three alternative learning programs: the SOARS alternative school, Columbia Virtual Academy, and the homelink program. The SOARS program is a cooperative with Freeman, Liberty, Tekoa and Rosalia school districts, and is a contract-based program serving 29.55 FTE this year. Of that number, 10.50 are Freeman students. "Some students do not fit into a brick and mortar program," he stated, "and this fills a need."

Columbia Virtual Academy is a partnership with Valley School District, serving 32.74 FTE this year. Students are enrolled with Freeman and served by Valley School District employees providing on-line instruction. This begins our third year in this arrangement, and enrollment is capped at 50.

The district has offered a homelink program but presently there are no families participating.

SUMMER PLANS: Mr. Hernandez reported he has met with Facilities Manager Kirk Lally to review major summer projects, many of which are placed on hold because of the bond issue. The maintenance/custodial staff will pilot a four-tens work schedule for a month which reduces commuting costs. He stated he has also met with transportation staff to identify potential ways to save fuel costs next year. Mr. Hernandez stated additional fuel will be ordered soon in anticipation of price increases.

## NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE BOND SALE PLAN: D.A. Davidson bond finance representative Jon Gores reviewed two potential plans for the bond sale. The first plan splits the sale of bonds into two sales, one for \$9,750,000 in July 2008 and the remaining \$9,750,000 in December, 2009, which produces a tax rate of \$2.40/1000. The second option sells \$15,000,000 in July 2008 and \$4,500,000 in December 2009 at a rate of \$2.50/1000. Mr. Gores stated the law requires that 85 percent of the bond proceeds must be spent within three years. The district is utilizing the state's bond guarantee program, which helps reduce interest rates and makes the bonds more attractive to buyers. The bond structure is designed to produce a level tax rate of \$2.50 assuming assessed value growth of five percent this year and three percent in future years. The Assessor's Office has estimated Freeman's 2009 growth to be around 6.8 percent.

Mr. Gores reported his company will review market conditions on June 30, with the bond sale occurring on July 1. It requires a school board meeting on July 2 to approve the bond resolution and purchase contract.

Board members held a lengthy discussion over the two options, concluding that, given the volatility of the bond market, the economy, and housing, it is in the best interest of the taxpayers to lock in historically low bond rates now, rather than gamble on what rates might be in 18 months. If rates were to decline, they reasoned, bonds could be refinanced at a lower rate. Mr. Fetsch moved the Board authorize the superintendent to work with Mr. Gores on the accelerated bond plan proposal, the second option. Mr. Primmer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The Board set a special meeting on July 2 at 7:00 a.m. to approve and accept the bond sale.

ADOPT RESOLUTION 6-2007/2008 – NEW-IN-LIEU REPLACEMENT OPTION: Mr. Hernandez recommended the Board adopt Resolution 6-2007/2008 – New-in-Lieu Replacement option which states the existing 7,504 square foot vo-ag shop not be used for future educational purposes. The district has the option to use the space for maintenance facilities. Mr. Huotari explained the state requires such a resolution when districts receive state matching funds for a space that is not being remodeled but funds are used elsewhere. There is no detrimental effect on the vo-ag program, he stated. If district plans change, the resolution can be reversed. Mr. Fetsch moved the Board adopt the resolution as presented. Mr. Primmer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

RATIFY PSE NEGOTIATIONS: Mr. Hernandez requested the Board ratify the tentative agreement with the Freeman Public School Employees. He thanked their leadership for the positive negotiation process. The portion of the Health Care Authority retiree-carve-out the district pays has been capped at \$60, and the remainder will come from the PSE employee insurance pool. Mr. Primmer moved the Board ratify the agreement as presented. Mr. Fetsch seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR HIGH SCHOOL: Mr. Smith presented the proposed school improvement plan for the high school. Mr. Smith reported he will be asking for funds to purchase AP texts which are defined by the higher education board. Mr. Primmer moved the Board approve the plan as presented. Mrs. Sellers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ADOPT RESOLUTION 7-2007/2008 – PROPERTY TRANSFER AMENDMENT: Mr. Hernandez stated the original property transfer agreement with Central Valley School District stated a transfer date of September 1 for 2009 collection. The Assessor's Office pointed out a change in the law which requires boundaries to be set on or before August 1, 2008 for 2009 tax collection. Mr. Hernandez requested adoption of Resolution 7-2007/2008 which amends the transfer date to June 30, 2008. Mr. Primmer moved the Board adopt the resolution as presented. Mrs. Sellers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OTHER INFORMATION: Mr. Goldsmith reminded members of future Board dates:

- June 25 – work study session to review initial draft of educational specifications at 5:30 p.m.; Board meeting at 6:00

- July 2, 2008 – 7:00 a.m. – special meeting to approve bond sale
- August 27 – 6:00

PERSONNEL: Mr. Hernandez recommended the following personnel action:

Classified:           Resignation: Tina Freter, Child Nutritionist III  
(Tina is now full time in the Early Learning Center)

Hire: Child Nutritionist III – Kris Anderson

Extracurricular: Hire: HS Head Cross Country Coach – Robin Doloughan

Resignation: HS Head Golf – Dave Teague

Mrs. Woodman moved the Board approve personnel action as presented. Mr. Fetsch seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m. with no further action.

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Recording Secretary

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Board Secretary

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Board Chair