



"Raising Expectations"



**ACTION AGENDA
Joint Meeting**

Visalia Unified School District Board of Trustees/Visalia City Council

Tuesday, May 1, 2007 - 5000 West Cypress Avenue
5:00 p.m. Dinner - C4 (Elected officials and senior staff)
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Meeting - Board Room

City of Visalia

Mayor: Jesus J. Gamboa
Vice Mayor: Greg Kirkpatrick
Council Member: Greg Collins
Council Member: Donald K. Landers
Council Member: Bob Link

Visalia Unified School District

President: Donna Martin
Clerk: Michael Lane
Board Member: Rodney Elder
Board Member: Juan Guerrero
Board Member: Larry Jones
Board Member: Jim L. Qualls
Board Member: Robert Stephenson

AGENDA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

INTRODUCTIONS/COMMENTS

Council members present: Jesus Gamboa, Greg Kirkpatrick, Greg Collins, Bob Link
Board of Trustees present: Donna Martin, Michael Lane, Juan Guerrero, Larry Jones, Jim Qualls

CITIZENS REQUESTS - This is the time for members of the public to comment on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Visalia Unified School District Board/Visalia City Council. The Board Members and Council ask that you keep your comments brief and positive. The Board/Council members cannot legally discuss or take official action on citizen request items that are introduced tonight. In fairness to all who wish to speak tonight, each speaker from the public will be allowed three minutes or a total of 20 minutes per topic. Please begin your comments by stating your name and providing your address.

None

1. Gang Prevention/Intervention – Police Chief Bob Carden, City of Visalia/Stan Carrizosa, Superintendent, VUSD

Police Chief Bob Carden presented an update to the Council/Board. The Youth Intervention Task Force met to identify how the city should use the \$100,000 for intervention efforts. The number one issue identified is transportation to get youth to recreation centers. A bus called LOOP will be implemented by the end of the school year. The bus will operate M-Sat and will follow a specific route not to exceed 30 minutes in duration. The bus will be identified and a wrap for the bus has been donated.

Chief Carden introduced Leslie Caviglia, Vince Elizondo, Sgt. Williams, and Lt. Figueroa who are members of the task force.

Councilman Kirkpatrick asked that Washington School be included in the loop if possible. Board Member Lane asked if the task force will continue and Chief Carden responded that the task force will continue to work on projects.

Joe Savala, 1515 E. Monte Vista Ct. spoke on the subject of gangs and agreed with Chief Carden's presentation but warned that gangs cannot be stopped and they are going to get worse.

2. Status Report of Houston/McAuliff Street Improvements - Andy Benelli, Public Works Director, City of Visalia

Andy Benelli presented an update on Houston/McAuliff street improvements. The intersection improvements were delayed after Caltrans requested design changes. New designs were prepared for the intersection that include dual left turn lanes and Caltrans has now approved the design and given authorization for the construction work to continue. Construction will begin on May 15th, and staff anticipates the work will be completed on August 1st.

Councilman Kirkpatrick asked who pays for the additional costs. Mr. Benelli responded that the City will pay the additional costs and is currently negotiating the costs which will be significant.

Councilman Collins asked when the bridge at Packwood will be completed. Mr. Benelli responded that it has to be done in the Fall and is scheduled for this Fall at the earliest and next Fall at the latest.

3. Update on Sports Park - Vince Elizondo, Parks & Recreation Director, City of Visalia

Vince Elizondo gave an update on the construction of the Riverway Sports Park which is located on north Dinuba Blvd. and Riverway Avenue. Phase I is scheduled to open on August 25, 2007 and Phase II has been initiated for the schematic design and construction should begin by the Fall of 2008.

Councilman Link asked how vandalism and graffiti issues will be handled. Mr. Elizondo responded that there will be a full-time park host who will be at the park 24/7 in exchange for free space.

4. Aquatic Task Force Update/Report - Vince Elizondo, Parks & Recreation Director, City of Visalia

Vince Elizondo reviewed the findings and recommendation of the Aquatic Ad Hoc Committee which has studied the feasibility of a joint venture to establish a year-round aquatic center. The committee consists of 14 members which represent various agencies in

Visalia as well as 2 community members at large. The committee met six times and recommends that the process should continue by going to the next phase of study (schematic design) which should include a consultant to refine plans for an aquatic center at several potential sites in the community. The study should lead to estimated costs to construct a new center and costs to maintain the facility and should also explore potential funding sources and a market analysis.

Mayor Jesus Gamboa asked if there was any idea of the cost of the park. Mr. Elizondo responded that it will vary depending upon the type of design and could vary from \$2million to \$10 million exclusive of the property.

Councilman Collins stated that collaboration in this effort is imperative as we will look to the team to share the costs.

5. Residential and Enrollment Trends, Carlyn Lambert, Assistant Superintendent and Christine Statton, CFO - VUSD

Carlyn Lambert and Christine Statton reported on enrollment growth as compared to the number of residential permits issued. They reported that VUSD is happy to be a growing district when so many districts in the State are in declining enrollment.

Councilman Kirkpatrick asked if any survey can be done to see why enrollment hasn't increased in comparison with new residential permits. Carlyn Lambert said the district has the ability to track births by zip code and she feels that a lot of new residential permits are for investor homes. The district still needs a new school every 2-2 ½ years to keep up with growth.

6. New Elementary School Construction Update/Interim Growth Plan – Randy Groom, Director Administrative Services, VUSD, and Doug Bartsch, Area Administrator, VUSD

Doug Bartsch reported that Oak Grove school currently has 960 students and was built for 750 students; Hurley School currently has 670 students and was built for 650. The district is preparing for another 240 students based on enrollment history. The district's current solution to overcrowding is the use of portable classrooms and utilizing option 2 in Class Size Reduction.

Randy Groom reported on the plans for constructing two new elementary schools both scheduled to open in August 2006. The construction of both schools will be completed by the same contractor in an effort to save time and money.

Councilman Kirkpatrick had questions about the lease-leaseback program.

Councilman Link has concerns and has heard concerns from parents about the safety of walking to school. Randy Groom explained the traffic flow around the school and the bus lanes, and drop-off lanes for automobiles.

Councilman Collins asked that school staff work with planning staff to design ways for students in adjacent homes to get to school safely.

Councilman Kirkpatrick asked that the district consider designing pedestrian friendly sites.

Rachella Roja, 1928 S. Pinkham, spoke of her concerns about the traffic at Pinkham and Walnut and asked that the speed zone be lowered for the safety of school children.

Board member Juan Guerrero said the traffic at Lovers Lane and Walnut is also dangerous and needs police officer presence.

7. School Crisis Planning Report – Lucinda Medjdell-Awbrey, Director Student Services, VUSD

Lucinda Medjdell-Awbrey gave an update on steps VUSD is taking for crisis planning. 1) upgrading their radio system; 2) purchasing software system that allows fast communication with parents; 3) meeting with large area churches for evacuation facilities

8. Update on Safe Routes to School Grants and Measure R Transportation Funds – Andy Benelli, Public Works Director, City of Visalia

Andrew Benelli informed the Council/Board that the City has applied for four Safe Routes to Schools grants and should hear back by mid June. Staff is optimistic that some of the grants may be funded.

Andrew Benelli also reported on Measure R funding which increases sales tax to improve transportation projects. One of the categories in the plan allocates funds to be distributed based on population and road miles. Staff is recommending \$100,000 annually to construct and repair sidewalks on routes used by school children in addition to the \$80,000 for sidewalks and \$40,000 for curbs that has already been budgeted.

Councilman Kirkpatrick said that Giddings, between Walnut and Tulare has no sidewalks and to put that street on the list.

Board member Juan Guerrero said Court/Granite/Pearl need stop signs and crosswalks.

Mayor Gamboa agreed and asked staff to move quickly.

Additional Comments:

Councilman Collins invited VUSD to work with the City in the Civic Center project in east Visalia. Councilman Link said he would like to see the obesity problem addressed, particularly in the Hispanic population due to their proneness to diabetes and would like the information to get out to the community. Council and Board members expressed their appreciation for the joint meeting and collaboration between the two entities.

ADJOURNMENT 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by Donjia Huffmon, Chief Deputy City Clerk

Upcoming Council Meetings

Monday, May 7, 2007 - City Hall Council Chambers
Monday, May 21, 2007 - City Hall Council Chambers
June 4, 2007 - City Hall Council Chambers

Work Session 4:00 p.m.
Regular Session 7:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
707 West Acequia Avenue