Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m. by President Dennis Cullen in Room B-1 at the Emigrant Trail Educational Center.

Members Present
Dennis Cullen
Michael Bird
Dave Campbell
Tom Griffin
Susan McVey

Adoption of Agenda
It was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. McVey, to pull from the agenda Item I.1, “Approval of temporary employment of Erica Armstrong, Instructional Aide I, 1.75 hours per day, effective March 9, 2011 – June 6, 2011 (Pinewood),” and adopt the agenda as revised. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Comment
There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda
It was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Bird, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion unanimously carried.

1) Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on March 8, 2011

2) Approval of Certification of Williams Act Uniform Complaint Procedures Quarterly Report

3) Review of Facility Inspection Program Report

4) Approval of 2011-2012 Agreement for Nurse Services with Camino Union School District

5) Approval of 2011-2012 Joint Transportation Supervisor Agreement with Gold Oak Union School District and Pioneer Union School District

6) Approval of 2011-2012 Agreement for Psychologist Services with Gold Oak Union School District
7) Approval of 2011-2012 Food Support Services Agreement with Silver Fork Elementary School District

8) Approval of 2011-2012 Administrative Services Agreement with Silver Fork Elementary School District

9) Approval of 2011-2012 Agreement for County School Services to School Districts

Approval of Warrants

It was moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mrs. McVey, to approve the warrants. Motion carried with four Ayes, zero Noes, and one Abstention (Mr. Campbell).

Discussion

California Voting Rights Act

Superintendent Monsma stated this item was brought to the board for information purposes. The California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) was enacted in 2002 and applies to all local government elections. In the past, it was interpreted to allow at-large elections in which a candidate can live anywhere in the district and is elected by all voters in the jurisdiction. This is the type of election our district and many other school districts have. A legal firm is sending letters to school districts demanding a change from at-large school board elections to elections by trustee area, then collecting fees from districts which agree to the demand. In elections by trustee area, a candidate must live in the trustee area and is elected only by voters in the same trustee area. In one such case, Madera Unified received a bill for $1.2 million for attorney fees and expenses, and when payment was contested in court, a judge ruled the attorneys were entitled to $162,000.

The El Dorado County Office of Education is recommending each school district board evaluate its trustee election procedures in light of the CVRA and consider any potential changes to trustee areas based on 2010 census information which is anticipated will be available sometime this spring. This item will be brought back to the board for further discussion when the census information is available.

School Bus Fees

Board members reviewed the amount of school bus fees charged by other districts throughout the county for 2009-10 and 2010-11. The $108 fee charged by Camino USD is the lowest; fees in Buckeye USD and Rescue USD are the highest at $225. Our district’s fee of $130 with a 10% discount for early payment, $400 maximum charge per family, and a reduced fee of $65 generated $20,000 - $25,000 of income the last two years. This year,
transportation is budgeted to require a transfer of $96,000 from the general fund, due to the 20% cut in state funding and increasing gas prices.

After discussion, President Cullen requested this item be brought back for action at the next board meeting with a matrix of revenue vs. charges. Information regarding how much transportation costs have increased due to increased fuel prices was also requested.

Finance and Business

Approval -
Requests for Allowance of Attendance because of Emergency Conditions

It was moved by Mr. Bird, seconded by Mrs. McVey, to approve the Requests for Allowance of Attendance because of Emergency Conditions on March 21 and March 25, 2011. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval -
Use of Facilities by On Stage Productions under special circumstances

On Stage Productions, a local business providing dance instruction, was one of the businesses affected by the collapse of the roof at Knotty Pine Lanes due to heavy snow load. Since it is a profit-making company, the rental rate for district facilities is high; however, because it is a community group waiting to get into another building, we wanted to be able to offer space to them at the district’s cost. This will benefit district students who participate in dance classes after school and build some good community relationships. This agreement requires board approval, since it deviates from board policy under special circumstances.

It was moved by Mrs. McVey, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the Use of Facilities by On Stage Productions under special circumstances. Motion unanimously carried.

It was moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Bird, to approve the following:

Approval -
2010-2011 Master Contract with Shining Star Children’s Therapy, Inc.

Approval -
Individual Services Agreements for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian Agency Services: Shining Star Children’s Therapy, Inc.

Motion unanimously carried.
Board Policies and Administration

Adoption - 2011-2012 Calendar

Superintendent Monsma presented two calendars for the board’s consideration: a traditional calendar with a start date of August 11 for students and a second calendar with a later start date of August 18 for students, requested by parents attending the Community Forum. Superintendent Monsma recommended the adoption of the traditional calendar with the earlier start date due to the short period of time for review by employee groups and a lack of information as to the total number of parents who would prefer a later start date for students with a corresponding extension into June at the end of the school year. A Calendar Committee comprised of parents and employees will be established early next year to look at calendar options for the 2012-2013 school year.

It was moved by Mrs. McVey, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adopt the traditional calendar option with a start date of August 4 for students for the 2011-2012 school year. Motion unanimously carried.

First Reading - Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5141.31, “Immunizations,” were presented for a first reading. There was no action required at this meeting. The Board Policy and Administrative Regulation will be presented for adoption at the regular Board meeting in May.

Personnel

Agenda Item I.1, “Approval of temporary employment of Erica Armstrong, Instructional Aide I, 1.75 hours per day, effective March 9, 2011 – June 6, 2011 (Pinewood),” was pulled from the agenda.

Acceptance - Resignation of Alex Koulakoff

It was moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to accept the retirement of Alex Koulakoff, Bus Driver, effective April 30, 2011. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval - Employment of Brent Malicote

It was moved by Mr. Bird, seconded by Mrs. McVey, to approve the employment of Brent Malicote, Pinewood Principal, effective July 1, 2011. Motion unanimously carried.
Staff Reports and Announcements

The Principals, Supervisor of Maintenance and Operations and Food Service, and Supervisor of Transportation had submitted written reports of activities and programs at their sites.

In addition, Principal Ralph Haslam reported that only 45 kindergartners were registered at the end of March for 2011-2012. This compares with 68 who were registered at the same time last year. In 2004-2005 there were 46 kindergartners registered at the end of March, with 81 kindergarten students enrolled at the end of August that school year.

Principal Callaghan reported:

- STAR testing will begin on Wednesday, April 27, following spring break.
- We received a call this afternoon from the California Department of Education notifying us that Sierra Ridge Middle School has been officially designated a 2011 California Distinguished School, one of 47 middle schools in the state and the only one in El Dorado County. We are honored to receive this recognition from the state on behalf of the Sierra Ridge and Pinewood staff and the community we serve.
- The Conference, “Beyond Bullying,” attended with Mr. Malicote provided many good resources which will be used to establish a K-8 anti-bullying program that will include cyber bullying.

Superintendent’s Reports, Announcements, and Communications

The Superintendent reported on the following:

- California Distinguished School – Congratulations to Mr. Callaghan and the Sierra Ridge staff on receiving the California Distinguished School award. Of the 116 middle schools in the state which were eligible to apply for the award, only 97 of those schools actually received the award.
- STAR Testing – STAR testing will begin shortly after spring break and continue through the first week of May.
- Character Matters – The play, Character Matters, presented by students in Sharee Price’s class was very well done. The program included short biographies of each student. Everyone did a great job.
- Spelling Bee – The Spelling Bee will be Friday, May 13. The winning T-shirt design was chosen today. We are still recruiting judges.
• Technology – We have learned from Jim Tarwater, Superintendent of Lake Tahoe Unified School District (LTUSD), that all students in his district now have their own net book, starting in 3rd grade. It has changed the face of what students in that district are doing. Also, an animation studio is being set up in the LTUSD with the help of Pixar Animation Studios. LTUSD will allow us to ride on their technology coattails, and there are a lot of things we can copy for our district. We hope to bring some of it to our district next year for our students.

• Spring Break – The District Office will be open next week during Spring Break.

Board Members’ Reports and Communications

Future Board Agenda Topics

Bus fees and school bonds will be future board agenda topics.

Other Board Member Reports

Mr. Bird reported that he attended the EDSCBA meeting held March 24, 2011. A copy of the agenda was distributed to other board members. The main topics of discussion were dates and content areas for the next school board member trainings.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Monsma
District Superintendent and Secretary to the Board

APPROVED:

_________________________
J. Dennis Cullen, President

DATE: _________________