

**MINUTES OF
Trinity Alps Unified School District**

WHERE HELD: Trinity County Office of Education **DATE:** November 19, 2007
Weaverville, California **TIME:** 6:30 P.M.
Conference Room

Members Present: Les Daye, Area 1
Bob Simmons, Area 2
George Tkach, Area 2
Mike Cloud, Area 3
Vacant, Area 4

Members Absent: none

County Office: Jim French, Superintendent
Vicki Estrada, Administrative Assistant
Denise Raggon, Chief Business Official
Terri Townzen, Business Assistant

Others Present: David Smith, Molly Contos, Scott Lane, Mike Flint,
Kathleen Graham, Dawn Kreick, Christine Camara,
Mike Rourke, Patrick Scholler, Rosalind Morris,
Bob Lowden, Maria Brown, Cindy Blanchard,
Mary Beth Brinkley, Michael McAllister, Dusty Knight,
Jessica Newton, Bob Cunningham, Kathy Larson,
Keith Larson, Diana Frink, Judy Stewart, Marv
Stewart, Suzan Hazard

Introductions Jim asked the audience to introduce themselves to the Board and each other.

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Jim French, Trinity Co. Superintendent of Schools.

Flag Salute The flag salute was led by Bob Cunningham.

Introductory Remarks & Swearing in Ceremony

Jim French opened the meeting by introducing the newly elected Board Members for the new unified school district.

Jim read a statement on how the process started. *“The unification process started officially in February, 2001 when you (the boards) resolved to ask for a unification study, six ½ years ago. Really the initial discussion began in 1996.*

You have formed the largest school district in Trinity County with 843 students, 48% of the county schools total. Your feeder districts represent an additional 25% or 73% of our counties total enrollment.

You will be creating a future vision for education in our county, a big task, balancing the needs of present students, and staff, while planning for the future. It will take time, dedication, and patience.

You have additionally created a unified structure that the smaller elementary schools can petition to join in the future, if they so choose, a process without additional state approval.

I would like to thank administrations and local school boards past and present, for their work, and especially the county office staff, and county school board that has facilitated the lengthy process. Let's get started. Thank you all."

Jim French gave the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board Members. After the swearing in, each Board Member drew lots to randomly choose a term limit. Those term limits were:

Les Daye, Area 1 – 4 year term
Bob Simmons, Area 2 – 2 year term
George Tkach, Area 2 – 4 year term
Mike Cloud, Area 3 – 4 year term
Vacancy, Area 4 – 2 year term

Comments from the Public

Scott Lane, current Weaverville CTA President, introduced himself to the Board Members. He wanted to welcome and thank the new Board for their dedication and time.

Mike Flint, current Trinity High School CTA President, introduced himself and also welcomed the new Board. He said there were many questions he and the other staff would like answered as soon as possible. He distributed those questions to the Board.

Action Items

Elections of Officers

After discussion from Board Members, George Tkach indicated he would be happy to serve as the new board's first president. He told the audience he was very appreciative of everyone coming to the meeting this evening. He has been interested and involved in the unification process for the past 10 years.

Motion

Bob Simmons motioned, seconded by Les Daye to nominate George Tkach as President of the Trinity Alps Unified School District Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion

Mike Cloud motioned, seconded by George Tkach to nominate Bob Simmons as Vice President/Clerk of the Trinity Alps Unified School District Board. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Jim French handed the meeting over to the new President of the Board, George Tkach.

George again thanked the audience for coming to the meeting. He also wanted to thank Jim French, Denise Raggon, and the TCOE staff for their hard work in facilitating the meetings, organizing paperwork, etc. for the new district.

Naming the New District

Pursuant to Education Code sections 35000, 35102, and 35140, the newly elected governing board must chose a new name for the school district. The Board asked the audience if they had any names they liked. Board Member Les Daye suggested Trinity Bally Unified School District. Board Member Bob Simmons suggested Northern Trinity or North Trinity Unified School District. Jessica Newton suggested using the simple name of Trinity Unified School District. Scott Lane and Susan Cousins both thought Trinity Alps Unified School District would mean a lot because of the mountains surrounding the area.

Motion

Les Daye motioned, seconded by Mike Cloud to adopt the name Trinity Alps Unified School District as the name for the newly unified district. The motion passed unanimously.

Setting the Regular Meeting Dates, Time, Frequency, and Location

After discussion with the Board Members, date and time for the new Board to meet is as follows:

Meetings are to be held at this time on the second Monday of each month for Regular Board Meetings. The time is set for 6:00 p.m. If additional meetings are to be held, the Board will set those as needed.

Susan Hazard, from Trinity High School District office, asked how agenda items would be added. Jim French noted he and the Board President, George Tkach, would work on the agenda together for the first few meetings.

George Tkach also brought up the question of the secretary for the board meetings. It was discussed with the result being that each individual district will have their secretary take minutes at the board meeting held at their site. Sue Hazard asked for clarification regarding the agenda. She asked if it would be the secretary's responsibility to prepare the agenda, but it was decided the secretary would only be responsible for the minutes at this time.

Mike Flint questioned how communication with each district would be to get items on the agendas. George mentioned email and regular mail as a couple of the ways for such communication.

Christine Camara, Supt. of Junction City School, asked if the feeder elementary schools would be receiving the agendas on a regular basis also. George answered with a yes, each of the feeder elementary schools would be receiving the agendas each month.

Procedure for Appointing a Board Member to Serve Area IV

Jim French reported to the new Board that an ad has been placed in the Trinity Journal to run for two weeks which is a notice for an Immediate School Board Vacancy. Board Members discussed how to choose a member for the open position. Members decided to have prospective applicants speak in open session regarding their interest in the position.

Information Items

Denise Raggon gave each Board Member a list of the district business issues that need attention. The name of the new district will need to be on numerous documents with the State Board of Equalization, California Department of Education, County Auditor & Assessor, to name a few. Also bank accounts will need to be changed, new tax i.d. numbers along with new CDS codes for the new school district. Many other items of importance need to be discussed and handled very quickly.

George Tkach asked Jim French if the new school district is one of the largest employers in the county. Jim said he would check on that information.

Scott Lane also asked if the staffs could be involved in decisions such as the hiring of a new superintendent.

Mike Flint requested information on what would be discussed during closed session. Jim French noted the agenda notes discussion on hiring a superintendent for the school district.

Bob Lowden wanted to tell the new Board and members of each of the districts that a small get-together has been planned for next Thursday, around 5:00 p.m., at Weaverville Elementary School, to allow staff members from each of the districts to mingle with each other.

Marv Stewart wanted to congratulate the new district on its formation. He said this is a great experience for the K-12 staff. He also mentioned having a Logo Contest, letting the students of the districts help design a logo for the new district. When Marv was the supt. at Mountain Valley Unified District, they had a district logo contest for the students. The winner of the contest won \$50.00 and their logo was used for the district.

Closed Session

The Board convened to a closed session at 7:23 p.m.

Open Session

The Board reconvened to open session. It was reported out of closed session that action was taken to secure the services of Bill Baker as Interim Superintendent.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Monday, December 10th, at the Weaverville Elementary School Library at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
James B. French, County Superintendent
Trinity County Office of Education

JBF:ve