

ALISAL UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting  
November 5, 2008

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular Board meeting of the Alisal Union School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Gary Karnes at 5:30 p.m., at the District Board Room, 1205 E. Market Street, Salinas, California. President Karnes announced that Trustee Castañeda was en route.

Members Present: Trustee Gary Karnes, President  
Trustee Juan V. Flores, Vice President/Clerk  
Trustee José Castañeda (arrived during Closed Session)  
Trustee Guadalupe Ruiz Gilpas  
Trustee Jesús R. Velásquez

Also Present: Dr. Zendejas and other District staff.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board convened to Closed Session at 5:31 p.m. to discuss the following:

1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (pursuant to Government Code Section 54957).

Action may be taken.

2. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT/EMPLOYMENT [pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 (b)]:  
➤Principal

Action may be taken.

3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9)  
Tombleson Inc. v. Alisal Union School District, et al., and related cross-actions; Monterey County Superior Court Case No.: M68146.

Action may be taken.

**RECONVENE OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 7:12 p.m. President Karnes announced that the Board met in Closed Session to discuss the following:

1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (pursuant to Government Code Section 54957).

No action was taken.

2. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT/EMPLOYMENT [pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 (b)]:  
➤Principal

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On a motion by Trustee Ruiz Gilpas, seconded by Trustee Flores, the Board appointed Elizabeth Armenta as the new Principal at Alisal Community School. The motion passed by a 4-1 vote. Trustee Castañeda voted no.

3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9)  
Tombleson Inc. v. Alisal Union School District, et al., and related cross-actions; Monterey County Superior Court Case No.: M68146.

No reportable action was taken.

Trustee Flores left during closed session.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Randa Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Valentina Estrada, a student at Cesar E. Chávez Elementary School, sang the National Anthem.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Trustee Castañeda requested that item XIII-A under Management Services (Resolution 0809-13, Incompatible Public Office) be moved up on the agenda.

President Karnes requested that all three items under Management Services be moved up.

A motion was made by Trustee Castañeda, seconded by Trustee Velásquez to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion passed by a 4-0-1 vote. Trustee Flores was not present at the time of the vote.

**PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

The following people addressed the Board:

- Aaron Salsberg regarding choir instructor, First Tee Golf program, Fiesta Familiar de la Costa Central Conference
- Elizabeth Miller regarding the budget/funding for programs and requested that the Superintendent and Board resign
- Juvenal Ramirez regarding changes in administration and the Superintendent's leadership style and requested that the Superintendent resign as well as any Board member that supported the amendment to her contract
- Meredith Guido regarding changes in administration, funding, the Superintendent's contract, Measure A funding and requested that the Superintendent resign
- Jeanne Green regarding support for Dora Salazar, Principal at John E. Steinbeck Elementary School
- Patricia Cortez-Alvarez spoke in support for Dora Salazar, Principal at John E. Steinbeck Elementary School
- Mr. Wintermantel regarding changes in administration, spoke in support of Trustee Castañeda and Dora Salazar, Principal at John E. Steinbeck Elementary School, and resigned from the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee
- Jose Bernal regarding field trip cost impacting parents at Cesar E. Chávez School
- Gloria Luna regarding lack of support for her child at the High School District

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Robert Griffin spoke in support for Dora Salazar, Principal at John E. Steinbeck Elementary School and Trustee Castañeda</li><li>➤ Rodrigo Gutierrez requested that Frank Paul School be stick built and spoke in support for Trustee Castañeda</li><li>➤ Alma Barron regarding her employment status with the District and requested that she be allowed to return to her bus driver position</li><li>➤ Dora Lopez requested the Superintendent's resignation and voiced concerns about changes in administration, the Superintendent's contract, the teacher recruitment trip to Tlaxcala, Mexico, budget issues and after school programs</li><li>➤ Sylvia Huerta regarding Title I funds not being disseminated, commented negatively about the Superintendent's recent theatrical performance, and suggested training for Board members</li><li>➤ Maribel Merlos spoke in support of Alma Barron</li></ul>
<b>PRESENTATIONS/ COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<p>A group of sixth grade students from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy, shared highlights of their experiences at science camp. Students learned about watersheds, participated in solo hikes and night hikes, went on a trip to the ocean, and had fun with the barnyard boogie.</p>
What's Right	<p>The following people shared positive comments about the good things that are happening in the Alisal Union School District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Esteban Hernandez</li><li>➤ Trine Rodriguez</li><li>➤ Elizabeth Armenta</li><li>➤ Caroline Kenney</li><li>➤ Mary Magaña</li><li>➤ Trustee Castañeda</li></ul>
District Facility Project Update	<p>Jim Koenig, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, shared highlights of the tour of McKinnon Elementary School on October 22, 2008. Mr. Koenig emphasized that the purpose of the tour was to see an actual outcome of a modular school site as the District is looking at reconstructing Frank Paul Elementary School. He commented that it would cost about 5 million more to do stick-built construction vs. a modular approach. Dr. Zendejas added that the District would be looking at paying 16 million in construction fees for a stick-built school plus additional fees for a total of 21.5 million. Dr. Zendejas commented that the District could move toward stick-built construction but other projects would need to be delayed.</p>
Public Comment	<p>Jeronimo Reyes addressed the Board regarding the reconstruction of Frank Paul Elementary School, spoke in support of Trustee Castañeda, and commented on the possible loss of Migrant Program funding.</p> <p>Discussion ensued and included the need to have a plan in place, the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee's role, mold remediation projects that surfaced, the waiver that will allow the District to access 20 million dollars, and other financing options.</p>

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**CONSENT AGENDA/  
ROUTINE BUSINESS**

Trustee Castañeda requested that the following Consent Agenda items be pulled for separate vote:

- IX-A Pg 3, Minutes for October 8, 2008
- IX-B, Personnel Report
- IX-F, Register Bills Pg. 81, 83, 85, 86, 89, 97, 105, 110, 111

A motion was made by Trustee Castañeda to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Trustee Castañeda made a new motion to amend the agenda by pulling the following Consent Agenda items for separate vote. Trustee Velásquez seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1. Trustee Flores was not present.

- IX-A Pg. 3, Minutes for October 8, 2008
- IX-B Pg. 10, Personnel Report
- IX-F, Register Bills Pg. 89 and 105

- A. Approve Minutes of the October 8, 2008, October 15, 2008, October 22, 2008 Board Meetings
- B. Approve/Ratify Personnel Report as presented
- C. Approve/Ratify Conference Attendance/Field Trip Reports as presented
- D. Approve/Ratify Consultants/Contracts/Agreements as presented
- E. Approve/Declare Surplus Items as presented
- F. Approve/Ratify Bill Registers in the amount of \$2,509,647.58

Consent Agenda Item  
IX-A Pg. 3, October 8,  
2008 Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Castañeda, seconded by Trustee Velásquez, to consider Consent Agenda item IX-A Pg. 3, Minutes for October 8, 2008. Trustee Castañeda asked the Board to verify the time that the meeting was adjourned and inquired as to whether or not the Board reconvened to Open Session to report any action taken in Closed Session. Trustees Karnes, Velásquez and Ruiz Gilpas confirmed that proper procedures were followed and confirmed that the adjournment time was accurate as indicated.

Trustee Castañeda rescinded his motion.

A motion was made by Trustee Velásquez, seconded by Trustee Ruiz Gilpas to approve the Minutes for October 8, 2008 as presented. The motion passed by a 3-1-1 vote. Trustee Castañeda abstained and Trustee Flores was not present.

Consent Agenda Item  
IX-B Pg. 10, Personnel  
Report

A motion was made by Trustee Castañeda, seconded by Trustee Ruiz Gilpas, to consider Consent Agenda item IX-B Pg. 10, Personnel Report. Trustee Castañeda expressed concerns about approving the change in classification as noted without having pertinent information and inquired about a recent accident. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Castañeda rescinded his motion.

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**CONSENT AGENDA/  
ROUTINE BUSINESS**  
(continued)

A new motion was made by Trustee Castañeda, seconded by Trustee Velásquez, to approve Consent Agenda item IX-B Pg. 10, Personnel Report pending clearance and pending investigation. The motion passed by a 4-0-1 vote. Trustee Flores was not present.

Consent Agenda Item  
IX-F, Register Bills Pg.  
89 and 105

A motion was made by Trustee Castañeda, seconded by Trustee Velásquez, to consider Consent Agenda item IX-F, Register Bills Pg. 89 and 105. Trustee Castañeda commented on the need to adhere to the nutrition policy and expressed concerns about purchasing sweet bread. Dr. Zendejas addressed the matter and stated she would check with the Director of Food Services.

Trustee Castañeda rescinded his motion.

A new motion was made by Trustee Castañeda to table Consent Agenda item IX-F, Register Bills Pg. 89 and 105.

The motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Trustee Velásquez, seconded by Trustee Ruiz Gilpas, to approve Consent Agenda item IX-F, Register Bills Pg. 89 and 105 as presented. Trustee Castañeda expressed concerns about purchases made. Dr. Zendejas commented on the matter. Discussion ensued. The motion passed by a 3-1-1 vote. Trustee Castañeda voted no and Trustee Flores was not present.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Trustee Ruiz Gilpas to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Castañeda.

President Karnes recommended taking care of urgent matters before adjourning. Discussion ensued.

President Karnes asked Trustee Ruiz Gilpas to restate her motion.

Trustee Ruiz Gilpas moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Trustee Castañeda. The motion passed by a 3-1-1 vote. President Karnes voted no and Trustee Flores was not present.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

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Gary Karnes, President

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Juan V. Flores, Vice President/Clerk

Board Approved: 12/10/08