

**SCHOOL VISITATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CLOVIS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS
Yucca Middle School
1500 Sycamore
September 9, 2008**

A school visitation meeting of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at Yucca Middle School, 1500 Sycamore, Clovis, New Mexico. School Board members present were: Lola Bryant, President; Mark Lansford, Secretary; Lora Harlan, Member; and Max Best, Member. Terry Martin, Vice President, was unable to attend. Dr. Rhonda Seidenwurm, Superintendent, was in attendance. Additional individuals present were: Jelayne Curtis, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Joel Shirley, Deputy Superintendent; Alan Dropps, Principal; Sean Wootton, Assistant Principal; and Kayla Pipkin, Instructional Coach; and a representative from the *Clovis News Journal*.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Ms. Bryant called the meeting to order. A quorum of the Board was present.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE AND SALUTE – Dr. Rhonda Seidenwurm

Dr. Seidenwurm offered the invocation, pledge, and salute.

III. *CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lansford made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Harlan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. *CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Best made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Harlan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Rhonda Seidenwurm

A. Update on Planned Purchases of District Vehicles

Dr. Seidenwurm mentioned that the district hasn't purchase vehicles and equipment in awhile. She provided the Board with an outline of major vehicle and equipment purchases for this year. Mr. Shirley stated that the district has several pieces of equipment that are no longer safe. "Many of the purchases are safety issues," Mr. Shirley said. He provided examples of some equipment that needed to be replaced due to safety such as a forklift with improperly functioning brakes and fluid leaks. In many examples, Mr. Shirley stated that the equipment purchases would provide 20-25 years of usage. He gave approximate costs of equipment such as \$60,000 to purchase a backhoe and \$20,000-\$22,000 for a forklift. The purchases would be made as funds allow. The Board raised a question regarding the use of suburbans for the district. Dr. Seidenwurm stated that the suburbans are set-up on a reinvestment schedule. The reinvestment schedule is when groups/departments utilize school vehicles and the mileage charged is deposited into an account to purchase new vehicles. Mr. Best asked how the district could save money on travel costs with the increase in fuel prices. He suggested the possible purchase of small activity busses instead of transporting 15 students on a 40-passenger bus. Mr. Shirley stated that the cost of a 50-passenger bus is not much cheaper than a 35-passenger bus. Additionally, he mentioned that two suburbans possibly are the same as one bus in regards to the fuel costs. Mr. Shirley also stated that passengers on a school bus are usually much safer in an accident than passengers in other vehicles. Vehicles are purchased through the State contract (GSA pricing), which is at a discounted cost, according to Mr. Shirley. Ms. Bryant asked how many vehicles and what types the district currently owns. Mr. Shirley was unsure, but indicated that he would provide a list to the Board members. Mr. Lansford asked if the planned equipment and vehicle purchases were in the budget. Dr. Seidenwurm replied, yes, that they were budgeted last year; however, we did not expend the money. She added that part of the funds this year were carried over from last year.

B. Introduction of Principal/Principal's Report

Dr. Seidenwurm introduced Mr. Dropps, Principal of Yucca Middle School. Mr. Dropps introduced Sean Wootton, Assistant Principal, and Kayla Pipkin, Instructional Coach. Mr. Dropps provided demographics of the student population at Yucca Middle School, which included an ethnic breakdown. The total student population at Yucca Middle School is currently 583. Mr. Dropps discussed the SBA testing scores from the past four years and stated that the Math scores are continuing to increase. He mentioned that there was a slight decrease in the "all group" category from the 2006-2007 school year to 2007-2008. Of the seven groups, three increased, and four decreased slightly. He also discussed the Reading scores and stated that all seven groups showed gains and significant increases were shown in certain groups. Mr. Dropps also briefly discussed the teaming and mentoring at Yucca. He stated that the mentoring program was scheduled to begin the first part of October. He said that attendance is good (95%-96%) and that the staff at Yucca keeps on top of any attendance issues and utilize resources to assist. In closing, Mr. Dropps highlighted some of the extra-curricular activities offered at Yucca such as Yucca Ambassador Club, FCCLA, Math Club, Band Program, Dance Team, 8th Grade Football, Cheerleaders, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Mock Trial, Choir, Journalism, Art, Tech Lab, Spanish, Volleyball, Basketball, and Track.

VI. TOUR OF FACILITY – Joel Shirley/Alan Dropps

The Board toured the facility.

VII. *ADJOURN

Mr. Best made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lansford seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CLERK

PRESIDENT

DATE MINUTES TO BE APPROVED:
September 23, 2008