



# Trinity County Office of Education

**Fabio Robles, Ed.D.**  
Trinity County  
Superintendent of Schools

P.O. Box 1256 • 201 Memorial Drive, Weaverville, CA 96093-1256

## MINUTES

### **Trinity County Board of Education Regular Board Meeting October 18, 2023**

**WHERE HELD:** Coffee Creek Elementary School  
261 Coffee Creek Road  
Trinity Center, Ca 96091

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:** Randy Spencer, Area I  
Michelle Myers, Area II  
Sally Aldinger, Area III  
Steve Canale, Area V

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Arina Erwin, Area IV

**COUNTY OFFICE:** Fabio Robles, Superintendent of Schools  
Anthony Rebelo, Assistant Superintendent of Special  
Education/SELPA Director  
Tim Nordstrom, Assistant Superintendent of Educational  
Services  
Cindy Blanchard, Chief Business Official  
Dawn MacLaren, Administrative Secretary

**COUNTY OFFICE ABSENT:** Melanie Holmes, Executive Director of HR & Business  
Services

#### **1.0 Formal Opening**

- 1.1 Call to Order  
Sally Aldinger called the meeting to order at 3:43p.m.
- 1.2 Roll Call
- 1.3 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.4 Additions or Changes to Agenda  
Correction to the Agenda date from October 18, 2024, to October 18, 2023.

- 2.0 Public Communication:** Persons wishing to address the Board on any item except personnel are invited to do so at this time. In the interest of time and order, presentations from the public are limited to three minutes per person, 20 minutes per topic, pursuant to Board policy. Please state your name and address before speaking. In accordance with the Brown Act, unless an item has been placed on the agenda there

shall be no action taken. The Board may 1) acknowledge receipts of the information; 2) refer to staff for further study; 3) refer the matter to the next agenda.

There was no public communication.

### **3.0 Accept Open Session Agenda**

Sally asked the board for a motion to accept the Open Session Agenda.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Michelle Myers, with a second by Steve Canale, to accept the Open Agenda. Motion passed. Aye-4 (Aldinger, Canale, Myers, Spencer), No-0, Absent-1 (Erwin), Abstain-0.

### **4.0 Consent Agenda:** The following consent agenda items are considered routine by the County Board and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a Board member so requests, in which event the item(s) will be considered following approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 4.1 Minutes – September 20, 2023
- 4.2 Warrants – September 2023
- 4.3 Payroll – September 2023
- 4.4 BP/E (1) 0420.41 Oversight of County Charter Schools – Second Reading
- 4.5 BB 9322 Agenda/Meeting Materials - Second Reading

Sally Aldinger asked the Board if there was a motion to pull any items from the Consent Agenda. Item 4.5 BB 9322 Agenda/Meeting Materials was pulled from the Consent Agenda for clarification on page one, last paragraph. Fabio will do some research on the wording, and BB 9322 Agenda/Meeting Materials will be placed on the November Agenda.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Steve Canale, with a second by Michelle Myers, to accept Items 4.1 through 4.4, with 4.5 to be on the November agenda with clarification. Motion passed. Aye-4, (Aldinger, Canale, Myers, Spencer), No-0, Absent-1 (Erwin), Abstain-0.

### **5.0 Reports**

- 5.1 Financial Report and Oversight Update
  - Cindy Blanchard shared with the Board the financial report and oversight update, which was also included in the board packet for the members to review.
  - 5.1.1 School Facilities Report from Jeff Morris
    - The school facilities report was included in the packet for the members to review.
- 5.2 Cabinet Report – includes Trinity COE and District LCAP Updates
  - Tim Nordstrom, Anthony Rebelo, and Cindy Blanchard shared their cabinet reports with the board.

### **6.0 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence

### **7.0 Action Items**

## No Action Items

### 8.0 **Information Items**

- 8.1 Summary of Complaints per Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures (July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023)  
There were no Complaints
- 8.2 First-Day Enrollment Comparison 2022-2023 SY and 2023-2024 SY  
There was a discussion on why enrollment is declining. Fabio stated that he learned at the California County superintendent's meeting he had just attended this past week that enrollment has been declining across the state. Declining enrollment is a possibility of families leaving California due to the state policy on mandated vaccines. Before 2020, you could get an exemption from your healthcare provider; before 2016, you could have a personnel belief exemption, and 47 out of the 52 states still allow that exemption. California does not. Also, the fires in recent years could contribute to families leaving California for safety and health concerns.  
Sally Aldinger suggested that we add this item to the November agenda to discuss further declining enrollment and homeschooling.

### 9.0 **Superintendent's Report**

- 9.1 Fabio shared with the board that he attended an advocacy trip to Washington, D.C., at the end of September. There was an article in the *Trinity Journal* last week summarizing his trip. It was a very educational trip, and he was able to meet with a lot of legislators and their staff. He was also able to go and sit in the gallery and watch the debates as they talked about the potential Government shutdown.
- 9.2 He has been invited to go back to Washington D.C. in the spring and has also been invited to be on the veteran's team to advocate for changes in recruiting veterans into schools, which include the Troops to Teachers program.
- 9.3 Jaime Green, TAUSD superintendent, is headed back to Washington D.C. next week with the Forest Coalition to advocate for Secure Rural Schools for frontier and rural areas.
- 9.4 Fabio is a part of the New County Superintendent Academy, which he attended this week. One of the trainings he attended was on lapsation deferrals. He learned that a County Superintendent, as long as the school board is in support of keeping the school open, it could remain open with a deferral even if it falls below the 5.9 ADA. There seems to be no timeline on how long you can defer to keep a school open. Siskiyou County has a school that has five students and has been deferring for over four years. He also attended a training on Charter Schools and authorization. If the board is interested, Fabio would like to start adding presentations to the Agenda on the role of County Boards of Education on some of these issues.
- 9.5 Sally asked Fabio about our Trinity County roads and if there is any discussion in DC around that within Secure Rural Schools. He explained that there are representatives from California who also advocate for that piece. Fabio wasn't sure if we had a representative from the Trinity RAC (Secure Rural Resource Act Advisory Committee) but believed it used to be Pat Frost. Randy Spencer is a member of Trinity RAC and shared that the Trinity RAC has not been funded as

of this time. One of the issues is that many counties have lost timber due to fires. We are looking to set aside dollars for counties like ours that are surrounded by forest land and are asking for a permanent solution moving forward. There was a discussion on RAC and how funds are used and dispersed, with most of the money for forest education and forest health.

- 9.5 Concerns of Coffee Creek ES closing after the retirement of Brian Burns, Superintendent, and Linda Burns, Teacher, at the end of this school year have been talked about within the community. Tim Nordstrom and Fabio have been working on a letter to the community and parents that TCOE is in support of keeping Coffee Creek Elementary School open, much like we do with Trinity Center Elementary School, providing an Administrator and utilizing our coaching staff. Looking into and researching options for aligning an independent study program with homeschooling students in the community.
- 9.6 On a fun note, we celebrated school administrator's week last week. Fabio, Anthony, and Cindy were able to go to the districts to celebrate the Administrators with a coffee or treat and to thank them, letting them know they are appreciated.

**10.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'F. Robles', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fabio Robles, Ex-Officio Secretary  
Trinity County Office of Education

dm