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"THE MISSION OF THE WEST SONOMA COUNTY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT IS TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTION, AS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IS OUR TOP PRIORITY."

### MINUTES

of a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the  
West Sonoma County Union High School District

May 3, 2011  
Monte Rio School Library  
20700 Foothill Drive  
Monte Rio, CA 95462

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Open Session

#### I. PRELIMINARY

A. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present

David Stecher, President  
Kellie Noe, Vice-President

Absent

Rebecca DeSart, Clerk  
Susan Devoto, Trustee

Diane Landry, Trustee  
Keller McDonald, Superintendent

Guests:

Mike Rea, West County Transportation Agency Director  
Barry Sovel, Assistant Principal, El Molino High School

C. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA – None

D. WEST COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Trustee Stecher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone at the meeting made self-introductions. Approximately 9 parents / community members attended the meeting, mostly from the Montgomery, Monte Rio and Guerneville school areas.

Mr. Stecher introduced Mr. McDonald, who stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the single topic on the agenda, "West County high school bus transportation for the 2011-2012 school year." This is on the agenda as a discussion item, not an action item. This topic is the agenda of two additional town hall meetings, one was held on April 19 at El Molino High and one will be held on May 10 at Analy High.

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Invitations to these town hall meetings were mailed to all parents of students currently in grades 8 through 11 in all West County public schools. Parents and the community are invited to any and all of these meetings.

Mr. McDonald reviewed a list of topics to be discussed and asked for additional suggested topics. A discussion proceeded on these topics:

Budget challenges

Bus ridership (handout attached)

Bus costs (handout attached)

Bus pass fees

Important factors

Student safety

Student attendance

Possibilities and ideas for changes in bus service to reduce cost

Group stops

Consolidate routes

Shorter service

Morning only service

No activity bus (El Molino)

Van pool

Rideshare website

Key ideas that were suggested by parents / community members at the meeting were:

- Incentives and outreach might increase bus ridership
- Morning-only or afternoon-only bus service would be very disruptive and difficult for parents
- Monthly or quarterly bus pass fee collection might be better than start-of-school / January fees
- Parents might be willing to pay higher bus pass fees (perhaps double the current fees), but discounts should be given to families with multiple bus riders.

Contact information was collected from those who wish to receive notification of school board meeting when bus transportation will be an on the action agenda.

- District might be able to arrange for Fort Ross School to bus students to and from Jenner
- Many families don't have internet access to arrange rideshares
- Cut Laurel Dell and add Duncan's Mills to proposed group stops
- Have group stops where there are a store, phone and safety lighting

**II. ADJOURNMENT - President Stecher adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by Keller McDonald, Superintendent / Secretary to the Board

  
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Approved and entered into the official minutes of West Sonoma County Union High School District on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

  
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