

# *King City Joint Union HSD Minutes*

**Special Board Meeting  
October 07, 2010  
Thursday, 06:00 PM  
King City High School Cafeteria  
720 Broadway St.  
King City, CA 93930**

Created May 23, 2011 at 09:00 AM

---

## **1. OPEN SESSION 6:00 PM**

### **Section Minutes:**

Brent Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Mike Foster and Brent Green.

## **2. CALL TO ORDER**

## **3. FLAG SALUTE**

### **Section Minutes:**

Brent Green lead in the flag salute.

## **4. INFORMATION:**

### **a. Topic: Combining the Two Continuation Schools and Renaming the School Portola Continuation High School**

#### **Minutes:**

Brent Green invited those who wished to speak should fill out a Community Input Request Form and bring it up to the dais.

Dr. Bernard thanked everyone for being at this special board meeting. The reason for the meeting was to explain combining of Ventana and Candy Butler Continuation Schools and to hear from the community about their concerns and what they have to say.

Dr. Bernard talked about Candy Butler as a person. When she started with the district it was in the capacity as a temporary teacher. She received her degrees from a school in Wyoming, and took other classes at other colleges. She was officially hired as a full time teacher in 1992. She taught ROP, business courses, and taught at Ventana, Greenfield High School, King City High School and Los Padres. After speaking to family and friends, it is obvious that she cared deeply about the community, family and made decisions based on what was best for students.

Dr. Bernard said as the State Administrator he identifies issues that need to be fixed and to makes corrections. When he was appointed to the district there were 5 areas in which adjustments and corrections were needed because they were broken. Those areas were: Community Relations/Board Governance, Facilities, Fiscal Issues, Personnel, and Student or Pupil Achievement.

In the most recent FCMAT review a year ago it was referenced the District needed to make

significant improvements in student achievement, which included the continuation schools.

Dr. Bernard said when he arrived in the district he found out that the continuation high school programs at Ventana and Candy Butler were not successful, and some said they were broken.

The schools lost their accreditation in 2005. He was informed that the administrator in charge of the continuation program recommended to the Superintendent that it was not worth continuing accreditation at both continuation schools. The Superintendent then submitted a letter to WASC stating that the district was not going to further participate in the accreditation process for the two continuation high schools. Many students left because they could not earn a high school diploma, this resulted in decreased ADA and less funding.

Comments were made the programs were poor, the schools reputations were bad, and the students who attended were bad. Students were not graduating. There was a Candy Butler Scholarship, but because there were no applicants from students, it was transferred to King City High School.

Dr. Bernard said the decisions he must make are to fix things that are broken and do what was best for the students. He said that the goal of the changes he is recommending is to attract students. The image of the school is being changed to bring students back. In addition, the decision combines both continuation schools into one, and to change the instructional design.

The decision was made to rename the school and pursue accreditations and bring back students.

Since these actions have been done more students are returning to the district. This decision was shared with the Board last June and a decision was made to have a plaque in honor of Candy Butler and to name the office the Candy Butler Administrative Office. Dr. Bernard then read the plaque which had been prepared in honor of Candy Butler.

Dr. Bernard said he did meet with family on August 10 and August 30. The family requested the building not be called the Butler Building, because that has a different structural meaning. He informed the family it would not be called the Butler Building, and that it would be called the Candy Butler Administrative Office. He also stated that in August there was an article in the Rustler regarding the name change, and that it was unfortunate that he was not interviewed prior to the article being published. He has received 25 correspondences regarding this issue.

Dr. Bernard thanked the audience for listening to his comments, he will now listen to what individuals have to say and take notes.

## **b. Public Comment on the Topic**

### **Minutes:**

Terry Hughes introduced himself as a past mayor of King City and currently a member of the City Council. He then said, the current mayor of King City, Jeff Pereira, was unable to attend this meeting but read a letter on his behalf. Mr. Pereira applauded the community for the name change some years ago to Candy Butler. This is a small town and requested the name change be reconsidered. Ms. Butler deserves the honor of naming a school after her and that honor should not be taken away. He asked the State Administrator to do the right thing. Mr. Hughes said this letter has the support of the City Council from the City of King.

Rick Walker read a letter from Senator Jeff Denham requesting the State Administrator hold a public meeting in regards to the name change and appreciated the fact the meeting would take place. He encouraged the State Administrator to have an open mind and have a civil discussion. He felt the name change would be counter productive.

Daniel Butler thanked Dr. Bernard for having this meeting at the request of Senator Denham.

He commented the student attendance and reputation was poor because of the loss of accreditation. It can be attractive again with gaining back their accreditation. The district has the opportunity to invite the students and parents back.

Connie Bauer thanked Dr. Bernard for listening to the people. She said she heard the school was failing. She asked how things could fall apart. She commented in the June 9, 2010 board minutes Mr. Corbett said it was a busy end to the school year. 24 students graduated from Candy Butler High School. 19 of those students graduated earlier and several went on to careers. Mr. Corbett commented next year parents will be called and have one on one meetings with the teacher. A picnic was planned for the graduates as well as a ceremony. She said this does not sound like a broken school. She said in a statement which the State Administrator had said earlier in the meeting it was implied there were not any students who graduated from Candy Butler Continuation High School last year. She asked to please listen to the community and then we can all be proud of what we have done here.

Troy Bennett commented Candy Butler was a very dedicated teacher and took the kids who gave up on themselves and pulled them all in. He said he felt it is a disgrace to consider a name change of the school. Changing the name of the school will not make the difference because of the reputation. Start with the curriculum and the teachers; let's attract the students in a different way. He said the family is hurt because they did not receive a call when the name change was being considered.

Leigh Butler read a letter from Assemblywoman Anna Caballero. The letter commended Dr. Bernard for what he is doing for the district and his hard work and goals he has established. Her understanding for the reason of the name change was to attract more students, however she hoped the State Administrator would listen to the community. Candy Butler was dedicated to her students.

John Turner said he is the brother of Candy Butler and asked the State Administrator to note the number of people who are in attendance; this represents community support for Candy Butler. He said he also had a petition with 1,000 signatures to support going back to naming the continuation school Candy Butler. He asked if this is a situation in which the State Administrator would change his mind.

Dr. Bernard responded this is not a community forum; this is a special board meeting for community input. Mr. Turner commented you have heard from every elected official. He asked the State Administrator to reconsider his position. Mr. Turner commented the State Administrator did not talk to every family member. He urged the State Administrator to go back to naming the school Candy Butler, and he would look like the real leader.

Shay Bennett said she does not want to end this meeting negatively. She said we pulled together for King City High School when it lost its accreditation. If we had known Candy Butler Continuation High School had lost its accreditation we would have supported the school as well. Let us know what is needed to regain the accreditation back. Ms. Butler earned the naming of the school after her. Please keep it.

Brent Green asked if there were other speakers who wished to speak and did not fill out a card.

Chris Lopez, from Simon Salinas Office, asked the State Administrator to consider all of the points which have been made and encouraged reconsidering the name change. He feels we need to focus the community behind Candy Butler. How will you unite the community to help and support you? They are here to help you make the right decision.

Rich Casey said he is a King City High School graduate. He agrees with the statements and realizes the position the State Administrator is in. He did not feel that joining the two schools and changing the name will alleviate the problem. With the name change it is implied Candy Butler had something to do with the fall of the school, it is the opposite. We do not associate with the decline of the school and changing the name will not make a difference.

Brent closed the comments at 6:26 P.M.

Brent Green asked if Mike Foster wished to comment. Mike declined.

Brent Green said he would like to make a comment; students did graduate from Candy Butler Continuation School last year. There was a change in instruction and because of Paula Balekian we have seen changes. There was not a formal graduation because students completed their units ahead of time and the picnic was cancelled because most of the students had graduated and moved on.

He said he believes we have made the changes to make it successful, with the change in teachers, new administration and curriculum. He believes we should continue with naming the school Candy Butler.

### **c. Closing Comments from the State Administrator**

#### **Minutes:**

Dr. Bernard said in closing he has appreciated the comments and has taken notes from the speakers. He did ask if he could have the petition which was mentioned earlier in the evening.

Dr. Bernard said action will not be taken until after the statements have been taken under advisement. Any decision will be made at a later board meeting. There is a regular board meeting scheduled next week, but that agenda has already been finalized.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT (TO CLOSED SESSION, if required)**

### **Section Minutes:**

Brent Green adjourned the meeting at 6:30 P.M.