

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
LASSEN UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

1000 Main Street
Susanville, CA 96130

May 4, 2011
12:00 pm

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The open session was called to order by President Charles Spence at 12:01 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: President Charles Spence, Vice President Ken Theobald, Clerk Hal Meadows MD, Trustee Connie Herman, and Trustee Skip Jones.

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT/TARDY: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Brent Petersen, Jennifer Petersen, Eugene Chittock, Mike Smith, Susan Junette, JoEllen Wood, Maria Fregulia, Christy Rose, Laura Rotlisberger, Rich DuVarney, Brett Mitchell, Tom Ready, Debbie Fry, Ruth Ellis, Lisa Cavin, and Dr. Todd Cutler.

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE:**

The flag salute was led by President Charles Spence.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION

2.1 Public Input – *During this portion of the meeting, any member of the public is permitted to make a brief statement, express his/her viewpoint, or ask a question regarding matters related to items on the closed session agenda. Three minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.*

Eugene Chittock spoke to the conflict of interest issue addressed in item 3.2 regarding Trustee Jones' possible incompatibility of offices. He stated that he was asked by Mr. Jones to review the legal opinion [LINK](#) given by the district's legal counsel. The following is a transcript of Mr. Chittock's comments.

“Good afternoon Gentlemen and Ms. Herman. I believe I am acquainted with all of you, but for the record my name is Eugene Chittock. I am a local attorney here in Susanville and I have been asked by board member Skip Jones to review a recent legal opinion provided this board by its counsel. Specifically it was a review of Government Code Section 1099 related to incompatibility of public offices. Your legal counsel has concluded that there is a conflict based on the code section I just mentioned. However, I would like to point out to the board that your legal counsel left out sections c, d, and e of Government Code section 1099. Very specifically, section d states that this section shall not apply to a government body that has only advisory powers. Clearly, the Grand Jury has only advisory powers. It should be alarming to the board that its legal counsel did not provide all available related law to this issue and it does appear that he was merely providing an opinion that agrees with the intent of this board or its directives. However, rather than wrangle over the present issue, Mr. Jones intends to fulfill & act on the concerns expressed to him by the voters of this county when they elected him. He believes there is much work to be done within this school district. Therefore, he has taken the preemptive action, in an abundance of caution, to effectively resign this morning from his position on the Lassen County Grand Jury. Therefore, the second issue under section 3.2 on the board’s agenda today is now moot. Consequently, I must add that this board is no longer in a position to exclude Mr. Jones from any future board sessions under this issue. Additionally, the board should be fully aware, as confirmed by the grand jury foreman this morning, that the grand jury is investigating potentially serious issues related to this school district and/or its employees, and the board should be very careful that its actions are not viewed as an attempt to improperly influence the outcome of the grand jury’s investigation. Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss this.

Brent Petersen, who is the parent of a Lassen Union High School student, stated that he wanted to address a conflict of interest involving Trustee Jones. He handed a letter [LINK](#) to Dr. Cutler and the Board in support of Wrestling Coach Dusty Vaughn. He then stated the following:

Recently events have come to mine and Jennifer’s attention regarding... I’m addressing the board today because of conflicts of interest regarding Skip Jones. He made false allegations against a member employed under the Lassen High School Board. Earlier this year, I was approached by Dusty Vaughn regarding allegations made by Skip Jones to Brett Mitchell. The allegations were that my son, Rick, had wrestled for Rudy at the Iron Horse Gym and that after wrestling a few days for Rudy, Jennifer and I were upset because Dusty

was involved in the Iron Horse Gym wrestling program, that we were personally upset with Dusty Vaughn, so we took Rick out of the club and started him wrestling for Coach Dale Midland of the Lassen Grizzly Youth Club. This is a false allegation. In addition, Clay Montgomery told us that Skip Jones made the statement Luke had to train and get extra help from Dale Midland because Dusty was not prepared or challenged him enough for the state championship. This is a false allegation. I wrestled for Lassen High School in 1985, 1986, and 1987 at the heavy weight class. My coaches were Walt Adams, Larry Terrill, Darrell Millar and Rodney Hartrum. As a wrestler, I was average. I am sorry to say the wrestling program at that time was average. I was thrilled when Luke started wrestling for Rodney Hartrum his freshman and sophomore year. When Dusty Vaughn took over as head wrestling coach Luke's junior and senior year I was upset. I wondered what was up. I'm sorry to say my first impression of Dusty was that he talked too much, had unrealistic goals, he was changing the wrestling program, and I was not impressed. In fact I was angry at Dusty this time during Luke's junior year. Luke unfortunately injured his leg and was not able to finish his junior season. I want to share with the board that Luke's junior year Dusty changed his attitude to want to place at state. I was there I saw the change. Luke at this time had a full leg brace on and was discouraged because he only got to wrestle for one or two months. I feel that Luke was able to achieve what he did his senior year because of the change Dusty brought to the wrestling program. In preparing Luke for his nationals, he drove him to Reno to wrestle against the fifth ranked wrestler in the nation. He made it possible for Luke to train with other college wrestlers. Dusty has taken the Lassen High School wrestling program from a three to four month program to a year round wrestling program. Dusty is involved year round with wrestling camps, programs, and fundraising, taking young men's goals from placing in sections to placing at state and also national levels. Thank you for your time. Thank you.

Jennifer Petersen who is also the parent of a Lassen Union High School student stated that she wanted to address a conflict of interest involving Trustee Jones sitting on the LUHSD Board. Mrs. Petersen stated the following:

I received a phone call in mid-march from Mr. Jones that lasted one hour twenty minutes. He made extreme allegations against Head Wrestling Coach Dusty Vaughn. In research, I found that almost all of what he said was untrue. I'll share a small portion of the phone call. Mr. Jones offered me up to \$8,000 from the old Lassen Wrestling Booster's Club to help fund Luke's trip to Virginia. He told me Dusty doesn't run the wrestling program responsibly and that Dusty would not accept it (the money). Mr. Jones said that he wrote a

check for \$10,000 to buy mats and other things to start a wrestling boosters club with Hal Meadows as president in 2005. He also named the other head wrestling coaches that were fired over the last seven years. He told me Arlen Billington and Bill Muttera were upset Luke spoke at Rotary and the basket was passed for him and that if Dusty were allocating funds correctly Luke wouldn't have had to need to do this. Mr. Jones said that Dusty spends loads of money on frivolous things and that Dusty wouldn't play by his (Skip Jones') rules. Dusty said screw you I'm starting my own booster club. Mr. Jones also shared when Dusty had his own wrestling club there was a fall out with Matt Lively because Dusty was doing illegal activities. Mr. Jones offered information about Kyle Gibson and because of Dusty he messed up his senior project quit the team and Lori Gibson was very upset, also that Penny Thiels supported the other booster club and worked on the beer booth raising \$16,000. Mr. Jones shared that in Modoc Jake Thiels and Dominick Miller quit the team because Dusty had them eat a big dinner until they puked, cussed them out, told them how disgusted he was with all of them. Mr. Jones said five Lassen kids attacked another boy. He told me his name, that it was brought directly to the school board, and that Dusty needed to be responsible for that happening. Mr. Jones then let me know Coach Glenn Schall is the buffer between Dusty and he and that he has long long talks with Glenn about what to do with Dusty. Glenn would call and talk for hours. Mr. Jones expressed that Dusty is very talented technically, just the best, but not good at administrative and communicating that the school didn't send Dusty to the CIF meeting for fear he would've embarrassed the school so they sent Todd Cutler instead. Mr. Jones stated that there are many many complaints from high school parents and students that go straight to the high school board, then spoke another fifteen minutes negatively about Dusty, wrestling program, and all the illegal stuff he does and that Dusty is not politically correct and the high school board never gets complaints about football coaches, just Dusty. Mr. Jones shared what a wonderful wrestler his son is and that there is no one in Susanville to challenge him and many high schools are trying to recruit his son Kenny. So, once Mr. Jones realized that I could not be manipulated and wasn't weak minded as he wished, the call ended. So, why did Mr. Jones call me? It seemed he was trying to offer money to get me to turn on Coach Vaughn and to continue to spread the lies he started. Considering Mr. Jones is on the high school board and has some say in whether or not Dusty Vaughn keeps his job as head wrestling coach while spreading untrue rumors around the community, that to me, is a conflict of interest. Thank you.

3.0 GENERAL AGENDA

