CENTRAL UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES – SPECIAL MEETING

February 24, 2009 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

President Walker called the special meeting of the Central Union High School District to order at 6:00 PM at the Southwest High School MPR.

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Trustees Steve Walker, Richard Acosta, Jeanne Vogel, Jacinto Jimenez, Ricardo Labrada. C. Thomas Budde, Sheri Hart, Carol Moreno, Orlando Johnson, Danette Morrell, Jeff Magin, Maria Ambriz, Dennis Price, Ben Benton, Ed Roncal, Dave Weldon, Ruben Valenzuela, Bea Mora, Diane Richmond, Janet Gruis, Geri Baker, Cheryl Hargrove, Mary Robledo, Mara Sanchez, Sylvia Soriano, Jan Hutcheson, Cindy Hughes and others.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Trustee Jimenez moved to approve the agenda as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Vogel.

Motion: Carried Vote: Ayes-5

INFORMATION ITEM:

President Walker explained the parameters for this meeting. He stated that the Board is interested in hearing ideas that have not yet been considered. He also reported that according to information received today, the district's fiscal situation is better than anticipated. There is no need for hasty decision and any reductions made will be imbedded as part of the budget approval process.

Dennis Price, SHS teacher presented a power point presentation regarding potential cost reducing measures which included details on the implementation of a four-day school week, an energy audit, teacher flex days and other internal measures.

Dr. Budde shared the information and the responses to the employee survey. He reported that about 50 people attended the informational meeting and 55 people responded to the survey. Employees were asked to rate each of the suggested reductions and to identify as preferred or acceptable and must total \$2,000,000. The projected reduction this year is \$1.4M and an additional \$7.1M next year. A list of other suggested reductions was also provided.

Dr. Budde reviewed the list of potential cutbacks and explained that the district will be receiving \$825,000 less than anticipated. He presented potential strategies for dealing with the loss of revenue such as using federal recovery monies, reduce spending, flexing categorical monies and spending down reserves. He stated that according to information provided to him, the district continues to be in good shape for the remainder of this year as well as for next year.

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Tony Ramos, SHS parent and member of the SSC addressed the board as he felt it was his duty to speak on behalf of the students that would be affected by the cutbacks. He encouraged the board to consider all sides.

Dave Weldon, SHS teacher asked the board to be prudent and reasonable in making decision and reminded them that the purpose of this meeting was to receive input from staff.

Janet Gruis, SHS teacher requested the board consider the future financial well-being of the district. She stated that a 5% salary cut across the board does not make sense.

Susan Chasang, former parent expressed concern over the idea of a four day school week. She asked if the district had considered offering an early retirement incentives. The Superintendent responded that retirement incentives cost money and the money has to be paid up front. He also stated that replacing credentialed teachers is a challenge and that there is no plan right now for any incentives.

Marcos Lopez, SHS student stated that he really appreciates the value of counselors to students. He has a very grueling schedule with lots of Advanced Placement classes and counselors have played an important role to him.

Geri Baker, stated that students should not have to pay for adult mistakes.

Mary Robledo, CUHS counselor felt compelled to speak in support of the counseling programs. She asked the board to reconsider the proposal to cut four counseling positions.

Ed Roncal, ECSTA President stated that he looks forward to working with the Board and Superintendent to find the best possible solution.

President Walker thanked all for their attendance at the meeting on behalf of the board, all comments made tonight will be considered and are valued.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Walker adjourned the meeting at 7:55P.M.

CERTIFIED MINUTES:	
Superintendent & Secretary to the Board of Trustees	Date