

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

October 9, 1968
Eureka City Schools Administrative Office
Eureka, California

ROLL CALL

Present

Advisory Committee Members

William I. Du Bois
Milton L. Kidd

Bureau Staff Members

E. D. Graf
E. M. Juergenson
R. H. Pedersen
D. E. Wilson

Guests

Jack Singer
Haven Howatt
Roland Wentzel
Donald McCann
John Hart

Absent

Advisory Committee Members

Norman Boeger
Glen Eidman
Fred Frick
Richard Johnson
Ralph Nissen
Robert Smith
Willis Stribling

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Wilson in the absence of the Chairman. Mr. Kidd was asked to serve as temporary chairman for this meeting.

Welcome Remarks - Mr. Singer

Mr. Kidd recognized Mr. Singer, who in his welcoming remarks, commented on the site of the present administration building and surrounding forest. The thirty acres were originally purchased as a future high school site. The administration building is all that has been constructed. The remaining acreage is all in forest and is used as a laboratory for the vocational forestry classes at Eureka High School.

Mr. Singer expressed his appreciation to the Advisory Committee for selecting Eureka as the place for their meeting and offered any aid the district might provide.

March, 1968 Minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum, the March, 1968 minutes were accepted as mailed to the committee members.

Eureka Vo-Ag Program

Mr. McCann reported that approximately 2,000 students are enrolled in Eureka Senior High School. The Agriculture Department has 28 students enrolled in General Agriculture and 72 in Vocational Agriculture. The agriculture program is available to students in grades 10-12. There are two full-time instructors.

Due to the urban make-up of the students (90% come from town), the agriculture program stresses an ag-related approach, using the production agriculture program as a vehicle. An example he cited was that if a student is interested in a career in farm machinery, the department brings in machinery for the student to work on. Also the students are on work experience programs.

Recruitment of students is done by FFA members, and exhibits are taken to the junior high schools. Prospective students fill in a card. The card is then used as a follow-up by the instructors. Future plans are to have an introductory agriculture program in each of the junior high schools.

Mr. McCann reported there is an increase in interest in crops in the area, and in the future increased emphasis will be given to this area for student placement.

Cal Expo

FFA participation in the 1968 Cal Expo was reported on by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Graf. There were fewer FFA exhibitors, with about the same number of animals, as at prior State Fairs. Ornamental Horticulture exhibits were entered for the first time with a lot of interest in this area. However, due to lack of attendance, not enough people were exposed to the educational opportunities offered by the exhibits. It is reported that Cal Expo operated at about a one million dollar deficit. The manager, Eugene R. Lemmon, resigned, and Tom Bair is now acting as manager. The non-profit corporation is being dissolved; thus the State will operate Cal Expo in the future. The future operating dates of Cal Expo appear to be in question. Cal Expo is asking the Legislature for \$1.2 million for next year. Due to the contingencies at the present time, the Bureau of Agricultural Education does not have a solid base to plan for and operate on for 1969.

Arthur D. Little Study

Mr. Wilson reviewed the present status of the Arthur D. Little study. Arthur D. Little Company was awarded a \$400,000 contract for the study of vocational education in California. The first year's progress report (Phase I) was due on August 1. They have not submitted their report as of this date. It is not known whether they will enter into Phase II of the study until the Phase I report is made. A preliminary report is favorable to agricultural education; however, it is a report that does not provide any guidelines.

Reorganization

Mr. Wilson reported on the reorganization within the Department of Education. Some of the Governor's Task Force recommendations have been instituted, as have some recommendations from ADL, Inc. The overall reorganization of the department is still in progress.

Program Trends

Enrollment and program trends in vocational agriculture were reported on by Mr. Wilson. The enrollment in vo-ag in the State this year is approximately 23,000. Follow-up studies show less than 2% of the vo-ag graduates as unemployed. High school and junior college enrollments are up, with the largest percentage increase coming from the urban areas. There is an increased enrollment of girls and FFA members.

The teacher shortage is critical. The 42 teachers who completed teacher training this past year were placed. In addition, 15 intern teachers have been hired to keep departments open and help with expanding programs. The present credentialing system limits out-of-state recruitment.

Authorization for a special designated subjects credential for agriculture is being requested from the State Board of Education.

Draft Boards are exempting agriculture teachers on a year-to-year basis.

We are under a greater challenge to hire minority-race teachers; however, it is hard to find qualified individuals. A special recruitment and undergraduate training program may have to be instituted to meet this challenge.

Milton Kidd urged that we keep our horizons for vo-ag students open and wide, and that we continue looking for new programs and opportunities for training and placement in agriculture.

FFA Developments

FFA Foundation: Jerry Davis is working on the establishment of a Future Farmer Foundation for California. With the aid of various committees, he is currently working on the Articles of Incorporation. It is hoped that by the March meeting a firm proposal can be presented to the Advisory Committee.

State Leadership Conference: A State Leadership Conference for State and Regional FFA Officers was held this year during Cal Expo. The conference terminated with a luncheon for the legislators.

National Level FFA Activities: There are approximately 480,000 FFA members. At the 1968 National FFA Convention, to be held in Kansas City in

October, the following items will be on the agenda:

1. Admittance of girls to national FFA membership.
2. A proposal for reapportionment of delegates. This is based on State FFA membership.

Two FFA members from California attended a National FFA Leadership Conference in Washington, D. C., July 14-20, 1968.

The U. S. Office of Education is de-emphasizing the subject matter specialists' role.

Mr. Kidd commended the efforts of Assemblyman Frank Belotti for his aid and assistance to Future Farmers on a statewide basis.

Current Legislation

Current legislation was reported on by Mr. Graf. He stated many bills had been passed; however, he limited his presentation to one national bill that will have broad implications for vocational education. He referred specifically to the Vocational Education Act Amendments for 1968. This passed both the Senate and House of Representatives and is awaiting the President's signature.

Nationally, at the present time, vocational education receives \$225 million. The bill authorizes \$355 million for 1969; \$565 million for 1970; \$665 million for 1971. Following 1972, it will drop to \$565 million for each succeeding year. In addition, there are sections authorizing additional money each fiscal year.

The bill provides for a 21-member national council to act in an advisory capacity and also mandates state committees. The make-up of the committees is specified in the Act. Emphasis will be placed on education for disadvantaged persons. At least 25% of the money must go to education programs for socio-economic, academically handicapped persons. Money can be used for vocational education counseling and guidance at all levels.

Advisory Committee Comments

Mr. Du Bois: Feed lots are coming back in California. Those who left for other states are returning.

Mr. Du Bois questioned some types of MDTA training programs, particularly those relating to the training of cowboys. He felt this type of training should be accomplished by the employers at their own expense.

Milton Kidd: The Milk Pool in the dairy industry could be an advantage to those who do not have good contracts and could be a disadvantage to those now having good contracts. Few new dairies are being established. Those

already established are being taken over by other members of the family. The California dairy farmer is probably a little better off this year than in the previous year.

The most significant things have been accomplished or are being accomplished in the California Water Plan. Ten counties, through their Boards of Supervisors, have banded together to work on water development in the Eel River watershed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held in Sacramento on March 19, 1969.

Adjournment

The group adjourned at 12:10 P.M. for a tour of and lunch at the Ingamar Club.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Robert H. Pedersen

Robert H. Pedersen