



## CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ITEM #W-7

### MARCH 2004 AGENDA

**General Waiver**

<p><b>SUBJECT</b></p> <p>Request by <b>Bonita Unified School District</b> to waive <i>Education Code</i> (EC) Section 37202, equity length of time requirement, to allow a full day kindergarten pilot program at <b>Allen Avenue, Fred Ekstrand Elementary, Gladstone, Grace Miller, La Verne Heights Elementary, and J. Marion Roynon Elementary School.</b></p> <p>Waiver Number: 1-9-2003</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Action</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Consent</b></p>
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#### RECOMMENDATION

Approval  Approval with conditions  Denial

That the district provide an evaluation of the full day kindergarten pilot program before a renewal is considered.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

This waiver request for full day kindergarten programs in eight schools in Bonita Unified was on the January 8, 2004 SBE agenda. At that time, a CTA union representative spoke against the waiver before the State Board of Education (SBE), stating that the union had not participated in waiver request for eight schools. It was stated that when they agreed to support the request. Instead they had only supported the request for five schools.

Because of this concern the Board postponed action on the waiver to the March SBE.

#### SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Bonita Unified re-did the entire waiver process including the board vote, public hearing and union contact and is now requesting only six schools be included in the waiver request to go to longer days in Kindergarten (revised waiver is attached). Bonita Unified is requesting a waiver of the equity length of time requirement, EC Section 37202, that states a district shall maintain an equal length of time in the school year for all its elementary schools.

The six schools are Allen Avenue School, Fred Ekstrand Elementary, Gladstone School, Grace Miller School, La Verne Heights Elementary, and J. Marion Roynon Elementary School. The actual minutes offered in kindergarten differs for each of the

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six schools (see attached chart).

The district has adopted EC 8970-8974, the Early Childhood Program, which allows kindergartens to be held for more than 4 hours a day. Recent changes in content standards and school accountability have increased the pressure on kindergarten pupils to master skills previously acquired at the first grade level. In order to support this new emphasis, the district finds it necessary to lengthen the kindergarten day. The district surveyed parents and found that 90% of them were in favor of a longer day for their kindergarten pupils. This is being considered a pilot project, and the district will have to submit an evaluation before the waiver will be renewed.

The department now recommends approval of only 6 schools for one year 2003-2004.

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Authority for Waiver: Education Code (EC) Section 33050

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on date(s): July 30 & 31, 2003, August 6, 18, 20 & 21, 2003, Jan 20, 2004

Position of bargaining unit(s) (choose only one):

Neutral - BUTA                       Support - CSEA                       Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative(s): Jim Himelhoch (BUTA President),  
Debbie Tully (BUTA President) negotiations Chair,  
Don Roberts (CSEA President)

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

posting in a newspaper       posting at each school       other (specify)

Public hearing held on date(s): August 20, 2003 and February 11, 2004

Local board approval date(s): August 20, 2003 and February 11, 2004

Advisory committee(s) consulted: School Site Counsels

Objections raised (choose one):  None       Objections are attached on separate sheet

Date(s) consulted: September 2003, January 21, 2004, January 26, 2004

Period of request: July 1, 2003 to June30, 2004

**FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)**

There is no statewide fiscal impact.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Documentation is attached.