



Updated: Tuesday, May 2, 2006



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District name now changed

District is now the Yosemite Unified School District

By [David Richards](#)

(Updated Monday, May 1, 2006, 3:09 PM)

A Mountain Area school district lost a joint Tuesday.

The board of trustees for the Yosemite Joint Unified School District voted 4-0 to remove the word "joint" from its name.

The district's new name is the Yosemite Unified School District.

The decision was made following a brief public hearing at the board's regular meeting Tuesday, held at the Yosemite High School board room.

Board member Greg Schoonard was not present for the vote.

The unified board was formed as a result of the Nov. 8 special election when voters approved Measure P, unifying the Coarsegold Union School District with the Yosemite Joint Union School District.

The previous name was chosen by the board at its first meeting Dec. 12, after hearing from Madera County Office of Education officials, local educators and members of the public.

At a meeting earlier this year, Superintendent Bill McCabe said the board's initial decision was based on information that the new district would need to include the word "joint" in the name because the district includes two different counties, Madera and Mariposa.

McCabe said that after consulting with the district's legal counsel and with educators from the Turlock Unified School District, who underwent a similar unification process and a similar name change, it was determined "joint" did not have to be in the title.

To complete a district name change, the education code requires signatures of 15 registered voters, a public hearing process and publishing of a notice in newspapers located in all of the counties included in the district.

It also states that board members have no less than 10 days and no more than 40 days to act upon the petition.

Tuesday's decision was initiated by two petitions, McCabe said, which included roughly 40 signatures.

McCabe added that notices were published both in the Sierra Star and the Mariposa Gazette and that Tuesday's meeting fell within the 10- and 40-day time frame.

At the public hearing, one person spoke in favor of the name change, while no one spoke against it.

"I think it's a good idea," said Nancy Lusby, a Yosemite High School teacher.

The next meeting of the board of trustees is scheduled for May 16 at the Yosemite High School

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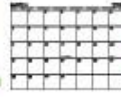
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