

**Tulare County**  
**Office of Education**  
*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

April 15, 2009

**For Immediate Release**

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Tulare County Board of Education Announces:  
**Rod Burkett appointed to the Tulare County Board of Education**

During a special meeting of the Tulare County Board of Education held today, April 15, 2009, trustees voted to appoint Rod Burkett of Strathmore to fill the board vacancy in Trustee Area 2. Mr. Burkett fills the vacancy left by long-time trustee Leonard Hansen, who resigned from the board last month for health reasons. Mr. Burkett will serve as trustee for Area 2 – which includes the areas served by the following Tulare County school districts: Burton, Exeter Union, Sequoia Union, Strathmore Union, Three Rivers Union, Woodlake Union, a portion of Visalia Unified and a portion of Porterville Unified. Mr. Burkett will serve as trustee until an election is held in November 2010. At that time, he may run for a two-year term to complete the four-year term for Trustee Area 2.

The Tulare County Board of Education interviewed four applicants for the position in open session. Each applicant addressed the board and answered their questions. Following the interviews, the board – in open session – discussed the candidates at length. “The board had

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positive things to say about each candidate,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak, who administered the oath of office for Mr. Burkett following his selection. “It was rewarding to see so many well-qualified people willing to serve the students of Tulare County. Now that their decision has been made, we welcome Mr. Burkett with appreciation for his years of service on the Strathmore Elementary Board of Education and other community and professional organizations.” The Tulare County Board of Education includes President Scot Townsend (Trustee Area 4), Vice President Pat Hillman (Trustee Area 7), Joe Enea (Trustee Area 5), Celia Maldonado-Arroyo (Trustee Area 1), Dr. Edward Peterson (Trustee Area 3) and Chris Reed (Trustee Area 6).

Rod Burkett served nine years as a member of the Strathmore Elementary Board of Education. Mr. Burkett has also been a member of the Lions Club, and served on the California Olive Growers Council and the California Citrus Mutual Board. He is married, lives in Strathmore and is the father of four. He has also been active in school FFA, soccer leagues and the Boy Scouts.

For more information, please contact Public Information Officer Robert Herman at 733-6606.

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