

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 6

TO: Governing Board X Action
X Discussion
FROM: Dr. Susan J. Cook, Superintendent Information
1st Reading

DATE: June 10, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: To Consider and, if Deemed Advisable, to Adopt a Resolution Order and Calling a Special Budget Override Election to be Held in and for the District

INITIATED BY: Maintenance and Operations Override Task Force; Sue Snyder, Assistant to the Superintendent SUBMITTED BY: Dr. Susan J. Cook, Superintendent

GOVERNING BOARD POLICY REFERENCE OR STATUTORY CITATION: BBA, ARS §15-481

SUPPORTING DATA

Funding Source: N/A
 Budgeted: N/A

The May 27, 2010 Governing Board meeting included an update regarding the WESD Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Override Task Force. That information was presented in preparation for the Governing Board’s consideration of a special M&O override election.

Arizona Revised Statute §15-481 authorizes a public school district governing board to call for a maintenance and operations (M&O) override election to seek voter approval to exceed the district’s Revenue Control Limit (RCL) by 10 percent.

In February 1990, Washington Elementary School District (WESD) voters approved the District’s first M&O override. It was reauthorized by voters in May 1995, May 2001 and March 2006. According to statute, an M&O override can last for up to seven years, five years at the full rate and the final two years at decreased rates. For 2010-2011, the fifth year of the current M&O override, WESD will receive full funding of approximately \$10 million; however, if constituents do not vote to continue the override, funding will be reduced by one-third for 2011-2012, by two-thirds for 2012-2013, and the funding will be completely eliminated at the end of that school year.

M&O funds may be used for salaries and employee-related expenses, classroom supplies, contracted services and transportation expenses. In WESD, M&O override revenues have helped to sustain educational programming and services for students, including art, general and instrumental music, and physical education. They have been allocated

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Governing Board adopt the Resolution ordering and calling a special maintenance and operation budget override election to be held in and for Washington Elementary School District No. 6 of Maricopa County, Arizona, on November 2, 2010; providing for notice of the election, the conduct of the election, the printing of ballots, the canvassing of the election and compliance with the Voting Rights Act. In addition, it is recommended that the Governing Board adopt the informational publications associated with this Agenda item, as well as the non-interactive WESD Web site page on which M&O override-related information is posted.

Superintendent _____

Board Action	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Adams					
Graziano					
Jahneke					
Lambert					
Maza					

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to provide services for students who require small class sizes to succeed academically, address additional legislative mandates without new sources of revenue and strive toward competitive salaries to attract and retain qualified instructional staff. Elimination of M&O override revenue could result in a loss equivalent to over 200 teachers, dramatically increasing class size and reducing vital programs and services for students.

The WESD M&O Override Task Force was established to consider the feasibility of holding an M&O override election in November 2010. The group, which included parents, two of whom are also small business owners, as well as certified staff, classified staff and administrators, adhered to the District's decision-making model in pursuing their charge. Details of the process are provided in the materials that follow. During their meeting on April 27, 2010, task force members made a consensus decision to recommend that the Governing Board call for an M&O override election to take place on November 2, 2010.