WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: EXECUTIVE SESSION, REGULAR MEETING, EXECUTIVE SESSION

2013-2014

April 10, 2014

Administrative Center
Governing Board Room
4650 West Sweetwater Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85304-1505

I. SPECIAL MEETING

A. Call to Order and Roll Call
   Mrs. Lambert called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Governing Board members
   constituting a quorum were present: Mrs. Tee Lambert, Mr. Bill Adams, Ms. Clorinda
   Graziano, Mr. Aaron Jahnke, and Mr. Chris Maza.

B. Adoption of the Special Meeting Agenda
   UNANIMOUS
   A motion was made by Mr. Jahnke that the Governing Board adopt the Special
   Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maza. The motion carried.

II. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

   Call for Executive Session: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 – A.1
   UNANIMOUS

   It was recommended that the Governing Board establish an Executive Session to be held
   immediately during a recess in the Special Meeting for:

   • A.1 – Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment,
     promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public
     officer, appointee or employee of any public body, except that with the exception of
     salary discussions, an officer, appointee or employee may demand that the
     discussion or consideration occur at a public meeting – specifically regarding the
     quarterly evaluation of the Superintendent.

   A motion was made by Mr. Adams to call for an Executive Session. The motion was
   seconded by Mr. Jahnke. The motion carried.

III. RECESSING OF SPECIAL MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – GENERAL FUNCTION

   A. Call to Order and Roll Call

   B. Confidentiality Statement
      All persons present are hereby reminded that it is unlawful to disclose or otherwise
      divulge to any person who is not now present, other than a current member of the
      Board, anything that has transpired or has been discussed during this executive session.
      To do so is a violation of A.R.S. §38-431.03 unless pursuant to specific statutory
      exception.

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C. Discussion under A.R.S. §38-431.03 – A.1

- A.1 – Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body, except that with the exception of salary discussions, an officer, appointee or employee may demand that the discussion or consideration occur at a public meeting – specifically regarding the quarterly evaluation of the Superintendent.

V. RECESSING OF EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR REGULAR MEETING

VI. REGULAR MEETING – GENERAL FUNCTION

A. Call to Order and Roll Call
Mrs. Lambert called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present: Mrs. Tee Lambert, Mr. Bill Adams, Ms. Clorinda Graziano, Mr. Aaron Jahneke, and Mr. Chris Maza.

B. Moment of Silence and Meditation
Mrs. Lambert called for a moment of silence and meditation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance
Mrs. Lambert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda
A motion was made by Mr. Maza that the Governing Board adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

E. Approval of the Minutes
A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that the Governing Board approve the Minutes of the March 13, 2014 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maza. The motion carried. Mr. Adams and Ms. Graziano abstained from the vote.

F. Current Events and Acknowledgments: Governing Board and Superintendent
Mr. Adams shared that he enjoyed visiting the following schools and appreciated the staff’s efforts:
- Lookout Mountain Elementary School
- Royal Palm Middle School
- Cactus Wren Elementary School

Mr. Adams shared that he enjoyed attending the following events:
- Read Across America at Mountain Sky Junior High School – enjoyed reading to the students.
- WESD Art Show at ASU West - amazing talent.
- SOSAz Reception – wonderful organization and thanked them for everything they do for the District.
- Refugee Parent University at Desert View Elementary School – very impressive event.
- Roadrunner’s Spring Fling – good turnout and a lot of fun.
- National School Boards Association (NSBA) Conference in New Orleans, LA – school board members across the country are dealing with many common issues.

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Mr. Maza shared that he enjoyed reading to students at Lookout Mountain Elementary School for Read Across America. Mr. Maza stated that the Read Across America event is copyrighted by the National Education Association (NEA).

Mr. Maza shared the following comments:
- Participated telephonically from the hospital for the March 13, 2014 Governing Board meeting due to emergency surgery on his leg. He appreciated the Superintendent and the District’s efforts to change the agenda and table several agenda items.
- Referred to the NEA report regarding per pupil funding where Arizona was at the bottom of the report (number 50 out of 50 states). Mr. Maza stated that the difference between the 49th and 50th position is $400.00 per student. Mr. Maza asked Dr. Cook how many students were in the District and she replied approximately 24,000 students. Mr. Maza asked everyone to do the math to see how much 24,000 times $400.00 would be.
- Referred to articles regarding schools that chose to charter schools. Mr. Maza stated he was proud to be a member of a Board that chose to seek equitable funding for students in our schools and that voted to charter five schools last year in a legal district chartering plan which had been included in the Arizona Revised Statutes for many years. Mr. Maza said he was pleased that the charter schools have chosen to become specialized, chosen to teach according to the needs of their particular site and particular community, and differentiate instruction to a diverse population of students inside the largest elementary school district in the state of Arizona.

Mr. Jahneke advised that 24,000 times $400.00 was $9.6 million.

Mr. Jahneke shared that he enjoyed the Read Across America event when he read to students at Washington, Cactus Wren, Ocotillo, and Maryland schools.

Ms. Graziano shared the following:
- Apologized for missing the last two Governing Board meetings due to her father’s illness and subsequent passing. She thanked the Governing Board for the beautiful flowers for the service, WDEA for the lovely plant in his memory, Dr. Cook for the book, Tear Soup, and the employees for the wonderful messages in their sympathy cards. Ms. Graziano stated it meant a lot to her to know she had the support of the WESD family.
- Congratulated WDEA for receiving a grant for Read Across America and was sorry she missed reading to the students.
- Apologized for missing all of the District music festivals and appreciated all of the teachers’ time and efforts.
- Thanked the District Honor Strings orchestra for allowing her to participate with them in the District Honor Strings Concert.
- Enjoyed attending the District Honor Band Concert. Ms. Graziano appreciated that the music teachers and band directors that attended the District Honor Strings and the District Honor Band concerts accompanied and supported their students by going to rehearsals and the concerts.
- Enjoyed attending the WESD Art Show and thanked ASU West and the Fletcher Library for supporting the event. Ms. Graziano thanked the art teachers for beautifully displaying the artwork.
- Acknowledged and thanked the students and art teachers at Alta Vista, Cactus Wren, Lakeview, Sunset, and Tumbleweed schools for the artwork displayed in the Governing Board Room.

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Mrs. Lambert thanked everyone who communicated with legislators on the importance of education. She stated it was important that the legislators hear the messages from staff, community members, and Board members to remind them that we have the mission to educate children. Mrs. Lambert encouraged everyone to stay involved and have our voices heard.

Mrs. Lambert thanked the staff for completing the AIMS testing and for all the spring celebrations that showcase the talents of our students.

Dr. Cook acknowledged Jennifer Griggs, a teacher at Desert View Elementary School. Dr. Cook received a letter from Bourgade High School that has a tradition of having their students write letters about those people who have impressed them during their lifetime. A student wrote a letter to Jennifer Griggs stating that she had changed her life. Dr. Cook presented the letter and a certificate to Ms. Griggs in front of her staff at a PLC Wednesday meeting. Dr. Cook stated that she believes teachers make an impact and change lives.

Dr. Cook advised the Board that it had the opportunity to celebrate the successes of Cactus Wren Elementary School and introduced Principal Kaylene Ashbridge. Ms. Ashbridge introduced Joan Rolfes, Program Coach, who was in attendance. Ms. Ashbridge shared information regarding the school’s student achievement gains and was proud that the school went from a letter grade of “C” to “B”.

G. Special Recognition
Dr. Cook introduced Mr. Mike Kramer, Director of Capital Projects and Maintenance; Ms. Tricia Heller Johnson, Principal of Lookout Mountain Elementary School; and Ms. Audrey Barrett, Assistant Principal of Lookout Mountain Elementary School. Mr. Kramer introduced Mr. Tom Geary, General Superintendent of Adolfson & Peterson Construction, and Mr. Paul Hartley, Principal of H2 Group, who were in attendance. Mr. Kramer recognized Lookout Mountain Elementary School for receiving the Real Estate and Development Award (RED) for the Most Sustainable Project and presented Ms. Heller Johnson and Ms. Barrett with the award. Mr. Geary presented Ms. Heller Johnson and Ms. Barrett with a framed picture/award and stated he enjoyed working on the Lookout Mountain project. Mr. Kramer advised that the Washington Elementary School District, Adolfson & Peterson Construction, Orcutt/Winslow, and H2 Group were honored as the project team members and were featured within a special awards section of AZRE Magazine, as well as honored at an annual awards ceremony.

H. Public Participation
There was no public participation.

I. Approval of the Consent Agenda
Mr. Jahneke requested that Item *VII.B. – Personnel Items be pulled from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

Ms. Graziano requested that Item *VII.G. – Award of Contract – Bid No. 14.006, Ball Field Lighting Maintenance, and Item *VII.K. – Permission to Pursue the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant in the Amount of $5,100,000.00 on Behalf of the District be pulled from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Maza that the Governing Board approve the remaining Consent Agenda items. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

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VII. CONSENT AGENDA

*A. Approval/Ratification of Vouchers
   Approved and ratified the vouchers as presented.

*B. Personnel Items
   A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that the Governing Board approve the personnel items as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

   Dr. Cook acknowledged and introduced Ms. Susie Smith, new Principal at Desert Foothills Junior High School. Ms. Smith thanked the Board for the privilege to serve as principal at Desert Foothills and stated that they would strive to help the children reach their academic excellence.

   Dr. Cook acknowledged family, friends, and faculty who attended the meeting to support Ms. Smith. Dr. Cook presented Ms. Smith with a candy bouquet.

*C. Public Gifts and Donations (The Value of Donated Items is Determined by the Donor)
   Approved the public gifts and donations as presented.

   1. Actna Foundation donated a check in the amount of $600.00 for the benefit of students at Roadrunner Elementary School.

   2. Cholla Parent Teacher Organization donated a check in the amount of $900.00 to be used for student and staff incentive awards for the 21st Century After-School Program at Cholla Middle School.

   3. Michael Broadhead donated three commercial aircraft models with an approximate value of $300.00 to be used for the benefit of science class studies at Sunnyslope School.

   4. City of Phoenix Housing Department/Arizona Diamondbacks donated 100 Arizona Diamondbacks tickets with a value of $2,500.00 for the benefit of students in the 21st Century After-School Program at Desert Foothills Junior High School.

   5. Discover Books/Fry’s Food Stores 10,000 gently used books with an approximate value of $10,000.00 to the Washington Elementary School District to give to students to take home.

   6. Phoenix Suns donated 100 Phoenix Suns tickets with a value of $3,000.00 for the benefit of students in the 21st Century After-School Program at Mountain View School.

   7. Roadrunner Parent Teacher Organization donated a check in the amount of $1,251.07 to be used to purchase nine document cameras for the benefit of students at Roadrunner Elementary School.

   8. Trinity Mennonite Church donated a check in the amount of $1,000.00 to be used for the benefit of families in need at Palo Verde Middle School.


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*D. Out-of-State Travel
Approved the out-of-state travel as presented.


*E. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the Mohave Educational Services Cooperative (MESC) and Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE)
UNANIMOUS

*F. Award of Contract – RFP No. 14.005, Legal Services
UNANIMOUS

*G. Award of Contract – Bid No. 14.006, Ball Field Lighting Maintenance
A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board award contract regarding Bid No. 14.006, Ball Field Lighting Maintenance to Corbins Service Electric, LLC dba Corbins Electric. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maza. The motion carried.

Ms. Graziano noted that Corbins Electric had the lowest price for regular service during business hours and asked if most of the service calls would be during business hours. Ms. Cathy Thompson responded that the District would initially request Corbins Electric to make needed repairs during business hours and would then establish a maintenance schedule to be completed during business hours.

*H. Award of Contract – Bid No. 14.007, Computer Memory and Hard Drives
UNANIMOUS

*I. Arizona Department of Public Safety Agreement
UNANIMOUS

*J. Agreement with Interlingua to Provide Spanish Classes to MAP Center Students at Sahuaro Elementary School
UNANIMOUS

*K. Permission to Pursue the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant in the Amount of $5,100,000.00 on Behalf of the District
A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board grant permission to pursue the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant in the amount of $5,100,000.00 on behalf of the District. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maza. The motion carried.

Ms. Graziano noted that there were ten schools listed on the agenda item, however, there are more than ten schools receiving a 21st Century Grant. Ms. Kathleen McKeever advised that there are 22 21st Century grants and all are on different rotating funding cycles. Ms. Graziano asked if any schools were going off of the program. Ms. McKeever advised that a few schools would be going off, however, other programs would be made available to them. Ms. McKeever stated that the ten schools listed are new to the program.

*L. Acceptance of the School Security Hardware Grant in the Amount of $100,000.00, the Washington Education Grant in the Amount of $7,646.00 and the Virginia G. Piper Back to School Grant in the Amount of $40,700.00
UNANIMOUS

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VIII. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. To Consider and, if Deemed Advisable, to Adopt a Resolution Ordering the Sale of School Improvement Bonds for the District

Dr. Cook requested the Board to consider adopting a Resolution that would allow for a bond sale of $5,000,000.00 in a different manner than has been done in the past. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Cathy Thompson to provide background information.

Ms. Thompson advised the Board that the District was originally slated to sell $25,000,000.00 in bonds in 2016 for work on projects. The District now proposes the issuance and sale of $5,000,000.00 in bonds in order to expedite completion on some of the current projects and begin design work on projects scheduled for completion in 2016. Ms. Thompson advised that previous bond sales were sold in a public sale, however, this proposed bond sale would be through the Maricopa County Treasurer, who has already approved the purchase. Ms. Thompson stated that this bond sale would not cause the District to exceed the annual levy that was included in the bond election pamphlet distributed to voters.

Ms. Thompson introduced Mr. Bryan Lundberg from Stifel, Nicolaus & Company to provide information regarding the bond sale. Mr. Lundberg advised that the proposed sale was recommended to be through the Maricopa County Treasurer at an estimated interest rate not to exceed two percent. Mr. Lundberg stated that the final maturity of these bonds would not exceed five years.

Mr. Adams asked how the taxpayer would be impacted. Mr. Lundberg estimated that the first year of payment would be approximately a penny on the tax rate for the first interest payment.

Ms. Graziano asked if it made a difference to the District between taxable and tax-exempt bonds. Mr. Lundberg replied that the main difference for the District was that it would not have as many requirements for taxable bonds because tax-exempt bonds must comply to federal regulations. Mr. Lundberg stated that the Treasurer cannot benefit from tax-exemption because they pay no federal income taxes and there would be no need to have these extra requirements.

Ms. Graziano asked how the two percent interest for this bond sale compared to the interest on the first two bond sales. Mr. Lundberg responded that the proposed Resolution stated that the interest rate would not exceed 2.0%, however, the current rate was 1.56% and fluctuates slightly on a daily basis. Mr. Lundberg stated that last year’s interest rate for the bond sale was averaging approximately 3.1% and the first bond sale interest rate was averaging approximately 5.0%-5.5%.

Ms. Graziano asked if the proposed bond sale was able to be considered because another one fell off or are we under the amount of indebtedness allowed. Ms. Thompson replied that the original plan was to sell $25,000,000.00 in 2016 which would have had a large impact, however, this proposed bond sale will have a minimal impact and will be able to be paid in a shorter amount of time.

Ms. Graziano noted that the bank was the “middle man” because it administers the funds. She asked if the District pays the bank a fee or does it come out of the interest rate. Mr. Lundberg advised that one of the benefits of the proposed sale with the Treasurer was that it is a direct purchase and there is no “middle man”, therefore, will save the District approximately $30,000.00. He added that there would be a flat fee for the services of his firm as financial advisors.

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Mrs. Lambert thanked Mr. Lundberg for his presentation and responses to questions from the Board members.

A motion was made by Mr. Maza that the Governing Board adopt a Resolution ordering the sale of School Improvement Bonds for the District in the amount of $5,000,000.00. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

B. 2014-2015 KidSpace Childcare Fee Structure Change

Dr. Cook advised the Board that the KidSpace Childcare Fee structure had not been changed in 13 years. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Kathleen McKeever, Director of Academic Support Programs, and Ms. Keri Moore, KidSpace Coordinator, to provide information regarding the 2014-2015 proposed fee structure.

Ms. McKeever reported that KidSpace Childcare is offered at 23 sites servicing 1500+ students with over 80 trained employees. Ms. McKeever reviewed the advantages for families and fiscal responsibility for the rationale of the proposed fee structure. She advised that the proposed fee structure was streamlined and made clearer for parents. A rate comparison chart was provided to show research data for other districts and childcare facilities.

Ms. Graziano appreciated the data on the rate comparison and that the proposed fee structure was more user-friendly.

Ms. Graziano asked the following questions:
- Is the childcare service for one hour before school in the morning? Ms. Moore responded that it varied according to the start time of the school. There are two start times: 7:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.
- How long is childcare provided after school. Ms. Moore replied that it could be 2:30-6:00 p.m. or 3:15-6:00 p.m.
- On the proposed fee structure, if a parent used the non-contracted time AM or PM, would they have to pay the registration fee? Ms. Moore stated that if a student was already contracted for KidSpace childcare, they would not have to pay the registration fee again. However, if a student was not contracted and a parent wished to use KidSpace childcare for one time, they would be required to complete a contract and pay the registration fee.
- What is the Emergency Child Finder fee on the proposed fee structure? Ms. Moore responded that if a child is not reported absent to KidSpace in advance by the parent, they will be charged the fee.

Mr. Adams thanked Ms. McKeever and Ms. Moore for their work in preparing the information for the presentation. Mr. Adams asked if the $3/minute late pickup fee could be waived. Ms. Moore advised that the KidSpace late pickup fee was probably the lowest when compared to other childcare providers. She stated that it could be waived for special circumstances.

Mr. Adams asked if they received funding from First Things First for KidSpace. Ms. Moore stated that they do not receive funding for this program, however, First Things First funding is utilized for a program for four year old children.

Mrs. Lambert asked if KidSpace was simply a daycare for the children or was educational instruction also offered so that it is a continued learning opportunity. Ms. Moore replied that it is a continued learning opportunity through any game or activity utilized.

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Mrs. Lambert stated that she appreciated that this was a safe environment for the children at an affordable cost for the family.

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board approve the proposed KidSpace fee structure for 2014-2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

C. Head Start Update, Philosophy, Long-Range and Short-Range Goals, and Self-Assessment Plan

Dr. Cook advised the Governing Board that they were annually presented a review of the Head Start Program philosophy, long-range and short-range program goals, and the self-assessment process. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Diana Howsden, Director of Head Start Services, and Ms. Michaele Pilsbury, Head Start Program Coordinator, to present information regarding the Head Start Program.

Ms. Howsden stated that Head Start is a federally funded program and the contract requires the Governing Board’s review and approval of specific documents. Ms. Howsden provided an update about the District’s Head Start Program and Ms. Pilsbury provided a presentation about the self-assessment process.

Ms. Graziano appreciated the Head Start Philosophy of not only educating the child (physical, social, emotional and cognitive development), but for helping the whole family and providing family services, e.g., emergency crisis intervention, housing assistance, mental health services, job training assistance, parent/health education information, etc.

Mr. Maza thanked Ms. Howsden and Ms. Pilsbury for the presentations and everything that they do for the children and families. Mr. Maza stated he is a strong supporter of early childhood education via Head Start. He reported that the program was laden with accountability paperwork and appreciated the efforts of Ms. Howsden and Ms. Pilsbury.

Mr. Adams and Mr. Jahneke echoed the comments of their fellow Board members and thanked Ms. Howsden and Ms. Pilsbury for the presentations and their dedication to the Head Start Program.

Mrs. Lambert advised Ms. Howsden and Ms. Pilsbury that she appreciated the work that they do with the students and families. Mrs. Lambert stated that they model the level of involvement and care that we want for all of our students.

Mrs. Lambert stated that she tabled this agenda item until all the Board members could be present, not only to complete the program’s requirement, but to let Ms. Howsden and Ms. Pilsbury know that the Board supports and appreciates all of their hard work and efforts.

Dr. Cook thanked Ms. Howsden and Ms. Pilsbury for their efforts. Dr. Cook invited Board members to visit one of the Head Start classrooms and witness the amazing programs that are in place. Dr. Cook stated that there was evidence that Head Start students do much better in kindergarten.

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board approve the Preschool/Head Start Philosophy, the Head Start Long-Range and Short-Range Goals and the Self-Assessment Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

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IX. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
Ms. Graziano requested data regarding employee exit surveys, e.g., classified mid-year resignations. Mrs. Lambert asked Ms. Graziano to email Dr. Cook with specific data that she would like to see in the presentation.

X. **CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Call for Executive Session: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 – A.5

It was recommended that the Governing Board establish an Executive Session to be held immediately during a recess in the Regular Meeting for:

- A.5 – Discussions or consultations with the designated representative of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations with employee organizations regarding the salaries, salary schedule, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of employees of the public body – specifically regarding the 2014 Interest-based Negotiation (IBN) process. **UNANIMOUS**

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke to call for an Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

XI. **RECESSING OF REGULAR MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

XII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – GENERAL FUNCTION**

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

B. Confidentiality Statement
   All persons present are hereby reminded that it is unlawful to disclose or otherwise divulge to any person who is not now present, other than a current member of the Board, anything that has transpired or has been discussed during this executive session. To do so is a violation of ARS 38-431.03 unless pursuant to a specific statutory exception.

C. Discussion under A.R.S. §38-431.03 – A.5

- A.5 – Discussions or consultations with the designated representative of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations with employee organizations regarding the salaries, salary schedule, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of employees of the public body – specifically regarding the 2014 Interest-based Negotiation (IBN) process.

XIII. **RECONVENING OF REGULAR MEETING**

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Adams to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion **UNANIMOUS** carried.

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SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary

Joyce Shiota  4/24/14
BOARD SECRETARY  DATE

Bill Calearn  4/24/14
BOARD OFFICIAL  DATE

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