

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING

2012-2013

November 8, 2012

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

I. REGULAR MEETING – GENERAL FUNCTION

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Jahneke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present: Mr. Bill Adams, Ms. Clorinda Graziano, Mr. Aaron Jahneke, and Mrs. Tee Lambert. Mr. Chris Maza was not in attendance.

B. Moment of Silence and Meditation

Mr. Jahneke called for a moment of silence and meditation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Jahneke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda, with flexibility. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

Mr. Jahneke moved Item I.G. – Special Recognition before Item I.E. – Approval of the Minutes.

G. Special Recognition

Dr. Cook recognized Acacia Elementary School for the prestigious honor of being selected as one of two schools by the State of Arizona as a National Title I Distinguished School. Dr. Cook introduced Christine Hollingsworth, principal of Acacia, and acknowledged her superb leadership and management skills. Ms. Hollingsworth was presented with congratulatory flowers from the Governing Board and Administration. Dr. Cook acknowledged the Acacia staff, parents, and students for everything they did to help earn the award. Ms. Hollingsworth thanked the staff, parents, and students for their support. She also thanked the Governing Board and Administration for their support and presented them with an Acacia t-shirt and a token of their appreciation. Two Acacia teachers, Jennifer Lesser and Jennifer Lauzon, stated that Ms. Hollingsworth was a great role model and a tremendous leader for the staff and students. Three Acacia students, Audrie Lumpkin, 6th grader and Student Council President; Rachel Elrod, 5th grader; and Julie Lauzon, 4th grader, stated that Acacia was a safe and happy place for students to learn, make friends, and succeed. They said Acacia was an awesome school where everyone did their part to earn the award – students worked hard, teachers helped the students learn, and the principal encouraged them to make the right decisions. Dr. Cook introduced Mrs. Don Dolin who was on the Arizona Department of Education team who selected Acacia for the National Title I Distinguished School award. Mrs. Dolin reviewed the selection process and stated it was a difficult decision to make from the many qualified schools who applied for the award, but that Acacia stood out. She congratulated Ms. Hollingsworth for receiving the award and commended her for her amazing leadership. Governing Board members commended Ms. Hollingsworth on her leadership skills. They congratulated the collaborative team effort of her leadership, staff, parents, and students to be named a National Title I Distinguished School.

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E. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2012 Executive Session, Regular Meeting, and Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried.

F. Current Events: Governing Board and Superintendent

Mr. Adams shared that he enjoyed visiting Desert View Elementary School, Principal Maria Farmer, and her staff.

Mrs. Lambert thanked the staff and community members who volunteered their personal time with the initiatives (Proposition 204 and WESD Capital Override). Even though the initiatives did not pass, there was a rallying commitment for the children.

Ms. Graziano shared the following:

- Thanked everyone who worked tirelessly and believed strongly in the initiatives (Proposition 204 and WESD Capital Override). She hoped that the District would have another opportunity for an initiative to give students the technology tools that they need to succeed.
- Acknowledged and thanked the students and teachers at Chaparral, Ironwood, John Jacobs, Lookout Mountain, and Moon Mountain Elementary Schools for the artwork displayed in the Governing Board Room.
- Enjoyed attending the high school marching bands' spectacular event and congratulated Thunderbird and Greenway high schools for advancing to the State Marching Festival.
- Thanked Kiwanis for the successful Walk-a-Thon event.
- Acknowledged the Palo Verde Middle School Chorus and Hand Bell Concert for veterans.
- Acknowledged and thanked all the veterans in the District, including Mr. Adams, for their service and sacrifices.

Mr. Jahneke thanked everyone involved with the advocacy for public education.

Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Carol Patterson, principal of Palo Verde Middle School, who advised that the teachers were content driven and used their expertise and knowledge for science, social studies, language arts, and math to integrate the Common Core Standards. Ms. Patterson introduced the Palo Verde Lions Team consisting of Angela Castro, Pete Osmussen, Lisa Dotson, Bridget Munck, and Kim Powers who shared how they integrated the Arizona Common Core Standards across disciplines and also how they used and annotated the text. Ms. Patterson stated that they are having students use more critical thinking skills and raising the level of expectations for learning of the students. Governing Board members made the following comments:

- Mr. Adams thanked the presenters and stated that the students will be able to use these tools as adults.
- Mrs Lambert thanked them for the presentation and acknowledged that it reinforced integrated learning using the tools for subjects that are being taught. She stated that the teamwork was beneficial to the students.
- Ms. Graziano agreed with Mrs. Lambert's comments and asked if the special areas and electives teachers were also involved. She was advised that all of the special areas and electives teachers are involved in the program.
- Mr. Jahneke thanked the presenters and stated that the students will benefit from these learning skills and will be better prepared for high school and college.

H. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

I. Approval of the Consent Agenda

UNANIMOUS

Ms. Graziano requested that Item *II.F. – Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE) and The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN) be pulled from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

***A. Approval/Ratification of Vouchers**

UNANIMOUS

Approved and ratified the vouchers as presented.

***B. Personnel Items**

UNANIMOUS

Approved the personnel items as presented.

***C. Public Gifts and Donations (The Value of Donated Items is Determined by the Donor)**

UNANIMOUS

Approved the public gifts and donations as presented.

1. Arrowhead Promotion & Fulfillment donated a gift card in the amount of \$500.00 and a case of Lysol disinfecting wipes (as the grand prize winner in the Lysol “Healthy Classroom” sweepstakes) to be used for the benefit of 5th grade students at Chaparral Elementary School.
2. Target, Take Charge of Education Program, donated a rebate check in the amount of \$331.38 to be used for the benefit of students at John Jacobs Elementary School.
3. Cardinals Charities donated a check in the amount of \$398.74 to be used for the benefit of students at John Jacobs Elementary School.
4. Orangewood Parent Teacher Association donated a check in the amount of \$414.75 to be used for kindergarten field trips at Orangewood School.
5. Assistance League of Phoenix donated books with an approximate value of \$3,671.24 to be used for the benefit of students in kindergarten, second, and fourth grades at Richard E. Miller Elementary School.
6. Assistance League of Phoenix donated books with an approximate value of \$3,513.62 to be used for the benefit of students in kindergarten, second, and fourth grades at Sunnyslope School.

***D. Out-of-State Travel**

UNANIMOUS

Approved the out-of-state travel as presented.

1. Bill Adams, Governing Board Member, to attend the 40th Annual Federal Relations Network Conference, January 27-29, 2013, in Washington, D.C., at a cost of \$1,570.00.
2. Chris Lieurance, Director of Management Information Services, and Art Tobin, Program Coach/Technology, to attend a meeting with Smart Technologies, December 6-7, 2012, in Calgary, Canada, at no cost to the District.

***E. Submission of the Science Foundation Arizona Network Helios STEM School Pilot Grant in an Amount Not to Exceed \$500,000.00 over 36 months** UNANIMOUS

***F. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE) and The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN)** UNANIMOUS

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve the Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements and contract purchases with the Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE) and The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN). The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

Ms. Graziano asked for information regarding the new contract titled "Solution to Build Stakeholder Engagement in Public Schools". Dr. Cook responded that if the District decided to use this vendor, a contract would be presented to the Board for approval. Dr. Cook advised that this company specializes in building relationships with the community via surveys and uses their platform to deliver the surveys. They compose the wording and do the analysis of the data. Dr. Cook stated that the District currently conducts four surveys, e.g., Working Conditions Survey, Parent Satisfaction Survey, Leadership Survey, and Student Survey. She said that three of the four surveys were required by law and all of the surveys needed to be updated. Dr. Cook advised that the District would conduct further research to determine if this was a feasible contract.

***G. Issue RFP for Specified Services – No. 12.020, Student Identification System** UNANIMOUS

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEM

A. 2012-2013 Revenue Budget UNANIMOUS

Ms. Cathy Thompson advised the Board that the District was no longer required by law to submit an annual revenue budget. However, auditors requested that an estimated revenue budget be approved by the Governing Board in order to complete the audit forms. Ms. Thompson reviewed the estimated budget and requested the Governing Board's approval of the stated revenue amounts as the 2012-2013 estimated revenue budget for District funds.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve the stated revenue amounts as estimated budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

IV. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. United Way Update

Ms. Pam Horton reported that District employees donated \$37,214.00 to the 2012 United Way campaign and continued to be a leader among valley school districts in Maricopa County. She thanked the employees for contributing to the campaign and supporting the United Way.

Ms. Horton thanked the Washington Education Foundation (WEF) for the gift cards to the District's incentive program and \$1,000.00 to the school or department that donated the most per capita. Employees designated \$14,714.50 to be donated to the WEF for its grant program for schools. Ms. Nancy Putnam, president of the WEF, presented a \$1,000.00 check to Sunburst Elementary School Principal, Ms. Rhonda Warren, and Ms. Sally Cook, Sunburst campaign coordinator, for raising the most per capita with a total of \$1,898.00.

Ms. Horton acknowledged Ms. Robin Telle, United Way Development Officer, and Ms. Cathy Cleland, loaned executive from the United Way, for their support of the District's campaign efforts.

Dr. Cook acknowledged the efforts of Pam Horton for the successful United Way campaign.

B. 2012 Accountability Update – Assessment Report: Part One

Ms. Janet Sullivan updated the Governing Board on the 2011-2012 accountability results which focused on the District's performance on state-administered assessments and the resulting accountability determinations. Ms. Sullivan presented Spring 2012 results of the Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS), the Stanford 10, and the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA).

Ms. Graziano asked if the low math scores were due to the change in curriculum. Ms. Sullivan responded that the curriculum change had affected the test scores. Ms. Sullivan stated that intervention had been focused on reading. The District is trying to expand intervention for math, however, it is difficult to accomplish due to limited resources. Ms. Sullivan advised that a number of school sites are trying to add math instruction time by extending the time for math or having double periods for math. Some middle schools have added an enrichment class for math, therefore, some students may have a second math class, rather than an elective. Ms. Sullivan stated that many schools are using small group instruction.

Mr. Adams thanked Ms. Sullivan for the presentation and asked if there was anything the Board could do to help. Ms. Sullivan stated that the accountability models were a moving target with frequent changes and more to come. She advised that if there was additional education funding, the District could do more intervention with students if the class sizes were smaller and if there were more staff/interventionists for math.

Mr. Jahneke asked if they could explain the decrease in AIMS percent proficient from grade 7 to grade 8. Ms. Sullivan stated that they are finding that the 8th grade students do not have the motivation to perform well on the tests. She advised that they have compared the District tests to the AIMS tests and are looking at targeting skill deficits and ways to motivate the 8th grade students.

Mr. Jahneke asked if this was an area of emphasis with respect to professional development and articulating with the feeder high school districts. Ms. Sullivan replied in the affirmative.

Mrs. Lambert thanked Ms. Sullivan for the data presented. Mrs. Lambert stated that although it was very complex to understand, the important thing was to keep it all in perspective. She advised that it was important to do the assessments and focus on the children to find their weaknesses and help build their strengths. She stated that the social atmosphere and mobility affect the data results. Mrs. Lambert said she was encouraged to see that the numbers for the "Falls Far Below" category was shrinking. She said she was not concerned about the math scores because they were affected by the changes of the scope of what was measured and the students not having the core building blocks for the assessments. She stated she was proud of what the District was doing and that it was on the right track with the focus being on the children and the classrooms.

Mr. Adams asked if it would be possible to have a quick reference card with the District's priorities listed. He said it would be helpful to have when Governing Board members had conversations with Congressmen/Senators or community members.

Ms. Graziano asked if the decrease in 8th grade scores was district-wide, state-wide, or at a few schools. Ms. Sullivan responded that the state-wide data was reviewed and did not show a decrease at the State level as we had at the District level. Ms. Sullivan stated that within the District, the decrease was at almost every school. Ms. Graziano commented that it did not seem to be an academic problem, but more a social climate cultural problem.

Ms. Graziano asked if there were any plans for science to be included in the A-F letter grades. Ms. Sullivan replied that it was her understanding that the State planned to use the same science tests for several years and it was not anticipated to have science test data included in the A-F letter grades.

Ms. Graziano asked if the 7/8 grade science and math classes in the K-8 schools were taught by science and math teachers. Ms. Graziano also asked if the K-8 schools also had separate science, math, language arts, and social studies teachers. Ms. Sullivan advised that the teachers were highly qualified and departmentalized. Ms. Sullivan said that they use the middle school model.

Mrs. Lambert asked if the writing piece for Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) was going to be subjective or multiple choice for learning grammar. Ms. Sullivan responded that the extended writing pieces that will be responses to both literary and informational text, will be rubrics that identify content, as well as grammar. Mrs. Lambert asked if they still plan to utilize computerized testing. Ms. Sullivan replied in the affirmative and it will go into effect the 2014-2015 school year. The challenge will be the expectation for all students to be tested on a computer within a window of time.

C. Continuous Improvement Plans

Ms. Sullivan advised the Governing Board members that schools identified as 'D' and/or Focus Schools under the new A-F Grades accountability system were required to share their plans with the Governing Board. Governing Board members were provided copies of the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) for Lakeview, Maryland, Moon Mountain, Mountain View, Richard E. Miller, and Shaw Butte schools. Ms. Sullivan introduced the principals of the Focus Schools. She stated that all of the 32 District schools were preparing a CIP, however, the principals at the Focus Schools had participated in a more intense review of their site plans, e.g., extensive analysis of their school culture, data, instructional strategies, programs in place, etc.

Dr. Cook stated that Acacia Elementary School was recognized for its accomplishments and award winning status at the onset of the meeting, however, she was no less proud of the six Focus School principals. Dr. Cook said that they work just as hard and they have many challenges with which they are dealing with on a daily basis. She advised that there was as much attention given to classroom activities at these six schools as any others.

Dr. Cook asked Tracy Maynard, principal of Shaw Butte Elementary School to share how Shaw Butte defined FOCUS. Ms. Maynard stated that at Shaw Butte, FOCUS means "Figuring Out Challenges Until Success".

Mr. Adams commented that the six Focus School principals were the "best of the best" and appreciated that they were chosen to lead these schools.

Ms. Graziano asked if the kindergarten Push-in Program was the name for the kindergarten intervention program. Ms. Sullivan confirmed that it was.

Ms. Graziano thanked the principals for their efforts and appreciated the following action steps taken at individual schools:

- Lakeview – Encouraging many volunteers
- Moon Mountain – Mentoring using buddy classes
- Mountain View – Studying Ruby Payne’s book, A Framework for Understanding Poverty
- Richard E. Miller – 5th grade students visiting Royal Palm Middle School to facilitate the transition from elementary school to middle school

Ms. Graziano made a helpful suggestion to the principals to coach teachers to expect 100% of the students to do everything. She stated that a high level of expectation/rigor was very important to keep in mind when dealing with their staff.

Mrs. Lambert thanked everyone for their hard work and attention to detail on the plans. She was pleased that the action steps were focused on student achievement and student needs.

Mrs. Lambert asked what learning walks were at Mountain View School. Mountain View Principal, Mike Christensen, advised that they had a learning walk that day with Mr. Kevin Feldman, an outside consultant. Mr. Feldman took the administrators and 7th grade teachers into an 8th grade classroom for an observation. They observed the teacher for approximately 20 minutes and took notes. They followed with a debriefing session with the 8th grade teacher and made comments and suggestions. Mr. Christensen stated it was a very beneficial learning experience for everyone and planned more learning walks during the school year.

Mr. Jahneke thanked everyone for the detailed plans. He advised the six Focus School principals that he was confident in their abilities to achieve their goals.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Lambert requested information regarding sequestration’s affect on the District this school year, as well as the next school year.

VI. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Adams acknowledged the hard work of everyone involved in the initiatives (Proposition 204 and the WESD Capital Override).

Mrs. Lambert acknowledged the support that the District Office provides to the schools. She appreciated that the District Office works very hard to ensure that the principals have what they need to provide good leadership and to help their teachers to have what they need in the classroom.

Ms. Graziano made the following acknowledgments:

- Congratulated Mr. Bill Adams for receiving an Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) sponsorship to pay for his registration to the Federal Relations Network Conference.
- Congratulated the 5th grade classroom at Chaparral Elementary School who was the grand prize winner in the Lysol “Healthy Classroom” sweepstakes.
- Thanked everyone who provided the academic and educational information for the Board meeting. She stated that everyone was doing a good job and was pleased that the data trends were positive.

Mr. Adams thanked the Board members for approving his out-of-state travel to attend the Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, D.C., on January 27-29, 2013.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:01 p.m. The **UNANIMOUS** motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary

Joyce Shiota
BOARD SECRETARY

12/12/12
DATE

[Signature]
BOARD OFFICIAL

12/12/12
DATE