

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

2012-2013

February 14, 2013

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

I. SPECIAL MEETING

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Maza called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present: Mr. Chris Maza, Mr. Bill Adams, Mr. Aaron Jahneke, and Mrs. Tee Lambert. Ms. Clorinda Graziano was not in attendance.

B. Adoption of the Special Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board adopt the Special Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

II. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Call for Executive Session: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 – A.3

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.3 – Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body regarding a mediated settlement involving a special needs student.

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

C. Discussion under A.R.S. §38-431.03 – A.3

- A.3 – Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body regarding a mediated settlement involving a special needs student.

V. RECESSING OF EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR REGULAR MEETING

February 14, 2013

VI. REGULAR MEETING – GENERAL FUNCTION

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

B. Moment of Silence and Meditation

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

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Maza 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. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

E. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve the Minutes of the January 24, 2013 Regular Meeting and Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

F. Current Events: Governing Board and Superintendent

Mr. Adams shared that he recently attended the Federal Relations Network (FRN) Conference in Washington, D.C. which was very informative. There were many discussions, e.g., congressional budget, debt ceiling, reductions/sequestration for federal programs. He stated that the National School Boards Association (NSBA) was introducing a bill with regard to greater self-governance. [Copies of the Priority Legislative Issues & Strategies have been provided to the Governing Board.]

Mr. Jahneke thanked everyone who supported the Washington Education Foundation Bowl-a-Thon. He stated that everyone had a good time and the Foundation raised \$2,200.00 for District mini-grants.

Mrs. Lambert shared that she enjoyed receiving the Lookout Mountain Elementary School calendar. She thanked and congratulated Mya Proctor, Lookout Mountain 2nd grade student, who gave her a bookmark and placed second in the Martin Luther King art contest.

Mr. Maza shared that he enjoyed attending the Washington Education Foundation Bowl-a-Thon. He thanked Mr. Jahneke for his involvement in the organization and thanked the Foundation for its support of the District.

Mr. Maza shared that he enjoyed speaking at the K-12 Celebration of Accomplished Teachers to honor the new National Board Certified (NBC) teachers in the State of Arizona, including three new and one renewal from the Washington Elementary School District (WESD). Mr. Maza advised that John Huppenthal, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoke, as well as, U.S. Representative Kyrsten Sinema. He stated that Representative Sinema spoke highly of her time working for WESD.

Dr. Cook introduced Roadrunner Elementary School Principal, Ms. Paula McWhirter who, in turn, introduced Ms. Catherine Reid, Roadrunner music teacher. Ms. Reid shared how the AZ Common Core Standards were being addressed and integrated within the music curriculum.

G. Public Participation

There was public participation.

- Sheryl Kronenberg advised that this was the 16th year that the National Education Association was sponsoring Read Across America. She stated that Renaissance Dental had become a national sponsor for Read Across America and encouraged children to devote time for good health and reading skills. Ms. Kronenberg advised that the Washington District Education Association (WDEA) was partnering with the District to support reading. Board members were invited to attend the Read Across America celebration on Friday, March 1, at 8:00 a.m., in the Cactus Wren library, followed by reading in classrooms at various schools in the District.
- Wesley W. Harris stated that he had attended the District's January 24, 2013 Governing Board meeting that had a presentation about testing that was going to be surrounding Common Core. He was alarmed when he heard that test scores would be going down as a result of the implementation of Common Core. Mr. Harris advised that since the January 24, 2013 Governing Board meeting, he had been looking into Common Core at great depth and had met with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Public Education and had attended various classes and seminars regarding Common Core. He said he had come to the conclusion that Common Core was a colossal mistake. Mr. Harris stated he wanted to read into the record the Myths versus Facts of Common Core.
 - Myth: Common Core (CC) was a state-led initiative. Fact: The CC standards were initiated by private interests in Washington, D.C., without any representation from the states and no public input. Eventually the creators realized the need to present a façade of state involvement and therefore enlisted the National Governors Association (NGA) (a trade association that doesn't include all governors) (Arizona's governor was not in attendance) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), another DC-based trade association. Neither of these groups had a grant of authority from any particular state or states to write the standards. The bulk of the creative work was done by Achieve, Inc., a DC-based nonprofit that includes many progressive education reformers who have been advocating national standards and curriculum for decades. Massive funding for all this came from private interests such as the Gates Foundation. Be advised that the testing in Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) that is associated with Common Core will require every student to have a computer to take the computerized test. There are not enough computers in the Washington Elementary School District and Glendale Union High School District or any district in the state. Washington High School has 43 computers and 1,200 students.
 - Myth: The federal government is not involved in the Common Core scheme. Fact: The US Department of Education (USED) was deeply involved in the meetings that led to creation of Common Core. Moreover, it has poured hundreds of millions of dollars into the two consortia that are creating the national tests that will align with CC. USED is acting as the enforcer to herd states into the scheme. Note that there are three federal statutes that preclude the Department of Education from coming into this room and telling us what we should or should not do with curriculum. This violates federal law.
 - Myth: States that adopted CC did so voluntarily, without federal coercion. Fact: Most states that adopted CC did so to be eligible to compete for federal Race to the Top funding, which is what Arizona did.

At the end of three minutes, Mr. Harris handed a copy of his Common Core: Myths Versus Facts information sheet to Ms. Shiota and requested copies be given to the Governing Board members. [Governing Board members have been provided copies.]

H. Approval of the Consent Agenda **UNANIMOUS**
A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

VII. 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. Walnut Canyon Press/Annica and Adi Benning donated 2,700 copies of the book Arizona: Nations and Art (the history, art and culture of the Arizona Native Americans) with a value of \$24,165.00 for all 4th grade students in the Washington Elementary School District. The book was written by Ms. Annica Benning.
2. Washington Education Foundation donated Barnes & Noble gift cards with a total value of \$480.00 to be used by each Washington Elementary School District school as incentives for Read Across America.
3. St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance donated bottles of Gatorade with a value of \$48,140.00 to be used at school field days across the District.
4. Villa Deli donated a check in the amount of \$300.00 to be used for the benefit of students in the 21st Century After School Program at Ironwood Elementary School.
5. Kroger (Fry's Food Stores) donated a rebate check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Ironwood Elementary School.
6. Thomson Reuters My Community Program donated a check in the amount of \$300.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Lookout Mountain Elementary School.
7. Anthony Holly Foundation donated a check in the amount of \$300.00 to be used for student field trips at Sunburst Elementary School.

***D. Issue RFPs for Specified Services – Auditing Services and Banking Services** **UNANIMOUS**

***E. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the State Procurement Office (SPO), Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE) and 1 Government Procurement Alliance (IGPA)** **UNANIMOUS**

***F. Acceptance of the Target Field Trip Grants in the Amount of \$1,400.00** **UNANIMOUS**

***G. Easement for APS at Lookout Mountain Elementary School** **UNANIMOUS**

***H. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy IHAMB – Family Life Education** **UNANIMOUS**

***I. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy IHBCA – Programs for Pregnant/Parenting Students UNANIMOUS**

***J. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy IHBE – Bilingual Instruction/Native Language Instruction UNANIMOUS**

VIII. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreement with 1 Government Procurement Alliance (IGPA) and their Contract with Jokake Construction for Lighting Retrofit in an Amount Not to Exceed \$969,330.76 UNANIMOUS

Dr. Cook advised the Board that the District was offering a recommendation regarding a lighting retrofit and introduced Mr. Mike Kramer, Director of Capital Projects/Maintenance, to provide information.

Mr. Kramer advised the Board that the Capital Project team's original specifications called for compact fluorescent lighting for 16 schools. However, because of price reductions for energy efficient LED lighting, the Capital Project team believed it was prudent to have a pilot project at Mountain Sky Junior High School to determine type of installation and acceptable cost for the other projects. The Mountain Sky pilot project was a success and LED lighting was recommended for the remaining 15 schools.

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that the Governing Board approve usage of Cooperative Purchase Agreement with 1 Government Procurement Alliance (IGPA) and their contract with Jokake Construction for lighting retrofit in an amount not to exceed \$969,330.76. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried.

Mrs. Lambert congratulated the Capital Project team for doing its due diligence by scheduling the Mountain Sky pilot project and determining the energy savings.

Mr. Adams thanked Mr. Cook and the H2 Group for their assistance with the project.

IX. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Centralized Registration Update

Dr. Cook advised that Mrs. Lambert had requested a future agenda item regarding Centralized Registration. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Cathy Thompson, Director of Business Services, to provide an update, along with Ms. Miriam Mahoney, Student Data Manager.

Ms. Thompson gave a presentation regarding the Welcome and Registration Center which was partially implemented in July 2012 and fully opened on January 2, 2013. Ms. Thompson detailed the considerations and processes that led to the implementation of the Welcome and Registration Center.

Mr. Jahneke asked if the hardship cases were due to people not having transportation to the Registration Center. Ms. Thompson responded in the affirmative and stated that the schools were able to accept the registration materials and forward the paperwork to the Registration Center for data entry. She advised that the Registration Center had approximately 3-5 hardship cases per week compared to approximately 500+ registrations received at the Registration Center.

Mrs. Lambert thanked Ms. Thompson for the update. Mrs. Lambert asked if the Registration Center staff were trained to address the needs of homeless students and English Language Learners (ELL) students. Ms. Thompson advised that the staff had extensive training with Dorothy Watkins, Administrator of Social Services, to handle the homeless student issues. Ms. Mahoney stated there was a McKinney-Vento survey (for homeless families) and an ELL survey that are part of the registration packet.

Mrs. Lambert asked how the registration information was sent to the school. She also asked about the timeframe from when a student was registered to their first attendance day. Ms. Mahoney gave the following scenarios:

- Data entry is completed with parent at the Registration Center. The registration documents are scanned and attached (in .pdf form) into the Student Management System (Synergy) where schools have immediate access to the data.
- Minimal data entry into the Student Management System. The registration documents are scanned and attached (in .pdf form) into the Student Management System, therefore, even though the school did not have complete electronic data, they would have the registration documents.
- If Registration Center staff are too busy to do data entry, they would scan registration documents and send them electronically to the school. (This scenario had not been n yet.).

Ms. Mahoney stated that in all the scenarios listed above, the schools would have the full registration packet in electronic form.

Mrs. Lambert asked what would happen if a parent went to a school to register a student. Ms. Mahoney replied that the parent would be referred to the Registration Center. She stated that all of the schools have registration packets to give to the parent.

Ms. Mahoney reported that she had completed her first data upload for two schools that had previously had data entry problems and they had zero errors in Synergy, as well as zero errors in SAIS at the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) when it came back from processing.

Mr. Maza asked if the District's data entry information interfaced with SAIS at ADE. Ms. Thompson replied that the data entry is completed at the Registration Center which is entered into Synergy. Ms. Mahoney then uploads the information into SAIS at ADE. Mr. Maza advised there had been media attention regarding the antiquity of SAIS. Mr. Maza asked if ADE did an upgrade to SAIS, would the District's Synergy system continue to interface with the new ADE system or was that a hypothetical question and unable to be answered. Ms. Thompson replied that since the Synergy system is used by several districts, she assumed that ADE would not upgrade to a system that did not interface with Synergy.

B. Student Travel Update

Dr. Cook advised that Ms. Graziano had requested a future agenda item regarding student travel. Dr. Cook introduced Dr. Maggie Westhoff, chairperson of the Planning and Steering Council, to present an update on student travel.

Dr. Westhoff gave a presentation from the Planning and Steering Council on student out-of-state travel. Dr. Westhoff reported that student out-of-county and out-of-state travel had been the focus of multiple study teams over the past 10 years. More recently, a sub-committee was formed to examine the single focus of the utilization of a travel agency vendor for student out-of-state travel. The members of the sub-committee reached consensus on the following interests that they believed needed to be considered when discussing any future recommendations:

- Student and staff safety
- Cost effectiveness
- Systemic standardization of processes
- Travel vendor effectiveness and accountability
- Process effectiveness pertaining to time and procedural sequence
- Emergency liability, procedures, and resolutions
- Legalities and compliance with all laws and mandates

The study team planned to survey users (teachers) who have conducted out-of-state student travel since 2010. Also, the study team had requested further clarification from the travel agency vendor pertaining to the services that are provided to staff who are planning student travel. The study team will examine the benefits and disadvantages of utilizing a travel agency vendor, as well as conduct a benefit analysis. The study team felt that training was necessary on student travel processes, guidelines, services, and timelines for any staff member considering planning out-of-state student travel.

Mrs. Lambert asked if the focus was primarily for out-of-state student travel and did not include out-of-county student travel. Dr. Westhoff responded that out-of-county student travel did not require a vendor and the study team's purpose was to look at using a travel agency vendor for out-of-state student travel.

Mr. Jahneke appreciated the concept of training employees on the student travel processes.

Mr. Adams asked if the procurement process was used to select a travel agency vendor. Dr. Westhoff replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Maza thanked Dr. Westhoff and the study team for their time and efforts.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

XI. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Jahneke acknowledged and thanked Alta Vista, Cactus Wren, Lakeview, Manzanita, Sunset, and Tumbleweed schools for the artwork displayed in the Governing Board Room.

Dr. Cook acknowledged the candy heart suckers that were on the Board dais to support the cause for a former student and niece of a current employee who was diagnosed with leukemia in January.

Dr. Cook acknowledged that she gave a presentation at the Valley Health Alliance earlier in the week, which was scheduled at the Pendergast School Welcome Center. She stated it was interesting to see the Welcome Center in action.

