

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION

2012-2013

March 14, 2013

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 participated telephonically.

**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 Amended Regular Meeting Agenda**

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board adopt the Amended Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. 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 February 28, 2013 Regular Meeting and Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

**F. Current Events: Governing Board and Superintendent**

Mr. Adams shared that he enjoyed the following visits:

- Sahuaro Elementary School and Principal Dave Anderson.
- Sunburst Elementary School and Principal Rhonda Warren.

Mr. Adams stated that the teachers were doing a wonderful job at both schools.

Mrs. Lambert shared that she enjoyed attending the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Spring Legal Seminar in Flagstaff, AZ, on March 8, 2013. Mrs. Lambert provided the electronic files of the workshop handouts to Dr. Cook who, in turn, will share them with the Governing Board members.

Ms. Graziano shared that she enjoyed attending the following events:

- Read Across America Breakfast at Cactus Wren Elementary School. She thanked Cactus Wren and the Washington District Education Association (WDEA) for the delicious breakfast and entertainment.
- Read books to students at Arroyo Elementary School and Palo Verde Middle School.

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- District Honor Choir Concert at Royal Palm Middle School. Ms. Graziano advised that there was a new event for the Elementary Honor Choir where the middle school teachers brought the best students together for an afternoon rehearsal which was an amazing performance. She stated it was a good opportunity for the K-8 school students to participate in a large venue and hoped that the teachers continue the event.
- Mountain Sky Junior High School Regional Band Festival.
- Sweetwater School Big Fun Field Day for special needs students. Ms. Graziano acknowledged the efforts of the teachers and aides who created events that enabled all students to participate. The students enjoyed meeting the following special guests: Big Red, Coyotes' Howler, Phoenix Suns' Gorilla, Arizona Diamondbacks' Baxter, Ronald McDonald, and Spider Man.
- Acacia Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Musical.
- High School All-State Auditions.
- Sahuaro Elementary School "Palooza" Community Event. Many parents attended the event that had a free spaghetti dinner, music performances, art exhibits, and P.E. activities. Ms. Graziano was pleased to see Mr. Phil Garitson, Cholla Middle School Principal, at the event to promote his school to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Mr. Jahneke shared that he enjoyed participating in the Read Across America event and reading at Washington Elementary School for Ms. Lynn Thome and Ms. Denise Titzer's students. Mr. Jahneke stated he enjoyed reading for Ms. Thome because she was Mr. Jahneke's 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher and been teaching in the District for 44 years.

Dr. Cook acknowledged Ms. Dianne Siegel and the adaptive P.E. team for their organization of the Sweetwater Big Fun Field Day. Dr. Cook advised that Ms. Siegel and her team plan to share a video of the event at a future Governing Board meeting.

Mr. Maza thanked everyone involved with the Read Across America celebration.

#### **G. Special Recognition**

Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Sharon Pierson, Director of the Desert Mission Food Bank, who presented a trophy to Mr. Mike Christensen, Principal of Mountain View School, for the most donated pounds per student in the "We Can End Hunger" Food Drive. Ms. Pierson thanked Mountain View School for donating 4,293 pounds and the Washington Elementary School District for its donation of more than 24,500 pounds. Mr. Christensen introduced Mr. Valenzuela, a Mountain View teacher, and one of the sponsors of the Community Action Team that was instrumental in the food drive. Mr. Valenzuela stated that he was very proud of the Community Action Team which was comprised of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated in a community service project and recreational activity every month. The Community Action Team was presented with a certificate.

#### **H. Public Participation**

There was public participation. Wesley W. Harris stated he was not a fan of Common Core and resisted the application of it in the school district. He said it was adopted in 2010 and, in his opinion, against the statutes, e.g., Title 15-113. He advised that he would address the subject at a later time.

Mr. Harris advised that the District's website stated that someone like himself, e.g., a citizen, a taxpayer and a voter, could request the Board to have an item put on an agenda. Mr. Harris said he had been advised by the District's legal counsel that it was no longer pertinent and no longer available to the citizens. Mr. Harris commented that the Governing Board members were elected representatives and when he addressed the Board during Public Participation on an issue, he was limited to three minutes to speak and Board members were not able to speak to him under the rules of the Open Meeting Law unless that item was on the agenda. Mr. Harris stated that by refusing to put it on the agenda, then the Board refused to exchange in dialogue with the taxpayers, voters and the people they represented. Mr. Harris advised that he adamantly disagreed with the policy decision and requested that the Governing Board reconsider it.

Mr. Harris commented that the Governing Board was the only barrier between unelected officials at the State level and the usurpment of the Federal government which had issued edicts on the Governing Board which it had accepted when, in fact, they were illegal. Mr. Harris advised that there were three statutes on the books of the Federal government that precluded them from getting involved with any curriculum in any school district. Mr. Harris stated, "We want, and you want, local control, but unless you stand up to those powers that are trying to usurp your power and, therefore, our power, then you are doing us a disservice and you are not representing us as your elected representative. And so I urge you to go back and look at what it is that you are being asked to do or told to do and start resisting that which is illegal because the constitution is very clear, both the State Constitution and the Federal Constitution on what each individual governmental agency has a right to do. If it's not written, you can't do it. It's the same with this Board, if it's not written, you can't do it." Mr. Harris stated he could go to the State House and testify on House Bill 2047 (changing from AIMS to Common Core, i.e., PARCC). Mr. Harris said he could talk to representatives and they could talk to him because that item was on the agenda, but if the WESD Governing Board did not allow it to be on the agenda, then they could not have a dialogue. Mr. Harris asked why that could be the case in the State House and not at a Governing Board meeting? Mr. Harris reiterated that the Governing Board members were the representatives of the taxpayers/voters.

Mr. Jahneke advised Mr. Harris that if he had further information to share with the Board, he could give it to Ms. Shiota. Mr. Harris responded that he had already shared the information with the District's legal counsel.

**I. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**UNANIMOUS**

Mrs. Lambert requested that Item II.B. – Personnel Items be pulled from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

Ms. Graziano requested that Item II.D.2. – Out-of-State Travel 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 Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**UNANIMOUS**

**\*B. Personnel Items**

**UNANIMOUS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve the personnel items as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

Dr. Cook introduced Mr. Tim Woodward who was approved as the Principal of Lakeview Elementary School. Dr. Cook advised that Mr. Woodward had served as the interim principal the past year and was unanimously appointed by the Lakeview Site Council. Mr. Woodward thanked the Governing Board and the District for the opportunity to work at Lakeview Elementary School.

**\*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. Honeywell donated a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the benefit of students at John Jacobs Elementary School.
2. Triyar Companies donated desks, chairs and office supplies with an approximate value of \$1,350.00 to be used for the benefit of the Washington Elementary School District.
3. The medical staff of John C. Lincoln Hospital donated a check in the amount of \$2,500.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Sunnyslope School.
4. Cholla Parent/Teacher Organization donated a check in the amount of \$411.00 to be used for a chorus field trip for students at Cholla Middle School.
5. Cholla Parent/Teacher Organization donated a check in the amount of \$450.00 to be used to pay the deposit on an incentive trip to Disneyland for students at Cholla Middle School.
6. Patricia R. Felix donated a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be used to purchase a SMART Board for the benefit of students at Cactus Wren Elementary School.
7. Abraham Lincoln Traditional School Guild donated a check in the amount of \$687.68 to be used to purchase a SMART Board projector for the benefit of students.
8. 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.
9. Orangewood School Parent/Teacher Organization donated a check in the amount of \$308.26 to be used for a field trip.
10. Maricopa County donated a check in the amount of \$350.00 to be used for the operation of Teen Court at Mountain Sky Junior High School.

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

Approved the out-of-state travel for Consent Item D.1. as presented.

1. Dorothy Watkins, Administrator of Social Services, to attend the National School Social Work Association Conference, March 20-23, 2013, in San Diego, CA, at a cost of \$400.00.

**D.1. –  
UNANIMOUS**

2. Bill Adams, Governing Board Member, to attend the National School Boards Association (NSBA) 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, April 13-15, 2013, in San Diego, CA, at a cost of \$1,925.21.

**D.2. – DID NOT  
PASS WITH 2  
AYE, 2 NAY, 1  
ABSTENTION**

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve the out-of-state travel request for Bill Adams, Governing Board Member, to attend the National School Boards Association (NSBA) 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, April 13-15, 2013, in San Diego, CA, at a cost of \$1,925.21. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. A roll call vote was requested. The motion and friendly amendment did not pass with 2 Aye votes, 2 Nay votes, and 1 Abstention.

Mr. Maza asked what the Governing Board's past experience was with attending NSBA annual conferences. Dr. Cook responded that Mr. Adams and Ms. Graziano attended the NSBA annual conference two years ago at their own expense. Mrs. Lambert stated that she had attended an NSBA annual conference many years ago.

Mr. Maza stated that he had attended many national conferences that were covered by the state or national organizations and not the local organization. He pointed out that the out-of-state travel request in Consent Item D.1. was to the same location with a significant difference in its cost. Mr. Maza voiced concern regarding this expenditure since the Board had recently expended money for travel to the Federal Relations Network (FRN) conference earlier this year.

Ms. Graziano stated that her concern was philosophical because it was her understanding that there were no funds for staff members to attend any out-of-state conferences. Dr. Cook replied that the following criteria was utilized for travel for staff:

- If it was mandatory as a function of receiving a grant.
- If an employee was asked to present at a conference and costs were being shared.
- If an employee was receiving an award or recognition.

Ms. Graziano stated that in her four years of serving on the Governing Board, there had not been money to send staff members to conferences. She believed this was a good conference with meaningful topics of discussion, but it had a very high registration fee. Ms. Graziano advised she had concerns sending someone from the Governing Board and not allowing other groups to travel to conferences.

Mr. Adams thanked Mr. Maza and Ms. Graziano for their comments. Mr. Adams stated that he had not seen any out-of-state travel requests denied during his term on the Governing Board.

He stated that all of the Governing Board members had received the invitation to attend the NSBA conference. Mr. Adams said he had chosen to ask the Board to support his attendance for the following reasons:

- The cost was an estimated cost.
- The registration fee was \$920.00 and the Common Core pre-conference workshop fee was \$195.00.
- For estimation purposes, he selected the highest hotel cost.
- He is partnering with the District and will pay for his travel expenses and meals.

- He felt that the District should have a presence at the conference because it was the largest elementary school district in the State.
- He appreciated that the Board supports the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA), but felt it was important to network with Board members from other states as well.
- He felt that the conference was a professional development opportunity and an investment.
- He felt that the District would benefit from the value of the conference.

Mr. Adams asked for the Board's support to partner with him financially for his attendance at the NSBA Annual Conference.

Ms. Graziano responded to Mr. Adams' comment regarding not turning down any out-of-state travel requests. Ms. Graziano stated that the reason the Board had not turned down any travel requests was because employees were advised not to ask and that the requests were turned down before going on the agenda for Board approval. Ms. Graziano reported that there had been opportunities for Administrators to attend national panels, but did not ask because they knew there was no money. Ms. Graziano reiterated that she did not say the NSBA conference was not a good conference and did not say we did not need representation, but felt it was not appropriate to say one thing for one group and something else for everyone else. Ms. Graziano reported that the District did not even send everyone to in-state conferences.

Mr. Adams stated it went back to philosophy and maybe they needed to reconsider it. He said he came from the perspective that it was an investment.

Mrs. Lambert commented that it was hard to argue philosophies because everyone had their own strong beliefs.

Mrs. Lambert asked if there were travel funds to cover this expense request or were other funds needed to accommodate the request. Dr. Cook replied that the District was able to adequately accommodate the travel request. Mrs. Lambert asked if it was within the budget. Dr. Cook restated that the travel request was able to be accommodated.

Mr. Maza stated that he knew that the money expenditure to the FRN conference realized very little contact with the elected representatives, but rather with many of their staff members. Mr. Maza commented that when it came to a conference, versus that type of contact with legislators, it caused him some concern, especially with the requested dollar amount on this travel request. Mr. Maza stated that with the support of local control over those decisions which locally one can control, as well as, being fiducially responsible with taxpayer dollars, he continued to have the same concerns as a taxpayer inside this District.

Mr. Adams made a friendly amendment to the motion to request only the Registration Fee cost of \$1,115.00 (\$920.00-Registration Fee and \$195.00-Common Core Pre-Conference Fee). Ms. Graziano and Mrs. Lambert accepted the friendly amendment.

Mr. Maza stated he still had concerns with the cost. Having attended many conferences on a variety of levels, state and national, Mr. Maza stated he had to question NSBA on the heightened cost of the registration. Mr. Maza said it did not seem to be comparable in relation to other national conferences with a similar curriculum that was being offered in other venues.

- \*E. Permission to Pursue the First Things First Grant and the FY 2014 School Safety Program Renewal Grant Application on Behalf of the District **UNANIMOUS**
- \*F. Acceptance of the Maricopa County Department of Health Tobacco Prevention Grants in the Amount of \$3,000.00 **UNANIMOUS**
- \*G. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy JJIB – Interscholastic Sports **UNANIMOUS**
- \*H. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy JLCCA – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infections **UNANIMOUS**
- \*I. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policies GBAB – Medical Marijuana Standards and Conditions for Employees, GBECA – Nonmedical Use or Abuse of Drugs or Alcohol, JICH – Drugs and Alcohol Use by Students and KFA – Public Conduct on School Property **UNANIMOUS**
- \*J. Memorandum of Understanding Between Washington Elementary School District and Rio Salado College Noyce Scholars Program **UNANIMOUS**
- \*K. Collaborative Partner Agreement Between the Association for Supportive Child Care and Moon Mountain Elementary School **UNANIMOUS**

### **III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEM**

- A. Review of Employee Benefits Trust Recommendation and Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Employee Benefits Plan Funding Level for 2013-2014** **UNANIMOUS**

Dr. Cook advised the Governing Board that at the February 28, 2013 Governing Board meeting, several discussion points were presented to the Board for consideration regarding employee insurance benefits for next year. Dr. Cook stated that at the March 12, 2013 Special Meeting of the Employee Benefits Trust Board (EBT), the Trust Board reviewed final projections, considered possible employee contribution changes and then voted to recommend that the final plan and funding contribution levels for 2013-2014 remain the same as the current year with respect to plan design.

Mr. Maza stated that he delivered the material and direction to EBT on March 12, 2013, in regard to the Governing Board vote taken on February 28, 2013. He advised that the information was well received by the EBT. Mr. Maza stated that the Trust was very healthy because of the due diligence and the conservatism of the EBT's approach making sure that the employee dollars were used appropriately, were used specifically, and were used with intent to make sure that it remained self-funded in what it does with regard to employee benefits. Mr. Maza thanked his fellow Trust Board members (Mr. Ludwig, Mr. Myers, Mr. Spellman, and Ms. Hensley) for their work.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve the proposed Employee Benefits Plan for 2013-2014 as provided in the recommendation from the Employee Benefits Trust, including the District contribution rate of \$5,046.48 per employee and employee contribution rates at the level utilized in the 2012-2013 plan year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maza. The motion carried.

**IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

**V. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Ms. Graziano thanked her fellow Governing Board members for the discussion at the February 28, 2013 Governing Board meeting regarding the 2013-2014 Employee Benefits Plan. She appreciated them seeing the difference of sending direction to the EBT and to not stop conversation. Ms. Graziano acknowledged the EBT for reviewing all of the information and taking the Governing Board's direction into consideration. Ms. Graziano thanked the EBT for all its work.

Dr. Cook acknowledged the efforts of Alta Vista Elementary School for coming in second place for the Desert Mission Food Bank "We Can End Hunger" Food Drive for which Mountain View School was recognized earlier in the meeting. Dr. Cook stated that although Alta Vista's student body was significantly smaller, the winner was calculated on a per pound, per child basis.

**VI. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**UNANIMOUS**

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 2012 Interest-based Negotiation (IBN) process.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert to call for an Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

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

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – GENERAL FUNCTION (Mr. Maza did not participate telephonically for the Executive Session.)**

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 2012 Interest-based Negotiation (IBN) process.

**IX. RECONVENING OF REGULAR MEETING (Mr. Maza did not participate telephonically for the reconvening of Regular Meeting.)**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**UNANIMOUS**

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried.

**SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS**

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary

Joyce Shiota  
BOARD SECRETARY

4/11/13  
DATE

[Signature]  
BOARD OFFICIAL

04/11/13  
DATE