

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION

2012-2013

April 25, 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. 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, Ms. Clorinda Graziano, Mr. Aaron Jahneke, and Mrs. Tee Lambert.

B. Moment of Silence and Meditation

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

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Maza asked Brendan, William, and Luke (Boy Scouts in Troop 148 of Sts. Simon and Jude School) to lead 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 Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

E. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve the Minutes of the April 11, 2013 Regular Meeting and Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

F. Current Events: Governing Board and Superintendent

Mrs. Lambert shared that she enjoyed attending the following events:

- Book-A-Palooza sponsored by Support Our Schools Az (SOSAz), a group that focuses on public education for our District, as well as Glendale Elementary and Glendale Union High School Districts.
- Cholla Area Choral Festival at Moon Valley High School – Mrs. Lambert stated it was very special to hear over 300 elementary and high school students sing the National Anthem.

Mrs. Lambert shared that she was impressed with the article in Acacia Elementary School's newsletter regarding a unique idea of having students and parents sign the "Acacia School Testing Pledge" agreeing to make the best effort for success for the State testing.

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

- Book-A-Palooza at Gardner's Book Service – Ms. Graziano thanked SOSAz for organizing the successful event. She also thanked the students, parents, teachers, and administrators who attended and supported the event.

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- Cholla Area Choral Festival at Moon Valley High School – Ms. Graziano thanked Moon Valley High School and its choir director, Justin Jenkins, for hosting the event for the elementary and high school students. Ms. Graziano shared that due to lack of space on the stage, the elementary students stood along the sides and back of the auditorium and were very well behaved which was a testament to the parents and teachers.
- Desert Foothills Area Choir Festival at Greenway High School – Ms. Graziano thanked the high school and its choir director, Jeff Yoder, for hosting the event. Ms. Graziano stated it was a wonderful venue for elementary and high school students to collaborate.

Ms. Graziano thanked all of the Administrative Assistants in the District for their hard work and efforts to keep the District running smoothly.

Mr. Adams shared that he enjoyed attending the following events:

- National School Boards Association (NSBA) Conference – Mr. Adams stated that he had provided the link to conference presentations/materials. He enjoyed attending the conference and speaking with Board members from Glendale Elementary and Glendale Union High School Districts, as well as superintendents.
- Business Advisory Team (BAT) – Mr. Adams was appreciative of the District’s business partners and community leaders who attended.

Mr. Jahneke thanked his fellow Board members for attending school events and hoped that his schedule in his new teaching position at the college will allow him the freedom to attend District events in the future.

Mr. Maza thanked everyone involved with the AIMS testing conducted the prior week. Mr. Maza stated that states across the country were giving their state level test this time of year. He reflected back to 1983 when “A Nation at Risk” came out and it stated how poor students and teachers were doing. Mr. Maza advised that he is now an educator 30 years later and is continuing to hear the same thing. Mr. Maza stated that as we look at the philosophies about AIMS testing, he thanked the staff, the teachers, the parents, and the administrators who realize that it has taken 30 years to evolve. Mr. Maza stated he felt that educators are doing a good job and the students are benefiting.

Dr. Cook congratulated Palo Verde Middle School for receiving an award for its school newspaper, *The Panther Press*. Palo Verde submitted its newspaper for a national award to the American Scholastic Press Association in the category of intermediate schools, 1,000-1,700 students, and received the third place award. Board members were provided a copy of the latest issue of *The Panther Press*.

G. Special Recognition

Dr. Cook referenced an article on the front page of Palo Verde’s newspaper, *The Panther Press*, regarding Urban Plunge. She stated it was a collaborative partnership among ASU students, community members, neighborhood churches and local businesses. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Carol Patterson, principal of Palo Verde Middle School, who thanked Urban Plunge for everything they did for the school, e.g., ASU students in the classrooms, beautification of the campus, supporting the after-school programs, improving relationships with parents and the community.

Ms. Patterson acknowledged and thanked Ms. Tracey Beal, Urban Plunge; Mr. Mark Lunn, Nusystems Owner; and Mr. Mike Walter, Phoenix Police Officer, for their countless hours of service to the Palo Verde project. She also acknowledged Mr. Mike Kramer, Director of Capital Projects/Maintenance, and many individuals from the Administrative Center who worked on projects. A video prepared by Paul Askew of the Urban Plunge project was shown.

Ms. Patterson introduced Tracey Beal from Urban Plunge who stated she enjoyed seeing the school transformed by the community members and school employees. Ms. Beal introduced Mark Lunn who stated it was a pleasure working on the Palo Verde project with the students, faculty, ASU students and community members.

Palo Verde Assistant Principal Jill Sarraino stated that the ASU students made a large impression on the students and gave them a goal of attending college and giving back to the community. She reported that the students were proud of the fact that they had 100% participation on the AIMS tests.

Ms. Patterson advised that the focus of the school was to show the students that they have a good future and to give back to the community. She stated that many students worked on the Urban Plunge project and were very proud of the Palo Verde campus.

Mr. Maza thanked everyone with the Palo Verde Urban Plunge project. He appreciated the collaboration of the ASU students and community members for the beautification project.

Mr. Jahneke commended everyone involved with the Urban Plunge project.

Dr. Cook acknowledged and thanked Tracey Beal for her efforts and stated that the District was fortunate to have the best students, parents, employees, community members, and Governing Board members.

I. Approval of the Consent Agenda (moved at discretion of Chair)

UNANIMOUS

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

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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

UNANIMOUS

Approved and ratified the vouchers as presented.

***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 Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

Dr. Cook welcomed the following new administrators:

- Michael Waters, Principal at Mountain View
- Steven Murosky, Principal at Ocotillo
- Rebeccah Potavin, Principal at Maryland

- Anthony Murphy, Assistant Principal at Mountain Sky (served as interim last year)
- Susan Smith, Assistant Principal at Desert Foothills (served as interim last year)

Dr. Cook acknowledged family, friends, and faculty who attended the meeting to support the new administrators. The new administrators were presented with a plant.

- *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. Kroger (Fry's Food Stores) donated a rebate check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Mountain View School.
2. Kroger (Fry's Food Stores) donated a rebate check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Sunnyslope School.
3. 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.
4. Aetna Foundation donated a check in the amount of \$330.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Palo Verde Middle School.
5. Lesley B. Setzler donated a check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for student supplies at Royal Palm Middle School.
6. Nu Systems donated cabinetry, installation, and painting walls with a value of \$3,445.68 for the staff lounge at Palo Verde Middle School.

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

Approved the out-of-state travel as presented.

1. Don McLain and Justin Glover, Transportation Mechanics, to attend the Ariel CNG Mechanics Training Course, July 21-26, 2013, in Mount Vernon, OH, at a cost of \$2,110.00.

- *E. Extension and Renewal of Annual Contracts for Specified Goods and Services **UNANIMOUS**

- *F. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE) **UNANIMOUS**

- *G. Acceptance of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Grants and the US Airways Field Trip Grant in the amount of \$42,600.00 **UNANIMOUS**

I. H. Public Participation

There was public participation. Wesley W. Harris stated he agreed with Mr. Maza's assessment of educators. Mr. Harris said that educators are the most important disciples to preserve the freedom of this nation that we enjoy.

Mr. Harris thanked Dr. Cook for her quick response to his suggestions for Mountain Sky at the last Governing Board meeting.

Mr. Harris commented on the following:

- Wanted to continue with the school bus issue because the District was short of money and failed in the last bond issue [override].

- Suggested going back to K-8 schools because he did not believe in the middle school environment.
- Common Core Standards – said that Superintendent Huppenthal made a comment last week in Mesa that he did not believe that Common Core would be successful, but he was going to go ahead with it anyway. Mr. Harris reported that there was a movement throughout the country and in Arizona to curtail Common Core and move away from it. Mr. Harris advised he was working on a petition for redress and urged the Governing Board to bring the subject up again before the petition was served on the Board. He stated that the petition would be served on every Board in the State, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Superintendents of all 15 counties, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House because it was his opinion that the provisions that were outlined in Title 15 had not been addressed. He said he was not saying that Common Core was bad, but that the method of implementation was incorrect. Mr. Harris stated that there was a national movement to condemn it. Mr. Harris asked that the Board put Common Core on an agenda for discussion.

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Third Amendment to Agreement with AT&T for Cell Tower at Lookout Mountain Elementary School**

**UNANIMOUS
4 AYES
1 NAY**

Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Cathy Thompson, Director of Business Services, who offered information regarding a third amendment to an agreement with AT&T.

Ms. Thompson advised the Board that the third amendment was necessary because the location of the new cell tower at Lookout Mountain Elementary School had changed, as well as dates changed due to zoning issues, thus revising the timeline for completion of the project. Ms. Thompson stated that the District had been working with AT&T consultants and the on-site construction superintendent to ensure that the relocation project did not affect the timelines for construction completion at the new school.

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board approve the third amendment to the agreement with AT&T for the relocation of a cell tower facility and authorize the Superintendent to execute all related documents. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. Mrs. Lambert voted nay. The motion carried, 4 Ayes and 1 Nay.

B. **Structured English Immersion Model Adoption and Budget Submission**

UNANIMOUS

Dr. Cook advised the Governing Board that the request for approval of the Structured English Immersion (SEI) Models and a review of the SEI Budget Submission were being presented together. The SEI Budget application did not require the Board's approval. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Janet Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, who presented the data to the Governing Board.

Ms. Sullivan advised the Board that the SEI models adopted for all 32 schools were being presented for their approval. Ms. Sullivan reviewed the options available for grouping methods on the SEI Model Selection Form.

Mrs. Lambert asked if the English Language Learner (ELL) Task Force was still in existence. Ms. Sullivan advised that legislation was recently passed to disband the task force and those duties outlined in A.R.S. 15-756 were turned over to the State Board of Education.

Mrs. Lambert asked if there had been any discussion about reevaluating the accepted models. Ms. Sullivan responded that there had been talk about it. She stated that in statute there was the requirement for the four hour SEI model for the first year of a student's identification as an English Language Learner. Beyond the first year, it was up to the task force to identify those models. It is possible there may be revisions to the models after the first year.

Ms. Graziano asked for the reasons to submit the SEI models and SEI budget. Ms. Sullivan responded that the SEI models were required to be approved by the Governing Board each year. She stated that it was usually reviewed at the same time as when the SEI budget was submitted. Although the SEI budget did not require the Board's approval, it had been the Board's practice to review the SEI budget and approve the SEI models at the same time.

Ms. Graziano asked if the District was excluded from receiving funds when the legislation was originally adopted to have funding for this area. Ms. Sullivan responded in the affirmative. Ms. Graziano reiterated that the SEI Models were required, however, the District would not receive any money. Ms. Sullivan advised that the District was close to receiving additional funding last year, but did not qualify last year nor this year. Ms. Sullivan stated that each year the District goes through the activities listed on page 35, e.g., verifying average class sizes and verifying incremental teachers. She said that the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) used the information provided by the District to determine where a teacher should be designated, e.g., incremental, ELL, or general education. ADE uses the data to determine how many teachers would be available in order to serve the program and identify how many additional teachers would be required. Ms. Sullivan stated that this year, the District qualified for 30 additional teachers. She advised that ADE applies two sets of numbers. One includes the Federal offsets of Title I, Title II, and Title III which are illegal. Ms. Sullivan advised that she submitted a variance request each year advising that those were not legal and could not be offset. ADE also applies a percentage of the desegregation funding and the Group B funding in determining whether SEI funds would be approved to implement the models. Each year, these offsets have been greater than that which would be needed for the incremental teachers.

Ms. Graziano asked if this was an exercise in futility and was it worth the time and efforts of those preparing the reports. She asked if it helped the District to have the information in this report and was it helpful for the students. Ms. Sullivan stated that although it was an exercise in futility, they did use the information to determine what they would do if they had the money. Ms. Sullivan advised that it had become easier to compile the reports and took less time to prepare. Ms. Sullivan stated that it was the District's choice to submit the SEI budget even though it was not required, along with the SEI models which were required and needed Board approval. Ms. Graziano stated that this was an unfunded mandate and Ms. Sullivan agreed.

Mrs. Lambert stated that although this seemed like a futile effort, it was always good to have the information on record with ADE.

Mr. Adams stated that this was similar to the report prepared by Mr. Mike Kramer for the School Facilities Board which was another unfunded mandate. Mr. Jahneke added that he had asked Mr. Kramer if there was any value in taking the time to prepare the reports. Mr. Kramer had responded yes and it appeared that Ms. Sullivan also felt the data were helpful in determining class sizes.

Mr. Maza thanked Ms. Sullivan for compiling the information and submitting the reports to ADE. Mr. Maza appreciated and thanked Dr. Cook for doing a good job of ensuring that the District was following the law and providing services to our ELL students.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve the models (Attachment A) and authorize Mr. Chris Maza, Governing Board President, to execute the documents. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

C. Discussion and Consideration of 2013-2014 Governing Board Budget

UNANIMOUS

Mr. Maza referred Governing Board members to the 2012-2013 Governing Board budget on pages 44-45. The budget was reviewed at the April 11, 2013 Governing Board meeting and no changes were recommended.

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that the Governing Board approve the 2013-2014 Governing Board budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

V. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Adams thanked Mr. Rex Shumway, Legal Counsel, for his guidance.

Dr. Cook acknowledged Ms. Susan Spellman, from the Support Our Schools Az (SOSA) Board of Directors, who organized the successful Book-A-Palooza event held on April 20, 2013 at Gardner's Book Service. Dr. Cook enjoyed working with Ms. Spellman in planning the event and thanked her for the fantastic job she did.

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

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

UNANIMOUS

A motion was made by Mr. Adams to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary

Joyce Shiota
BOARD SECRETARY

5/9/13
DATE

Steve Jahneke
BOARD OFFICIAL

05/09/13
DATE