

**WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING**

2012-2013

May 23, 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 7:02 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 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 May 9, 2013 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried. Ms. Graziano abstained from the vote.

**UNANIMOUS**

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

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

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century After-School Academy Excellence Awards
- Washington District Education Association (WDEA) Installation Dinner – Mr. Adams thanked WDEA for everything that they do for the District.
- Retiree Reception – thanked Dr. Cook and Carol Donaldson for their efforts and Mr. Maza for the wonderful speech.

Mrs. Lambert shared that she enjoyed attending the events mentioned by Mr. Adams. She stated that she was looking forward to attending the promotion ceremonies to celebrate students going from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school. Mrs. Lambert thanked all of the teachers who helped the students with their education and achievements.

Mr. Jahneke apologized for not being able to attend the Retiree Reception. He congratulated all of the retirees and acknowledged their years of service to the District.

Mr. Jahneke shared that he was looking forward to speaking at the three promotion ceremonies at Cholla Middle School on May 24, 2013. He planned to tell the students that the promotion ceremony was just one of many beginnings and new opportunities for them.

May 23, 2013

Ms. Graziano acknowledged and thanked the students and art teachers at Abraham Lincoln, Mountain View, Orangewood, Sunnyslope, and Sweetwater schools for the artwork displayed in the Governing Board Room.

Ms. Graziano asked for the Board's permission to have her activities for the month entered into the minutes without verbally stating them in order to save time and her voice (affected by illness). Ms. Graziano thanked all of the groups responsible for the wonderful school celebrations, e.g., concerts, science fairs, end of the year events. She congratulated the retirees and graduates. She shared that she enjoyed attending the following events:

- Lamp of Learning
- Greg Lucas Track and Field Meet at Thunderbird High School
- BEGIN Graduation
- Acacia Elementary School – Title I Reward School Celebration
- Lookout Mountain Old School Farewell Party
- Royal Palm – Band and Orchestra Concert
- Arroyo – Band Concert
- Mountain Sky – Band, Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Concert
- After-School Academy Excellence Awards
- Arroyo – Science Fair
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Literacy Night at the Cholla Library
- Chaparral – Band Concert
- Moon Mountain – Science Fair, Art Show, Band/String/Guitar Concert
- Washington High School – Band and Strings Concert
- WDEA Installation Dinner
- Desert Foothills – Band Concert
- Chaparral – Choir Concert
- Abraham Lincoln – Band and Strings Concert
- Sunburst – Choir Concert
- Retiree Reception

Mr. Maza shared the following:

- Apologized for not being able to attend the WDEA Installation Dinner.
- Referenced the May 20, 2013 tornado in Moore, Oklahoma and the teachers and students who were affected at two schools. Mr. Maza stated that every adult who is inside of a school (e.g., teachers, principals, support professionals) are all heroes 365 days a year.

Dr. Cook introduced Mr. Todd Liolios who is working on his superintendent's internship with Dr. Cook. She stated that Mr. Liolios is an administrator in another district.

Dr. Cook introduced Mr. Dave Anderson, Principal of Sahuaro Elementary School who, in turn, introduced Ms. Nora Gottschlich, Program Coach, and Mr. Steve Stouffer, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. They gave a presentation about Sahuaro's professional development efforts to implement Math and Reading curricula.

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

Dr. Cook advised the Board that the Arizona Middle Level Association was an organization that celebrated adolescent teaching and learning. Dr. Cook was pleased to announce that the District had 16 award winners that were honored at an awards breakfast on April 25, 2013. Dr. Cook introduced Dr. Janet Altersitz, who was a seminal member of the group and was honored last year as Administrator of the Year by

the organization. Dr. Altersitz introduced the following award winners: Joy Metcalf, Cardinals Academy; Nada Cox, Martye Fredley, Tom Mobley, Andrew Warren, and Linda Wepler, Desert Foothills Junior High School; Andrea Bennett, Theresa Brooks, and Stephanie Sanschagrin, Maryland School; Deanna Handorf, Mountain Sky Junior High School; Carrie Hale, Merry Hammes, Angela Castro, and Amy Raper, Palo Verde Middle School; and Katrina Lomax and Megan Tolway, Royal Palm Middle School. Dr. Cook introduced the school principals who nominated the award winners. Each teacher was presented with a certificate.

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

There was no public participation.

#### **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.

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke 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**

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 welcomed the following new administrators:

- Polly Schultz, Principal at Ironwood Elementary School
- Darcy Estrada, Assistant Principal at Cholla Middle School

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 Desert Foothills Junior High School.
2. The Washington Education Foundation donated a check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Cactus Wren Elementary School.
3. Edward Brophy donated a Perkins Braille with the case and instruction manual for Braille transcribing, an English Braille American Edition, and Braille books with an approximate value of \$500.00 to be used for special needs students throughout the District.
4. The Washington Education Foundation donated a check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used to support the Retiree Reception.
5. Alliance Communities/Vaseo Apartments donated a check in the amount of \$750.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Lookout Mountain Elementary School.

6. Alliance Communities/Vaseo Apartments donated a check in the amount of \$750.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Mountain Sky Junior High School
7. W. Scott Donaldson donated decorations and gifts with an approximate value of \$426.00 for the Lamp of Learning celebration.
8. The National Youth Tobacco Survey (CDC) donated a check in the amount of \$500.00 to Desert Foothills Junior High School for their participation in the 2013 National Youth Tobacco Survey.
9. Chapman Mazda donated the \$500.00 rental fee for bounce houses for the benefit of students attending the Spring Fling at Cactus Wren Elementary School.

\*D. Proposed Governing Board Meeting Dates for the 2013-2014 School Year UNANIMOUS

\*E. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy GCCA/GDCA – Professional/Support Staff General Leave UNANIMOUS

### III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEM

**A. Memoranda of Understanding with APS for Possible Participation in the Solar for Schools Program on Selected WESD Campuses** UNANIMOUS

Dr. Cook advised the Board that the recommendation had verbiage “pending agreement by APS to delete the highlighted phrase in the third bullet of the attestations”. Dr. Cook stated that APS had approved the District’s request and had removed three words on each Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Ms. Graziano asked if there was a timeline involved or was this only the request to participate in the program. Dr. Cook responded that this was the first step in the process to express the District’s intent to participate in the program.

A motion was made by Mr. Maza that the Governing Board approve the Memoranda of Understanding for possible participation in the Solar for Schools Program on selected Washington Elementary School District campuses and authorize the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried.

### IV. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEM

**A. 2013 WESD Override Task Force Update**

Dr. Cook advised the Board that a task force had been meeting for two months to see if it was in the District’s best interest to recommend one or more override elections in November 2013. Dr. Cook stated that information was offered to give the Board the opportunity to ask questions or offer input. Dr. Cook advised that, pending Board comments, it was the District’s intention to provide a recommendation to the Board at the June 13, 2013 Governing Board meeting.

Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Sue Snyder, who chaired the task force, to provide the information to the Board. Ms. Snyder presented the Board with details of the work accomplished by the task force composed of thirty members.

Mr. Adams asked the following questions:

- Since the Legislature approved the use of the word “continuation” for override election verbiage, would the District use the word “continuation” if a decision was made to hold an override election in November? Ms. Thompson replied

that she had received preliminary ballot language which stated “continuation of an M&O override at an increased cost of zero”. Mr. Maza asked if the District elected to go for the 15%, was that 2% more than what the K-3 and the M&O would be. Ms. Thompson responded no. Ms. Thompson reported that a few years ago, anyone who had a K-3 could combine for 17%, however, this was no longer available. She advised that the District currently had a 10% M&O override and a 5% K-3 override for a total of 15%. Dr. Cook stated that the override language would state it was a continuation for both.

- If the District holds an override election utilizing the terminology “continuation”, would there be no increase to taxpayers? Ms. Thompson replied that the ballot language would compare the estimated budget with the override and the alternate budget without the override; therefore, the District’s ballot would state zero for the difference. Ms. Thompson further stated that even though the difference between the estimated and alternate budgets was zero, it could be a higher amount than we currently have. Mr. Maza stated that home valuations were increasing, therefore, the dollar amount could increase. Ms. Thompson reported that would affect the tax rate.
- Are taxpayers going to see an increase? Ms. Thompson responded that taxpayers would not necessarily see an increase because it would depend on the value of their home and what they had been paying. She reported that the taxpayer would not see an increase any differently than what they would experience with the current override.
- Are we considering bundling the M&O override and the Capital override? Ms. Thompson replied that it would be two separate questions on the ballot. Mr. Adams clarified that the M&O override would be a continuation and the Capital override would be a new request. Ms. Thompson agreed that was correct.
- Would the total cost to taxpayers for all of the overrides and bond elections be \$600.00-\$1,000.00 per year? Ms. Thompson responded that based on a \$100,000.00 home, the total cost to a taxpayer would be \$339.00 per year.
- Did the consultant who attended one of the task force meetings provide any input as to what the District’s override success might be? Ms. Snyder responded that the consultant did not give direct input, however, warned the committee that it would be a challenge.
- How were the task force members selected? Ms. Snyder replied that principals were asked to identify parents who were willing to be involved. District personnel served as resources and provided background information. Dr. Cook stated that members from last year’s committee were asked if they wished to participate this year, schools had notices in the newsletters asking for volunteers to serve on the committee, and several people were selected. Dr. Cook informed the Board that at the onset, the majority of the members were parents and community members on the task force and they requested more teachers to serve. At that time, the District invited teachers from across the District to serve on the task force.
- In the presentation on June 13, 2013, would like to see how questions from the community could be addressed, including accountability, transparency, and return on investment. Ms. Snyder replied that the presentation would include Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and responses.

Mr. Adams commented that an override election will be a very difficult task and will require a very strong campaign, including a marketing campaign and educating the public.

Mr. Jahneke thanked the Political Action Committee (PAC) who worked hard on last year’s Capital override campaign which lost by a small margin. Mr. Jahneke stated that if the Board decided to call for an election, they would have to trust the PAC because

they would be charged with the marketing of the override. He said he had confidence with the PAC's ability to succeed in marketing the overrides if the Board decided to call for an election.

Mr. Jahneke appreciated the many hours of work of the task force to provide the information for possible overrides. He said there might be increased enthusiasm for something really substantial that would potentially help the District for a long time. Mr. Jahneke asked if the task force's recommendation would help motivate the marketing to a higher level on its own because of the scope of the recommendation. Ms. Snyder replied that the task force hoped so, but knew that there were segments of the population that were not technologically savvy and possibly did not recognize the value of technology as part of instruction.

Mr. Jahneke stated that many community members do not understand that the District's budget cannot be spent based on need, but is based on category. The public may not know the difference of hard capital and soft capital.

Mrs. Lambert thanked Ms. Snyder and the task force for the presentation. Mrs. Lambert stated that the District was put in a position to consider calling for an override because of the legislature's budget combining Soft Capital and CORL funding at the 2013 limit which had already been reduced for several years. She said that the Capital dollars and the needs of the District do not line up, therefore, forcing the District to ask for additional funding from taxpayers to help support instruction in the classrooms.

Mrs. Lambert was pleased that the word "continuation" could be used in the override language because it had been confusing to constituents in the past. She hoped that the taxpayers would be able to support our schools since the economy was improving.

Mrs. Lambert stated that the override funds go directly to the District to benefit the children and would not be combined with other general funds, nor be diverted by legislature decisions. Mr. Maza stated that with the kindergarten weight related to the RCL, the legislature can tell a local school district what to do with its money.

Regarding Option #1 and Option #2, Mrs. Lambert stated there was a lot to implement so that all of the students would benefit and understood that it could not all be done at once. Mrs. Lambert asked the following questions:

- Option #1 sees the results sooner, but the bandwidth was not adequate to implement. Option #2 would take five years before the majority of students had devices. Mrs. Lambert stated she was not sure she understood how we were going to see results sooner in Option #1, while still having trouble with the bandwidth in meeting the infrastructure needs. Chris Lieurance, Director of MIS, responded that Option #1 was what last year's task force created for the November 2012 capital override election which put a great deal of emphasis on getting a faster return on investment for the taxpayers' dollars. Mr. Lieurance stated that this year's task force felt Option #1 would be difficult to implement, therefore, created Option #2 which takes a more methodic approach of piloting, testing, and implementing the technology. This approach would increase the success to integrate technology in the classroom and have it be a useful tool to educate children, not to show the voters that we are spending their money quickly.
- Mrs. Lambert stated that technology changes from year to year and asked if the group of devices purchased the first year would have the same capability/capacity of devices purchased in the fifth year. Mr. Lieurance replied that generally applications do not jump ahead of the technology, e.g., an iPad 2 that was several years old could run all the applications that a new iPad 4 runs. He stated that is why devices were not specifically identified in the options. Mr. Lieurance said that technology devices would be reviewed

throughout the plan and it was possible that they could move in a different direction in the middle of the five year span as technology changed significantly.

- Mrs. Lambert said she liked that responders gave teachers immediate feedback on students' comprehension after instruction was delivered. She stated that teachers could check for understanding on the subject and provide guidance for future instruction. Are responders in the classroom a part of the technology plan? Mr. Lieurance replied that there were currently some responders in the classroom, however, it was not part of the original plan. He advised there could possibly be excess funds available to purchase responders.

Ms. Graziano thanked Ms. Snyder and the committee for their work and providing recommendations. Ms. Graziano made the following comments:

- Appreciated seeing the notes from the meetings to see the thought processes and how the decisions were made.
- Option #2 changes were wise choices and vital for the overall success:
  - Do not buy all of the computers before the infrastructure is in place.
  - Do not give the kids computers before the teachers know how to use them.
  - Pilot one school since it would be easier to fix a problem at one school rather than all 32 schools.
- Glad that the parent notification system would be implemented sooner in Option #2.
- The capital override election amount is \$55 million for both Option #1 and Option #2. Why does Option #2 under Pros and Cons say there will be a "Greater burden on taxpayer"? Ms. Snyder stated that the statement should not have been listed since the amounts are the same for both options.
- Why is the Network Contingency different for Option #1 and Option #2 if the override amount is the same? Mr. Lieurance replied that there was a large gap between the age of the equipment and what it should be, therefore, the possibility of failure, if it does not get replaced, increases every year. He stated there would be a yearly allotment of \$7,850,000.00 for both options. The allotment in the first year was kept at a minimum to allow for any emergencies in subsequent years. Mr. Lieurance reported that both options would spend the same amount.
- By combining the K-3 and M&O overrides, it would save the District money by eliminating the need to have separate ballot items every two years. If the District elected to call for the Capital override and the combined K-3 and M&O override at the same time, it would only have to go to the voters every five years and would eliminate the cost of three separate ballots.
- Might be more transparent to the voters to call for the three overrides at one time rather than going back to them over and over again. She stated it would be more difficult to educate the voters the first time. It would be a huge benefit to the voters to know that it would only be every five years and would save the District money.

Mr. Maza requested a report regarding safety and security of the schools with the potential of the large amount of technology sitting inside a building.

Mr. Maza stated that it upsets him when he consistently hears on the news how well the economy is doing, e.g., increases in stock market and housing prices. He said that almost all segments of the economy are doing well except the public sector which is made up of local consumers, e.g., mainly teachers. Mr. Maza referenced his comments at the May 23, 2013 Governing Board meeting regarding Performance Based Pay being

so strong and it had to be sales tax revenue that we don't know about at the State level that is not making it into the budget.

Mr. Maza advised that the overrides will take an extreme amount of education. He is looking forward to the discussion at the next Governing Board meeting on June 13, 2013.

Dr. Cook asked for clarification regarding accountability, transparency, and return on investment which are messaging issues and will be charged to the PAC to educate the voters. Dr. Cook asked if the Governing Board wanted a follow-up meeting regarding the messaging if the Board decided to call for an override election. Mr. Maza asked if Ms. Snyder could provide information derived from the discussion at this meeting to that potential entity. Dr. Cook advised the Board that when presenting them with a recommendation at the June 13, 2013 Governing Board meeting, the supporting materials would be provided, including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which would be able to be posted on the website.

Mr. Maza asked if it would be possible to narrow the number of options on the potential agenda item. Dr. Cook replied that it was possible.

Dr. Cook thanked Ms. Snyder and the task force members for the incredible amount of work they did.

**V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

**VI. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Mr. Maza acknowledged the end of the school year.

Dr. Cook acknowledged Edward and Deborah Hoff, parents of a student at Abraham Lincoln Traditional School (ALTS) who submitted a very complimentary letter about the teachers at ALTS.

Mr. Maza acknowledged Joyce Shiota for providing each Board member with a copy of their Oath of Office document for future reference, if needed.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**UNANIMOUS**


A motion was made by Mr. Adams to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

**SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS**

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary

  
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BOARD SECRETARY

6/13/13  
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DATE

  
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BOARD OFFICIAL

06/13/13  
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DATE