

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

2012-2013

June 13, 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, Ms. Clorinda Graziano, Mr. Aaron Jahneke, and Mrs. Tee Lambert. Mr. Bill Adams joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

**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. Jahneke that the Governing Board adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda, with flexibility. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. 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 23, 2013 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

**UNANIMOUS**

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

Mr. Jahneke shared that he enjoyed attending the promotion ceremonies at Cholla Middle School. He stated that they were inspiring and were a reminder to him to be a lifelong learner and continue to support education.

Mrs. Lambert shared the following:

- Enjoyed attending the Arizona Business and Education Coalition (ABEC) meeting. She advised Board members that she would share a PowerPoint presentation from the keynote speaker titled “Being Poor by Choice”. The speaker conducted research on the socioeconomic status in Arizona.
- Enjoyed attending the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Legislative Committee meeting to review submissions of proposed issues for the Political Agenda. She stated that ASBA had transformed its process for the Political Agenda and the committee’s recommendations were forthcoming.
- Thanked Governor Brewer for her efforts to have the education budget approved by the Legislature which will enable the District to finalize its budget.

Ms. Graziano shared that she enjoyed attending the promotion ceremonies at Mountain View, Maryland, Sunnyslope, and Sweetwater Schools. She thanked the schools for the opportunity to speak at the promotion ceremonies.

June 13, 2013

Ms. Graziano shared that the Glendale Summer Band Concerts were scheduled every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. through July 25, 2013. The concerts are free to the public and are at the Murphy Park Amphitheater at 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Glendale Avenue.

Mr. Adams shared that he enjoyed attending the promotion ceremonies at Palo Verde Middle School and Abraham Lincoln Tradition School. He thanked the administrators, teachers, parents, and grandparents for supporting the students.

Mr. Maza shared the following:

- Enjoyed speaking at the promotion ceremonies at Royal Palm Middle School and Desert Foothills Junior High School. He thanked the administrators and teachers for the excellent job of organizing the events. He stated that the promotion ceremonies were well attended and were pleasant, educationally supportive, family oriented, and student centered.
- Echoed Mrs. Lambert's sentiments regarding Governor Brewer. He recognized the legislators representing the District who worked very hard to ensure that students and citizens were covered in different ways with the approval of the State's budget which enabled the District to produce its own budget.

#### **G. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

#### **H. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

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

**UNANIMOUS**

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**

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.

**UNANIMOUS**

Dr. Cook welcomed the following new administrators:

- John Shikany, Director of Public Safety and Security
- Kathleen McKeever, Director of Academic Support Services
- Deirdre Mai, Administrator of Academic Support Services
- Lynn Vineyard, Principal of Chapparal
- Robyn Muzich, Assistant Principal of Roadrunner
- Amanda Wilber, Assistant Principal of Washington
- Micaela Wollschlager, Assistant Principal of Manzanita
- Cody Riding, Assistant Principal of Shaw Butte
- Pamela Wright, Assistant Principal of Ocotillo

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

Mr. Maza welcomed the new administrators and thanked the family, friends, and faculty who attended. Mr. Maza stated that it was often noted that the single largest determinant of student achievement was the teacher inside the classroom; and the single largest determinant of the teacher staying in public education and in the classroom was the leadership at the site.

- \*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. Acacia Parent/Teacher Association donated a check in the amount of \$8,000.00 to be used to purchase the writing program, "Write Steps", for teachers at Acacia Elementary School.
  2. Arizona Department of Education donated a Title I award check in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used to purchase the writing program, "Write Steps", for teachers at Acacia Elementary School.
  3. Arizona Diamondbacks donated a check in the amount of \$380.00 to be used for band instrument repairs at Palo Verde Middle School.
  4. Cash America donated a check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for the purchase and/or repair of musical instruments at Palo Verde Middle School.
  5. Charity in Spades donated a check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for supplies (e.g., stationery, stamps, pencils, envelopes) for students participating in the Pencil Pal Program at Mountain View School.
  6. Moon Mountain Parent/Teacher/Student Association donated a check in the amount of \$2,700.00 to be used for bulletin boards for the benefit of students at Moon Mountain Elementary School
  7. Peter Piper Pizza, Inc. donated a check in the amount of \$500.00 for the benefit of students at Alta Vista Elementary School.
  8. Peter Piper Pizza, Inc. donated a check in the amount of \$449.78 for student events and activities at Lakeview Elementary School.
  9. Peter Piper Pizza, Inc. donated pizzas with a value of \$386.56 for lunch for principals during PLA.
  10. Safeway, Inc. donated a check in the amount of \$3,249.00 for the benefit of students and families at Sweetwater School.
  11. The Hartford Group donated a check in the amount of \$2,400.00 for the benefit of students at Maryland School.
  12. Verizon Foundation donated a check in the amount of \$400.00 for the benefit of students at Ironwood Elementary School.
- \*D. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the Greater Phoenix Purchasing Consortium for Schools (GPPCS), Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE) and The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN) **UNANIMOUS**
- \*E. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN) to Utilize Midstate Energy for Energy Performance Contracting Services **UNANIMOUS**

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|-----|---|-----------|
| *F. | Extension and Renewal of Annual Contracts for Specified Goods and Services  | UNANIMOUS |
| *G. | Award of Contract – Bid No. 13.005, Bus and Vehicle Washing to Ace Mobile Wash  | UNANIMOUS |
| *H. | Award of Contract – Bid No. 13.016, Nutrition Services Kitchen Equipment and Smallwares   | UNANIMOUS |
| *I. | District Representative for Procurement Protests for Fiscal Year 2013-2014  | UNANIMOUS |
| *J. | Renewal of Lease with the Roman Catholic Church for Private School Consortium Facilities at Bourgade High School (Modular Building Site and Parking Area) | UNANIMOUS |
| *K. | Facilities Use and Special Education Agreement Between Hi-Star Center for Children and Washington Elementary School District                              | UNANIMOUS |
| *L. | Permission to Pursue Character Education Matching Grant on Behalf of the District   | UNANIMOUS |

### III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

**At the discretion of the chair, Mr. Maza moved Action Item III.C. before Action Item III.A.**

**C. Award of Contract – Bid No. 13.020 – Summer Site Improvements for: Shaw Butte, Mountain Sky, Sunburst and Ocotillo Schools to Danson Construction LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$918,900.00**

Dr. Cook advised the Board that the District was recommending an award of contract to Danson Construction for several current bond projects. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Cathy Thompson, Director of Business Services; Mr. Mike Kramer, Director of Capital Projects/Maintenance; and Mr. Paul Hartley, Principal of the H2 Group, to offer information to the Board.

Mr. Kramer reviewed the summer site improvement projects:

- Ocotillo – Due to severe traffic congestion, changing circulation of vehicles in the parking lot.
- Sunburst – Asphalt basketball courts in very poor condition will be demolished and replaced with concrete asphalt courts.
- Shaw Butte – Considerable traffic congestion on the 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Cactus Road corridor. The current parking lot only has one entrance/exit. All of the asphalt will be removed and a new parking lot will be built with two exits to improve circulation – one on 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and one on Cactus Road.
- Mountain Sky – Adding a dedicated entrance further south on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue away from the signal light and changing the circulation of traffic to alleviate traffic congestion.

Mr. Kramer advised the Board that the Purchasing Department had notified 86 vendors of the solicitation and Danson Construction, LLC was the lowest bid at \$918,900.00 from eight responsive, responsible offers received.

Mr. Adams asked if this was a job contract or a hard bid. Mr. Kramer responded that it was a public competition hard bid and not a job ordered contract.

Mr. Adams asked if the contract could exceed \$918,900.00. Mr. Kramer replied that there was a contingency amount of \$36,000.00 included, however, the contract would not exceed \$918,900.00.

**A. To Consider, Discuss, Amend if Desired, and if Deemed Advisable, to Adopt a Resolution Ordering and Calling a Special Capital Outlay Override Election to be Held in and for the District and Declaring the Deadline for Submitting Arguments “For” and “Against” the Election to the Maricopa County School Superintendent as August 9, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.**

Dr. Cook advised that the District was proposing that the Governing Board call for a possible capital override election as discussed at the May 23, 2013 Governing Board meeting. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Cathy Thompson, Director of Business Services, to offer the information.

Ms. Thompson presented the following information regarding the possible capital override:

- Defined capital override as a secondary tax levy to pay for capital needs, including mostly technology requirements, that cannot be met by a school district’s regular capital budget.
- To date, the District had not had a capital override. The District’s November 2012 capital override election failed by 436 votes.
- Task force decision-making processes.
- Task force options considered with advantages and disadvantages identified.
- Task force conclusions and recommendation.

Mr. Maza stated that prior to a vote being taken on an election, the legal requirements around advocacy were not in effect until the vote had been taken. Mr. Maza said he wanted to reserve the discussion or comments with regard to a possible recommendation until the motion was on the floor and prior to the vote. Therefore, Mr. Maza advised the Board that he would use the following specific order regarding this item:

- Questions
- Motion
- Discussion/Comments
- Vote for motion on the floor

There were no questions from Governing Board members. Mr. Maza stated that there was no precedent regarding public participation, however, asked if anyone from the public had any questions for Ms. Thompson through him. A community member asked what the impact of the tax levy would be to a homeowner of a home assessed at \$100,000.00. Ms. Thompson responded that for a capital override election, the impact would be approximately \$73.00. Mr. Maza asked if the amount for a home assessed at \$200,000.00 would be two times the \$73.00 tax levy. Ms. Thompson replied that Mr. Maza was correct and the tax levy would be \$146.00 for a home assessed at \$200,000.00.

Dr. Cook recognized and thanked the following task force members who were present at the meeting: Jeff Spellman, Linda Armbruster, Pat MacArthur, and Chris Lieurance.

Mr. Maza exercised his president’s privilege and made the motion.

Mrs. Lambert was appreciative of the task force’s hard work and realized it had worked on this project for several years. Mrs. Lambert stated that there was a dire need and this recommendation was the venue that the District could use to help accomplish goals in the infrastructure that was needed to meet the new assessments and requirements for the children’s education.

Mr. Adams asked for clarification on a rhetorical question that the Governing Board was asking the public if they wish to fund an override via an election. Dr. Cook responded that the Governing Board was calling for a possible override election to allow the voters to make the decision to approve or not.

Ms. Graziano stated that the recommendation did not specify an amount requested for the capital override and asked if the Governing Board had to decide which option they preferred. Ms. Thompson replied that the Resolution indicated the amount of \$7,800,000.00. Dr. Cook confirmed that the amount was on the Resolution and that it was a legal document.

Ms. Graziano referenced the last sentence on the Sample Ballot: "Under the Students FIRST capital funding system, Washington Elementary School District is entitled to State monies for building renewal, new construction and renovation of school buildings in accordance with State law." Ms. Graziano said she assumed that the verbiage was legally required to be on the Sample Ballot. She asked if it was possible to add a disclaimer stating that the District had not received the funds for several years and did not anticipate receiving any in the near future. Dr. Cook advised that it would be possible to include the disclaimer in the Board's letter. Mr. Jim Giel, bond counsel from Gust Rosenfeld, stated that other school districts had also suggested adding a disclaimer on the Sample Ballot, but were respectfully told it was not allowed. Mr. Giel advised the Board that it was required to prepare a Pro Statement and it had the opportunity to include a disclaimer statement in the Pro Statement. Mr. Giel stated that, additionally, there was a Purpose Statement in the Voter Information Pamphlet that legal counsel works with the District to prepare. He advised that the Purpose Statement was within the body of the pamphlet, not with the Pro/Con Statements, and was neutral in tone and content. Mr. Giel advised that the Board could choose to disclose that the District had not received Student FIRST monies because that was a truthful statement.

Mr. Jahneke thanked the members of the task force for their hard work and appreciated the information they presented to the Board. Mr. Jahneke stated that he hoped the public realized the hours of work that the task force did to review the District's needs and options.

Mr. Maza stated his household was based on information technology and he had a keen sense of how that part of the business works. Mr. Maza advised that the school district where he works had a capital override that was dedicated to technology. He invited any community member, parent, student, or employee from the Washington Elementary School District to visit one of the schools in the Paradise Valley Unified School District to see the significant difference in regard to technology. Mr. Maza said it was amazing to see what technology, as a tool, could do for students to assist them in their learning.

Mr. Maza advised that he had attended many business meetings where technology was utilized and how business was conducted in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He stated there were people who would question the need of technology for our students to prepare them for the business workplace. Mr. Maza said it would be nice if we did not have to replace or upgrade technology, but technology was built with an imbedded obsolescence. Mr. Maza stated that if the District did not keep up with new technology, it was not keeping up with students' needs to enter the workplace.

Mr. Maza referred to Mr. Jahneke's comment of hoping the public understands. Mr. Maza was appreciative of the potential to ask the question because you don't know how the public will respond until you ask the question. He appreciated the opportunity to speak in support of our students and speaking in support of the fact that technology will make them competitive. Mr. Maza stated that it was more than a hope that the public

understands this, but was an expectation that the public would become learned in the importance of this subject.

The following comments were made during the roll call vote:

- Mr. Jahneke was pleased to have the opportunity to do something beneficial for the District.
- Ms. Graziano thanked the task force committee for all of the information that helped the Governing Board make an informed decision and hoped that the voters would do as much research so they would be informed voters.
- Mr. Maza thanked the task force for the information that they provided which will become essential for any community committee that would be charged with the promotion of this potential item.

A motion was made by Mr. Maza that the Governing Board adopt the Resolution ordering and calling a special capital outlay override election to be held in and for Washington Elementary School District No. 6 of Maricopa County, Arizona, on November 5, 2013, providing for notice of the election, the conduct of the election, the printing of ballots, the canvassing of the election and compliance with the Voting Rights Act. Additionally, it was moved that the Governing Board adopt the informational publications associated with this Agenda item, as well as the non-interactive Washington Elementary School District Web site page on which capital outlay override-related information is posted. It was further moved that the Governing Board declare the deadline for submitting arguments “for” and “against” the election to the Maricopa County School Superintendent as August 9, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. A roll call vote was requested. The motion carried 5-0.

**B. To Consider, Discuss, Amend if Desired, and if Deemed Advisable, to Adopt a Resolution Ordering and Calling a Special Budget Override Election to be Held in and for the District and Declaring the Deadline for Submitting Arguments “For” and “Against” the Election to the Maricopa County School Superintendent as August 9, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.**

**5-0 AYE**

Dr. Cook advised that the District was proposing that the Governing Board call for a possible M&O override election as discussed at the May 23, 2013 Governing Board meeting. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Cathy Thompson, Director of Business Services, to offer the information.

Ms. Thompson presented the following information regarding the possible M&O override:

- Defined M&O override as an additional maintenance and operations funding for local schools, earmarked for specific educational purposes and generated through local property tax levies.
- District’s M&O override (10% of RCL) was reauthorized in November 2010.
- District’s K-3 override (5% of RCL) was reauthorized in 2009.
- Districts now have the option of consolidating into a single 15% M&O override.
- Task force options considered with advantages and disadvantages identified.
- Task Force conclusions and recommendation.

Mr. Maza advised the Board that the same specific order would be utilized as in the previous agenda item.

Mrs. Lambert asked the following questions:

- Asked for clarification that this was a continuation of the M&O and K-3

overrides that are currently in place and not asking for additional monies. Ms. Thompson responded that this would be a continuation of the M&O and K-3 overrides, but would consolidate them into one override. Ms. Thompson advised that it would not affect the taxpayer whether it was approved or not.

- Asked if the current M&O and K-3 override cycle would stop if this proposal should pass. Ms. Thompson replied that if the proposal passed, a new seven year cycle would start for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Asked if the Board called for this M&O override election and the statute had changed the language, would we still be able to follow the new statute with language change. Mr. Jim Giel, bond counsel from Gust Rosenfeld, stated that there was a delegation within the Resolution to allow District staff to make appropriate changes to the ballot, as necessary, to conform to the law. Mr. Giel advised that changes would be made to the ballot if there were any statutory changes.
- Asked if the voters would be advised that M&O override funds would not go into the State's general fund. Ms. Thompson replied that M&O override funds would go directly to the school district and could not be put into the State's general fund. The question and response were on Attachment A – Frequently Asked Questions, page 132, item 7. Dr. Cook advised that it was also addressed on page 109 for the capital override Frequently Asked Questions.

Mr. Adams asked if there would be language on the ballot stating that the current M&O and K-3 overrides would be combined for this proposed M&O override election. Ms. Thompson referred to the Exhibit A – Sample Ballot statement, “The amount of the proposed continuation of the budget increase of the proposed budget over the alternate budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 is estimated to be \$0.” Mr. Giel advised that the first paragraph of the Sample Ballot addresses the existing M&O and K-3 overrides in a formal manner. Mr. Giel suggested that the explanation for the combination of the M&O and K-3 overrides could be clearly defined in the Purpose Statement for the Voter Information Pamphlet. Mr. Adams asked if it was feasible to simplify the language on the ballot, if it was legally possible, so the voters would understand that the existing overrides were being combined into the 15% M&O override for a \$0 increase to the taxpayer. Mr. Giel stated that it might be possible and would work with Ms. Thompson to accommodate Mr. Adams' request.

Mr. Jahneke stated that he liked the idea of simplifying the process. Mr. Jahneke said it was a challenge to get people to understand the different budget lines and that some monies could not be transferred between budget lines, e.g., M&O funds could not be transferred to capital funds. He advised there was a need to educate the voters.

Mr. Maza clarified Mr. Jahneke's statement about monies being transferred from one budget line to another. Mr. Maza advised that M&O funds could be transferred to the capital budget line. However, it would not be in the District's best interest to do so since salaries come out of M&O. Ms. Thompson stated that the District had the option of what percentage could go into the M&O and capital budgets. She advised that the M&O budget was a large commitment because 89% of M&O was for salaries.

Mr. Maza stated that if the override should pass, a homeowner living within the District would not pay more taxes although the amount could change due to the fluctuation of the value of the home. Ms. Thompson reported that the amount would be the same for the homeowner whether the override passed or not. Mr. Maza noted that his tax statement had decreased over the past two years because the assessed value of his home had gone down.



Mr. Maza asked if there were any questions from the public in the audience. Hearing no questions, Mr. Maza exercised his president's privilege and made the motion.

Ms. Graziano thanked the task force for the information provided. She was appreciative that the information was provided in two Governing Board meetings and had the opportunity to take the time to make an informed decision. She also appreciated the fact that the District could use the verbiage that this was a "continuing" override. Ms. Graziano felt that once the public was educated, it would be easier to vote on the overrides at one time (every five years) rather than be asked every two years and was thankful to have the opportunity to change it.

Mr. Maza thanked the public for doing its due diligence and approving the current overrides, thus allowing the District to ask for a "continuing" override election. Mr. Maza hoped that the public could see that the District was trying to maintain and continue the work that it does for the children. Mr. Maza thanked the task force members for their work and providing the information to ask the question to the public.

Mr. Adams stated during the roll call vote that he was pleased there would be zero impact to the taxpayer.

A motion was made by Mr. Maza that the Governing Board adopt the Resolution ordering and calling a special budget override election to be held in and for Washington Elementary School District No. 6 of Maricopa County, Arizona, on November 5, 2013, providing for notice of the election, the conduct of the election, the printing of ballots, the canvassing of the election and compliance with the Voting Rights Act. Additionally, it was moved that the Governing Board adopt the informational publications associated with this Agenda item, as well as the non-interactive Washington Elementary School District Web site page on which M&O override-related information is posted. It was further moved that the Governing Board declare the deadline for submitting arguments "for" and "against" the election to the Maricopa County School Superintendent as August 9, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. A roll call vote was requested. The motion carried 5-0.

#### **IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Adams requested an update on the Bond Projects.

#### **V. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Mr. Jahneke acknowledged that he enjoyed attending Ironwood's outstanding Talent Show. He reported that the outgoing principal introduced the new principal.

Dr. Cook acknowledged receiving a letter from Evelyn Davidson, parent of Nicholas Meyers, who has attended Palo Verde Middle School since pre-school and will be in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The letter was a commendation and attribution to the Palo Verde principal, assistant principal, and all of the teachers. Dr. Cook stated it was a lovely tribute to the Palo Verde staff.

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

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Adams to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

**UNANIMOUS**

**SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS**

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary

Joyce Shiota  
BOARD SECRETARY

6/27/13  
DATE

Dawn J. J. J. J.  
BOARD OFFICIAL

06-27-13  
DATE