

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION

2011-2012

September 22, 2011

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 7:01 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 Mr. Adams that the Governing Board approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2011 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

F. Current Events: Governing Board and Superintendent

Mr. Adams wished everyone a good school year and shared that he enjoyed visiting the following schools and staff:

- Desert Foothills Junior High School and Principal, Jim Hall
- Lookout Mountain Elementary School and Principal, Tricia Heller-Johnson

Board members shared that they enjoyed the music provided by Mountain Sky students before that evening's Board meeting and thanked their teacher, Ms. Diana Polanski.

Mr. Jahneke shared that he appreciated the opportunity to purchase Washington Elementary School District logo shirts and was pleased to be wearing one that evening.

Dr. Cook thanked the Mountain Sky Junior High School music students for performing before that evening's Governing Board meeting. Dr. Cook acknowledged their music teacher, Diana Polanski, and the parents and family members who were in attendance to support the students. Dr. Cook introduced Principal, Perry Mason, who introduced music teacher, Diana Polanski. Ms. Polanski acknowledged the eighteen students who performed: Samantha Baird, Joshlyn Begay, Jazmine Covington, Aidan Cunningham, Carina Felix, Rachel Gettinger, Darian Holstad, Carley Kokran, Taylor Mayer, Natassja Meteer, Maggie Murray, Sarah Nuanez, Jennifer Oroxom, Mikala Throckmorton, Samantha

September 22, 2011

Villaverde, Katelyn Weber, Sarah Wolfram and Sarah Woodworth. Several students shared comments regarding the standards and the study of their music. Ms. Polanski thanked Principal, Perry Mason, and Assistant Principal, Barbara Newman, for attending and supporting the students and their music. Each student was presented with a certificate.

G. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

H. Approval of the Consent Agenda

UNANIMOUS

Ms. Graziano requested that Item *II.G. – Arizona Nutrition Network – Arizona Department of Health Service Contract ADSH11-000743 Amendment 5, Item *II.L. – Rachel’s Challenge Agreement, and Item *II.Q. – First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policies JFAA – Admission of Resident Students and JFAB – Tuition/Admission of Nonresident Students 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**

UNANIMOUS

Approved and ratified the vouchers as presented.

***B. Personnel Items**

UNANIMOUS

Approved the personnel items as presented.

***C. Public Gifts and Donations (The Value of Donated Items is Determined by the Donor)**

UNANIMOUS

Approved the public gifts and donations as presented.

1. The Phoenix Zoo donated scholarships with a value of \$2,000.00 to Acacia Elementary School’s 21st Century After-School Academy for 36 students and chaperones to attend Zooreach Night Camp.

2. Washington Education Foundation donated a check and gift cards with a total value of \$1,670.00 to support Washington Elementary School District’s annual United Way campaign.

3. Target Corporation donated a check in the amount of \$424.14 for the benefit of students at Shaw Butte Elementary School.

4. Thornburg Investment Management donated a check in the amount of \$1,600.00 for the benefit of students at Mountain Sky Junior High School.

***D. Award of Contract – Bid No. 11.006, Art Supplies**

UNANIMOUS

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

UNANIMOUS

***F. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the State Procurement Office (SPO)**

UNANIMOUS

- *G. Arizona Nutrition Network – Arizona Department of Health Service Contract ADHS11-000743 Amendment No. 5 **UNANIMOUS**

Ms. Graziano asked if the District was receiving more money from the Arizona Nutrition Network or did the District have additional costs. Ms. Connie Parmenter, Director of Nutrition Services, responded that the contract funding had decreased from last year, however, the decreased funding would be covered by the Nutrition Services Department budget and would not require additional funding from the District. Ms. Parmenter stated that this would not affect the services that the District provides for nutrition education activities for students in the classroom.

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve the Amendment to Contract ADHS11-000743 with the Arizona Department of Health Services. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried.

- *H. Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Phoenix for the Head Start Program **UNANIMOUS**

- *I. Renewal of Letter of Understanding with Operation Quality Time (QT), Inc. to Provide Grant Funds for After-School and Non-School Time Programs **UNANIMOUS**

- *J. Project Infinity Program with Phoenix Indian Center **UNANIMOUS**

- *K. Continuation of Services/Valle Del Sol – Family Service Center **UNANIMOUS**

- *L. Rachel’s Challenge Agreement **UNANIMOUS**

Ms. Graziano stated she had heard that Rachel’s Challenge was a great program. She asked how the District got involved with the program and how it would affect the curriculum. Dr. Cook advised that the District contacted Rachel’s Challenge last year in order to continue its anti-bullying message. Principals were provided with a presentation last spring and were informed that this was an optional program if it fits with a school’s anti-bullying curriculum.

Dr. Steve Murosky, Director of Academic Support Programs, stated that they had purchased curricular materials from Rachel’s Challenge to be used by the participating schools. Dr. Murosky said that six staff members at each participating school will have a six hour training on how to implement the lessons. Ms. Graziano asked how the six staff members were selected – did they volunteer? Dr. Murosky advised that staff members had not yet been selected. He stated that it would be voluntary and could include principals, social workers, after-school coordinators, intervention specialists or classroom teachers. Schools will determine the best choices for their individual campuses.

Mr. Graziano asked if the program was being funded by each participating school or the District. Dr. Cook advised that the program was being funded by Dr. Murosky’s budget (21st Century Grant and Academic Support Programs funds), tax credits and gifts and donations.

Ms. Graziano asked how the program was going to get into the curriculum and will it be different at each school. Dr. Cook replied that Rachel’s Challenge is designed to include a kick-off assembly, 26 lessons that can be integrated into both the school day and after-school prevention programs, and a community/parent component. In addition, the Board will be invited to an assembly to be held at Mountain Sky Junior High School on November 2.

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve the Agreement for Services and General Provisions with Rachel's Challenge and authorize the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

- *M. Acceptance of the John C. Lincoln Health Foundation Grant in the Amount of \$4,947.00 and the Arizona Department of Education Grant in the Amount of \$12,000.00 **UNANIMOUS**
- *N. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy BK – School Board Memberships **UNANIMOUS**
- *O. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy CBA – Qualifications and Duties of the Superintendent **UNANIMOUS**
- *P. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy JEB – Entrance Age Requirements **UNANIMOUS**
- *Q. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy JFAA – Admission of Resident Students and JFAB – Tuition/Admission of Nonresident Students **UNANIMOUS**

Ms. Graziano asked what new procedures there were and if a new line of questions was required. Mr. Rex Shumway, Legal Counsel, advised that the Legislature's provision, which was taken from the statute, appeared in bold at the bottom of page 54 of the Agenda. Mr. Shumway stated that in the past, there were a limited number of documents that could be accepted as proof of residency. He reported that the State had added additional forms of proof of residency, e.g., driver's license, passport, or notarized statement from person the family is living with.

Ms. Graziano asked if this created additional work for the school office staff when enrolling new students. Dr. Cook replied there were no reports of additional burden on office staff.

Mrs. Lambert asked if this would coincide with McKinney-Vento families. Mr. Shumway replied that the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act had separate guidelines and only applied to homeless families.

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve the First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policies JFAA – Admission of Resident Students and JFAB – Tuition/Admission of Nonresident Students. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

- *R. First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy GBAB – Medical Marijuana Standards and Conditions for Employees, GBECA – Nonmedical Use or Abuse of Drugs or Alcohol, KF – Community Use of School Facilities, KFA – Public Conduct on School Property and KFAA – Smoking on School Premises at Public Functions **UNANIMOUS**

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Growing Arroyo Committee Recommendation

Dr. Cook advised the Board that they were provided information on August 25, 2011, regarding a proposal on how the District might increase enrollment at Arroyo Elementary School. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Sue Snyder, Director of Organizational Development, and Phil Liles, Arroyo Principal, who presented the Board with parent survey results and reviewed the proposed plan's advantages, disadvantages and costs. Mr. Liles advised the Board that the Growing Arroyo Committee made a 100 percent consensus decision to recommend the following three-part proposal:

1. Introduce Arroyo INC as an optional after-school program for 5th and 6th graders during the current (2011-2012) school year;
2. Begin to integrate Arroyo INC concepts into the regular curriculum effective with the 2012-2013 school year, and upon full, school-wide implementation in 2013-2014, adopt Arroyo INC as Arroyo's magnet school theme, pending review of the after-school pilot program;
3. Convert Arroyo's grade configuration from K-6 to K-8 during a two-year period beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

Mr. Maza asked Board members if they preferred addressing the three proposals individually or as one motion. Ms. Graziano stated she would prefer three separate motions.

PROPOSAL #1:

Mr. Adams thanked the committee for its efforts and its out-of-the-box thinking. He asked if there was an opportunity to reach out to DECA, a similar high school program, for their expertise. Ms. Sandy Mendez Benson, parent, replied that they plan to extend an invitation to DECA so that they can learn from them. She hoped that DECA students would be able to offer their expertise in the classrooms or as tutors. Mr. Liles reported that Natalie McWhorter, Director of Curriculum, had a meeting scheduled with Junior Achievement BizTown for the following week to possibly use their program guidelines as thought starters for the Arroyo INC program.

Mr. Adams asked if the number of volunteers to maintain the program will be difficult to sustain. Ms. Mendez Benson stated that volunteers should not be a problem because the pilot program is short term and then it will be integrated into the regular curriculum as a magnet program. She advised that she had a large number of business contacts to utilize as speakers and mentors. Mr. Liles stated that there will be at least two certified teachers working on the pilot program in order to train and build a foundation for the following year in the classrooms.

Mrs. Lambert offered that normally the Board does not approve after-school programs and since proposal #2 is dependent on the outcome of the pilot program, she recommended that one motion be made for proposals #1 and #2.

PROPOSAL #2:

Mrs. Lambert asked what age groups would be offered the program. Mr. Liles replied that although the pilot program is only for 5th and 6th grades, he would eventually implement the program into the curriculum for all grades.

Mrs. Lambert offered the following comments:

- Even though there will be a focus on business and entrepreneurial skills, the life skills and academics to support the program will benefit the students no matter where they go in life.
- Sees this as a positive focus for the curriculum delivery.
- Very impressed with the research completed by the committee.
- Since very few schools offer a similar program, this should attract students to Arroyo.
- Appreciate that the focus was always on students, although the purpose was to increase enrollment.

Ms. Graziano asked if there was an estimated cost to implement the program. Mr. Liles replied that since the program is conceptual in nature, the pilot program will provide an idea for cost to implement the magnet program. Mr. Maza offered that often the costs come after the decision has been made to implement a new program. Mr. Maza stated that if revenue is generated, then a decision will need to be made to advance the concept from conceptual to practical. Dr. Cook stated that an estimate for the pilot program could be \$50,000.00 which the District would be able to support in its budget. Dr. Cook said they hope the program will bring back students who have left to go to other districts or charter schools, which will generate additional revenue for the District. Dr. Cook stated that cost information, as it is encountered, will be presented to the Board for consideration. She mentioned that there may be unanticipated donations.

Mr. Adams asked if more research should be conducted to find a different plan. He asked if Arroyo is converted to K-8, will they be taking students from the District's middle schools and exchanging revenue. Dr. Cook replied that Arroyo is not losing students to our own middle schools, however, they are losing them to other districts or charter schools.

Mr. Adams asked if the STEM program should be considered. Dr. Cook advised that STEM was part of the Arroyo INC program. Mr. Maza stated that STEM was a curricular disposition so teachers would be trained to focus their teaching in the domains of science, technology, engineering and math. Mr. Maza said that creating a product and marketing it would use STEM skills. He stated that the curricular dispositions are based on STEM. Mr. Adams asked that the District use a strong marketing concept for the Arroyo INC program. Mr. Maza stated that STEM does not sell a program and parents and students will not appreciate having STEM offered in the curriculum as much as educators will. He advised that what will sell it will be the competition piece of the proposed program. Mr. Maza said he would have been concerned if a marketing plan had been presented with the proposed program because it would have limited the creativity of the potential of the program. Mr. Maza appreciated the research conducted by the committee and obtaining feedback from parents and community members.

Mr. Jahneke asked for updates on the pilot program. The Board was advised they will be provided updates on the pilot program.

Dr. Cook stated that the Board was being presented with a creative concept that had been well researched for several months. Although every detail had not been completed, the committee has collected and processed a large amount of information which provide a very clear direction for Arroyo Elementary School. The committee's work not only invests in the Arroyo children, but hopefully, will increase the enrollment as well.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve introducing Arroyo INC as an optional after-school program for Arroyo 5th and 6th graders during the current (2011-2012) school year. Mrs. Lambert further moved that the Governing Board approve beginning the process of implementing Arroyo INC as a magnet program in 2012-2013, pending review of the after-school pilot program. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

PROPOSAL #3:

Mrs. Lambert asked Dr. Cook how the District will meet the needs of families who prefer a middle school environment. Dr. Cook responded that families will be encouraged to go to Cholla Middle School because as the District is working to grow Arroyo, it is also focusing on reimagining Cholla. Dr. Cook advised that there had been many conversations with Cholla leadership so that they understood that this program is not about taking students away from Cholla, but offering choice to our families.

Mrs. Lambert stated that she had heard that schools considering converting from K-6 to K-8 found one concern to be the lack of availability of extra-curricular activities. She asked if sports and music were available in the K-8 schools. Dr. Cook replied that sports and music are offered in the K-8 schools. Dr. Cook reported that Sue Snyder facilitated a meeting with Phil Liles and all of the K-8 school principals to discuss challenges and issues for a successful transition from K-6 to K-8. The principals were very candid and honest and advised that it was not an easy transition.

Mrs. Lambert asked how the District would meet the transportation needs of students who elect to attend Cholla, but live in the Arroyo area. Dr. Cook replied that the District would provide transportation for those students.

Ms. Graziano asked if they had talked to Cholla and what were the ramifications to Cholla. Dr. Cook advised that Phil Liles had many conversations with the Cholla principal. Mr. Liles stated that he had a close working relationship with the Cholla principal and assistant principal and had many candid conversations with them. Mr. Liles reported that they support each other professionally in their endeavors to do what is best for the children at both of their sites. Mr. Liles said that he would encourage parents to visit Cholla if they did not wish to stay at Arroyo.

Dr. Cook advised that a committee had been formed to create a plan to reimage and remarket Cholla. The plan will be provided to the Board members at a future Board meeting.

Ms. Graziano asked about the need for classroom furniture for four classrooms that was listed under anticipated costs. Dr. Cook advised they may have a need for bigger furniture to accommodate 7th and 8th grade students.

Ms. Graziano asked if Arroyo would be able to obtain Cholla's extra textbooks, if any, to avoid the cost of purchasing textbooks. Dr. Cook replied that the District will review every resource available for classroom furniture and textbooks to avoid additional expenses to the District. Mr. Liles reported that he had consulted with Cathy Thompson, Director of Business Services, and advised her that he wanted to implement the plan cost effectively without a large impact to the District's budget. Ms. Graziano expressed frustration and disappointment that the parent survey did not include a question asking parents where they would send their 6th graders if Arroyo was not a K-8 school. Mr. Greg Grantham, Arroyo teacher, reported that

they did not include that question on the parent survey because students were leaving at an earlier age, e.g., 2nd, 3rd, 4th grades, to get students into a K-8 school and keep them there. Ms. Graziano asked how many students were affected. Dr. Cook stated that 72 students had left Arroyo to go to other districts or charter schools between last year and this school year. Ms. Graziano stated that this information was what she requested and would have been helpful for her to make her decision to see if this was in the best interest for the District and not just for Arroyo.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve converting Arroyo's grade configuration from K-6 to K-8 during a two-year period beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried 4-1 Aye. Ms. Graziano voted nay.

4-1 AYE

B. 2012 Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Political Agenda: Governing Board Priorities

UNANIMOUS

Dr. Cook advised that ASBA had asked the Governing Board to select the ten legislative action proposals that are the most important for ASBA to pursue in any Legislative Session on Education. There were nine priorities selected by either two or three Board members.

Ms. Graziano suggested adding a tenth priority - Item II.3. (page 166) – Oppose any effort not initiated by local school districts, through their governing boards or voters, to consolidate or unify school districts. She stated it was her understanding that this item was scheduled to be on the Legislature's docket this year and could significantly affect our District.

A motion was made by Mr. Maza that the Governing Board submit the nine priorities listed and add Item II.3. for the tenth priority, as the Board's legislative priorities to be submitted to ASBA. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Adams requested that the District consider an outside agency to market the District.

V. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Cook acknowledged the work of Sue Snyder for her extraordinary research and compiling of information for the Growing Arroyo Committee work. Dr. Cook commended Sandy Mendez Benson for her hours of work and creativity on the Arroyo INC plan. Dr. Cook also acknowledged Phil Liles for his implementation skills.

VI. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

UNANIMOUS

Call for Executive Session: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 – A.1

It was recommended that the Governing Board establish an Executive Session to be held immediately during a recess in the Regular Meeting for:

- A.1 – Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body, except that with the exception of salary discussions, an officer, appointee or employee may demand that the discussion or consideration occur at a public meeting – specifically regarding the quarterly evaluation of the Superintendent.

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke to call for an Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. 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.1

- A.1 – Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body, except that with the exception of salary discussions, an officer, appointee or employee may demand that the discussion or consideration occur at a public meeting – specifically regarding the quarterly evaluation of the Superintendent

IX. RECONVENING OF REGULAR MEETING

X. ADJOURNMENT

UNANIMOUS

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 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

10/13/11
DATE

Mr. Jahneke
BOARD OFFICIAL

10-13-2011
DATE