

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING

2011-2012

June 14, 2012

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 7:04 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present: Mr. Chris Maza, Mr. Bill Adams, Ms. Clorinda Graziano, and Mr. Aaron Jahneke. Mrs. Tee Lambert participated telephonically. Ms. Graziano and Mrs. Lambert departed the meeting at 8:45 p.m. after Agenda Item III.G. At the discretion of the chair, Mr. Maza moved Action Items III.F. and III.G. after Action Item III.C.

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 Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

E. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that the Governing Board approve the Minutes of the May 24, 2012 Regular Meeting and Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

F. Current Events: Governing Board and Superintendent

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

- Orangewood School's groundbreaking ceremony for the Studio green schoolhouse project.
- Promotion ceremonies at Mountain Sky Junior High School and Royal Palm Middle School. Mr. Adams acknowledged that he borrowed a comment that he liked from Ms. Graziano's promotion speech, telling students that they were half way through their education.
- Arizona Business & Education Coalition (ABEC) Conference.
- Arizona School Administrators (ASA) Conference – thanked the District's administrators who attended the conference for making him feel welcome.

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

- Orangewood School's groundbreaking ceremony for the Studio green schoolhouse project.
- Promotion ceremonies at Palo Verde Middle School, Desert Foothills Junior High School, and Orangewood School – thanked principals and staff for making the ceremonies interesting and different every year.

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

- Promotion ceremonies at Palo Verde Middle School, Maryland School, and Sweetwater School. Ms. Graziano stated she was impressed that the students at Sweetwater School wrote letters to their parents thanking them for their support.
- Orangewood School's groundbreaking ceremony for the Studio green schoolhouse project.

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

- Promotion ceremonies at Cholla Middle School and Abraham Lincoln Traditional School. Mrs. Lambert thanked the principals, staff, and parents for allowing her to participate in the momentous occasions.
- High school graduation of her youngest child.
- Participating telephonically from Washington, D.C., where she was enjoying the sights.

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

- Promotion ceremonies at Mountain View School, Sunnyslope School, and Cardinals Academy. Mr. Maza thanked the staff for their efforts in making the ceremonies a success.

Dr. Cook shared that there were over 3,500 students attending the District's Summer School Academy. Dr. Cook introduced Kathleen McKeever, who is involved with the summer school program. Ms. McKeever introduced the 21st Century Coordinator, MaryAnna Kittredge, and the 21st Century Outreach Specialist, Marci Dunn, from Tumbleweed Elementary School. Ms. Kittredge introduced Tumbleweed 6th grade student, Natalie Rodriguez, and her family. Natalie helped produce the video that was presented at the meeting to illustrate some of the summer school activities. Natalie was presented with a certificate and books.

G. Special Recognition

- Dr. Cook advised the Board that Roadrunner Elementary School was named a 2012 Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Roadrunner was one of 78 schools in the nation and one of two schools in Arizona to receive this first-ever award. Dr. Cook introduced Roadrunner Principal, Karen Menaugh, who had recently attended the Green Ribbon Conference and Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C. Ms. Menaugh shared highlights from the conference and stated that Roadrunner would not have received the award without the vision and support of the Governing Board. Ms. Menaugh thanked the Governing Board for the opportunity to attend the conference.

Ms. Menaugh thanked Ms. Graziano and Mrs. Lambert for attending the school tour for the Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. She also thanked Mrs. Lambert for attending when Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction, John Huppenthal, visited Roadrunner Elementary School.

Mr. Maza thanked Ms. Menaugh for her stewardship of this program and her acknowledgement to the Governing Board for its support.

Dr. Cook acknowledged Ms. Menaugh's 23 years with the District, with eight years as principal of Roadrunner Elementary School. Dr. Cook recognized Ms. Menaugh as a fabulous, dedicated employee who will be missed as she is retiring at the end of the school year.

H. Public Participation

There was public participation. Ms. Doreen Zannis, community member, former District parent, and volunteer with Support Our Schools AZ (SOSAz) which is a community and parent advocacy group in the District, spoke in support of Action Item III.A. – Consideration of Calling for a Special Capital Outlay Override Election. She stated that she had served on many District committees and task forces and commended Dr. Cook for running an “impeccable, unimpeachable ship”. Ms. Zannis advised that SOSAz recognized the technology needs of the District due to funds not received from the State legislature and pledged its support if the Governing Board called for a special capital outlay override election.

I. Approval of the Consent Agenda

UNANIMOUS

Mr. Adams 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 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

A motion was made by Mr. Adams to approve the personnel items as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

Dr. Cook acknowledged the following new interim Administrators, and recognized family members and staff members in attendance to support them:

- Barbara Newman – Maryland Principal
- Rich Morris – Maryland Assistant Principal
- Tim Woodward – Lakeview Principal
- Audra Gibson – Cholla Assistant Principal
- Tony Murphy – Mountain Sky Assistant Principal
- Susie Smith – Desert Foothills Assistant Principal

***C. Public Gifts and Donations**

UNANIMOUS

Approved the public gifts and donations as presented.

1. Kroger (Fry’s Food Stores) donated a VIP Shopper’s Card commission check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Sunnyslope School.
2. Lynnda Scott donated a cello with an approximate value of \$400.00 for the benefit of the music program at Moon Mountain Elementary School.
3. Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market donated a Shop for School Fundraising Program check in the amount of \$436.22 for the benefit of students at Lakeview Elementary School.
4. 21st Century/Farmer’s Insurance donated three meals, tote bags filled with supplies, and gift cards for each teacher with an approximate value of \$1,840.00 to show appreciation for the staff at Lakeview Elementary School.

5. Assistance League of Phoenix donated books with a total value of \$5,229.18 to every student at Cactus Wren Elementary School.
6. The Sunset Parent/Teacher Organization donated an ice machine with a value of \$2,066.90 for the benefit of the staff at Sunset Elementary School.
7. Box Tops for Education donated a check in the amount of \$732.90 for the benefit of students at Washington Elementary School.

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| *D. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the Mohave Educational Services Cooperative, Inc. (MESC) and State Procurement Office (SPO) | UNANIMOUS |
| *E. District Representative for Procurement Protests for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 | UNANIMOUS |
| *F. Petty Cash Accounts for 2012-2013 | UNANIMOUS |
| *G. Reauthorization of Revolving and Change Funds for 2012-2013 | UNANIMOUS |
| *H. Reauthorization of Bank Accounts and Signers | UNANIMOUS |
| *I. Signatories for Payroll and Expense Warrants for 2012-2013 | UNANIMOUS |
| *J. Resolution Appointing the Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools as the Chief Disbursing Officer for Wage Garnishments | UNANIMOUS |
| *K. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Warrants Between Board Meetings | UNANIMOUS |
| *L. Renewal of Lease with the Roman Catholic Church for Private School Consortium Facilities at Bourgade High School (Modular Building Site and Parking Area) | UNANIMOUS |

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS (At the discretion of the chair, Mr. Maza moved Action Items III.F. and III.G. after Action Item III.C.)

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| 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 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. | 5-0 AYE |
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Dr. Cook advised the Board that the District was making a recommendation for the calling of a special capital outlay override election. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Sue Snyder who had facilitated the task force the past two years. Ms. Snyder provided the Board with information regarding the District’s recommendation.

Mr. Jahneke asked how Mr. Blair was chosen to have the first classroom with the new technology tools. Ms. Janet Sullivan responded that Mr. Blair was someone recognized by the Academic Services Department as being very interested and engaged in technology through his personal experience. Mr. Blair volunteered to be the first demonstration classroom.

Mrs. Lambert asked if it was too late to include another item of information in the Frequently Asked Questions that would be able to share how many classrooms and students in the District would benefit from a capital override. Dr. Cook responded that one of the reasons specific numbers were not used was because of enrollment fluctuations. Dr. Cook suggested that verbiage could be used stating, "more than ____ students" or "more than ____ classrooms" without using specific numbers.

Mr. Maza asked if the amount specified on a year to year basis could change each year and what factors would affect that amount because it may be presented on the ballot one way, but could change year to year. Ms. Cathy Thompson replied that the District was not asking for the maximum amount allowed by law. She stated that the District was estimating \$7.8 million per year and the maximum allowed by law would have been approximately \$1 million more than that amount. Therefore, Ms. Thompson felt that the amount should remain fairly constant. If the District had requested the maximum amount of 10%, the amount would have fluctuated based upon the District's Revenue Control Limit (RCL).

Mr. Adams asked if Ms. Thompson had any knowledge regarding how much other districts requested when they have called for an override election. Did they request the maximum? Ms. Thompson advised that it varied, e.g., a district one year would request the maximum and lose the election, then request a lower amount the next year; or another district would request a lower amount based on other funding sources available.

Mr. Adams stated that if the Board calls for the capital override, the information must be conveyed to the community in simple terms and presented as a value to them. Mr. Adams advised that this was going to be a great benefit to the students to have the new technology.

Ms. Graziano stated that the District had lost \$44 million revenue from the State up to this year and was now considering a capital override election for \$55 million. She asked what the District expected to lose in the coming school year. She suggested adding that amount to the \$44 million we had already lost. Ms. Thompson responded that she did not have actual figures because the budget was not complete. Ms. Thompson stated that the District would not receive approximately \$4 million from the State for soft capital, approximately \$1.5-\$2 million for CORL, and approximately \$6 million for building renewal which totaled approximately \$11 million.

Mr. Maza asked Mr. Chris Lieurance for his professional opinion regarding information technology. Would the District's students using our present computer processing abilities and technology (hardware and software) (and maintaining them for the next seven years) be prepared for either high school, college, technical school, or working in the private sector. Mr. Lieurance replied no. Mr. Lieurance stated that, in his opinion, the District's computers were two years past when they should have been replaced. He said that the District's computers were not getting any slower, however, new technology was getting faster and required resources available on newer computers. Mr. Lieurance stated that we would be providing fewer resources to students if we maintained the present computers and would hinder the success of our students. Mr. Maza asked for Mr. Lieurance's personal opinion and asked if the District maintained the present computers, would students not be prepared for college. Mr. Lieurance replied that students would not be ready for college.

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke 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 6, 2012, 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 WESD 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 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. A roll call vote was requested. The motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Cook asked Mr. Maza if they wished to take into consideration Mrs. Lambert and Ms. Graziano’s suggestions for the motion. Mr. Maza suggested to Board members that they not use Mrs. Lambert’s mention of adding a specific number of students or classrooms to the Frequently Asked Questions. Mrs. Lambert stated that it was only a suggestion and would be agreeable to not including it in the material. In answer to Mr. Jahneke’s question asking for clarification of Ms. Graziano’s suggestion, Mr. Maza advised that Ms. Graziano’s suggestion was to include what the potential loss of funding would be in the 2012-2013 school year. Hearing no objections from Board members, Mr. Maza stated that Ms. Graziano’s would be added to the motion.

Mrs. Lambert stated that new technology was vital for the students in their learning and getting prepared for college and careers, as well as for teachers in providing instruction. Mrs. Lambert advised she was glad to have this recommendation to consider because the District could not wait for the State to provide funding.

Mr. Maza advised that he did the voice-over in the video which was purely informational with no advocacy in it. Mr. Maza stated that even with his educational background, he would not have known how to make a video such as the one previously shown. He appreciated the fact that Mr. Paul Askew had the knowledge to make the video with his own personal equipment. Mr. Maza stated that he cannot hamper the children that he represents and it was morally incumbent upon him to seriously consider this recommendation. He said he understood the weight of the matter and the importance of preparing students to succeed and hoped the community also understood.

During the roll call vote, Board members unanimously voted Aye and made the following comments:

- Mrs. Lambert wanted the community to know that these decisions were not made lightly and consideration was given to the economic situations of community members, but the District was at a point where they must consider what was beneficial for the students.
- Mr. Adams stated it was difficult to go to the community to ask for the burden of additional taxation, but believed that it needed to be done to correct the actions of the legislators of not receiving the funding promised to the District. He stated he wholeheartedly supported this recommendation because of what it can do for the students by preparing them to succeed and, ultimately, help the community and the economy. He advised he was proud of the District and the Task Force’s time and efforts in preparing this recommendation and was proud of the Governing Board for supporting the recommendation.

- Ms. Graziano advised that she was a retiree living on a fixed income and was not looking forward to the additional taxation, however, it was not about her, but about the next generation of students. She stated that someone before her ensured that she had the tools needed for her education and felt that it was her responsibility to make sure that the next generation had everything they needed to be successful. Ms. Graziano said the District was forced to go to the community to replace the funds that were lost from the State.
- Mr. Jahneke stated he believed in public education and we needed to optimize the funding we receive. He said that technology keeps changing and the District had an obligation to provide the best tools for the students.
- Mr. Maza stated that students would be seriously hampered if not provided with the tools that they needed to be successful. He reiterated Ms. Graziano's comments that someone provided the necessary tools for him and, although he did not have children of his own, he realized that the children in the District would eventually be the ones to support the neighborhood in which he would live as he grew older. Mr. Maza thanked Ms. Snyder and the members of the committee for their time and efforts. He wished the District good luck and fortitude to convey the difficult concept of a capital override to the community and asked it to go forward with the support of the Governing Board.

B. Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Phoenix for the Head Start Program and Approval of the WESD Head Start Program Planning 2012-2013 **UNANIMOUS**

Dr. Cook advised the Board that the District had the largest Head Start Program in the City of Phoenix. She stated that the Board was presented each year with the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Phoenix regarding the Head Start Program and that there was a slight increase in funding, but no substantive changes to the obligations or performance of the District. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Diana Howsden, Director of Head Start Services, who was available to answer questions.

Mrs. Lambert declared that she enjoyed serving on the Communication Committee of the Head Start Program for the past eight years. She advised that the program had been very successful in preparing children to go to school and had a great deal of family involvement.

Mr. Maza thanked Ms. Howsden for her work with the Head Start Program and stated that early childhood education was very important to make the children better equipped to enter elementary school.

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board approve the renewal of the Head Start Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Phoenix for the Head Start Program and authorize the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents. Additionally, it was moved that the Governing Board approve the WESD Head Start Program Planning 2012-2013 document. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

C. First Reading of Proposed Amended Policies JC – School Attendance Areas and JFB – Open Enrollment **UNANIMOUS**

Dr. Cook advised the Board that they were being presented a First Reading of an amended policy regarding open enrollment and stated that Mr. Shumway and Dr. Bailey were available for questions.

Mrs. Lambert asked if the changes were being made for clarification or was there a statute requiring changes. Mr. Shumway responded that the changes were made for clarification, but the primary impetus was questions from schools who had open enrollment students who required changes in school assignments during the school year.

Mrs. Lambert asked how this policy affected families who have utilized open enrollment due to ESEA requirements. Do they have to reapply every year? Do they need to return to their home school if that school is no longer underperforming or does that apply to this policy? Ms. Janet Sullivan responded that students enrolled in a school of choice due to the No Child Left Behind Act must reapply each year for open enrollment and will be provided transportation. Ms. Sullivan stated that although there was uncertainty regarding the ESEA waiver approval, the open enrollment will be offered to the students for the 2012-2013 school year.

Mrs. Lambert asked if McKinney Vento students would be provided transportation. Ms. Sullivan replied that McKinney Vento students, as well as school of choice students under the No Child Left Behind Act would be provided transportation. All other students under open enrollment would be responsible for their own transportation.

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board approve the First Reading of Proposed Amended Policies JC – School Attendance Areas and JFB – Open Enrollment. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

F. Employment Agreement with Superintendent, Dr. Susan J. Cook **UNANIMOUS**

Mr. Maza presented background information regarding an employment agreement with Superintendent, Dr. Susan J. Cook.

A motion was made by Mr. Maza that the Governing Board approve the employment agreement with Superintendent, Dr. Susan J. Cook, pursuant to the defined terms and conditions, and contingent upon the acceptance of Policy changes regarding Performance Based Pay. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

G. Temporary Suspension of Policy BGB – Policy Adoption and Adoption of Proposed Amended Policy CBI – Evaluation of Superintendent and Regulation CBI-R – Evaluation of Superintendent and Adoption of Exhibits CBI-EA, CBI-EB and CBI-EC **UNANIMOUS**

Mr. Maza advised that performance based pay was discussed during Governing Board Executive Sessions in conjunction with considerations regarding the Superintendent's contract and evaluations. Mr. Maza stated that it was necessary to make Policy changes because of the interrelationship between mandated performance pay provisions and the evaluation of the Superintendent. Mr. Maza asked the Board to waive the requirement of a second reading of the Policy.

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board temporarily suspend Policy BGB – Policy Adoption and adopt proposed amended Policy CBI – Evaluation of Superintendent and Regulation CBI-R – Evaluation of Superintendent and new Exhibits CBI-EA, CBI-EB and CBI-EC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

Ms. Graziano departed the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and Mrs. Lambert disconnected from her telephonic participation at 8:45 p.m.

D. Funding Levels for the Casualty Trust and Workers Compensation Trust for 2012-2013 UNANIMOUS

Dr. Cook advised the Board that they were being offered a recommendation for funding the Casualty Trust and Workers Compensation Trust for 2012-2013 and introduced Ms. Cathy Thompson.

Ms. Thompson stated that the Casualty Trust was funded from the District M&O budget and the Workers Compensation Trust was funded by an employee benefit percentage taken each payroll from all funds that pay salaries.

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board approve the funding levels of \$925,000.00 for the Casualty Trust and \$1,150,000.00 for the Workers Compensation Trust. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maza. The motion carried.

E. Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Provider Agreement between the Valley of the Sun United Way and Washington Elementary School District UNANIMOUS

Dr. Cook advised the Board that they were being presented with an Agreement between the District and the Valley of the Sun United Way. The District submitted a proposal to First Things First North Region to provide pre-kindergarten scholarships. The Valley of the Sun United Way will be the fiscal agent for the financial portion of the First Things First's Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Program.

Mr. Adams asked if he needed to recuse himself because of his involvement with First Things First. Mr. Rex Shumway, District Legal Counsel, confirmed that Mr. Adams did not have a conflict of interest because the Agreement was with Valley of the Sun United Way.

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that the Governing Board approve the Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Provider Agreement between Valley of the Sun United Way and Washington Elementary School District for the fiscal year 2012-2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maza. The motion carried.

H. Arizona School Boards Association Action Agenda Proposals

Dr. Cook stated that Board members were provided with a packet to provide direction to Governing Board member Clorinda Graziano who will represent the Governing Board as the official delegate and Governing Board member Tee Lambert who will serve as the alternate delegate at the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Delegate Assembly scheduled for June 30, 2012. Dr. Cook asked Board members to return the packets to her and they will be compiled in preparation for the delegates to offer the consensus vote during their attendance at the Delegate Assembly. No further action was required.

IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

V. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Adams acknowledged the District and his fellow Board members for making difficult decisions during the meeting.

Mr. Adams congratulated Dr. Cook and thanked her for everything she does for the District.

Mr. Jahneke echoed Mr. Adams comments regarding the matters discussed at the meeting and congratulated Dr. Cook.

Mr. Maza offered his condolences to Dr. Maggie Westhoff, Director of Professional Development, who recently lost her mother. Mr. Maza stated that although he did not personally know her mother, she must have been a great person because he knows Dr. Westhoff as a talented, caring person.

Mr. Maza congratulated Dr. Cook and asked her to review the contract offered by the Board. Mr. Maza stated that Dr. Cook was an educational leader inside the State who did not demand the grandiosity of the position. He commented that Dr. Cook conducted business in a quiet manner with the priority of supporting the children and public education.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:53 p.m. The motion **UNANIMOUS** was seconded by Mr. Maza. The motion carried.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary

Joyce Shiota
BOARD SECRETARY

6/28/12
DATE

Allen Zahala
BOARD OFFICIAL

06-28-12
DATE