

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING

2010-2011

September 23, 2010

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

Mrs. Lambert called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present: Mrs. Tee Lambert, Mr. Bill Adams, Ms. Clorinda Graziano, Mr. Aaron Jahneke, and Mr. Chris Maza.

B. Moment of Silence and Meditation

Mrs. Lambert called for a moment of silence and meditation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Lambert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Adams to adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maza. 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 September 9, 2010 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried. Mrs. Lambert abstained from the vote.

**4 AYE
1 ABSENTION**

F. Current Events: Governing Board and Superintendent

Mr. Adams shared that he attended an event at Sunnyslope School to thank Senator Linda Gray for her involvement with the backpack donations to Sunnyslope School students made by the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) and Office Depot. He stated that Dr. Cook, Mr. Jahneke and Ms. Graziano also attended the event. Mr. Adams thanked Senator Gray for her continued support of the District.

Ms. Graziano shared she enjoyed attending Tumbleweed Elementary School's luau before attending the September 23, 2010 Board meeting. Ms. Graziano provided each Board member with an ice cream sundae and a lei from the luau.

Ms. Graziano shared an article titled "Study: Teacher Bonuses Fail to Boost Test Scores". Board members were provided a copy of the article.

Ms. Graziano thanked the following schools for their artwork displayed in the Governing Board Room: Cholla Middle School, Desert Foothills Jr. High School, Mountain Sky Jr. High School, Royal Palm Middle School and Palo Verde Middle School.

Mr. Jahneke shared that he enjoyed attending the event at Sunnyslope School and thanked Senator Gray for the donation of backpacks.

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Mr. Maza shared that the movie, "Waiting for Superman", will be premiering soon and may not shed a good light on public education. Mr. Maza thanked the Washington Elementary School District employees for their success stories which deserve an "Academy Award".

Board members congratulated and thanked Dr. Cook for her 15 years of service with the District. Dr. Cook was presented with a certificate and flowers. District employees celebrating milestone anniversaries will be honored at an event in October.

Dr. Cook shared that a student from Abraham Lincoln Traditional School would demonstrate a mathematics concept that aligns with the newly adopted Mathematics Program Guide. Dr. Cook introduced Principal, Tara Mayole, who introduced 6th grade student, Caitlyn Fisher, her mother, Dawn Froese, and her teacher, Julie Liffiton. Ms. Mayole also introduced Program Coach, Teresa Elves, and teacher, Jennifer Griggs who were also in attendance. Caitlyn demonstrated the range-mode-median-mean mathematics concept by using objects, as well as numbers. Caitlyn was presented with a certificate, mathematics book, and a pencil holder with a ruler, calculator and pencils.

G. Governing Board Training Regarding Open Meeting Laws: Julia Z. Smock, Former Assistant Attorney General

Dr. Cook advised that Mr. Jahneke had requested a review of the Open Meeting Law as a future agenda item. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Julia Smock who was the former Assistant Attorney General and has had many years of experience regarding the Open Meeting Law. Ms. Smock reviewed two primary topics: communication through current technology and Executive Sessions.

Mr. Maza asked if a telephonic meeting is considered a virtual meeting. Ms. Smock responded that a telephonic meeting is not considered a virtual meeting. Telephonic meetings are permissible with prior notice to the public. A speakerphone must be made available to the public if they wish to participate.

Ms. Smock advised that anything discussed during an Executive Session is not for public knowledge even though many of the items discussed will be presented during a public meeting at a later date.

Ms. Graziano asked for clarification regarding the Interest-based Negotiations (IBN) process and if the Board should receive IBN meeting updates in an Executive Session or during a public meeting. Ms. Smock replied that if the information given during a public meeting would compromise the Board's ability to engage in some form of negotiation, the Board would not want to discuss the information in a public meeting even though eventually that information would be going to the public. If the IBN meetings are public, the information that is provided to the Board in Executive Session does not become confidential because it is being presented during an Executive Session. The information must be independently confidential. Ms. Smock advised that the Board cannot talk about the discussion they have as a result of the last meeting that causes them to instruct their representative to change his/her position based on what they have heard. Ms. Smock stated that if the IBN meetings are open to the public, that information is not confidential, however, the instruction that the Board gives to their representative is confidential.

Ms. Smock asked how the District was handling the IBN process. Dr. Cook replied that she was the Board's designated representative between the Board and the IBN team. She has been providing the Board with IBN feedback during Executive

Sessions and then giving the IBN team the Board's instructions. Ms. Smock advised that there is no problem with the District's current process because it is part of the negotiations process.

Board members thanked Ms. Smock for her informative presentation.

H. Public Participation

There was public participation. Ms. Cindy Carlos stated that the Board members would be receiving an affirmative action plan.

I. Approval of the Consent Agenda

UNANIMOUS

Ms. Graziano requested that Item *II.D.2. and *II.D.3. – Out-of-County/State Field Trips 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 as presented. 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

Approved the personnel items as presented.

***C. Public Gifts and Donations**

UNANIMOUS

Approved the public gifts and donations as presented.

1. Rodel Charitable Foundation donated a check in the amount of \$3,825.00 to be used for the MAC-RO Math Program kick-off assemblies and student incentives for the benefit of participating students at Desert View, Mountain View, Shaw Butte, and Sunnyslope Schools.

2. The Phoenix Zoo donated scholarships with a value of \$2,072.00 to Cactus Wren Elementary School for 36 students and chaperones to attend Zooreach Night Camp.

3. Busy Bodies Planned Play, LLC donated school supplies with an approximate value of \$360.00 for the benefit of students at Cactus Wren Elementary School.

4. 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.

5. Target donated a Take Charge of Education rebate check in the amount of \$1,499.00 for the benefit of students at Lookout Mountain Elementary School.

6. Elizabeth Rogers donated a check in the amount of \$300.00 for the benefit of students at Washington Elementary School.

***D. Out-of-County/State Field Trips**

UNANIMOUS

1. Keri Sallee, Mountain View Elementary School, has submitted an out-of-county/state field trip request to Sunset Crater, Flagstaff, AZ, November 9, 2010, for 7th grade students at a cost of \$1,734.00.

2. Kathleen McKeever, Administrator of After-School Programs, has submitted an out-of-county/state field trip request for Pinerock Camp, Prescott, AZ, October 11-12, 2010, for 7th and 8th grade Cholla Middle School, Desert Foothills Jr. High School, Palo Verde Middle School and Royal Palm Middle School 21st Century students at a cost of \$12,708.44. **UNANIMOUS**

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve the out-of-county/state field trip request from Kathleen McKeever, Administrator of After-School Programs, for Pinerock Camp, Prescott, AZ, October 11-12, 2010, for 7th and 8th grade Cholla Middle School, Desert Foothills Jr. High School, Palo Verde Middle School and Royal Palm Middle School 21st Century students. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

Ms. Graziano asked what the High Roper's Course was. Ms. McKeever responded that this is an optional activity for students called Challenge by Choice where they climb up a large ladder in teams and do a zip line. The activity promotes team building, trust exercises, and is an adventure course.

3. Matthew Weaver, Royal Palm Middle School, has submitted an out-of-county/state field trip request to AstroCamp, Idyllwild, CA, November 8-10, 2010, for 7th grade students at a cost of \$12,855.00. **UNANIMOUS**

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve the out-of-county field trip request from Matthew Weaver, Royal Palm Middle School, to AstroCamp, Idyllwild, CA, November 8-10, 2010, for 7th grade students. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

Ms. Graziano asked if the 50 students attending the trip included all the 7th graders at Royal Palm. Mr. Weaver replied that all 7th grade students are attending the field trip as part of the core knowledge program.

Ms. Graziano thanked Mr. Weaver for listing all of the specific AstroCamp activities.

- *E. Out-of-State Travel **UNANIMOUS**
1. Dorothy Watkins, Administrator of Social Services, and Laurel Fiore, Homeless Social Worker, to attend the 22nd Annual National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, November 6-9, 2010, in Houston, TX, at a cost of \$2,250.00.
- *F. Declaration of Curricular and Instructional Alignment to the Arizona Academic Standards **UNANIMOUS**
- *G. Arizona Nutrition Network – Arizona Department of Health Service Contract, HI050057, Amendment 3 **UNANIMOUS**

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Governing Board Involvement in the Federal Relations Network (FRN) 4-1 AYE**
- Mrs. Lambert advised Board members that she has been offered the opportunity to be re-appointed as the official Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) delegate to the National School Boards Association's 38th Annual Federal Relations Network Conference (FRN) in Washington, D.C., on February 6-8, 2011.

Ms. Graziano asked Mrs. Lambert what added value the District received from her attending the FRN conference last year. Mrs. Lambert responded that she participated in the workshop discussions where they explained which bills are moving forward through Congress which assisted NSBA's position for lobbying. Mrs. Lambert stated that being involved, keeping informed, and being able to provide input on the movement that is going forward is important. Mrs. Lambert advised that the dialogue with other Board members and what she learned in the workshops and study sessions were very informative.

Mr. Adams stated that he believes there is a lot of value in attending the FRN conference due to the experience and exposure to other districts throughout the country. Mr. Adams felt that because the Washington Elementary School District is the largest elementary school district in the State, the District should be involved by having a voice and being part of the FRN conference for professional development. Mr. Adams thanked Mrs. Lambert for attending last year's FRN conference and reaching out to political leaders.

Mr. Maza asked Mrs. Lambert, if she is approved to attend the FRN conference in February 2011, to attend study sessions/workshops regarding teacher evaluations and student growth.

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board approve that Governing Board President, Mrs. Tee Lambert, attend the FRN conference on February 6-8, 2011, in Washington, D.C. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maza. The motion carried 4-1 Aye. Mr. Jahneke voted Nay.

B. K-3 Override Plans for 2010-2011

UNANIMOUS

Dr. Cook advised the Board that the District passed a K-3 override in November 2009 which was an extension of the one that had been in place several years prior. Each school prepared a K-3 override plan that specifies and details how they will use the money that comes from the K-3 override. This plan was started the first time the District passed a K-3 override. This year's plans were offered to Board members only because of the sheer volume of the subject matter. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Janet Sullivan to answer questions from the Board.

Ms. Sullivan advised the Board that the K-3 override provided three program options: full-day kindergarten at 27 sites, reduced class size at a few sites, and maintaining academic intervention programs.

Mr. Maza thanked Ms. Sullivan for the material and asked if he was allowed to share the school plans with his constituents. Dr. Cook responded that since the material was public information offered to the Board in a public meeting, it would be permissible to share it. Ms. Sullivan stated that the material will be posted on the District's website.

Ms. Graziano reported that she noticed interesting trends in the school plans. Most of the schools have more free or reduced lunch students and there are more English Language Learners in the kindergarten level rather than upper grades.

Ms. Graziano asked how schools decided whether to have a literacy lab or an intervention specialist. Ms. Sullivan responded that in some cases, it is one and the same because they basically serve the same function in providing intervention services, but may be in different formats. The literacy labs are staffed with either an academic intervention specialist or Title I funded employee. It is each school's choice, but may partially be dictated by the facility because they may not have had a classroom available for an intervention center.

Mrs. Lambert asked if the school plans were required by law or was it the District's practice. Dr. Cook responded that they are the District's practice because the District made a commitment to the Board when the first K-3 override was passed that it would produce a plan for each school.

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board accept the K-3 Override plans for the 2010-2011 school year as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maza. The motion carried.

C. 2011 Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Political Agenda: Governing Board Priorities **UNANIMOUS**

Dr. Cook stated that Board members were provided a list of the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) 2011 Political Agenda Priorities and were asked to select their top ten priorities. One priority was selected by all five Governing Board members; two priorities were selected by three Board members; and seven priorities were selected by two Board members. Dr. Cook advised that it was the Board's discretion as to what priorities, if any, they wanted to submit to ASBA.

Board members agreed that they would submit the following priorities selected by a quorum of Board members:

1. Seek and support legislation that ensures that all public schools are funded and governed in a manner consistent with the Arizona Constitution's requirement of a general and uniform public school system, so that substantial disparities in the treatment of schools are not created by the law.
2. Advocate the repeal of performance labels to A-F letter grades.
3. Seek and support the reenactment and funding of voluntary, full-day kindergarten.

Board members discussed asking ASBA to provide Governing Boards with updated information if ASBA's original position is substantially altered through the legislative process. The Governing Board also discussed asking ASBA to notify ASBA delegates and Governing Boards if new legislation is introduced during a session.

A motion was made by Mr. Maza that the Governing Board direct the Superintendent, or their designee, to submit items 1, 2, and 3 as the legislative priorities for the Washington Elementary School District as their priorities for the ASBA legislative agenda, while also generating a letter in regard to the Governing Board's concerns about subsequent support taken by ASBA on legislation matters in the upcoming legislative session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. Mr. Adams amended the motion that the Governing Board direct the Superintendent, or their designee, to submit items 1, 2, and 3 as the legislative priorities for the Washington Elementary School District as their priorities for the ASBA legislative agenda, while also generating a letter asking ASBA to notify Governing Boards should there be new legislation that ASBA is going to take a position on. The amended motion was approved by Mr. Maza and Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Graziano requested a RIF update on how the District is handling the communication to employees.

VI. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Adams complimented Mr. Jahneke on his political debate with his opponents running for State Representative in Legislative District 10.

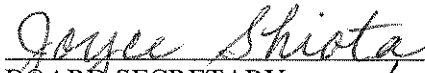
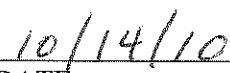
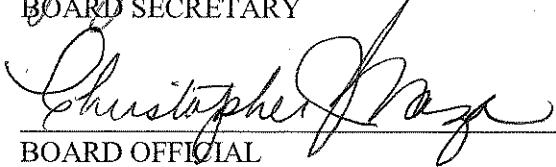
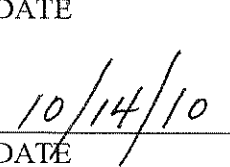
VII. ADJOURNMENT

UNANIMOUS

A motion was made by Mr. Adams to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 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

 _____ BOARD SECRETARY	 _____ DATE
 _____ BOARD OFFICIAL	 _____ DATE