

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION

2010-2011

May 12, 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 Mrs. Lambert 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 April 28, 2011 Regular Meeting and Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried. Mr. Adams abstained from the vote for the Executive Session minutes.

UNANIMOUS

F. Current Events: Governing Board and Superintendent

Mr. Adams shared that he enjoyed attending the following events and thanked everyone involved in organizing the wonderful events:

- WESD Lamp of Learning Celebration – congratulated the honorees
- Sahuaro's Talent Show – good parent/family/community event
- Palo Verde – Social studies teacher, Rich Curtin, celebrated Law Day 2011 with a mock court
- Desert Foothills – Teacher, Paul Hrovat, had students plead their cases to former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch

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

- Participated on a panel with Board members from Glendale Union High School District and Glendale Elementary School District, a Superintendent, a Business Director, and a community member for Support Our Schools AZ (SOSAz) to promote people to get involved with schools/education and to run for school Governing Boards
- WESD Lamp of Learning Celebration
- Naturalization Ceremony at Maryland School – very touching to hear keynote speaker, Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissman Klein

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

- SOSAz Forum - Mrs. Lambert did an excellent job answering questions, as did everyone on the panel
- Naturalization Ceremony at Maryland School
- Washington Elementary School Author's Night in conjunction with SOSAz – Author Jack Gantos was incredible and Arizona State Senator for District 14, Debbie McCune Davis, was present at the event
- WESD Lamp of Learning Celebration
- Washington District Education Association (WDEA) Recognition and Installation Dinner

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

- BEGIN Graduation Ceremony – thanked Dr. Maggie Westhoff and her staff for the well planned event
- John Jacob's String and Band Concert Assembly
- Ocotillo's Band and Strings Concert
- Desert Foothills – Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch – students were well prepared for the event
- WESD Lamp of Learning Celebration – thanked Carol Donaldson and her staff for the wonderful event
- WDEA Recognition and Installation Dinner
- Naturalization Ceremony at Maryland School – thanked the faculty, students, and staff for the awesome event
- Nancy Putnam's Retirement Party at Lookout Mountain Elementary School

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

- BEGIN Graduation Ceremony
- WESD Lamp of Learning Celebration
- WDEA Recognition and Installation Dinner – thanked WDEA for the invitation and enjoyed sharing a table with Sandy Mendez Benson with Invest in Education!
- Thanked Governing Board members, in advance, who will be attending the upcoming promotion ceremonies

Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Luanne Herman, principal of Sweetwater School, who, in turn, introduced math teacher, CeCe Kure. Ms. Kure thanked the Governing Board members and the Administration for making decisions that made it possible for her to attend the Math Institute last summer. She stated it was a wonderful experience and she was happy to share the information and get her students more excited about math. Ms. Kure introduced 4th grade students, Kaelen Bareng and John Poertner, and their parents. Kaelen and John demonstrated the mathematics concept of listing using possible combinations. Kaelen and John were presented with certificates, mathematics books, pencil holders, rulers, calculators and pencils.

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** **UNANIMOUS**
Approved and ratified the vouchers as presented.
- *B. Personnel Items** **UNANIMOUS**
A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve Consent Agenda item *II.B. – Personnel Items as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried
- Dr. Cook acknowledged the hiring of Carol Patterson, new principal of Palo Verde Middle School. Dr. Cook welcomed, congratulated, and thanked Carol Patterson for her willingness to serve and work with the District at Palo Verde Middle School. Dr. Cook stated that Ms. Patterson has a state-wide reputation and is a premier principal. Dr. Cook reported that many Palo Verde staff members were in attendance in support of Ms. Patterson.
- Dr. Cook introduced Mindy Whalen, chairperson of the Palo Verde Site Council. On behalf of the Palo Verde Site Council, Ms. Whalen thanked the Board and reported that they are thrilled to have Ms. Patterson join the Palo Verde staff.
- Mr. Maza read a letter received from Mr. Larry Lobdell, Jr., President of the United Neighbors Association, who asked that the letter be read at the Board meeting. The United Neighbors Association congratulated Ms. Patterson as the new Palo Verde Middle School principal and stated they looked forward to working with her on community projects.
- *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. Box Tops for Education/General Mills donated a check in the amount of \$838.00 to be used for art supplies and materials for students at Moon Mountain Elementary School.
 2. Arroyo Elementary School PTO donated a check in the amount of \$844.76 to be used for the Catalina Island field trip in May 2011.
 3. Box Tops for Education/General Mills donated a check in the amount of \$304.40 to be used to purchase library books at Mountain Sky Junior High School.
 4. Alliance Communities donated a check in the amount of \$750.00 to be used for the Physical Education Department fitness room at Mountain Sky Junior High School.
- *D. Extension and Renewal of Annual Contract for Specified Goods and Services** **UNANIMOUS**
- *E. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the Mohave Educational Services Cooperative, Inc. (MESC)** **UNANIMOUS**
- *F. Agreements to Provide Summer Meals to City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation, Gompers Habilitation Center, ACCEL School and Beth Yachad Messianic Worship Center** **UNANIMOUS**

- *G. **Arizona Nutrition Network – Arizona Department of Health Service Contract, ADHS11-000743, Amendment 4** UNANIMOUS
- *H. **Authorization to Amend the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Phoenix for the Head Start Program** UNANIMOUS
- *I. **Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement Between Participating Districts and the Washington Elementary School District for Title I Private School Consortium** UNANIMOUS
- *J. **Acceptance of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona Grant in the Amount of \$5,000.00** UNANIMOUS
- *K. **Reappointment of Community Member to the Trust Boards** UNANIMOUS
- *L. **Second Reading and Adoption of Proposed Amended Policy DFF – Income From School Sales and Services** UNANIMOUS
- *M. **Second Reading and Adoption of Proposed Amended Policy IGD – Curriculum Adoption** UNANIMOUS
- *N. **Second Reading and Adoption of Proposed Amended Policy JLDA – School Counselors and Psychologists** UNANIMOUS
- *O. **Second Reading and Adoption of Proposed Amended Policy KHB – Advertising in Schools** UNANIMOUS

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. **Revised Expenditure Budget (Revision #2) for Fiscal Year 2010-2011** UNANIMOUS
 Dr. Cook advised the Board that the District is required by law to present the revised expenditure budget for approval at a Governing Board meeting prior to May 15, 2011. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Cathy Thompson who presented the data.

Ms. Thompson pointed out the following items to the Board:

- The end of the year budget showed a decrease from the original budget based on a reduction that the Legislature had approved because of a State Budget shortfall in equalization monies for the year.
- The 160.0% increase for Debt Service was the money that the District paid for registered warrants because the District is not receiving anticipated funds from the State on a monthly basis.
- The Pupil Transportation account typically increases, however, this year was reduced by 12.0%.
- Account 590 - Grants and Gifts to Teachers should have been \$21,911 and Account 595 - Advertisement should have been \$93,075. David Velazquez identified the errors just before the Board meeting and they will be corrected before submission to the State on May 13, 2011.

Mrs. Lambert asked if the District's current year budget would be additionally decreased, even though the State made budget adjustments during the year. Ms. Thompson responded that the State had already put forward approximately \$945 million of current year money into next year's budget. The Legislature chose not to rollover an additional amount of money, therefore, the District took the reduction in the current year.

Mrs. Lambert asked if the District would be receiving the May payment. Ms. Thompson replied that the District will receive the full May payment, however, the June payment will be reduced.

Mr. Jahneke asked if the June payment would be paid in fiscal year 2011-2012. Ms. Thompson stated that the August, September, and November payments will roll into fiscal year 2011-2012 and will be received in August 2011. Ms. Thompson advised that the June payment will not be received, therefore, the reduction in the budget for that amount.

Mr. Jahneke asked about the \$2,000,000.00 carryover transfer of funds to Unrestricted Capital. Ms. Thompson explained that the increase to Unrestricted Capital was due to a transfer of additional budget capacity from M&O. The transfer assists with providing emergency funding for capital needs for fiscal year 2012.

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that the Governing Board approve the 2010-2011 Revised Expenditure Budget (Revision #2). Pursuant to ARS 15-905G, Mr. Jahneke further moved that the Governing Board authorize the flexibility to exceed the budget in a subsection as long as the overall M&O Budget was not exceeded. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

B. Adjacent Ways Budget and Levy of Taxes for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

4-1 AYE

Dr. Cook advised the Board that the District's recommendation was to approve a levy for Adjacent Ways funding and introduced Ms. Cathy Thompson to offer information.

Ms. Thompson advised that it had been three years since the Board had been asked to approve a levy for Adjacent Ways funding. She stated that there were three large site improvement projects at Maryland, Desert View, and Manzanita Elementary Schools. Ms. Thompson stated that the cost to the taxpayers within the district boundaries is very low and is estimated to be approximately \$3.00 for a home valued at \$100,000.00. Ms. Thompson advised that the District only requests a levy for specific projects that are eligible and does not levy an exact amount every year.

Mr. Adams asked if the bond money that was approved in November 2010 could cover these Adjacent Ways projects. Ms. Thompson replied that these projects could be paid with bond money. However, Ms. Thompson advised that the scopes of several of the bond projects were larger than initially estimated and additional projects have been identified. Therefore, there is not enough bond money to cover the projects identified. Ms. Thompson stated that if Adjacent Ways funding was used for these projects, it would maximize the bond money for other projects. Dr. Cook advised that the approved bond was for \$65 million and there have been \$83 million identified for projects, therefore, we have more need than we have bonding capacity.

Ms. Graziano asked how much the District had taxed this year or the average for the last several years. Ms. Thompson responded that the District had not asked for an Adjacent Ways levy in the last three years. Ms. Graziano asked if this would be the only levy for this year and Ms. Thompson replied yes.

Mrs. Lambert asked if there would be any Adjacent Ways needs at Roadrunner Elementary School related to the Green Schoolhouse project. Ms. Thompson stated that there are no plans to request a levy for Roadrunner projects, but will use Capital funds instead.

Mr. Jahneke asked if the District saved money by doing Adjacent Ways projects while doing other projects. Ms. Thompson responded that the Adjacent Ways projects are actually a portion of bond projects, but meet the eligibility requirements for the Adjacent Ways funding source. Ms. Thompson stated that Adjacent Ways projects must be for pieces of a project that are adjacent to the property or a bus lane on the edge of a school property. Ms. Thompson reiterated that if Adjacent Ways funding was used for these projects, it would maximize the bond money for other projects

Mrs. Lambert asked if the levy of approximately \$3.00 for a home valued at \$100,000.00 would be a one-time levy for the current year. Ms. Thompson replied that it would be a one-time levy for this year.

Mr. Adams stated he was appreciative of the taxpayers' support for the recent bond election and expressed concern for subjecting taxpayers to a levy, even though it is minimal, so soon after the bond election. Ms. Graziano mentioned that the Board had the option of levying a tax every year rather than when there was a project need. Mrs. Lambert stated she preferred the current Policy of the levy for specific projects because there are very few projects that are eligible for Adjacent Ways funding. She felt that these projects were a safety issue and benefited the neighborhood and the taxpayers, as well as the schools. She believed that the Governing Board had been conservative with Adjacent Ways projects and had done their due diligence ensuring that good decisions were made for the taxpayers, as well as the students.

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve the levy for Adjacent Ways funding for the 2011-2012 fiscal year in the amount of \$400,000.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. A roll call vote was requested. The motion carried 4-1 Aye. Mr. Adams voted nay.

C. Health Insurance Eligibility for Employees with Less Than 0.75 FTE Contracts

Dr. Cook advised the Board members that the Interest-Based Negotiations (IBN) team had several discussions regarding the issue of health insurance eligibility for part-time employees. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Sue Snyder who reviewed the IBN team's recommendations.

Mr. Adams asked what the District's cost savings would be for employees working under 30 hours per week if they did not receive health coverage. Ms. Snyder advised that it would be approximately \$200,000.00.

Ms. Graziano was pleased that the 79 employees with contracts of 0.5 FTE to 0.7499 FTE who elect to have health insurance benefits through the District will continue to be eligible for District health insurance benefits for one year. She expressed concern for those 79 employees and asked if it would be possible to allow them to be eligible until the end of their employment. Dr. Cook responded that IBN never considered that option. Mr. Justin Wing advised that most, if not all, of the 79 employees would have the opportunity to elect to work 0.75 FTE or greater in the 2012-2013 school year if they wished to be eligible for health insurance.

Mr. Maza asked if there would be positions available if a 0.5 FTE employee wished to increase hours to 0.75 FTE. Mr. Wing replied that there would be opportunities for employees to do so.

Mr. Adams advised that there are very few companies who offer health insurance to part-time employees, especially in these economic times. Mr. Adams stated that he was in favor of Option B because of the current financial status of the District.

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve that administrators and certified employees whose employment with WESD begins on or after 7/1/2011 and who have contracts for 0.75 FTE or greater will be eligible for District health insurance benefits for the 2011-2012 school year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. A roll call vote was requested. The motion carried 4-1 aye. Mr. Adams voted nay.

4-1 AYE

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve that continuing WESD administrators and certified employees, i.e., those whose employment began on or before 6/30/2011, who have contracts of 0.5 FTE or greater will continue to be eligible for District health insurance benefits. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. A roll call vote was requested. The motion did not pass 3-2 nay. President Maza, Mr. Adams, and Mrs. Lambert voted nay.

3-2 NAY

Ms. Graziano stated that she intentionally did not add "for the 2011-2012 school year" to the motion as recommended by IBN. Mr. Maza advised that he had a strong concern with not adding "for the 2011-2012 school year" to the motion. Mr. Maza stated that many of the educational support professionals work 0.75 FTE to provide health insurance benefits for their families. Although he was not in favor of cutting health insurance benefits for employees, he felt that employees had the choice to increase their contract hours in order to be eligible for health insurance benefits.

Mrs. Lambert stated she was in favor of the options she would propose because they give teachers considering contracts for next year a comfort level of knowing they will have health insurance benefits for the 2011-2012 school year and will give them one year to consider other health insurance options.

Mr. Adams appreciated the passion and compassion of the conversation and trying to do what is right for the employees. He stated that the Board had a fiscal responsibility to its constituents to make the proper financial decision.

Mr. Adams asked questions about discriminating against employee groups by offering differing insurance packages. Mr. Shumway and Dr. Cook will investigate further.

Mr. Maza asked how many eligible 0.5 FTE to 0.7499 FTE employees waive the health insurance benefits. Mr. Wing replied that 79 employees are eligible for health insurance benefits, however, approximately half of them waive the insurance.

Mr. Adams suggested that the Governing Board ask the Trust Board for a recommendation regarding this subject. Mr. Maza respectfully disagreed because the Governing Board makes the decisions regarding the health insurance program, as well as the funding of the Trust. Dr. Cook concurred with Mr. Maza that this topic is a Governing Board issue and not a Trust Board matter.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve that continuing WESD administrators and certified employees, i.e., those whose employment began on or before 6/30/2011, who have contracts of 0.5 FTE or greater will continue to be eligible for District health insurance benefits for the 2011-2012 school year.

3-2 AYE

Mrs. Lambert further moved that the Governing Board approve that administrators and certified employees whose employment with WESD begins on or after 7/1/2011 and who have contracts of at least 0.5 FTE but less than 0.75 FTE will be eligible for health insurance coverage through WESD, *with the District paying for a percentage of the premium cost equal to the employee's FTE and the employee paying the balance of the premium cost.*

Finally, Mrs. Lambert moved that the Governing Board approve that all administrators and certified employees, both those continuing employment with WESD, as well as those new to the District who begin employment on or after 7/1/2012, who have contracts of at least 0.5 FTE but less than 0.75 FTE will be eligible for health insurance coverage through WESD, *with the District paying for a percentage of the premium cost equal to the employee's FTE and the employee paying the balance of the premium cost.*

All motions were seconded by Mr. Maza. A roll call vote was requested. The motion carried 3-2 aye. Mr. Adams and Ms. Graziano voted nay.

D. Community Use of School Facilities Fee Structure for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

UNANIMOUS

Dr. Cook advised the Board that they were asked to approve the Community Use of School Facilities Fee Structure each year. Dr. Cook introduced Dr. Steve Murosky who offered the fee schedule for 2011-2012, which maintained the 2010-2011 facility use fees.

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board approve the 2011-2012 community use of school facilities fee schedule as presented, to take effect on July 1, 2011. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

Mrs. Lambert asked how the community had responded to our facility use fees. Dr. Murosky responded that the facility use has remained status quo for several years. Mr. Maza expressed appreciation for providing the facilities at a reasonable fee.

IV. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Parent Satisfaction Survey Update

Dr. Cook advised the Board that the results of the 2011 Parent Satisfaction Survey was being presented in response to Ms. Graziano's request as a Future Agenda Item during a previous Board meeting. Dr. Cook stated that this year's results was being compared to previous years to show trend data. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Janet Sullivan who reviewed the data presented to the Board.

Ms. Graziano thanked Ms. Sullivan for the information. She asked if there was another survey regarding food services, transportation, and health services. Dr. Cook advised that this was the only survey given to parents. Dr. Cook stated that this survey was written several years ago by a professional survey writer from an outside company to avoid a built-in bias. The survey writer also provided surveys from other Districts as a reference when creating WESD's survey. The survey had not been revised in order to compare data from year to year. Dr. Cook advised that the survey could be modified. In order to receive more parent feedback, schools plan to offer incentives, e.g., classroom ice cream parties, for those who return the surveys.

Mr. Jahneke asked if the survey provided space for comments from the parents. Ms. Sullivan replied that there is a comment section and the comments are reviewed at the school level, as well as the District level. Mr. Maza asked if the comments are available for the Board members to view. He was advised that it is public information and available upon request.

Mrs. Lambert asked if Ms. Sullivan had heard about a survey prepared by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Ms. Sullivan replied that there had been discussions regarding an ADE prescribed parent survey for all schools, but no definitive information has been received.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Graziano requested that the District consider updating the Parent Satisfaction Survey.

VI. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Adams thanked Board members for the open dialogue. Even though they did not agree with each other, it was an opportunity to express their feelings in a professional, not personal, manner.

Ms. Graziano thanked the District and administrators for its professionalism and always keeping in mind what is best for the students and their families. She also thanked the District for not having computers on the dais as it can be distracting. She thanked the schools who provide their school events for the District calendar and encouraged all the schools to do so.

Mr. Jahneke stated that he enjoyed working with his fellow Board members and appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Mrs. Lambert thanked the teachers and the committees for their hard work. She also thanked the District for its integrity and hard work.

Dr. Cook acknowledged Vicky Bonavito, physical education teacher at Desert View Elementary School, who received a \$5,000.00 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, which was approved as Consent Item J. Dr. Cook received a congratulatory letter from Blue Cross Blue Shield.

VII. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Call for Executive Session: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 – A.3 and A.4

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

- A.3 and A.4 – Discussion or consultations with the attorney or attorneys for the public body for legal advice and in order to consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding the public body’s position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation – specifically regarding bond improvement contract issues.

UNANIMOUS

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert to call for an Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

VIII. RECESSING OF REGULAR MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – GENERAL FUNCTION

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Governing Board members present: Mr. Chris Maza, Ms. Clorinda Graziano, Mr. Aaron Jahneke, and Mrs. Tee Lambert. Mr. Bill Adams recused himself from the Executive Session due to a conflict of interest.

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.3 and A.4

- A.3 and A.4 – Discussion or consultations with the attorney or attorneys for the public body for legal advice and in order to consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding the public body’s position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation – specifically regarding bond improvement contract issues.

X. RECONVENING OF REGULAR MEETING

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Adams was absent for the Adjournment.

4-0 AYE

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary

Joyce Shiota
BOARD SECRETARY

5/26/11
DATE

Alvin Jahneke
BOARD OFFICIAL

05-26-11
DATE