

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION

2010-2011

February 10, 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 7:00 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 Ms. Graziano. 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 January 27, 2011 Regular Meeting and Executive Session (Confidential). The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

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

Board members thanked Lookout Mountain students for the calendars they made in Mrs. Sauer's art class.

Mr. Jahneke shared that he enjoyed attending the Communities in Schools breakfast on February 9, 2011 and thanked them for their support of our students and schools.

Mr. Jahneke commended everyone involved in the Parent University held on January 29, 2011. He stated there was good participation and thanked the District for their efforts.

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

- Palo Verde Middle School – Talent Show
- District Honor Orchestra Rehearsals – thanked teachers for allowing her to attend
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Honor Band Rehearsals – thanked teachers for allowing her to attend

Mrs. Lambert shared that she enjoyed attending the NSBA Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, D.C., February 5-8, 2011. She advised that she would provide a report at the next Board meeting.

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Dr. Cook introduced Dr. Ken Schofield, principal of Chaparral Elementary School, who, in turn, introduced 1<sup>st</sup> grade student, Ethan Poggi and his family. Ethan demonstrated a mathematics concept by solving a story problem in two different ways. Ethan was presented with a certificate, mathematics book, a ruler, calculator and pencils.

**G. Special Recognition**

- Dr. Cook acknowledged Sunset Elementary School who won an energy conservation award from the Building Owners and Managers Association of Greater Phoenix (BOMA). Dr. Cook thanked Ms. Sue Pierce for her efforts and introduced Principal Betty Paterson who thanked the students, staff, and her facility manager for their hard work to win this award.
- Dr. Cook recognized that Washington Elementary School achieved gold status as a three-year participant in the Beat the Odds Program, a Center for the Future of Arizona program that focuses on increasing student achievement. Dr. Cook introduced Principal Dave McNeil and his mentor, Tommie Miel. Ms. Miel congratulated Mr. McNeil and his staff for their efforts; and thanked the District for the opportunity to work with the Washington Elementary School staff. Mr. McNeil thanked Ms. Miel for her mentorship and guidance and thanked the District for its leadership team. Mr. McNeil also thanked his motivated teaching staff for their hard work.

**H. Public Participation**

There was public participation. Mary Lou Palmer, principal of Moon Mountain Elementary School, spoke in support of Childsplay and their collaboration with the District as a result of a grant. Ms. Palmer read testimonials from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers who have participated in the program for two years and stated how valuable Childsplay has been to them as a teaching tool and professional development.

**I. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Ms. Graziano requested that Item \*II.E. – Issue RFQ No. 10.040, Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for Lookout Mountain Bond Project be pulled from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

**UNANIMOUS**

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that the Governing Board approve the remaining Consent Agenda items. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

**\*A. Approval/Ratification of Vouchers**

Approved and ratified the vouchers as presented.

**UNANIMOUS**

**\*B. Personnel Items**

Approved the personnel items as presented.

**UNANIMOUS**

**\*C. Public Gifts and Donations**

Approved the public gifts and donations as presented.

**UNANIMOUS**

1. Telephone Pioneers donated 10 computers and an iPod with an approximate value of \$4,000.00 for the benefit of students at Acacia Elementary School.
2. Walnut Canyon Press donated 2,500 books, titled Arizona Arts and Nations, with an approximate value of \$37,475.00 to the Curriculum Department for the benefit of all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the District.

3. Qwest Telephone Pioneers – Phoenix Thunderbird Club donated an interactive United States map with an approximate value of \$350.00 for the benefit of students at Ironwood Elementary School.
4. Joseph Poklesnik donated video equipment with an approximate value of \$1,580.00 for the benefit of students at John Jacobs Elementary School.
5. Telecom Pioneers – Arizona Chapter #66 donated a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to purchase violins and violas for the benefit of music students at Mountain View School.
6. Kathleen Wolertz donated Bookman’s credit slips with a value of \$1,710.00 for the benefit of teachers and students at Orangewood School.
7. Trinity Mennonite Church donated a check in the amount of \$2,720.00 for the benefit of students and their families at Palo Verde Middle School.
8. Positive Network Alliance donated holiday gifts with an approximate value of \$3,000.00 for the benefit of Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at Shaw Butte Elementary School.
9. DonorsChoose.org donated a fire-retardant rug with an approximate value of \$522.84 for the benefit of students at Sunnyslope School.

**\*D. Out-of-State Travel**

**UNANIMOUS**

Approved the out-of- state travel as presented.

1. Carlos Calderon, Benjamin Ewing, Christina Felicetta, Larry Pristo, and Lillian Carol Zelaya, School Psychologists, submitted a request to attend the National School Psychology Association Conference, February 25-29, 2011, in San Francisco, CA, at no cost to the District.

**\*E. Issue RFQ No. 10.040, Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for Lookout Mountain Bond Project**

**UNANIMOUS**

Ms. Graziano asked for an explanation of a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR). Mr. Howard Kropp, Administrator of Purchasing, responded that a CMAR is one method to consider for construction of a school building. A CMAR would provide a whole team, e.g., architect and construction team, and would guarantee a maximum price. The RFQ would enable the District to obtain a qualified firm that best meets the needs of the District’s Lookout Mountain Bond Project.

A motion was made by Ms. Graziano that the Governing Board approve Consent Agenda item \*I.I.E. – Issue RFQ No. 10.040, Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for Lookout Mountain Bond Project. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried.

**\*F. Acceptance of the Target Grants in the Amount of \$2,800.00**

**UNANIMOUS**

**III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. To Consider Bids Received and, if Deemed Advisable, to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Award of Sale of School Improvement Bonds of the District to the Winning Bidder**

**UNANIMOUS**

Dr. Cook advised the Board that the competitive bidding process for the District’s sale of the initial \$10,000,000.00 bond authorization occurred the morning of February 10,

2011. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Cathy Thompson who, in turn, introduced Mr. Bill Davis of Piper Jaffrey & Co. who provided information regarding the bidding process. Mr. Davis advised the Board that the bidding process was very successful. He stated that the lowest true interest rate bid of 3.783732% was very good for the District, as well as the taxpayers.

Mr. Davis introduced Mr. Logan McKenzie of Piper Jaffrey & Co. who reviewed the two rating reports from Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's. Mr. McKenzie stated that the analysts from both companies were confident with the District's management, and recognized Ms. Cathy Thompson and her staff. Mr. McKenzie was pleased to report that the District received an Aa2 rating from Moody's which was two steps above its 2007 rating.

Mr. Adams stated he was very pleased with the results of the bidding process and acknowledged the efforts of Ms. Thompson and her staff.

Mr. Jahneke advised he was pleased with the bidding results which were due to good fiscal management by the District.

Mr. Maza thanked Mr. Davis and Mr. McKenzie for their guidance. Mr. Maza acknowledged the process of continuous negotiation of the District's fiscal management and thanked Dr. Cook, Ms. Thompson, and employees in the District involved in the process.

Mrs. Lambert gave kudos to the District and the staff for the processes that are in place to properly manage the finances which enabled the District to obtain such good bidding results.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board adopt a resolution authorizing the issuance and award of the sale of school improvement bonds of the District to the winning bidder as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

Dr. Cook acknowledged the work and expertise of Mr. Davis and Piper Jaffrey & Co. She thanked them for their excellent advice provided to the District which made the bidding process a success. Dr. Cook also acknowledged Ms. Thompson and her staff for their efforts that largely contributed to the exceptional rating and bidding results.

**B. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Approval of Direction to the Employee Benefit Trust (EBT) Regarding the Employee Benefits Plan for 2011-2012** **UNANIMOUS**

Dr. Cook advised the Board that the District was requesting direction for the Employee Benefit Trust regarding funding levels for 2011-2012. Dr. Cook introduced Mr. Rex Shumway who reviewed a possible recommendation of maintaining the same level of District contributions per employee, with additional funding to come from EBT contingency funds, plan design changes and/or Federal Jobs funding.

Ms. Graziano asked if there was enough in the EBT contingency funds to cover the deficit. Mr. Shumway replied that the EBT had been conservative and prudent with the contingency funds and had a good reserve. He advised that possible plan design changes would also be considered to reduce the deficit.

Ms. Graziano asked if Mr. Shumway could project how much of a premium increase might be incurred by employees. Mr. Shumway reported that it was too early to determine the cost, however, EBT would try to make smart plan design changes without dramatically impacting employees.

Mr. Maza thanked Mr. Shumway for his participation on the Trust Board and also thanked the Health Committee members for their involvement.

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that, based on the current revenue projections, the Governing Board direct the Employee Benefit Trust (EBT) to formulate an employee benefits plan recommendation for 2011-2012 that maintains the same level of District contributions as provided in the 2010-2011 plan in the amount of \$5,046.48 per employee, with any additional funding to come from EBT contingency funds, plan design changes and/or Federal Jobs funding. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

**C. Employee Phased Retirement Program**

5-0 AYE

Dr. Cook stated that the Governing Board met on February 1, 2011 for a Study Session regarding an employee phased retirement program. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Sue Snyder who reviewed the program, which would be mutually beneficial to the participant, as well as the District. Ms. Snyder provided responses to two outstanding questions from the February 1, 2011 Study Session.

- **Would *smartschools* participants be able to serve on District committees?**  
IBN members met on February 3, 2011, and their consensus recommendation was that a *smartschools* participant should not be eligible to serve on:

- IBN Team
- Planning and Steering Council
- Facilities Council

A *smartschools* participant should be allowed to serve on:

- A curriculum related committee if the work of the committee impacted the participant's current year students
- A committee, including Site Council, only if doing so was a requirement of his/her position and the determination of the requirement would be overseen by the principal or Superintendent or designee

- **How would *smartschools* participants be impacted if regular employees are required to take a furlough day?**

Mr. Shumway's response was that it would be handled contractually with *smartschoolsplus, inc.* and the intent, as a District, was that phased retirement employees would not be paid for any days for which regular District employees were not compensated.

Mr. Jahneke thanked everyone involved for the responses to the questions. He stated that everyone is showing due diligence in considering this matter.

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board authorize WESD to pursue a contract with *smartschoolsplus, inc.* for the 2011-2012 school year in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Interest-Based Negotiation Team's original proposal, along with the additional parameters set forth in the responses to questions shared. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. A roll call vote was requested. The motion carried 5-0.

**D. Head Start Philosophy, Long- and Short-Range Goals, and Self-Assessment Plan**

UNANIMOUS

Dr. Cook advised that the Head Start Program is required by Regulation to annually present to the Board its philosophy, goals, and self-assessment. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Susan Burns who gave a presentation of updated information for the WESD Head Start Program. Ms. Burns introduced Ms. Michael Pilsbury who provided a WESD Head Start Self-Assessment presentation.

Ms. Burns introduced Ms. Amber Larson, WESD Head Start Policy Committee Chairperson, who stated that WESD has a reputation as having a smoothly run program.

Ms. Larson gave a testimonial as a parent of a Head Start student who will be prepared for Kindergarten because of the skills he learned at Head Start. She appreciated that the program also gets parents actively involved.

Ms. Larson also mentioned that she attended the Parent University on January 29, 2011 and gave kudos to everyone involved for the informative, well run event.

Board members thanked Ms. Burns, Ms. Pillsbury, and Ms. Larson for their reports and made the following comments:

- Appreciated that the students are taught in a positive manner and are getting ready for Kindergarten.
- Glad that it is not only Head Start for the students, but Head Start for the entire family.
- Happy to see the many services provided for the Head Start students, as well as the whole family.
- Nice to see taxpayers' tax money put to good use.
- Appreciated the work that the Head Start staff does for the students and their families, especially after the time it takes to completing the city and national reports/requirements.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve the Preschool/Head Start Philosophy, the Head Start Long-Range and Short-Range Goals and the Self-Assessment Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

#### **IV. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **A. Summary of Childsplay WESD Arts-Integration Professional Development Project Results**

Dr. Cook advised the Board that Childsplay had been a partner with the District in a four-year grant project and introduced Ms. Trish Black, Project Director, and Ms. Korbi Adams, Project Manager, who provided data about the success of the program. Ms. Black introduced Ms. Kate Hamm, Project Evaluator from the Arizona Prevention Resource Center, who reiterated the goal of the program was to give teachers the skills to increase the students' writing abilities through the use of drama. Ms. Hamm shared positive research results for the Six Traits of Writing scores.

Ms. Black advised the Board that Childsplay had nominated the District for the Governor's Arts Award. She stated that they felt the District was deserving of the award because it is a forward-looking, exciting, innovative District who values the arts.

Mr. Jahneke asked for clarification on the Voice category of the six traits. Ms. Black stated that voice could be either first person vocal or third person perspective which is part of the Six Traits of Writing curriculum.

Ms. Graziano asked if all of the students/classes were involved in the program. Ms. Black responded that all teachers for the particular grade level participated, e.g., 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> grades.

Ms. Graziano asked if the program would be offered to other grade levels, other than 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Ms. Black replied that because of additional stimulus funds this year, the program was able to be expanded to include 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Royal Palm Middle School. Ms. Black stated that teachers have shared skills they have learned with other grade level teachers at staff meetings.

Ms. Graziano asked if Childsplay had plans to conduct in-service training for teachers not participating in the program. Ms. Black responded that they have been discussing possible opportunities with Ms. Natalie McWhorter, Director of Curriculum, for in-service, after-school, or summer presentations.

Ms. Graziano asked if Childsplay intended to apply for another grant since this grant will end this year. Ms. Black stated that they have been advised of a Professional Development for Arts Education Grant from the Department of Education in Washington, D.C., however, the District would need to apply for it and be the fiscal agent. Ms. Black advised that Childsplay would be happy to assist in the grant application.

Mrs. Lambert thanked Childsplay for the excellent program they provide to the District's students for interaction and activity in the classrooms to improve their writing skills, as well as carryover to other curriculum subjects.

**V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

**VI. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Mr. Maza acknowledged Alex Watkins, 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Palo Verde Middle School, who was working on his Citizenship in the Community badge for his Eagle Scout for Boy Scout Troop 747.

**VII. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Call for Executive Session: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 – A.5

**UNANIMOUS**

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

A.5 – Discussion or consultations with the designated representative of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations with employee organizations regarding the salaries, salary schedule, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of employees of the public body – specifically regarding the Board's interests for the 2011 Interest-based Negotiation (IBN) process.

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

**VIII. RECESSING OF REGULAR MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – GENERAL FUNCTION**

**A. Call to Order and Roll Call**

All Board members were in attendance.

**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.5**

A.5 – Discussion or consultations with the designated representative of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations with employee organizations regarding the salaries, salary schedule, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of employees of the public body – specifically regarding the Board’s interests for the 2011 Interest-based Negotiation (IBN) process.

**X. RECONVENING OF REGULAR MEETING**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Adams to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:43 p.m. The motion **UNANIMOUS** 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

2/24/11  
DATE

Alan Jahneke  
BOARD OFFICIAL

02-24-11  
DATE