

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES:  
REGULAR MEETING

2015-2016

May 12, 2016

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. Aaron Jahneke called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present: Mr. Aaron Jahneke, Ms. Clorinda Graziano, Mr. Bill Adams, Mr. Larry Herrera, and Mrs. Tee Lambert.

**B. Moment of Silence and Meditation**

Mr. Jahneke called for a moment of silence and meditation and asked that everyone keep students and staff in their thoughts during this time of the year.

**C. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Jahneke led the Pledge of Allegiance

**D. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda**

**UNANIMOUS**

A motion was made by Mr. Herrera that the Governing Board adopt the May 12, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried. (5-0)

**E. Approval of the Minutes**

**UNANIMOUS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the April 28, 2016 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried. (5-0)

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

The following announcements and comments were made by Governing Board members and Superintendent Stanton:

Mr. Adams

Attended:

- The Annual Sunnyslope Kiwanis Dinner on Friday, April 29, 2016.
- The ASBA's Governance Committee meeting with Mrs. Lambert on Monday, May 2, 2016. Mr. Adams mentioned that both he and Mrs. Lambert are members of the committee.
- BEGIN Graduation on Monday, May 2, 2016. Mr. Adams congratulated all of the graduates and said it is still the best program for new teachers in the nation.
- Washington Elementary Foundation (WEF) meeting on Thursday, May 5, 2016.

Thanked everyone involved with WEF.

- WDEA Annual Recognition & Installation Dinner along with fellow Board Members on Thursday, May 5, 2016. Mr. Adams congratulated Mrs. Laurie Richards and all of the new officers.
- Phoenix Union's Foundation for Education Scholarship Open Golf Tournament on Friday, May 6, 2016. Mr. Adams said it is always interesting to see what other foundations are doing and how successful they are.
- Lamp of Learning Awards Dinner on Friday, May 6, 2016. Mr. Adams said it was an unbelievable, fantastic event and congratulated all of the winners. Mr. Adams also thanked everyone involved in putting the event together.
- Abraham Lincoln Traditional School on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 and spent time with Principal Tara Mayole.
- Westmarc Education Committee on Wednesday, May 11, 2016. Mr. Adams said it was interesting to hear other District Administrators; Board Members; Higher Education Representatives from different colleges; and Business Leaders share their perception of what the current state of education is and where they think it's headed.
- WESD Retiree Reception earlier this evening. Mr. Adams said he is so happy, thankful, and proud of all of WESD's retirees.

Ms. Graziano:

Attended:

- Sweetwater "Leader in Me" event on Friday, April 29, 2016. Ms. Graziano said that Sweetwater has adopted and embraced the "seven habits of highly effective people". Ms. Graziano said that one of the groups at Sweetwater was called Volunteer for Friends (VFF). Ms. Graziano said that VFF partners special education and general education students together. The students have lunch together and do a project together once a week.
- Kitzo Church for the 5th and 6th grade Manzanita Elementary Art Show on Friday, April 29, 2016.
- Ocotillo Elementary PTO "Cinco de Mayo" on Friday, April 29, 2016.
- Orangewood Elementary for "Music under the Stars" on Friday, April 29, 2016.
- BEGIN Graduation on Monday, May 2, 2016.
- Roadrunner Elementary music concert on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.
- Arroyo Elementary 8th grade musical on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.
- Washington District Education Association (WDEA) Recognition and Installation Dinner on Thursday, May 5, 2016.
- Arizona Education Association (AEA) Retiree meeting on Friday, May 6, 2016.
- Lamp of Learning Awards dinner on Friday, May 6, 2016.
- AEA's "Salute to Excellence" where CAPE and Pure Heart Church received awards.
- John Jacobs Elementary School Orchestra concert on Monday, May 9, 2016.
- WESD Retiree reception on Thursday, May 12, 2016.

Acknowledged:

- Thunderbird High School for hosting the 5th and 6th grade track meet.
- Sunnyslope High School for hosting the 7th and 8th grade track meet.
- All of the PE teachers, coaches, and principals for supporting the students.
- Moon Mountain Elementary School for participating in "Operation Tone Up".

Mrs. Lambert

- Congratulated everyone on their end of the year activities and programs.
- Wished everyone a Happy Teachers Appreciation Week.
- Thanked everyone for all of the work they do on behalf of our students.

Mr. Herrera said that he attended a lot of the same events already mentioned by fellow Board members but the highlight of the past few weeks was his visit at Sunburst Elementary with Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas. Mr. Herrera said that discussing the needs of our schools with Superintendent Douglas very good and the District was able to showcase and highlight our programs.

Mr. Jahneke

Attended:

- BEGIN Dinner on Monday, May 2, 2016. Mr. Jahneke thanked Ms. Graziano for speaking at the dinner.
- Kiwanis Dinner on Friday, April 29, 2016.
- Lamp of Learning Awards dinner on Friday, May 6, 2016. Mr. Jahneke said he was honored to speak at the dinner.

Dr. Stanton wished all of the mothers a "Happy Mother's Day". Dr. Stanton said that it is a very busy time of the year and he has also attended most of the events mentioned by Board members. Dr. Stanton mentioned that he attended the ASPIRE Graduation on Wednesday, May 5, 2016. Dr. Stanton thanked Dr. Maggie Westhoff and her staff on a wonderful event. Dr. Stanton said that there are so many great things going on in the District and he is happy to see all of the celebrations. Dr. Stanton thanked everyone for all of their hard work behind the scenes planning all of the wonderful celebrations.

#### **G. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

#### **H. Special Recognition**

Dr. Stanton introduced Ms. Pam Horton, Digital Crisis and Communications Officer, to share with the Board the recent awards the Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE) Department received. Ms. Horton introduced Mrs. Jill Hicks, Community and Marketing Director; Mr. Sean Garden, Printshop Manager; Mrs. Marian Grgurich, Graphic Specialist; Mrs. Christina McPheeters, Administrative Assistant; and Mrs. Sue Snyder, Director of Strategic Communications. Ms. Horton also acknowledged two team members who were unable to attend the Board meeting; Mrs. Carol Donaldson, Director of Communications and Public Engagement who is retiring this year and Mrs. Angela Perrone, Director of Translation Services. Ms. Horton shared with the Board that CAPE recently received three Awards of Excellence and one Award of Distinction by the Arizona School Public Relations Association (ASPRA) during the annual Superintendent's Luncheon and ASPRA\*tions Awards on April 27, 2016. Ms. Horton said the three Awards of Excellence were presented for its' Business Advisory Team; Lamp of Learning Awards and Top 5 electronic publication. Ms. Horton said the CAPE team received the Award of Distinction for its' "LEAP into Kindergarten" campaign.

Mrs. Hicks shared with the Board that CAPE also received the Public Relations Partnership Award from the Arizona Education Association (AEA). Mrs. Hicks said that CAPE was nominated by WDEA. Mrs. Hicks also mentioned that Pure Heart Church was also nominated by WDEA and recognized by AEA.

Mr. Herrera mentioned that the WESD Business Advisory Team is the envy of other school districts and recognized statewide.

#### **I. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**UNANIMOUS**

Ms. Graziano requested that item \*II.E. Out of State Travel be pulled from the Consent agenda for separate consideration.

Mrs. Lambert requested item \*II.B. – Personnel Items be pulled from the Consent agenda for separate consideration.

Mrs. Lambert made a motion that the Governing Board approve the remaining Consent Agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried. (5-0)

Mr. Jahneke thanked all of the individuals, organizations, and companies who donated to the students and staff at WESD.

## II. CONSENT AGENDA

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

UNANIMOUS

Approved and ratified the vouchers as presented.

### \*B. Personnel Items

UNANIMOUS

Mrs. Lambert made a motion that the Governing Board approve Consent Agenda Item B - Personnel Items as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried. (5-0)

Dr. Stanton introduced and recognized, Mrs. Dawna Dohogne as the new Assistant Principal at Ocotillo Elementary beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

### \*C. Public Gifts and Donations: Acceptance of checks and items to schools and District departments in the amount of \$ 1,126.69 (The Value of Donated items is Determined by the Donor

UNANIMOUS

Name of Donor	School/Department	Amount and/or Value
University of Arizona's College of Education School Safety Program Plus	Desert Foothills Jr. High	\$2,500.00
Friends of the Phoenix Public Library	Cactus Wren Elementary	\$1,000.00
Order of The Eastern Stars of Arizona (Sunnyslope Chapter #47)	Ocotillo Elementary	\$600.00
Lowes	Ocotillo Elementary	\$318.50
Barbara Jones	Roadrunner	\$605.00
Washington Education Foundation	CAPE	4500.00
An anonymous person	CAPE	\$4000.00
Donors Choose	Orangewood Elementary	\$1158.00

### \*D. Out of County/State Field Trips

UNANIMOUS

### \*E. Out of State Travel

UNANIMOUS

Ms. Graziano asked what fund is being used to cover the expenses for the UVA travel.

Mrs. Cathy Thompson said that \$55,500.00 of the cost of the UVA trip comes from federal in-direct cost and the remaining is paid for through Title 1 funding.

Ms. Graziano asked whether or not the federal in-direct funds could be used for other things, such as professional development for teachers.

Mrs. Thompson responded that federal in-direct cost could be used to cover other

expenses, and it does. Mrs. Thompson said that \$55,000.00 is a very small portion of the amount that is spent from federal in-direct cost. Mrs. Thompson mentioned that a lot of the MIS expenses are paid out of federal in-direct cost.

Mr. Adams asked whether or not federal in-direct funds could be used for professional development for Board members

Mrs. Thompson said that fund is normally used to take care of administrative costs for the District in order to relieve M&O monies but yes, the funds could be used towards professional development for Board members.

Ms. Graziano made a motion that the Governing Board approve Consent Agenda Item E – Out-of-State Travel as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried. (5-0)

**\*F. Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Phoenix for the Head Start Program and Approval of the WESD Head Start Program Planning 2016-2017.**

**UNANIMOUS**

### **III. RECESSING OF REGULAR MEETING FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Adams made a motion to recess the regular meeting for a public hearing. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion passed. (5-0)

### **IV. PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **A. Annual Expenditure Budget Revision #1 for Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

Dr. Stanton introduced Mr. David Velazquez, Director of Finance to present to the Board the annual expenditure budget revision for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Mr. Velazquez explained to the Board that per A.R.S. 15-905, districts must have final revisions to the State Expenditure Budget approved at a Governing Board meeting prior to May 15th of each year. Mr. Velazquez presented the board with the budget revision and explained that it includes adjustments to the budget balance carry forward which is reflective of the final 2013-2014 annual financial report, adjustments to final student counts for the last school year, adjustments based on growth in the current year, and adjustments to budget lines based on actual expenditure activity in the current year.

Mr. Herrera asked if the carryover was part of the 4%.

Mr. Velazquez said that yes, the carryover is part of the 4%. Mr. Velazquez said the 4% is based on the revenue control limit and that number does not vary much.

Ms. Graziano asked if the reason money is moved into capital is because it can be carried over from year to year.

Mr. Velazquez said yes, that was correct.

Ms. Graziano asked if the District was at the limit of what is allowed to be carried over in M&O.

Mr. Velazquez explained that the District gets as close to the carryover limit as possible.

Ms. Graziano mentioned that she noticed that the amount we carryover effects the District's Bond rating.

Mr. Adams asked if the District's combined budget was roughly \$140 million.

Mr. Velazquez responded that the \$140 million represented capital and M&O but there are other grants that bring the District's budget to approximately \$230 million.

Mr. Adams asked what the \$1.2 million shown in the handout reflected.

Mr. Velazquez said the \$1.2 million represents sudden growth. Mr. Velazquez mentioned that the District operates on an adopted budget, so to receive those funds now and infuse them into M&O is not practical or planned because the District did not have those funds available throughout the year. Mr. Velazquez said that is why the District transfers the funds to capital, without limitations to carry the funds for next year. Mr. Velazquez said if the District chose to transfer some of the funds back to M&O later, it can.

Mr. Adams thanked Mr. Velazquez for that explanation and asked what the growth trend was for the past five years.

Mr. Velazquez said that the growth trend fluctuates but there was a downturn in 2010-2011, but it has been slowly climbing up.

Mr. Adams asked how this process would change with current year funding.

Mrs. Thompson responded that once the District goes to current year funding, the District would estimate the budget in July based upon what the District thinks the student count will be and then the District will be funded based on actual student count and there will be no more sudden growth monies. Mrs. Thompson explained that the District has been able to keep the capital budget going over past few years with sudden growth funding and the District will not have that ability any longer.

Mr. Adams asked if what the District presented to the Department of Education was projected student growth.

Mrs. Thompson said that yes, the District will present what it believes the student count will be next year but the count will not be final until next August.

Mr. Adams asked if the money that the District receives in the future will be based on projected or actual student counts.

Mrs. Thompson said it will be based on actual student counts.

Mr. Adams asked why the District provided a projected student count.

Mrs. Thompson said the District provides the state with a projected student count so that it can receive money at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Adams said that he would like the District to project high.

Mrs. Lambert mentioned that if the District over projects its student count, it would have to pay the state back.

Mr. Adams said that we could pay the state back with its own money, if that happens.

Mrs. Thompson stated if the District over projects, the money that will need to be paid back to the state would come from taxpayers.

Dr. Stanton asked Mrs. Thompson to explain what would happen if external factors were to impact student enrollment and the District experienced a decline in student count.

Mrs. Thompson said that current year funding would force the District to make immediate changes to staffing.

Mrs. Thompson said that the District would benefit if Senate Bill 248 if passed and districts would be allowed to carry over as much as they have been in the past. That will enable districts to offset if they end up having a decline in enrollment.

Dr. Stanton clarified that the provision Mrs. Thompson refers to is only good for one year.

**V. RECESSING OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR REGULAR MEETING**

Mr. Jahneke asked whether or not there were any public comments.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Jahneke recessed the public hearing at 7:52 p.m. for the regular meeting.

**VI. ACTION/DISCUSSION**

**A. Annual Expenditure Budget Revision #1 for Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

**UNANIMOUS**

Mrs. Lambert made a motion to that the Governing Board approve the 2015-2016 Annual Expenditure Budget Revision #1, and authorize subsections to be exceeded provided that the overall Maintenance and Operations budget is not exceeded as per ARS 15-905 G. The motions was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion passed. (5-0)

**B. 2017 Arizona School Boards Association's Legislative Agenda Proposals**

**UNANIMOUS**

Mrs. Lambert mentioned that she worked with Dr. Stanton and Ms. Tucker to summarize the discussion on this item from the April 28, 2016 Governing Board meeting. Mrs. Lambert asked for a discussion on whether all of the items were captured and if there should be any reordering of the items.

Mr. Adams mentioned that he liked number 7 and would like to see it moved up a little. Mr. Adams cautioned the Board not to tie all of the priorities to funding. Mr. Adams said funding should be a priority, but everything should not be tied to funding.

Mr. Herrera said that he likes the list but would agree on moving number 7 into the top five.

Mrs. Lambert suggested the Board move number 4 into the bottom two and move number 7 into the top five.

Mr. Adams mentioned that he believed that other Districts may have priorities related to diversity.

Mrs. Lambert asked Mr. Adams what he meant by diversity.

Mr. Adams replied it could mean anything, but he was thinking relation to student diversity.

Ms. Graziano asked whether the wording in number 3 was accurate. Ms. Graziano asked whether ESSA replaces NCLB not the new NCLB.

Mrs. Lambert said that both ESSA and NCLB are political brands. Mrs. Lambert said that they both are names for the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA), so referring to ESSA as new, is appropriate.

Mrs. Lambert made a motion that the Governing Board accept the listed priorities replacing number 7 with number 4 and direct the Board Secretary to submit the priorities to ASBA by May 20, 2016.

### **C. Possible Rescheduling of June 9, 2016 Governing Board Meeting**

**UNANIMOUS**

Mrs. Lambert said that it was brought to the attention of the Board that the June 9, 2016 scheduled Governing Board meeting conflicts with the ASBA Summer Leadership Conference in Tucson, Arizona. Mrs. Lambert said that the majority of the Board is scheduled to attend the conference, which begins on Thursday, June 9, 2016. Mrs. Lambert asked the Board to consider moving the meeting to either Tuesday, June 7, 2016 or Wednesday, June 8, 2016. Mrs. Lambert said that there is a lot of District business scheduled to be on the agenda on June 9, 2016 so canceling the meeting is not an option.

Mr. Adams also mentioned that he will be out of town part of the week of June 6, 2016.

Ms. Graziano asked what time the conference started on Thursday, June 9, 2016.

Ms. Tucker said that according to ASBA, registration is from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; a pre-conference workshop from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; a reception from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.; and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Graziano asked Mr. Adams when he was scheduled to return to Phoenix that week because the Board could consider meeting in the morning or afternoon on Thursday, June 9, 2016.

Mr. Adams said that his plane is scheduled to land in Phoenix at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, 2016.

Mrs. Lambert said that having the meeting in the morning or afternoon would make it difficult for parents and staff to attend. Mrs. Lambert also mentioned that moving the meeting up too early in the week pushes District staff to get the Board packets prepared.

Mr. Jahneke said that Tuesday, June 7, 2016 works better for his schedule but he would make Wednesday, June 8, 2016 work if Board decided on it.

Mr. Herrera said he could be available on either Tuesday, June 7, 2016 or Wednesday, June 8, 2016.



Mrs. Lambert made a motion that the Governing Board move the Thursday, June 9, 2016 Governing Board meeting to Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion passed. (5-0)

Mr. Adams thanked the Board members for their consideration and stated he may miss the Wednesday, June 8, 2016 Board meeting.

## **VII. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

### **A. Bond Update for 2010 Authorization**

Dr. Stanton introduced Mrs. Cathy Thompson, Director of Business Services to present to the Board an update from the 2010 Bond.

Mrs. Thompson reminded the Board that voters approved a \$65 million Bond sale in November 2010 for capital improvements. Mrs. Thompson provided the Board with a summary of all of the 2010 Bond projects that have been completed; are in process; or scheduled.

Mr. Adams asked if Mrs. Thompson thought the District's recent slight down grade in credit rating affected the interest rate the District received on its Bonds.

Mrs. Thompson said that she didn't believe it had an effect because although Moody's did recently down grade the District's credit rating by 1%, it is still high and the District still has an A+ rating with other credit agencies. Mrs. Thompson said that she believes strategically, the District was able to sell at the right time.

Mr. Adams asked whether Mrs. Thompson maintained a spreadsheet of all of the Bond projects.

Mrs. Thompson said that she does maintain a spreadsheet that tracks the status of all of the projects the District said would be completed with the revenue from the Bond sale.

Mr. Adams said that he felt the data from the spreadsheet would help with marketing if the District decided to ask for another Bond election. Mr. Adams said he believes it will be important to illustrate that information to the public to let them know the District is doing its job.

Mr. Adams asked who makes up the task force.

Mrs. Thompson said that originally there was a task force made up of District facility people and that worked for a few years because the District was in a major planning stage. Mrs. Thompson said the current task force is made up of representation from all over the District, parents and community members. Mrs. Thompson said that she has even invited individuals who have called her office in the past with questions about tax rates to join the task force.

Mr. Herrera asked if any of the current Bond revenue went towards solar projects.

Mrs. Thompson said that District has begun exploring solar but not with any of the Bond money. Mrs. Thompson said that three schools that have solar were paid for with APS money.

Mrs. Lambert thanked Mrs. Thompson for her presentation and said that all of her questions were answered. Mrs. Lambert mentioned that since the District no longer gets capital dollars or has a functioning School Facilities Board (SFB) there is currently no other way, other than Bond dollars, to maintain District buildings to ensure that they are a healthy and safe environment for our students.

Ms. Graziano asked if there were any schools not receiving the Bond money.

Mrs. Thompson said she didn't think so. Mrs. Thompson said that Abraham Lincoln Traditional; Sunnyslope School; and Moon Mountain received very little money based on the condition of their buildings.

Ms. Graziano said that she didn't notice Arroyo Elementary mentioned in Mrs. Thompson's presentation.

Mrs. Thompson said that Arroyo Elementary was one of the schools that a renovation was scheduled to take place but once the District starting looking into that renovation it was determined that it needed to be a bigger project to that proposal will be coming before the Board in the near future.

Mr. Adams said that he has been getting a lot of inquiries about whether or not the District was planning on going for another Bond or override. Mr. Adams asked whether or not the District was planning on going out for another Bond.

Mrs. Thompson said that the task force will have a proposal for Governing Board approval at a future meeting.

Mr. Adams asked when the taskforce was planning on bringing a proposal before the Board.

Mrs. Thompson said that they are scheduled to present a proposal at the May 26, 2016 Governing Board meeting.

Mr. Herrera asked Mrs. Thompson if there was a competitive bidding process for the construction projects.

Mrs. Thompson said that bidding process is very competitive.

Mr. Jahneke thanked Mrs. Thompson for her presentation and said he thought it demonstrated the District is doing a lot with the Bond monies.

## **V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Adams requested a report, information and/or a presentation on all of WESD's standing committees and task forces. Mr. Adams said that he may have some questions once he sees the information.

Ms. Graziano requested information on new job descriptions, particularly within the Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE) reorganization or the new UVA Coach. Ms. Graziano said that traditionally, in the past, new job descriptions have been brought before the Board.

Ms. Graziano requested a presentation and discussion on District Assessments. Ms. Graziano said she would like to see a calendar of district-wide assessments; historical background of how and why each one was adopted and how they are used;

correlation of assessments and standards tested; compare and contrast of assessments (do they overlap with AzMERIT); examples of data that is pulled and how it is used; feedback from both assessment staff and classroom teachers; examples of what a testing schedule looks like for a primary teacher; upper grades (4-6), middle school for both ELA and Math and how are schedules affected by the assessments.

Ms. Graziano requested a presentation on the writing assessments. Ms. Graziano asked for information on whether the writing assessment was new and how it was selected and what schools used previously. Ms. Graziano asked to see the correlation and alignment of the writing assessment to curriculum standards and pacing guides. Ms. Graziano requested information on the writing schedule for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. At the middle school who administers those tests and who grades them?

Mr. Herrera requested information and an update on the Roadrunner Elementary construction projects.

Mr. Herrera requested a presentation and information on Community Gardens.

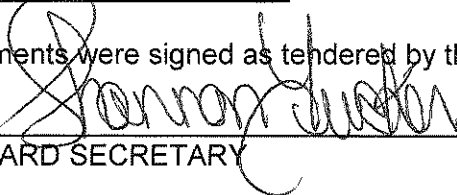
**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**UNANIMOUS**


A motion was made by Mr. Bill Adams to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herrera. The motion carried 5-0.

**SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS**

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BOARD SECRETARY

5/26/16  
DATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BOARD OFFICIAL

5/26/16  
DATE