

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES:
REGULAR MEETING

2015-2016

May 26, 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

Aaron Jahneke called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present: Aaron Jahneke, Clorinda Graziano, Bill Adams, Larry Herrera, and Tee Lambert.

B. Moment of Silence and Meditation

Aaron Jahneke called for a moment of silence and meditation and reminded everyone that today was Officer Glasser's funeral and the Governing Board stands with the community in keeping Officer Glasser and his family in their thoughts.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Jahneke led the Pledge of Allegiance

D. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda

UNANIMOUS

A motion was made by Tee Lambert that the Governing Board adopt the May 26, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera. The motion carried. (5-0)

E. Approval of the Minutes

UNANIMOUS

A motion was made by Clorinda Graziano that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the May 12, 2016 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera. 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:

Bill Adams

Attended:

- The Arizona Capitol Times Scoop on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 along with Jill Hicks, a round table discussion regarding Prop 123.
- Promotion Ceremony at Royal Palm on Friday, May 20, 2016.
- Promotion Ceremony at Mountain Sky Junior High on Monday, May 23, 2016.

Tee Lambert

Attended:

- Promotion ceremony at Palo Verde Middle School and Orangewood School on Friday, May 20, 2016.
- Promotion ceremony at Desert Foothills Junior High on Monday, May 23, 2016.
- Afterschool Awards program held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Larry Herrera

Attended:

- Promotion ceremony at Abraham Lincoln Traditional School on Monday, May 23, 2016, where he gave a speech.
- Promotion ceremonies at Arroyo Elementary and Mountain View School on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 to support Aaron Jahneke and Clorinda Graziano.

Clorinda Graziano:

Acknowledged:

- District staff who have served in the military and Adam Coon who is going on a military leave.
- District staff for making it to the end of the school year.
- New artwork on the boardroom walls from students at Sweetwater School, Ocotillo Elementary, Shaw Butte Elementary, and Sahuaro Elementary.

Attended:

- John Jacobs 35th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, May 13, 2016.
- Orangewood Arts' Night and Celebration of retiring Principal Andree Charlson on Friday, May 13, 2016.
- Acacia Elementary Band and String Orchestra concert on Monday, May 16, 2016.
- Chaparral Elementary Band Concert on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.
- Abraham Lincoln Traditional Orchestra concert on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.
- Sweetwater Fine Arts' night on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.
- Afterschool Awards on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.
- Sixth grade performance of "Aladdin" at Acacia Elementary on Thursday, May 19, 2016.
- Promotion ceremony at Maryland Elementary and Sweetwater School on Friday, May 20, 2016.
- Promotion ceremony at Mountain Sky Junior High and Abraham Lincoln Traditional on Monday, May 23, 2016.
- Promotion ceremony at Mountain View School and Arroyo Elementary on Tuesday, May 24, 2016.
- Music and Art teachers' meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 2016.

Aaron Jahneke

Attended:

- Promotion ceremony at Cholla Middle School on Friday, May 20, 2016.
- Promotion ceremony at Sunnyslope School on Monday, May 23, 2016.
- Promotion ceremony at Arroyo Elementary on Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

Superintendent Stanton

Attended:

- John Jacobs Elementary 35th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, May 13, 2016
- Orangewood Arts' Night and Celebration for retiring Principal Andree Charlson on Friday, May 13, 2016.
- Sweetwater Fine Arts' night on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.
- Afterschool Awards on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.
- Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) meeting with Jill Hicks to discuss additional ways to collaborate to help children, especially Latino children.

Acknowledged/Updates:

- Kathleen McKeever and the entire Academic Support Programs staff for putting on a wonderful Afterschool Awards program.
- Howard Kropp and his team for ensuring all of the schools had the necessary number of chairs for the promotion ceremonies.
- Made a recruitment video, along with Jill Hicks and Justin Wing, for the District's faith-based partners asking them to reach out and help recruit teachers.
- Head-Start Program received its' official audit report from the federal government, and there were no findings.

G. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

H. Special Recognition

Dr. Stanton introduced Benita Loy, Health Services Coordinator who provided the Board with a presentation about the role health services staff plays in student achievement.

Benita Loy provided the Board with demographics of WESD health staff and data regarding the type of services provided by District health staff.

Benita Loy summarized the presentation with the following three ways health services helps increase academic achievement:

1. **Increase Attendance** by:
 - ▶ Managing chronic health conditions such as diabetes, asthma, and seizures which allows students to stay in class
 - ▶ Identifying and treating acute illnesses and injuries
 - ▶ Preventing and controlling the spread of communicable diseases
 - ▶ Referring to Community Resources for care and follow-up
2. **Remove potential barriers** to learning by identifying:
 - ▶ Vision and/or hearing concerns
 - ▶ Health concerns
 - ▶ Dental concerns
 - ▶ Hunger concerns
 - ▶ Clothing needs
3. **Save Time** for principals, teachers, and office staff by:
 - ▶ Providing student care
 - ▶ Administering Medications
 - ▶ Performing special procedures
 - ▶ Contacting parents

Bill Adams thanked Benita Loy for her presentation and for taking care of the WESD students, teachers, and staff and community members.

Clorinda Graziano thanked Benita Loy for her presentation and asked whether the 40% of students with a chronic illness has increased significantly over the years.

Benita Loy responded that the percentage of students being identified as having a chronic illness has increased, but some of the increase is due to staff diagnosing students more accurately.

Tee Lambert commented that the information that Benita Loy provided was very timely. Mrs. Lambert said she has been involved in some great conversations regarding education and the war on poverty and believes that needs assessments need to include this type of health information.

Larry Herrera said that his children benefit from the services provided by the Health Services Department and thanked Benita Loy for taking time away from her family to come present to the Board.

Aaron Jahneke said that the purpose of these types of presentations is for the Board to learn what each department does and also to highlight the need for services.

I. Approval of the Consent Agenda

UNANIMOUS

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

Larry Herrera made a motion that the Governing Board approve the remaining Consent Agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Clorinda 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 *II.B - Personnel Items as presented. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera. The motion carried. (5-0)

Dr. Stanton introduced and recognized, Kara McDivitt as the new Assistant Principal at Washington Elementary beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

Dr. Stanton also announced the appointment of Cassandra Hauck as the new Assistant Principal at Mountain View 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
PJ's Flowers and Events	Communications and Public Engagement Department	\$750.00
Box Tops for Education	Moon Mountain Elementary	\$695.00
Peter Piper Pizza	Richard E. Miller Elementary	\$406.49
Popcornopolis	Shaw Butte Elementary	\$2,000.00

- *D. **Out of State Travel** UNANIMOUS
- *E. **Award of Contract - Bid #16.001 Commercially Purchased Pizza** UNANIMOUS
- *F. **Award of Contract - Bid #16.002 Commercially Purchased Milk, Juice and Dairy Products** UNANIMOUS
- *G. **Resolution To Approve Reduction In Pupil Square Footage - Sunburst Elementary School Portable Building No. 1006** UNANIMOUS
- *H. **Amendment to IGA with DES for Refugee School Impact Grant 2015-2016** UNANIMOUS
- *I. **Extension and Renewal of Annual Contracts for Specified Goods and Services** UNANIMOUS
- *J. **District Representative for Procurement Protests for Fiscal Year 2016-2017** UNANIMOUS
- *K. **Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreement with the Mohave Educational Services Cooperative (MESCC)** UNANIMOUS
- *L. **Approval of Second Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policies JH – Student Absences and Excuses** UNANIMOUS

III. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Talent Management Update

Superintendent Stanton introduced Justin Wing, Director of Human Resources, who presented to the Board a Talent Management Update.

Justin Wing provided the Board with information and statistics regarding the Working Conditions Survey; Retention Survey; Exit Survey; and school staffing.

Bill Adams thanked Justin Wing for the presentation and asked whether or not the three surveys contained areas for comments.

Justin Wing responded that each survey contained several areas for comments.

Bill Adams said he is very interested in learning what factors, other than money, that have caused teachers to leave WESD, so that the District can focus on those areas.

Justin Wing said that salary was the major factor but he did have some letters and comments from teachers who have left WESD describing other factors.

Bill Adams mentioned he was concerned about the number of non-renewal of one year contracts.

Tee Lambert said that she is interested in non-renewal of one year contracts as well.

Justin Wing replied that most of the one year non-renewals came from retirees' the District begged to return to work and some were from individuals with teacher intern certificates.

Tee Lambert asked that since the Elementary Second Education Act (ESEA) has been reauthorized and eliminated the highly qualified status for teachers, would that help the District with teacher recruitment?

Justin Wing responded that it will be a benefit in the future but currently districts are still being told to continue to hire based on the highly qualified criteria.

Clorinda Graziano commented that the District's BEGIN program and other professional development opportunities help with retaining teachers, they make teachers feel connected to the District and community. Clorinda Graziano thanked Justin Wing and Maggie Westhoff for their efforts in that area.

Clorinda Graziano asked how many individuals retired this school year.

Justin Wing said that he believes approximately 35 teachers retired this year.

Clorinda Graziano asked how many former retirees came back to WESD this year as a favor and how many openings currently exist.

Justin Wing replied that approximately 12-20 retirees returned to the District to work over the last three years. Mr. Wing said the District normally has approximately 220 opening per year and currently the District has about 43 remaining openings for the 2016-2017 school year.

Clorinda Graziano asked if she could be provided with a breakdown of the number of individuals who left the District by building and summaries of the revised job descriptions for the Communications and Public Engagement Department.

Justin Wing said he would provide that information to Clorinda Graziano.

Clorinda Graziano asked whether or not the new Shepard position was a part-time position that has changed to fulltime.

Justin Wing said that the Shepard position was full-time and it will remain full-time.

Larry Herrera asked Justin Wing to explain leveling and the affect it has on students.

Justin Wing responded that leveling occurs when the District begins to look at real enrollment versus previously projected enrollment. Mr. Wing said that a lot of leveling occurs prior to the start of the school year and is never known by students or parents. Mr. Wing said that when it becomes necessary to level classes after the beginning of the school year, the District offers a smooth transition for the teachers.

Lyn Bailey said when leveling occurs, the District does everything it can to make the transition as smooth as possible for students. Lyn Bailey said the District has the new teacher go in and meet the students before the students are officially placed into their classrooms, they sometimes have pizza parties with the new teacher and help decorate the new classroom. Lyn Bailey said that the District notifies and includes parents in the process as well.

Larry Herrera asked if there was a way to control leveling.

Justin Wing replied that there is no way to totally eliminate leveling, but the District tries its best to monitor class sizes and enrollments. The District averages approximately 8 to 10 a year and some are due to adding classes due to increased enrollment and not eliminating classes.

Bill Adams asked what the District was communicating to teachers regarding raises, now that Prop 123 has passed.

Justin Wing said that the amount of the raises for staff will vary, the minimum raise will be about 3.2% but 40% of teachers will receive more than 3.2%.

Justin Wing said that the District will be providing staff with the amount of their new salaries next week.

Bill Adams asked Justin Wing to provide him with the actual numbers when they are finalized.

Clorinda Graziano mentioned that the District also loses teachers to unified or union high school districts because they can pay more due to the way the state pays unified and union high schools.

Aaron Jahneke reminded everyone that the Board approved a proposal recommendation by IBN that outlined the formulas for raises and it took into account things like seniority and compression.

B. Update Regarding 2016 WESD Bond Task Force

Superintendent Stanton introduced Mrs. Sue Snyder, Director of Communications and Public Engagement who provided the Board with an update and proposed recommendation from the 2016 WESD Task Force.

Sue Snyder provided the Board with the following conclusions, options, and a recommendation from 2016 Bond Task Force:

Conclusions:

- The WESD community entrusts the District to responsibly manage its fiscal

resources; the District's effective management of prior bond authorization expenditures reflects its commitment to the task.

- In order to protect facilities and maximize their utility, WESD must conscientiously maintain and renovate its buildings and sites.
- Facility project needs throughout the District have been identified and prioritized, with critical attention paid to issues of safety, code compliance and building system failure.
- WESD's technology needs are significant, and meeting those needs is vital to providing educational opportunities that prepare "all students to become responsible, successful contributors to our diverse society."
- Because state funding is not sufficient to meet their capital needs, districts typically seek capital funding through voter-approved school improvement bonds.

Options:

- **Option #1:** Recommend that a \$98 million bond election be held in November 2016. **Cost Analysis:** If a November 2016 bond election is successful, approximately \$98 million in funds will become available for the District's capital project needs during the next 7 to 10 years. If the election is not successful, WESD will have virtually no budget for capital project needs.
- **Option #2:** Recommend that a \$112 million bond election be held in 11/2016. **Cost Analysis:** If a November 2016 bond election is successful, approximately \$112 million in funds will become available for the District's capital project needs during the next 7 to 10 years. If the election is not successful, WESD will have virtually no budget for capital project needs.
- **Option #3:** Recommend that a capital override election be held in 11/2016. **Cost Analysis:** If a November 2016 capital override election is successful, approximately \$10 million per year for seven years will become available for the District's capital needs. If the election is not successful, WESD will have virtually no budget for capital needs.
- **Option #4:** Recommend that both a bond election and a capital override election be held in 11/2016. **Cost Analysis:** Task force members made a consensus decision to eliminate this option prior to conducting further analysis.
- **Option #5:** Do nothing. **Cost Analysis:** Given the very minimal capital funding that WESD may receive from the State in upcoming years, WESD will have virtually no budget for capital project needs if bond funding is not available.
- **Option #6:** Hold off on making a recommendation until a community survey is done. **Cost Analysis:** The cost to the District of conducting a survey would be approximately \$20,000. The process could take up to eight weeks to complete, and the deadline to notify the Maricopa County Elections Department of a district's intent to call for a bond election is 6/11/2016.

Recommendation:

Members of the 2016 WESD Bond Task Force arrived at a full consensus decision to recommend Option #1, as presented.

Sue Snyder said that her presentation was an Information and Discussion Item and there would be an Action Item later on the agenda that will reflect the 2016 Bond Task Force recommendation that a \$98 million dollar election be called to take place on November 8, 2016.

Bill Adams asked if WESD would be able to add capitol into the \$98 million bond, similar to Peoria Unified School District.

Cathy Thompson said that the District does have technology related expenses within the bond proposal.

Bill Adams asked if this bond would be considered a continuation.

Cathy Thompson responded that it is not considered a continuation and, as the committee laid out in its' proposal, this bond would not add an extra burden to the taxpayers. Mrs. Thompson explained that sometimes when you go out for a bond you are asking for more money, so therefore you are going to sell bonds and have a higher levy to taxpayers every year but, in this particular scenario, by the way the District has planned to sell the bonds and complete the projects within a phased structure, it would not have an additional impact on voters.

Bill Adams asked what portion of the \$98 million is budgeted for transportation.

Cathy Thompson said that \$5 million of the \$98 million would be allocated towards transportation costs.

Clorinda Graziano asked Cathy Thompson to confirm the estimated bond tax rate was 1.32 for the \$98 million dollar bond.

Cathy Thompson clarified that the average estimated bond tax for this bond election would be about .76 cents. The \$1.32 is a combination of all existing bonds and outstanding debt.

Clorinda Graziano asked whether the tax rate would change if the Board decided to go for the higher amount of \$112 million.

Cathy Thompson referred to the information in the Board packet that clarified the \$112 million bond would kind of keep the same tax rate but when that happens what occurs is, as assessed values fluctuate, the impact to tax payers might be an increase. If we steadily decrease the tax rate and the levy every year, the hope is there will not be a major impact to taxpayers that is why the Bond Task Force went that direction. Mrs. Thompson said that the District has over \$100 million in capital needs within the next five year but the task force weighed the benefits for the District and the impact on taxpayers.

Clorinda Graziano asked if the Frequently Asked Questions contained in the Board packet would be put into a pamphlet and given out to voters.

Cathy Thompson said that the next agenda item will provide more detail about the

communication plan to voters.

Clorinda Graziano asked why there were no musical instruments included the bond plan.

Cathy Thompson responded that the bond plan was addressing life cycle issues related to buildings and technology. Mrs. Thompson said the District hopes to take care of big projects with the proceeds from the bond so that other money can be freed up to for things like musical instruments.

Clorinda Graziano commented that she was disappointed not to see musical instruments with the bond proposal, as they also have life cycles. Ms. Graziano said that many of the schools are currently sharing instruments. Ms. Graziano said she asked the same question last time the bond issue was brought before the Board and she had asked to see instruments added in the future.

Tee Lambert asked if the current proposed legislation restricting districts from calling for a bond or capitol override passed, would WESD be impacted if the Board voted to seek a bond this November.

Cathy Thompson replied that that hypothetical situation is unknown at this time.

Aaron Jahneke commented that the word that came to his mind in reviewing the proposal was optimization. Mr. Jahneke said that the task force really did a good job in determining a reasonable amount of money that would meet a majority of the needs of the District and is more predictable than going after a the higher amount option.

Tee Lambert commented that the approach for this bond is different than in the past. Mrs. Lambert said in the past the District had really large projects and needed to rebuild schools and now the need is to maintain what we have.

Cathy Thompson said that with the new data base, the District discovered an annual need of about \$12 million a year to maintain current buildings, air conditioning units, roofing, and flooring. Mrs. Thompson said that the District is fulfilling some of the needs with the current bond.

Tee Lambert thanked Cathy Thompson and Sue Snyder for their presentation.

IV. ACTION/DISCUSSION

- A. To consider, discuss, amend if desired, and, if deemed advisable, to Adopt a Resolution Ordering and Calling a Special Bond Election to be Held in and for the District and Authorizing the Business Services Director to Comply with Certain Sections of the Internal Revenue Code**

UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Stanton introduced Cathy Thompson, Director of Business Services

Cathy Thompson introduced Erika Coombs from Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, the District financial consulting firm.

Erika Coombs provided the Board with details behind the task forces tax rate

calculations and how Prop 117 has affected assessed values of homes.

Tee Lambert asked if the programs that the bond would pay for would be listed in the voter pamphlets.

Erika Coombs replied that voter information pamphlet will contain general categories to allow for some flexibility within the projects.

Tee Lambert asked if any recent legislation was passed that forces certain language when asking for the bond.

Cathy Thompson said that the bill Tee Lambert was referring to failed.

Larry Herrera asked if the District had already identified projects it would like to complete within the first few years.

Cathy Thompson said the District has several, for example the rebuild of Arroyo Elementary and some school offices rebuilt.

Clorinda Graziano asked if the Governing Board would be required to approve the information that would go into voter pamphlets.

Cathy Thompson said that the approval of the information that is distributed to voters is part of what is being asked to be considered and approved tonight.

Tee Lambert requested to break down the motion into two separate parts.

Tee Lambert made a motion that the Governing Board accept the recommendation from the 2016 Bond Task Force to call for a special bond election to be held on November 8, 2016 with the recommendation of Option 1. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera.

Bill Adams called to question whether or not the dollar amount of Option 1 should be included in the recommendation.

Tee Lambert accepted the friendly amendment of clarifying that Option 1 was asking for a \$98 million bond election. The friendly amendment was seconded by Larry Herrera. The motion passed. (5-0)

Tee Lambert made a motion that the Governing Board approve the Resolution ordering and calling a special bond election to be held in and for Washington Elementary School District #6 of Maricopa County, Arizona, on November 8, 2016 and authorizing the District's business services director as the officer to comply with sections 103 and 141 through 150 of the internal revenue code. In addition, it is recommended that the Governing Board adopt the informational publications that were considered by the bond task force. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera. The motion passed. (5 – 0)

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Larry Herrera requested a future presentation on Sports programs.

Clorinda Graziano requested to see the K-6 and K-8 school schedules for music, art, physical education, and academics. Ms. Graziano also asked how the staffing allocations are made for music, art, physical education teachers and what the current allocations are at each school. Is there a policy or regulation that covers this.

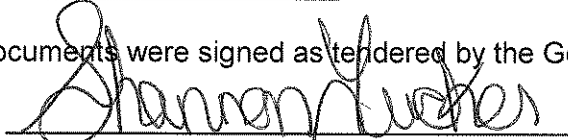
VI. ADJOURNMENT


UNANIMOUS

A motion was made by Bill Adams to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. The motion was seconded by Tee Lambert. The motion carried 5-0.


SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary


BOARD SECRETARY


DATE


BOARD OFFICIAL


DATE