

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES:
REGULAR MEETING

2015-2016

June 8, 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 7:00 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present: Governing Board President Aaron Jahneke; Governing Board Vice President Clorinda Graziano and Governing Board Members Larry Herrera and Tee Lambert.

Governing Board member Bill Adams was not present.

B. Moment of Silence and Meditation

Mr. Jahneke called for a moment of silence and meditation and asked that everyone keep the families of Muhammad Ali and Sean Rooks from the University of Arizona in our thoughts.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Jahneke led the Pledge of Allegiance

D. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda

4-0

A motion was made by Tee Lambert that the Governing Board adopt the June 8, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera. The motion carried. (4-0)

E. Approval of the Minutes

4-0

A motion was made by Clorinda Graziano that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the May 26, 2016 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Tee Lambert. The motion carried. (4-0)

F. Current Events and Acknowledgments: Governing Board and Superintendent

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

Tee Lambert

- Attended the Arizona School Board Association (ASBA) Legislative committee meeting last week. Mrs. Lambert shared that the experience was very interesting, sitting with other Board members from across the state focusing on what should be the upcoming ASBA legislative agenda. All Governing Board members will have the opportunity to review and vote on the final proposed legislative agenda, through their Board delegates, in Fall 2016.

Clorinda Graziano

- Had music pre-camp last week. Last year there were approximately 20 WESD students who attended and this year there are 80 students signed up for music camp and approximately 30 – 35 of them are from WESD.
- Attended the All Arizona School Retiree Association (AASRA) conference on June 7th and 8th. Ms. Graziano said it was interesting to learn that in Arizona there are 15 districts that have over 15,000 students, including WESD. Ms. Graziano said that those 15 districts serve 50 percent of the students in the state.

Larry Herrera

- Attended the ASBA Legislative committee last week as the Maricopa County Co-Director, which is an appointed position. Mr. Herrera stated that Arizona has 1.8 million students in public school and 920,000 of those students are within Maricopa County spread among 71 school districts. Mr. Herrera encouraged everyone to go to AZSBA.org to learn more about what the Arizona School Board Association does for public schools.

Paul Stanton

- The District completed a very successful end of the year Professional Learning Academy with Principals, Assistant Principals, Program Coaches Directors, and Administrators on June 6th and 7th. Superintendent Stanton thanked Lyn Bailey; Lori Mora, Shannon Bonnette, Carol Patterson, Courtney Stevens, Maggie Westhoff and her team, Justin Wing, Richard Morris, and Maria Farmer for presenting and organizing a wonderful professional learning session. Superintendent Stanton also mentioned that during the session, recent retirees' Andree Charlson and Janet Altersitz were honored along with the NAT 1 and NAT 2 participants.

G. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

H. Showcase

Barbara Post, Administrator for Gifted Services, provided the Board with a presentation that highlighted the gifted students and gifted programming offered in Washington Elementary School District.

Tee Lambert asked if the middle school programs were working with Glendale Union High School District to transition students from our gifted program to high school.

Barbra Post said that teachers work closely with the students and parents when they choose a high school and curriculum. Mrs. Post said that gifted students are invited to Glendale Union High School District in January of their eighth grade year for orientation and course selection.

Tee Lambert said that she is very impressed that WESD ensures that all students receive the services they need, whether they are struggling or gifted.

Clorinda Graziano said that she was glad to see so many options for gifted students and asked if students participate in the "pull out" program every day.

Barbara Post replied that it depends on the school, some schools have students "pulled out" every other day and some schools only "pull out" student three days a week.

Clorinda Graziano asked if the students were separated by academic discipline.

Barbara Post responded that the gifted students receive services in all areas, the goal is that they become global thinkers who can problem solve across academic areas.

Clorinda Graziano asked if students were selected for the gifted program based on the academic area in which they tested gifted.

Barbara Post said that students receive services based on all academic areas, both cognitive and non-verbal.

Clorinda Graziano asked if the students who are not fluent in English were given an opportunity to test for gifted services.

Barbara Post said that there are opportunities to identify students who are not proficient in English for gifted services. Mrs. Post said that the District uses the NNAT (Naglieri Non-Verbal Abilities Test) to identify students. Mrs. Post said that the District's ELL staff also watches closely those students who learn English quickly as possible candidates for gifted services.

Clorinda Graziano asked if all of the teachers teaching gifted students are gifted certified.

Barbara Post replied that not all of them have their gifted endorsement when they start, but WESD works with them throughout the year, even after hours, to help them earn their endorsement. Mrs. Post said that classes offered by WESD do not cost the teachers anything but their time.

Larry Herrera thanked Barbara Post for her presentation and said that one of the reasons he requested this presentation, along with Clorinda Graziano, was because during a visit at Sahuaro Elementary earlier in the year, he was blown away by what he saw students doing in the classroom.

Larry Herrera asked how many gifted students currently attend WESD.

Barbara Post said that currently WESD has identified 1875 students as gifted.

Larry Herrera inquired about the cost of the assessment tests used to identify gifted students.

Barbara Post said that in kindergarten through second grade, the assessment instrument costs the District about \$5.00 per students. For students in grades third through eighth, the District assessment staff has developed bubble sheets and they also assist in the scoring of the tests so that it saves the District money and also saves teachers time from having to score the test themselves.

Larry Herrera inquired whether or not any of WESD's afterschool programs offer gifted services.

Barbara Post said that currently WESD does not offer gifted services during afterschool programs but services are offered during the summer.

Larry Herrera asked if the District had any plans or interest in collaborating with Arizona State University or any of the local universities.

Barbara Post said that currently WESD does not have any partnerships with any of the universities related to gifted services.

Janet Sullivan shared with the Board that WESD does not receive any gifted funding from the state, so all of the services provided by the District for gifted students are absorbed by the District through the Maintenance and Operations budget.

Janet Sullivan informed the Board that the District shares data and student information with Glendale Union High School District. Mrs. Sullivan also said that WESD has an agreement with Glendale Union High School District where WESD students can receive high school credit for taking gifted classes in both math and science.

Lyn Bailey acknowledged the wonderful work of the gifted staff. Dr. Bailey also highlighted that students and staff from Orangewood and Arroyo who have won state awards for the work they do with Robotics.

Aaron Jahneke asked what type of communication occurs with parents regarding gifted students. Mr. Jahneke asked whether the gifted services provided by the District were optional.

Barbara Post said that all gifted services are optional. Mrs. Post said that there is constant communication with parents. Parents have to give their permission for the District to test students for gifted services. Mrs. Post said that most parents choose to opt-in after their child is identified as gifted, very few opt-out.

Aaron Jahneke inquired about the reasons parents would choose to opt-out of their child receiving gifted services.

Barbara Post said that in some cases, especially in the "pull out" model, parents sometimes do not want their child taken out of the regular classroom to receive gifted services, but most parents opt in. Mrs. Post also said that if a family opts out, they are invited to participate again each year.

I. Approval of the Consent Agenda

4-0

Clorinda Graziano requested item *II.U. - Approval of Second Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policies JH - Student Absences and Excuses be pulled from the Consent agenda for separate consideration.

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

Clorinda Graziano made a motion that the Governing Board approve the remaining Consent Agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera. The motion carried. (4-0)

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**

4-0

Approved and ratified the vouchers as presented.

***B. Personnel Items**

4-0

Tee Lambert made a motion that the Governing Board approve Consent Agenda Item B - Personnel Items as presented. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera. The motion carried. (4-0)

Superintendent Stanton introduced Ashanti Givens as the new Assistant Principal at Manzanita Elementary for the 2016-2017 school year.

Superintendent Stanton introduced Tera Sotelo as the new Assistant Principal at Royal Palm Middle School for the 2016-2017 school year.

***C. Public Gifts and Donations: Acceptance of checks and items to schools and District departments in the amount of \$ 80,744.49 (The Value of Donated Items is Determined by the Donor**

4-0

Name of Donor	School/Department	Amount and/or Value
American Express	Acacia Elementary	\$300.00
B. Carl	Acacia Elementary	\$1029.50
Box Tops for Education	Moon Mountain Elementary	\$695.10
Bulldogs PTO	Ocotillo Elementary	\$27,797.64
Charity in Spades	Mountain View School	\$590.00
Grand Canyon Association	John Jacobs Elementary	\$850.00
Intel	Mountain View School	\$2,620.00
Liberty GMC	Shaw Butte	\$33,750
One Call Care Management	Richard E. Miller Elementary	\$5000.00
Peter Piper Pizza	Ironwood Elementary	\$412.25
Mr. Myron Sieckmeyer	Mountain Sky Junior High	\$1,000.00
Target	Lookout Mountain Elementary	\$800.00
Target	Mountain Sky Junior High	\$400.00
Wells Fargo	Cactus Wren Elementary	\$500.00
Washington Woman's Club, Inc.	Royal Palm Middle School	\$5000.00

***D. Renewal of Facilities Use and Special Education Agreement Between Hi-Star Center for Children and Washington Elementary School District**

4-0

***E. Renewal of Transportation Agreement Between The Austin Centers for Exceptional Students, Inc. and Washington Elementary School District**

4-0

***F. Renewal of Lease with the Roman Catholic Church for Private School Consortium Facilities at Bourgade High School (Modular Building Site and Parking Area)**

4-0

***G. Award of Contract - Bid #16.003 Commercially Purchased Food and Non-Food Expendable supplies and Exclusive of Dairy Products, Non-frozen Baked Goods, and Commercial Pizza**

4-0

***H. Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Authorization with the Greater Phoenix Purchasing Consortium for Schools (GPPCS) and Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE)**

4-0

***I. Extension and Renewal of Annual Contracts for Specified Goods and Services**

4-0

- *J. Award of Contract - Bid #16.005 Student Accident Insurance 4-0
- *K. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Warrants Between Board Meetings 4-0
- *L. Student Activity Treasurer for 2016-2017 4-0
- *M. Extracurricular Fee Schedule for 2016-2017 4-0
- *N. Approval of Kidspace 4-year old Program at Orangewood 4-0
- *O. Petty Cash Accounts for 2016-2017 4-0
- *P. Reauthorization of Bank Accounts and Signers 4-0
- *Q. Reauthorization of Revolving and Change Funds for 2016-2017 4-0
- *R. Signatories for Payroll and Expense Warrants for 2016-2017 4-0
- *S. Resolution Appointing the Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools as the Chief Disbursing Officer for Wage Garnishments 4-0
- *T. Agreement with Our Lady of the Lake University Student Field Placement – Social Work Field Education 4-0
- *U. Approval of Second Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policies JH – Student Absences and Excuses 4-0

Clorinda Graziano inquired about the section in the revised policy that is being added that states “All absences in excess of a cumulative 10% of the instructional days for the school year shall be reported as unexcused. Once a student crosses the 10% threshold, all absences shall be reported as unexcused regardless of multiple enrollments within the same District.” Ms. Graziano asked where the revision originated from and whether or not it would matter if the student’s absence was excused.

Cathy Thompson responded that the day after the Board reviewed the first reading of the policy, the District was informed that the Arizona Department of Education had made a change to their guidelines related to this particular policy, which is why that added verbiage was not included in the first reading. Mrs. Thompson said that the Arizona Department of Education guidelines previously read “absences due to out of school suspensions shall be reported as unexcused when the total number exceeds 10%...” Mrs. Thompson said that the District elected not to have the previous statement in the Districts’ policy because the statement did not affect a significant number of students. Mrs. Thompson said that based on the recent change, the District felt the change was major and could possibly affect a significant number of students, so we wanted it reflected in our policy. Mrs. Thompson said what the change is basically saying is that once a student reaches 18 absences, anything above that is unexcused no matter what. The District is still awaiting clarification on whether or not chronic illnesses are affected by this change and ADE has indicated they will clarify by July 1st.

Clorinda Graziano asked if this change in policy will be included in parent handbooks.

Cathy Thompson responded that if approved; the new language will be placed within the District’s policy and it will be printed in parent handbooks.

Clorinda Graziano asked if there would be a statement added that states the change was due to state law.

Cathy Thompson said yes.

Cathy Thompson said that she believes that this change will affect ADM. The District is adding a code for "excessive absences" and we are also going to train office staff to correctly code and enter very clear and precise notes so that we won't refer to truancy.

Tee Lambert clarified that the District will be able to track special circumstances where a particular student might end up with excessive absences due to an illness. Mrs. Lambert inquired whether or not if a student is unenrolled would the District be able to re-enroll the student after their health crisis. Mrs. Lambert said that she believes that the state made this change to the guidelines because they do not want to pay for those days.

Cathy Thompson agreed with Mrs. Lambert and said that there is some language in the new guidelines that will allow Districts to re-enroll students after they are dropped due to 10 consecutive unexcused absences, but once the student crosses the 10% threshold, all absences are still unexcused, so the absences remain.

Tee Lambert noted that this change will require a really strong communication plan. Families do not need another blow when they are going through crisis.

Paul Stanton stated that District leadership had lengthy discussion regarding the impact this change will have on our families and noted that this change is also coming at the same time as current year funding. Superintendent Stanton said that these are unique times and we will inform families through our handbooks, open houses and parent teacher conferences.

A motion was made by Clorinda Graziano that the Governing Board approve Consent Agenda Item *II.U. - Approval of Second Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policies JH - Student Absences and Excuses. The motion was seconded by Tee Lambert. The motion carried. (4-0)

III. RECESSING OF REGULAR MEETING FOR PUBLIC HEARING

4-0

Tee Lambert made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting for a Public Hearing at 8:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by Clorinda Graziano. The motion carried. (4-0)

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Annual Expenditure Budget Revision #2 for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Dr. Stanton introduced Mr. David Velazquez, Director of Finance who presented to the Board the annual expenditure budget revision #2 for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Tee Lambert asked if the increase of 3 million dollars was one-time money or on-going.

David Velazquez explained that the increase is part of the base support level and at this point the base support level is on-going. Mr. Velazquez said that \$ 951,000 is one-time money, which is incremental each year, will eventually go away.

Larry Herrera asked if any of the monies from Proposition 123 will be made available this fiscal year.

David Velazquez said that, technically, Districts have yet to receive the funding but, according to the State, Districts will be receiving the funds this fiscal year. Mr. Velazquez said the timing does not allow for a lot to be done this fiscal year but the State will allow the funds to carry over into the next year without limitations.

Clorinda Graziano asked if the increase to budget capacity would affect the amount the District can get from its override.

David Velazquez said that technically it would but since the District sets the tax rates at the beginning of the year, we do not make a change this late in the year because we could not possibly affect the tax rate this late in the year.

Aaron Jahneke said that he noticed that the Instructional Improvement budget line went up 64.3% and was wondering what that fund is used for and why it increased.

Cathy Thompson said that the Instructional Improvement fund revenue has not changed much, but the District has reduced expenses for that fund in previous years due to vacancy savings that would have caused the District to exceed the maximum allowed 4% carryover. The District has reduced expenses in the Instructional Improvement Fund and charged more to the Maintenance and Operations fund, resulting in the Instructional Improvement fund having a larger cash balance, which is reflected in a larger budget.

Larry Herrera thanked the staff and said that he is very pleased to know the District has staff like Cathy Thompson, David Velazquez, and Superintendent Stanton watching over the budget to ensure the District is spending taxpayer money effectively and efficiently. Mr. Herrera said that he feels one of the most important obligations of Board members is to ensure we are spending the public's money wisely.

Clorinda Graziano asked what the student count for the current school year ended up being.

Cathy Thompson said that the student growth from last year to this year was approximately 178.

David Velazquez said that the summary sheet provided in the board packets listed the student growth data from 2014.

Clorinda Graziano asked if the IBN recommendation of 70% of the Proposition 123 monies going to staff salaries is reflected in the revised budget.

Justin Wing responded that as IBN recommended for the Prop 123 funds, 70% will go into standard salary increases and 30% will go into salary compression.

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

There were no public comments.

V. RECESSING OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR REGULAR MEETING

4-0

A motion was made by Clorinda Graziano to recess the Public Meeting. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera. The motion passed. (4-0)

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 8:11 p.m.

VI. ACTION/DISCUSSION

A. Annual Expenditure Budget Revision #2 for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

4-0

Tee Lambert asked David Velazquez if he felt this would be the last revision to the 2015-2016 Annual Expenditure Budget.

David Velazquez said that he hopes this will be the last needed revision, considering the June 30th deadline is fast approaching.

A motion was made by Tee Lambert that the Governing Board approve the 2015-2016 Annual Expenditure Budget Revision #2, and authorize subsections to be exceeded provided that the overall Maintenance and Operation budget is not exceeded as per ARS 15-905 G. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera. The motion passed. (4-0)

B. Approval of the 2016-2017 Desegregation Budget

4-0

Superintendent Stanton introduced Cathy Thompson who provided the Board with an overview of the District's Desegregation plan and a recommendation to approve the 2016-2017 Desegregation Budget.

Tee Lambert said that she appreciated Mrs. Thompson and her staff for thoroughly looking at the desegregation budget and being conscientious of the effects to taxpayers without being asked to do so. Mrs. Lambert said that it says a lot about how the District takes its fiscal responsibility.

Clorinda Graziano said that she is concerned with the continued threat of desegregation money being taken away because it is really needed by the District. Mrs. Graziano stated that she appreciated that the District is looking ahead and planning but fears that we may be giving the state the wrong message. Ms. Graziano said that it forces Districts to play the shell game.

Larry Herrera inquired about the impact of the loss of \$350,000 to the District.

Cathy Thompson said that the first reduction will not impact staff or programs at this time because it is just an adjustment on how the District will fund different things. Mrs. Thompson said that in the future, as things move forward, if the District has to reduce further, it could impact things but, hopefully, the District will be given time to plan for the further reduction.

Larry Herrera asked if the District could ask for the money back next year.

Cathy Thompson said that yes, districts can always ask for a higher levy but it would result in an increase to taxpayers.

Tee Lambert explained that desegregation funding is so controversial because it is a tax that a Governing Board can levy without a vote, unlike overrides or capitol bonds that require voter approval. Mrs. Lambert said that WESD has always been very conservative and conscious of trying to meet the needs of the District, especially regarding the mandated Structured English Immersion (SEI) requirements for students without funding, without impacting regular education classes. Mrs. Lambert said that losing \$350,000 is not a huge hit, but if the District was told it would lose six million dollars next year, it would definitely affect the District.

Aaron Jahneke mentioned that, historically, the approval of desegregation funding was more controversial with previous Boards due to reasons previously mentioned and some that were not mentioned. Mr. Jahneke said the District really needs the six million.

Aaron Jahneke asked if Cathy Thompson was aware of any other Districts who were adjusting their desegregation funding.

Cathy Thompson said that she believes that some will start, but WESD has had to do this before with excess utilities, so the District learned that by backing out slowly it minimizes the impact to the system. That is why the District is using the same approach to desegregation funding.

Paul Stanton mentioned that the \$350,000 reduction will not be a direct impact on staff this year. Superintendent Stanton also said he is aware that Mesa Unified School District is also attempting to slowly back out of desegregation funding. The District is continuing to work with the other 19 desegregation districts and WESD will be bringing a proposal to the Classroom First Council regarding options to attempt to make up for the loss in funding.

Clorinda Graziano made a statement that the \$350,000 may not affect anyone's job at this point, but having \$350,000 less to spend each year, does affect the District in ways like technology and supplies which does impact the District.

A motion was made by Clorinda Graziano that the Governing Board approve the Maintenance and Operation Desegregation budget and corresponding levy in the amount of \$6,000,000.00. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera. The motion passed. (4-0)

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Clorinda Graziano requested data regarding the District's outsourced special education programs that would include: the number of students who are outsourced for services; the type of disabilities they have; the cost of transporting the students, and the possibility/cost effectiveness of more in-house programs.

Clorinda Graziano requested that next year the fee schedule presented for approval include data on the amount collected by fees charged for musical instrument repair and supply costs for comparison.

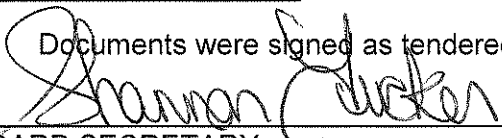
VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Tee Lambert to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. The motion was seconded by Larry Herrera. The motion carried 4-0.


4-0

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary.


BOARD SECRETARY

6/23/16
DATE


BOARD OFFICIAL

6/23/16
DATE