

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING

2013-2014

August 22, 2013

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, Mr. Aaron Jahneke, and Mrs. Tee Lambert. Ms. Clorinda Graziano joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

B. Moment of Silence and Meditation

Mr. Maza called for a moment of silence and meditation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Maza asked Chris Beck (Boy Scout in Troop 126) to lead 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 Mr. Jahneke. 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 July 11, 2013 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

F. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve the Minutes of the August 1, 2013 Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahneke. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

G. Current Events: Governing Board and Superintendent

Mrs. Lambert thanked the students who participated in the summer Project Sharp Program for their letters about their experiences and what they learned. The students were promoted from 8th grade and would be attending high school.

Mr. Adams shared that he enjoyed attending the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Summer Leadership Institute in Flagstaff, AZ, which was very productive and informative.

Mr. Jahneke shared that he enjoyed attending the Washington Elementary School Meet the Teacher Night and commended Principal Sean Carney and his staff for their efforts.

Ms. Graziano thanked the Project Sharp Program students for their letters. She also thanked the Glendale Union High School District for the program. She appreciated that the students were not only learning math skills, but also language arts skills when writing the meaningful letters.

August 22, 2013

Mr. Maza shared the following:

- Thanked all of the District employees for a successful opening of the 2013-2014 school year.
- Asked Dr. Cook to deliver a special thank you to the employees in the Facilities Department for making sure that the air conditioning and everything in the schools were ready for the students and staff when school reopened.
- Asked Dr. Cook to deliver his appreciation to the bus drivers and employees in the Transportation Department who scheduled the bus routes and ensured the safety of the bus riders.
- Advised that his household had been very involved in their roles as community patrons and worked with several school districts. He stated it was very enjoyable and satisfying working with the 501c3 non-profit groups, e.g., SOSAz (Support Our Schools Arizona), in the support of public education.

Dr. Cook thanked all of the staff members who contributed to the smooth opening of the school year.

H. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

I. Approval of the Consent Agenda

UNANIMOUS

A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert that the Governing Board approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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| *A. Approval/Ratification of Vouchers
Approved and ratified the vouchers as presented. | UNANIMOUS |
| *B. Personnel Items
Approved the personnel items as presented. | UNANIMOUS |
| *C. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the Greater Phoenix Purchasing Consortium for Schools (GPPCS) and Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE) | UNANIMOUS |
| *D. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the State Procurement Office (SPO) and Mohave Educational Services Cooperative (MESOC) | UNANIMOUS |
| *E. Award of Contract – RFP No. 13.002, Community Mobile Dental Services at No Cost to the District | UNANIMOUS |
| *F. Award of Contract – RFP No. 13.014, Life Safety Services | UNANIMOUS |
| *G. Award of Contract – Bid No. 13.010, Maintenance Parts, Supplies, Rentals, Repair and Service Calls | UNANIMOUS |
| *H. Award of Contract – Bid No. 13.021, Nutrition Services Kitchen Equipment | UNANIMOUS |
| *I. Addendum to the Food Program Permanent Service Agreement for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program | UNANIMOUS |

- *J. Student Placement Agreement between Arizona State University/Mary Lou Fulton Teacher's College/University Service Learning and the Washington Elementary School District/Academic Support Programs Department UNANIMOUS
- *K. Acceptance of the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Grant in the Amount of \$364,386.00, the School Safety Grant in the Amount of \$571,462.04, the City of Phoenix Block Watch Grants in the Amount of \$39,216.00, the Character Education Matching Grant in the Amount of \$80,000.00 and the Target Grant in the Amount of \$2,000.00 UNANIMOUS

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Arizona School Boards Association's Delegate Assembly Appointments and Proposed 2014 Legislative Political Agenda UNANIMOUS

Mr. Maza advised Board members that the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) was requesting the names of the District's delegate and alternate delegate who will attend the ASBA Delegate Assembly on September 7, 2013. Board members were also asked to review the ASBA proposed 2014 Legislative Political Agenda.

Ms. Graziano nominated Tee Lambert to be the delegate and Mr. Adams nominated Aaron Jahneke to be the alternate delegate for the ASBA Delegate Assembly on September 7, 2013. Mrs. Lambert and Mr. Jahneke accepted the nominations.

Mrs. Lambert reported that she had served on the ASBA committee to review the suggestions submitted by school districts for the proposed 2014 Legislative Political Agenda. Mrs. Lambert advised Board members that ASBA had changed its legislative proposal process this year. She stated that ASBA had reduced the proposal submissions into three categories – long-term, short-term, and 2014 Session-specific legislation. Mrs. Lambert reported that by categorizing the goals, the goals were now more succinct, proactive, and attainable.

Ms. Graziano referred to the 2014 Legislative Session-Specific items and asked what was an Administrative Reduction Omnibus mentioned in item 1. Mrs. Lambert responded that they used broad terminology from the suggestions received from school districts to lessen unfunded mandates and administrative burdens. Mrs. Lambert stated that there were many reporting requirements that were imposed by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), the State Board, and the State Legislature.

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board appoint Tee Lambert as the Delegate and Aaron Jahneke as the Alternate Delegate to the Arizona School Boards Association's Delegate Assembly to be held on September 7, 2013. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

B. Revision to Agreement with SBA Steel II LLC (Managing Sprint/Nextel Assets) for the Cell Tower at Sahuaro Elementary School UNANIMOUS

Dr. Cook advised the Board that it was being presented with a revision to an agreement with SBA Steel II LLC (Managing Sprint/Nextel Assets) for the cell tower at Sahuaro Elementary School. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Cathy Thompson to review the revision.

Ms. Cathy Thompson reported that SBA Communications contacted the District to advise that effective June 30, 2013, the technology utilized by Sprint/Nextel at Sahuaro was being decommissioned and the site was flagged for review for termination. After negotiations with SBA Communications, the District agreed to keep the tower on the Sahuaro site, monthly rent would be reduced to \$450.00 beginning September 1 for a period of three years, and rent payment shall resume on September 1, 2016 according to the terms of the original agreement. In the event that Lessee enters into a new subtenancy with any telephony provider during the abatement period, rent and any escalations will resume according to the terms of the original agreement. At the end of the amended agreement, the District would have the option to cancel the agreement per the original terms.

Ms. Thompson advised that Sahuaro School was planning to utilize the existing funds and future funds to complete capital projects at the site that were not scheduled in the current bond plan.

Mrs. Lambert asked if the District would receive the \$450.00 monthly rent even though the cell tower was not in use. Ms. Thompson responded that the District would receive the \$450.00 monthly rent. However, if SBA Communications had another company that wished to lease the cell tower and the Governing Board approved an amendment to allow the use of the cell tower, the District would negotiate a new monthly rental fee.

Ms. Graziano asked if it was more cost effective for SBA Communications to leave the cell tower and pay a lower monthly rent than remove it. Ms. Thompson responded that the cell tower that was relocated at Lookout Mountain Elementary School cost the carrier approximately \$300,000.00-\$400,000.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Adams that the Governing Board approve the amendment to the agreement with SBA Communications (Sprint/Nextel) for the communications tower at Sahuaro Elementary School to reduce the monthly rent to \$450.00 for three years and allow for another carrier to sublease the site during the three year period. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. The motion carried.

IV. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Update Regarding K-3 Standards-Based Report Cards and Reporting Student Progress

Dr. Cook advised the Board that Mrs. Lambert had requested an update on the standards-based report cards. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Janet Sullivan who provided the update.

Ms. Sullivan detailed how the standards-based report cards evolved for grades K-3, beginning with a committee in November 2001 and a pilot at Sunnyslope Elementary School. With the initial implementation, professional development for teachers and informational meetings with parents were held. Rubrics were developed to assist teachers with data collection and determination of performance-levels. Ms. Sullivan advised that the standards-based report cards had been revised over the years to follow the same performance designations as those of Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) until such time as the state-testing designations change.

Ms. Sullivan reported that in 2009-2010, standards-based reporting was expanded to fourth grade, but was not successful because there were a number of concerns from parents and teachers. Parents preferred the traditional letter/number grades.

Therefore, the decision was made to keep the standards-based report card in grades K-3 and maintain a more traditional report card in grades 4-8 to coincide with the implementation of grade books and report cards in the District's new student information system.

Ms. Graziano asked the following questions:

- On the standards-based report cards with the rubrics, are the grades tied directly to the assessments administered by the District? Ms. Sullivan replied that the grades are not tied to the assessments; the assessments may help inform the grades, but are not the sole determinants of the grades.
- Is the K-3 Excel grade book set up by categories in order for a teacher to enter grades by individual subject matter? Ms. Sullivan responded in the affirmative.
- Are the 4-8 grade student assessment data results (which are often delineated by standards) shared with parents, either sent home or at parent teacher conferences? Can parents who want to know how their students stand in terms of standards request the data? Ms. Sullivan replied that parents may request the assessment data results. Ms. Sullivan stated that the District assessment results were available to the teachers and they could share the information with the parents during parent teacher conferences.
- Is the information typically shared or only when someone asks for it? Ms. Sullivan responded that there is an individual student report for DIBELS data in grades 4-6. Ms. Sullivan stated that for the District math assessment, there was an end of year assessment with a parent report. She reported that the teachers have a report of student data at the beginning of the year and a mid-year assessment that they can share with parents to indicate how the students compare to the class or to the District average.

Mrs. Lambert stated that she had the opportunity to be a part of the discussion at the State level when the standard-based report cards were first implemented. Mrs. Lambert made the following comments and asked the following questions:

- There was discussion at the State level regarding blending the letter/number grade along with the standards-based grade. What steps did the District take to determine what type of report card to use? Ms. Sullivan reported that the committee did research with other districts who had tried to blend the two grading systems, but encountered significant challenges. Therefore, the District opted not to blend the letter/number grade and the standards-based grade.
- What has been the response of the teachers using the standards-based report cards in grades K-3? Is it more of a burden for teachers? Ms. Sullivan responded that some teachers reported that it was more work on their part and was labor intensive to have to categorize each assignment into the appropriate standard, however, parent feedback was positive.
- If parents were accustomed to the standards-based report card in grades K-3, why do they prefer the letter/number report card when their student reaches 4th grade? Ms. Sullivan replied that in 4th grade, parents have expressed interest in letter/number grades because of honor roll or grade point average.
- Do you anticipate having standard-based report cards in grades 4-8 in the future? Ms. Sullivan stated that the committee was waiting to see what happens in 2014-2015 with the new state assessment.

- It seems that the standards-based report cards would better indicate a student's growth than a letter/number grade. However, it would be changing the culture with our teachers and our parents. Ms. Sullivan agreed.
- Will there be a web-based report card for parents and will the system be able to handle the change from 3rd grade to 4th grade? Ms. Sullivan responded that there was a parent portal pilot program at four schools for grades 4-8. Ms. Sullivan reported that there were challenges and concerns, therefore, the decision was made not to implement it District-wide. However, the four pilot schools will continue to have the web-based report card this school year. Ms. Sullivan stated that there had been discussion regarding the transition from K-3 standards-based report cards to the letter/number report cards for grades 4-8, but a decision had not been reached yet.
- Mrs. Lambert asked if the transition issues from K-3 to grades 4-8 were due to technology problems. Dr. Cook responded in the affirmative and stated that the District was concerned about the fragility of the current system.
- Thanked Ms. Sullivan for the informative update.

Mr. Jahneke asked if it would be possible to develop a means of recognition to indicate student growth for grades 4-8. Ms. Sullivan responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Maza commented from a teacher's standpoint, that he appreciated the standard-based report card which made it easier to diagnose problems to address.

Mr. Maza thanked Ms. Sullivan for the update and the information presented.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

VI. GOVERNING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Adams thanked Ms. Janet Sullivan for serving on an education committee with him for WESTMARC (Western Maricopa Coalition). They had the opportunity to take several community leaders to visit Sunset Elementary School. He thanked Principal Betty Paterson and the staff, including the ASU iTeach Program teachers for the interesting, informative visit.

Ms. Graziano thanked the District and Arizona State University for Consent Item II.J.- Student Placement Agreement between Arizona State University/Mary Lou Fulton Teacher's College/University Service Learning and the Washington Elementary School District/Academic Support Programs Department. Ms. Graziano felt it was a wonderful way to help our students with no cost to the District. The program will benefit the students, as well as the pre-service teachers. Ms. Graziano thanked the person responsible for thinking "outside of the box" for this collaboration.

Mr. Jahneke apologized for being unable to attend the July 11, 2013 Governing Board meeting (second meeting he missed in the five years serving on the Board). He acknowledged and appreciated his fellow Board members for the discussion and decisions made during the meeting.

Mr. Maza stated that as his household was getting involved as community patrons in support of education for several school districts, he acknowledged and appreciated the number of District employees who donated their time for the community, e.g., Dr. Cook, Dr. Bailey, and Ms. Sullivan with SOSAz; Mr. Adams with ASBA and his home school, Cactus Wren; and Ms. Graziano with state-wide arts programs.

Dr. Cook acknowledged that photographs of the 2013 Lamp of Learning recipients were displayed in the Governing Board Room.

Dr. Cook acknowledged Ms. Kathleen McKeever, Director of Academic Support Programs, who was the individual responsible for working with her team to establish the relationship with Arizona State University and the Mary Lou Fulton Teacher's College. Dr. Cook stated that they were very excited about the collaboration because several schools were not able to compete for 21st Century funding for the 2013-2014 school year. The program will benefit after-school programs at these eight schools.

Dr. Cook thanked Invest In Education and SOSAz (Support Our Schools Arizona) for their recent events, as well as many upcoming events.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

UNANIMOUS

A motion was made by Mr. Adams to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert. The motion carried.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary

Joyce Shiota
BOARD SECRETARY

9/12/13
DATE

Alvin Zedro
BOARD OFFICIAL

09-12-13
DATE