

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING

2013-2014

February 13, 2014

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

Mrs. Lambert called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present: Mrs. Tee Lambert, Mr. Bill Adams, and Mr. Aaron Jahneke. Ms. Clorinda Graziano participated telephonically. Mr. Chris Maza was not in attendance.

B. Moment of Silence and Meditation

Mrs. Lambert called for a moment of silence and meditation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Lambert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that the Governing Board adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

E. Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Lambert amended the last sentence on page 9 of the January 23, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes to read: Ms. Graziano commented that the cost savings from Option C could pay for the estimated costs of Options B and C in three years.

UNANIMOUS

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that the Governing Board approve the Minutes of the January 23, 2014 Regular Meeting and Executive Session, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

F. Current Events and Acknowledgments: Governing Board and Superintendent

Mr. Adams shared that he enjoyed attending the District's Business Advisory Team meeting which was well attended. He thanked Jill Hicks and her team for a job well done. Mr. Adams stated that he was proud of the District's efforts of reaching out to business and community leaders.

Mr. Adams shared that he enjoyed attending the Washington Education Foundation's Bowl-A-Thon. He thanked Mr. Jahneke for his involvement with the Washington Education Foundation and everyone involved with the event which was fun and entertaining.

Mr. Jahneke thanked Mr. Adams and Ms. Graziano for attending the Washington Education Foundation's annual Bowl-A-Thon. He stated that they had a good response and had to turn away nine teams. Mr. Jahneke was pleased to report that the Foundation raised more money than last year.

February 13, 2014

Mrs. Lambert shared the following:

- Enjoyed attending the Business Advisory Team meeting.
- Thanked Dr. Cook for representing the District very well at the Arizona Business & Education Coalition Symposium. Mrs. Lambert stated that Dr. Cook spoke about districts building relationships with businesses in the community.
- Acknowledged and thanked Acacia, Manzanita, Richard E. Miller, Roadrunner, and Sunburst schools for the artwork displayed in the Governing Board Room.

Ms. Graziano shared the following:

- Enjoyed attending the Washington Education Foundation Bowl-A-Thon and thanked everyone involved with organizing the fun event.
- Thanked Diana Polanski and Barbara Vecera for inviting her to perform with the District's Honor Orchestra.
- Enjoyed attending the Arizona Music Educators Conference and was pleased to see several WESD music teachers there.

Dr. Cook stated that Lookout Mountain Elementary School had earned an "A" rating and introduced Principal Tricia Heller-Johnson and Assistant Principal Audrey Barrett. Ms. Heller-Johnson and Ms. Barrett shared information regarding the newly built school, as well as the school's student achievement gains.

Mrs. Lambert congratulated and thanked Ms. Heller-Johnson and Ms. Barrett for their efforts. Mrs. Lambert commented that it showed what leadership with collaboration and teamwork of the staff can achieve.

G. Special Recognition

Dr. Cook introduced Luanne Herman, Principal of Sweetwater School, who, in turn, introduced art teachers, Sharon Sauer and Tracie Kiernan. Ms. Sauer acknowledged the following students who, on their own initiative, entered the contests:

- Special recognition of 7th grader, Maldaa Al Kusairy, who placed 2nd in the ASU/MLK bookmark contest.
- Special recognition of 7th grader, Shydale Tribett, who had her essay published in the *Arizona Republic* in their "Holiday Meaning" contest.

The students presented Board members and administrators with an example of the bookmark and essay and were presented with a certificate by Board members.

H. Public Participation

- There was public participation. Ms. Joslyn Brown, President of the WDEA, introduced members of the Read Across America committee: Nancy Putman, Kyla Kushner, Lori Fox, and Pam Horton (not in attendance). Ms. Brown reported that WDEA will be partnering with the Washington Education Foundation and the District to celebrate the 17th year of the Read Across America program. This year's theme is "Sink Your Teeth into Good Books all Year Long". Ms. Brown advised that WESD was the only district in the State of Arizona to receive a grant from the National Education Association (NEA) for \$9,000.00 for the Read Across America program. Every school in the District submitted a Read Across America plan and will receive funding from the grant. Board members and administrators were invited to the kick-off breakfast to be held on March 3, 2014 at Moon Mountain Elementary School. Mr. Adams stated that he had not been able to participate in the Read Across America program for several years, but was looking forward to being able to participate this year. Mr. Jahneke advised that he always looks forward to reading to the students.

- Ms. Nancy Putman, President of the Washington Education Foundation, thanked the District for its support of the Washington Education Foundation's 6th annual Bowl-A-Thon. Ms. Putman reported that 64 teams with 320 bowlers participated which raised approximately \$5,000.00 to be used for spring mini grants. The Spirit Award went to Manzanita Elementary School for the second year in a row with seven teams participating. Ms. Putman thanked the Board members and District administrators who attended the event. She thanked the Foundation Board members for their hard work in making the Bowl-A-Thon a successful, fun event. She gave a special thanks to one of the sponsors, Getaway Today, for donating two \$500.00 vacation packages. Mrs. Lambert thanked Ms. Putman and the Washington Education Foundation for everything they do for the District and the teachers.

I. Approval of the Consent Agenda

UNANIMOUS

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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

UNANIMOUS

Approved and ratified the vouchers as presented.

***B. Personnel Items**

UNANIMOUS

Approved the personnel items as presented.

***C. Public Gifts and Donations (The Value of Donated Items is Determined by the Donor)**

UNANIMOUS

Approved the public gifts and donations as presented.

1. Scot Lemon donated children's books with an approximate value of \$600.00 to be used for the benefit of students in Washington Elementary School District.
2. General Mills Box Tops for Education donated a check in the amount of \$549.50 to be used for the benefit of students at Sunnyslope School.
3. General Mills Box Tops for Education donated a check in the amount of \$717.80 to be used for the benefit of students at Maryland School.
4. General Mills Box Tops for Education donated a check in the amount of \$526.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Tumbleweed Elementary School.
5. The Parent/Teacher Organization at Lookout Mountain Elementary School donated a check in the amount of \$681.24 to be used to purchase cubbies for students.
6. The Parent/Teacher Organization at Mountain View School donated a check in the amount of \$587.20 to be used for an overnight field trip.
7. Michael Lupnacca, through United Way, donated a check in the amount of \$400.00 to be used for the benefit of students at Sunburst Elementary School.

8. Genesco donated a check in the amount of \$861.40 to be used for the benefit of students at Richard E. Miller Elementary School.
 9. Target Scholarship America donated a check in the amount of \$700.00 to be used for the benefit of Ironwood Elementary School students attending a field trip to the Phoenix Zoo.
 10. Target Scholarship America donated a check in the amount of \$700.00 to be used for a field trip for Orangewood School students.
 11. First Christian Church donated a check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used to purchase school uniforms at Mountain View School.
 12. Walmart donated two checks with a total amount of \$1,000.00 to be used to renew the Accelerated Reader Program at Acacia Elementary School.
- *D. Annual Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchase Agreements with the Mohave Educational Services Cooperative (MESC), Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE) and 1 Government Procurement Alliance (1GPA) **UNANIMOUS**
- *E. Issue RFPs for Specified Services – Contracted Transportation Services, District Travel Services, Conference and Banquet Services, and Legal Services **UNANIMOUS**
- *F. Grand Canyon University Agreement **UNANIMOUS**

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2013-2014 Revenue Budget **UNANIMOUS**

Dr. Cook advised the Board that they were being presented the 2013-2014 Revenue Budget, which is not a requirement. However, action by the Board is recommended by the auditors in order to prepare the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Dr. Cook introduced Mr. David Velazquez who provided the information.

Ms. Graziano stated that she knew there was a specific format for the revenue budget report, however, wished that it could be simplified to show amounts budgeted, incoming revenue, and expenses.

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke that the Governing Board approve the stated revenue amounts as estimated budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

B. Update Regarding “Move on When Reading” and to Consider and, if Deemed Acceptable, Approve the First Reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students **UNANIMOUS**

Dr. Cook advised the Board that Mrs. Lambert had requested an update regarding “Move on When Reading”. Dr. Cook reported that the District had been seeking additional information, up to and including a recommendation for policy changes. Dr. Cook introduced Ms. Janet Sullivan to provide the update.

Ms. Sullivan advised the Board that in an update on February 9, 2012, information was provided regarding the amendments to a statute which focused on the promotion requirements for third graders, specifically that beginning in school year 2013-2014, a third grader reading far below the third grade level shall not be promoted.

Mrs. Lambert confirmed that this was the first year (2013-2014 school year) to fully implement the program. Ms. Sullivan responded that if students fall far below third grade level, they will be retained unless they qualify for one of the following two exemptions by which the Governing Board could promote a pupil:

- If the pupil is an English learner or limited English proficient student as defined in section 15-751 and has had fewer than two years of English language instruction.
- A child with a disability as defined in section 15-761 if the pupil's individualized education program team and the pupil's parent or guardian agrees that promotion is appropriate based on the pupil's individualized education program.

A motion was made by Mr. Jaheneke that the Governing Board approve the first reading of Proposed Amended Board Policy IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

IV. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Trust Board Update

Dr. Cook advised the Board that Mr. Maza was the Governing Board's representative on the Trust Board and was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in his family. Dr. Cook introduced Mr. Rex Shumway to provide the Trust Board update to the Governing Board.

Mr. Shumway advised the Board that the five year contractual cycle for services necessary for the Employee Benefit Trust (EBT) to operate the District's self-insured employee benefit plans expires on June 30, 2014. Mr. Shumway reported that the evaluation team reviewed the RFP responsive proposals and recommended awarding contracts to the providers as presented. He advised that the Employee Benefit Trust Board was pleased with the vendors that were awarded contracts and felt that the savings would help control costs in the Trust. Mr. Shumway stated that the Human Resources Department was preparing a communication to employees.

Ms. Graziano asked the following questions:

- Was there a high correlation between the doctors in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Aetna networks? Mr. Shumway responded that an analysis was completed of all of the doctors, hospitals, and out-patient facilities for claims were filed through Meritain and 96% of those were in the Aetna plan and 91% were in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan. Mr. Shumway reported that one major change was that Mayo Clinic would be in the Aetna network and was not available in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield network.
- For the 91% in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan, were the remaining 9% using providers outside of the plan and paying more? Mr. Shumway replied that the 9% were paying more because the out-of-network doctors have a higher employee cost.
- Asked for confirmation that employees would save money because more doctors were on the Aetna plan and would not be considered out-of-network. Mr. Shumway affirmed that Ms. Graziano was correct and that the disruption factor would be very minimal.
- Was there an IBN member on the insurance committee? Dr. Cook replied that Joslyn Brown and Ken Simmons are members of IBN and the Health Insurance Committee (HIC). Dr. Cook advised that the District was in the process of reforming the HIC because some of the members were no longer employed with the District.

- Was IBN involved in this process? Dr. Cook responded that the Trust Board and HIC were the groups who worked on this process. Dr. Cook stated that IBN had not been presented this information because the Trust Board had just completed the procurement process. There will be a report to IBN on March 10, 2014.
- How do you plan to inform employees to calm their fears of the new changes? Dr. Cook advised that a document was prepared to go to employees within the next week which had bullet points in the body of the email to allay the majority of the employee fears, e.g., your doctor will not likely change. She stated that the document was fairly detailed with simple bullet points and that Joslyn Brown provided helpful input as to what some of the key issues would be for employees.
- Wanted to verify that just because the list of doctors changed, it had nothing to do with the plan. Dr. Cook replied that the District did not have Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance and will not have Aetna insurance. WESD is self-insured. She stated that the District would be using Aetna as a provider network.

Mr. Adams thanked Mr. Shumway and the EBT team and also thanked Mr. Maza for representing the Board on the EBT. Mr. Adams stated that the EBT had to make difficult decisions, but the cost savings will strengthen the Trust and continue to keep it healthy.

Mrs. Lambert stated that the changes would not go into effect until the 2014-2015 school year. She encouraged employees to contact their doctors to verify that they are on the Aetna network provider list. Mr. Adams advised that the Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Aetna provider lists are almost the same and felt that most employees would not be affected by the change in providers.

B. Discussion of Travel to Attend the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Conference

Dr. Cook advised that at the January 23, 2014 Governing Board meeting, Mr. Adams had requested a future agenda item regarding the NSBA Conference. Mr. Adams presented information regarding travel to the 74th Annual National School Boards Association (NSBA) Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 5-7, 2014. Estimated expenses for traveling to the conference were provided.

Mr. Adams stated his feelings regarding the importance of professional development for the Board and networking to get exposure for the District. Mr. Adams asked for the Board's support to send someone to the NSBA Conference. Mr. Adams reported that he did not have to attend, but felt it was important to have a presence at the conference.

Mr. Adams advised that if he were to attend the conference, he would pay for the costs for the pre-conferences, other events, meal events, per diem meals, and ground transportation which would reduce the cost to approximately \$2,800.00. He pointed out that there was over \$5,000.00 in the Governing Board's travel budget with additional budget available to be transferred, if necessary, for future events.

Mr. Adams thanked the Board for its consideration. He stated that there was value in attending the conference through talking to other board members from across the country and discussing national education issues.

Mr. Adams reported that he had spoken to Mr. Maza who stated that he supported the travel and believed in continued education for the Board.

Ms. Graziano said that the conference seemed like a wonderful event, but wished that the District could find a dedicated source for all staff members to have the same benefit of out-of-state travel, conferences, and in-service. Ms. Graziano stated she did not think it was appropriate to allow one of the Board members to attend a conference with a high cost and tell everyone else that it is not allowed for them because there is no money.

Mr. Jahneke agreed with Ms. Graziano's philosophical approach to the subject and stated that during his six years serving on the Governing Board, he had not used any District money for out-of-state travel.

Mrs. Lambert expressed mixed feelings on this subject. She stated there can be value to attending conferences and feels that local ASBA conferences are very pertinent to Arizona education issues and bring value to the Governing Board table. Mrs. Lambert said that she hoped that as the budget increases, the District can start to provide professional development opportunities for everyone, e.g., staff, administrators, and Governing Board members. Mrs. Lambert reported that the NSBA conference cost is large and she was not sure if she could support attending the conference because she wanted to make sure there was funding available to support opportunities to attend local ASBA conferences and workshops that are pertinent to Arizona education issues.

Mrs. Lambert advised the Board that anyone wishing to attend the NSBA Conference could submit a travel request for consideration and approval.

Mr. Adams thanked the Board members for their comments and support. He encouraged travel requests for conferences and professional development opportunities. Mrs. Lambert stated that, unfortunately, we cannot encourage travel requests, but hopefully travel will be allowed when the District gains a better financial position.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Adams requested an agenda item regarding the Governing Board's Professional Development.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Jahneke to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion carried.

UNANIMOUS

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Documents were signed as tendered by the Governing Board Secretary



BOARD SECRETARY

2/27/14

DATE



BOARD OFFICIAL

2/27/14

DATE