

**Advisory Committee of MUHSD & COCSD
1801 East Fir, Cottonwood, AZ 86326**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Mingus Union High School Library
Tuesday, March 6, 2018 @ 4:00 PM

Members of the Committee

Dan Mabery – Committee Chairman
Claudia Aeby JoAnn Cook
DeAnna DeWitt Jason Finger
Anita Glazar David Gray
James Ledbetter Stephen Renard
Kelli Rhoda Micah Swenson
Philip Terbell Mike Westcott
Sonny Zale

I. OPENING

Mr. Mabery opened the meeting at 4:01 PM.

II. Public Comments

(members of the Advisory Committee shall not discuss matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action)

III. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

III. 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes Not Previously Approved

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The meeting minutes were made available for review. No action was taken.

III. 2. Keegan Reports

The Committee discussed with Dr. Jack Keegan information generated during his role as Interim Superintendent at MUHSD.

Dr. Keegan provided history as to how the numbers came about as part of a Study Session for the MUHSD Governing Board open to the public. There were several members of the Pro Committee, as well as members of the COCDS Governing Board. He discussed the spreadsheet that had been distributed to the board and that the information was generated by the State. He shared how the numbers were compared. He maintains that consolidating would bring about the savings and efficiencies with an approximate savings of \$352,171 including the fringe benefits.

Dr. Keegan was very clear in stating that equalization of the teacher salaries should be achieved either prior to the consolidation or in the first year in order to foster good will between all certified staff.

Mr. Finger asked Dr. Keegan's opinion as to how/if a unified model will serve students better than what we are currently doing in this community. Dr. Keegan stated that in the long run a unified model is better but he would never push it if the staff salaries are not equalized. Consolidation is difficult and takes a lot of work. The goal should be to run an efficient school system so you can dump as much money as possible into the classrooms and

programs. Dr. Keegan stated that a plan should be developed now and the new board would simply be tasked with the approval of the plan implementation.

Mrs. Glazar expressed her concern with the exclusion of the CJESD. It feels like this forces them to not be part of the high school that they have been accustomed to. CJESD does get small school funding although it would be best for consolidation if the CJESD was to participate. The CJESD would have to pay tuition and the new district would not lose anything and the taxpayers would not pay anymore. Dr. Keegan did not have anything to add regarding the division of assets.

III. 3. Unified Organizational Structure and Other Financial Considerations

The Committee discussed the report from the Business Managers that was presented at the last meeting.

Mr. Mabery noted that the business managers were charged with identifying different information than Dr. Keegan.

III. 4. State Funding Request

The Committee discussed a request to the state legislature to offset the costs associated with consolidation.

Unfortunately, at this time we don't have any specific numbers and do not know what would be needed as a request from the State. Mr. Renard shared his uneasy feeling about asking the legislature for funds to offset the cost of consolidation. If we are looking for outside help it would indicate that it may not be a fiscally sound decision to consolidate.

Mr. Ledbetter stated that the comparison Coolidge and Douglas schools should not be used as the model. Douglas is struggling and Coolidge is only slightly better but still struggling.

There is no direct comparison. We need to be comparing to the peer groups

Joanna Cook wants to know what are the next steps to figure out those amounts from the legislature. Anita reminded that those monies must be found every year. It was agreed that the number needs to be determined and that should be the charge of the Governing Boards.

III. 5. Arizona Union High School and Elementary Districts

The Committee discussed union and elementary districts within Arizona.

There is a wide spread idea that the way we deliver education is unique to this community and information was provided highlighted the number of elementary and union districts in the state. Mr. Ledbetter stated that most students are educated in a union or elementary and not unified. Kelli Rhoda wanted to know how many sites each of those districts have.

The remainder of the agenda will be tabled until the next meeting.

III. 6. Classified Wage Equalization

The Committee will look at the difference between COCSD and MUHSD's classified wage schedules and possible costs involved to arrive at equalization.

Anita asked that the Committee get the information needed to look at this equalization.

III. 7. Classroom Site Fund Equalization

The Committee will discuss the equalization of the Classroom Site Fund for a unified district.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 PM.

Dan Mabery
Committee Chair

