

# Minutes of the Special Study/Voting Session

## Prescott Unified School District Governing Board

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A Special Study/Voting Session was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, in the Board Room at the Prescott Unified School District Office.

Board Members in Attendance:

Andy Newton - President  
Steve Campbell  
Joan Fleming  
Tina Seeley  
Dee Navarro

Others Present:

Andrea Mayer, Adm. Asst. to the Governing Board

District Personnel and Members of the Public Present:

John Gordon (via telephone)  
Larry Peterson

Paula Rhoden  
Jolene Hale

Jack Jackson  
Bill Monroe

### CALL TO ORDER

President Andy Newton called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. John Gordon from ASBA joined the meeting telephonically.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Newton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Dee Navarro moved that the Governing Board approve the agenda as presented.  
Mr. Steve Campbell seconded the motion.

Mrs. Dee Navarro voted aye, Mrs. Tina Seeley voted aye, and Dr. Joan Fleming voted aye, Mr. Steve Campbell voted aye, and President Newton voted aye. The motion carried 5-0.

### **SPECIAL STUDY/VOTING SESSION:**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE BROCHURE FOR ONLINE POSTING  
RELATING TO THE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH REGARDING: THE BROCHURE,  
DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY AND DISTRICT, SALARY RANGE AND TERM OF

CONTRACT, QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW SUPERINTENDENT,  
NARRATIVE QUESTIONS AND TIMELINE OF SEARCH

President Newton noted that the brochure would go out right after the first of the year. He asked how many surveys had been completed online.

Mr. John Gordon responded that 124 individuals filled out the online survey with 44% parents and 33% district employees.

President Newton asked if that was typical. Mr. Gordon responded that he was pleased there were so many parents.

President Newton asked if there were any comments regarding the survey. Mrs. Dee Navarro stated that she wished she had more time to review it.

Mr. Gordon noted that there was no rush since – we have until January 4<sup>th</sup>. He added that he would make the survey results available to applicants. He stated that there seemed to be a lot of emphasis placed on finding an experienced administrator – someone who has run a district before. He noted that communication skills was also emphasized.

President Newton asked if the application form would contain the essay questions. Mr. Gordon responded, yes – you will see their answers.

President Newton suggested that the board determine what narrative questions to use on the application.

Mrs. Navarro asked, do we want 3-4 questions? Mr. Gordon responded, yes, and I will send you others for the interview.

Dr. Joan Fleming stated that 3-4 questions seemed like a lot and asked if other superintendent applications had that many. Mr. Gordon responded, yes – that’s really the cut when you have to start comparing applicants.

Dr. Fleming asked, are the questions usually situational? Mr. Gordon responded, they are usually open-ended questions.

President Newton stated that he sensed the board felt 3-4 questions was too many. Mr. Gordon stated, you can have two questions if that’s what you want.

Dr. Fleming suggested not going over three questions. There was a consensus among board members to use three questions.

Mrs. Tina Seeley asked if there was one question that is standard. Mr. Gordon responded that it was the question – “What is your experience in communities such as Prescott?”

Mr. Campbell suggested – “How have you demonstrated dynamic leadership in challenging situations?”

President Newton suggested a question regarding the financial situation.

Mr. Gordon noted that another subject mentioned by parents had to do with morale and trust – would you like that to be a question?

President Newton noted that this is a minimal growth district and he'd like to know if a person has experience in a minimal growth district vs. a district that is growing.

Mr. Gordon added, or declining enrollment – and explain how you would maintain the financial support in that district. He suggested, “What is your experience or plans in working in a minimal growth district?”

Mrs. Navarro stated that she liked that question.

Mrs. Seeley stated she wanted to use the question Mr. Gordon had suggested in a previous meeting. Mr. Gordon responded, “Please explain how you have worked in a district and community the size of Prescott?”

Mrs. Seeley suggested having a question regarding morale or achievement.

President Newton suggested, “How would you raise student achievement?”

Mr. Campbell suggested, “How do you increase student achievement in schools that are already highly performing or excelling?”

Board members then asked Mr. Gordon to read back the three questions. He responded:

1. How have you demonstrated dynamic leadership in challenging situations?
2. How would you plan to operate in a minimal growth/declining enrollment district while managing the district in a fiscally responsible manner?
3. Please explain how you would increase student achievement in schools already labeled highly performing or excelling?

President Newton suggested putting the community profile near the end of the brochure and not on the second page.

It was suggested that more information be added regarding the district such as the size of the district, number of students, mention neighboring districts, how the district has grown in the last few years – the enrollment trends.

Mrs. Seeley stated that some of that information was not positive.

Mrs. Navarro noted that the brochure shows two high schools and asked if NELA should be included in the district since they are seeking charter school status. She then suggested

Swapping the second and last page. There was board consensus to swap the second page and last page.

Mr. Campbell asked, when does this go out? Mr. Gordon responded, January 4<sup>th</sup> – we'll do changes and send to you through Andi.

Mr. Gordon noted that the entire results from the survey can be utilized later when the new superintendent can take some of those things and work with his administrative team.

He requested that more information was needed for the district profile such as size, makeup of students, labels from the different schools, the A+ schools, percentage of ELL, the federal budget, etc.

Mr. Steve Campbell moved that the Governing Board approve the narrative questions discussed previously in the meeting, as well as the makeup of the brochure. Dr. Joan Fleming seconded the motion.

Mrs. Dee Navarro voted aye, Mrs. Tina Seeley voted aye, and Dr. Joan Fleming voted aye, Mr. Steve Campbell voted aye, and President Newton voted aye. The motion carried 5-0.

President Newton asked if there were any further comments regarding the survey. Mrs. Navarro restated that she'd like more time to review it. The board then discussed the outcome of the online survey.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, President Newton adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

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Governing Board Member