

Minutes of the Special Session of March 2, 2010

Prescott Unified School District Governing Board

A Special Session of the Governing Board of Prescott Unified School District was held Tuesday, March 2, 2010, beginning at 12:00 p.m. in the Board Room located at the District Office, 146 South Granite Street, Prescott, Arizona.

Board Members Present:

President Joan Fleming
Dee Navarro
Steve Campbell
Tina Seeley
Andy Newton (arrived at 12:07 p.m.)

Others Present:

Kevin Kapp, Superintendent
Andrea Mayer, Adm. Asst. to the Governing Board

District Personnel and/or Members of the Public Present:

Paula Rhoden

CALL TO ORDER

President Joan Fleming called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Fleming 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. Tina Seeley voted aye, Mrs. Dee Navarro voted aye, Mr. Steve Campbell voted aye, and President Joan Fleming voted aye. The motion carried 4-0

OPEN SESSION

CONSIDER APPROVING A REVISED SCHEDULE FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT FINALIST'S INTERVIEWS AND THE STAFF/COMMUNITY DAY

Mrs. Dee Navarro moved that the Governing Board approve the change in dates from March 3 & 4 to March 4 & 5. Mr. Steve Campbell seconded the motion.

(Dr. Andy Newton arrived at 12:07 p.m.)

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

Mrs. Dee Navarro moved that the Governing Board approve the Staff/Community Day scheduled as presented. Mr. Steve Campbell seconded the motion.

Mrs. Dee Navarro requested a copy of the original schedule that John Gordon had sent out. Mrs. Mayer provided board members with a copy of the requested document.

President Fleming stated that she did not believe that we'd get very many community members on a Friday night from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Newton agreed.

Mrs. Seeley stated that she liked the new times.

Mrs. Navarro asked if there were still some way to have the formal questions at the staff and community forum.

Mr. Kapp responded that he was the one who made the change and that he was trying to be a little more sensitive to the staff and community. He noted that the board will get an hour and 15 minutes with each finalist. Going back to the "gold mine" or "meat market" format will allow for staff and community members to get up close and personal with the candidates and be able to ask them questions and listen to the answers while taking notes. He stated that he felt that the staff and community would feel disenfranchised with the formal question and answer format where a very limited number of questions would actually be answered. He added that he was trying to bring it into a more personal setting and that the community had really liked the format last time.

Mrs. Navarro stated that she wasn't talking about the staff one, but the community one.

Mr. Campbell stated that he felt like if we do the formal forum, that will limit the ability of the public to give us input. He added that when you do the formal thing, John chooses the questions

to be asked and may not meet the needs of the public. He added that the more informal format would give the board better feedback.

President Fleming agreed that it would be up close and personal.

Mr. Campbell added that everyone would get an opportunity to ask at least one of their questions.

Dr. Newton stated that he thought he understood what Dee meant and that it would be more of a presidential type forum and would give us another opportunity to see how they answer the questions. He added that he also agreed that the more people staff and community members can talk to, the better.

Mr. Campbell commented that after how many hours during the interviews – we should know those candidates pretty well and we can observe how they respond to the public.

Dr. Newton noted that the input would allow the board to see if the public's impression is the same as ours.

Mrs. Navarro stated, I understand – that's just my preference.

Mr. Kapp noted that there is an hour from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. He added that all of these activities have already been soft posted for board member attendance. He stated that we were thinking of a more formal format at the district office. He added that board members should attend and observe at all of these activities.

President Fleming stated that we want to involve the community and this is the only time that has been provided. She added that we had a lot of community people at the previous one and the community felt good about it.

Mrs. Navarro asked, it's going to be in the MPR?

Mr. Kapp stated yes and that it would basically be two hours with the staff and community members.

The board then reviewed the community questionnaire that would be filled out.

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

CONSIDER APPROVING INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE FINAL CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PRESCOTT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Steve Campbell moved that the Governing Board approve the interview questions for our finalists as presented. Dr. Andy Newton seconded the motion.

Mrs. Navarro stated that she had different questions from the handouts provided today.

Dr. Newton noted that they were the same that he had received.

Mrs. Navarro noted that she was looking at the wrong questionnaire.

Dr. Newton stated that he did not like question #7, that it was too vague and that we should get rid of it.

Mrs. Navarro stated that she liked it and thought it was important.

President Fleming stated that she didn't have a problem with it.

Mrs. Mayer reminded board members that Mr. Gordon had stated that questions should be very broad in nature, open-ended, and not specific so that you don't lead the candidate to the answer.

Dr. Newton asked, are there any questions that you might want to ask over another one? Mrs. Navarro responded, you can't do that – you need to keep it fair.

Mrs. Navarro asked, why is question #12 specific and not broad? Maybe we should re-word it to say career programs.

Dr. Newton stated that he didn't think it was bad.

Mrs. Navarro asked, why didn't they ask about the special education program? Or other programs?

Mrs. Seeley pointed out that question #6 talks about special programs.

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

Mr. Campbell noted that he would be gone the first week in April. It was suggested that the April meetings be moved to the last two weeks of April – the 13th and 20th.

Mrs. Mayer stated that she would have Mr. Kapp send an e-mail to individual board members regarding this suggestion.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, President Fleming adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.