

DRAFT Minutes

AMPHITHEATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS Tucson, Arizona

MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Place, Date and Time of Meeting

Wetmore Center, 701 West Wetmore Road, February 7, 2012 6:15 p.m.

Board Members Present

Mrs. Diana Boros, President
Mrs. Susan Zibrat, Vice President
Dr. Kent Paul Barrabee, Member
Dr. Linda Loomis, Member
Mr. Jeff Grant, Member

Central Administrators Present

Dr. Vicki McLeod Balentine, Superintendent
Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Associate to Superintendent and General Counsel
Mr. Patrick Nelson, Associate Superintendent
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer

OPENING OF MEETING – 6:15 P.M.

Mrs. Boros called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

1. Executive Session

- A. Motion to Recess Open Meeting and Hold an Executive Session for: Discussion and Consultation with Rep of the Governing Board in Order to Consider Its Position and Instruct Its Representatives for the Meet and Confer Process Pertaining to Compensation and Benefits for Certificated, Professional Non-Teaching, Support and Administrative Staff for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(5)
- B. Motion to Close Executive Session and Reconvene Open Meeting

A motion was made by Mrs. Boros that the Board recess into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(5) as presented. Mr. Grant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, 5-0. Mrs. Boros called a recess at 6:16 p.m. for the purpose of holding Executive Session for .

Upon return to the Board Room, Mr. Grant moved to reconvene the meeting into open session. Dr. Barrabee seconded the motion and it passed, unanimously, 5-0. The time was 7:01 p.m. Mrs. Boros declared the meeting in open session.

OPENING OF MEETING

Call to Order and Signing of Visitors' Register

Mrs. Boros called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and asked members of the audience to sign the visitors' register. Procedures for addressing the Board were described.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Angela Wichers, Principal from Painted Sky Elementary School invited Mrs. Ann Paulson, Physical Education Specialist, to introduce the following Miler's Club students: Graham Gotcher, Santi Groat, Erin Dickey, Drew Knight, Marcella Ferrell, Cherish Gotcher, Jason Dylla, and Avery Dylla. They led the Pledge of Allegiance and each student was presented with a Certificate of Commendation.

Dr. Barrabee acknowledged the Art Display in the Board Room. He commended the Painted Sky Elementary School students and art teacher, Jeff Stewart, for their contributions.

Announcement of Date and Place of Next Special Governing Board Meeting

Mrs. Boros announced the next special meeting of the Governing Board to be Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 6:00 p.m., Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Boros invited members of the audience to sign the visitors' register and described procedures for addressing the Board

There were no comments from the public.

2. INFORMATION² AND RECOGNITION(S)

A. Status of Bond Projects

Mr. Louth, Bonds Project Manager, was introduced to present this month's (PowerPoint) status update on the current Bond-funded Projects (as provided with Board book materials).

I. HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

A. CDO Tennis Court Replacement: *Construction is 80% complete. The tennis courts and softball field repair are complete and in use. The concrete walkway and retaining wall are being finished now. This project is slightly behind schedule due to weather delays in December but is on budget.*

B. Transportation Offices: *Construction is 50% complete. MP&E rough-in and framing is complete. Drywall is hung and being finished. Metal siding repairs and site work are in process. Glazing and fence work will be starting soon. Project is on schedule and on budget.*

II. INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE / PORTABLE REPLACEMENT

A. Rillito Center Addition: *Construction is complete. Punch list repairs are being completed and Close-up documentation is in process.*

B. Nash Elementary Classroom Addition: *Construction is complete.*

C. Walker Elementary Classroom Addition: *Construction is 98% complete. The new two story building is complete and in use. Portables have been removed and the playground is being expanded where the portables used to be. Walker is on schedule and on budget.*

D. Amphitheater Middle School Addition / Remodel: *Programming is continuing with the AMS staff, Architects, General Contractor, and the Bond Dept. Schematic Design drawings are complete and have been reviewed by Amphi staff. Design Development drawings are being developed.*

A. Canyon Del Oro High School Addition / Remodel: *Programming is continuing with the CDO staff, Architects, General Contractor, and the Bond Dept. Design Development drawings are complete and have been reviewed by Amphi staff. Construction Documents are being developed for plan review, permitting and final budget preparation.*

B. Copper Creek Classroom Renovation / IT Re-cabling: *Construction is 9% complete. Selective demolition has started. The renovation of classrooms 14 & 15 into computer labs has started.*

C. Rio Vista Elementary Classroom Addition: *Procurement has started.*

H. Holaway Elementary Classroom Addition: *Procurement has started.*

Mr. Grant expressed appreciation to the Bond management staff. He noted the outstanding job done by everyone involved as projects consistently are being completed “on-time” and within budget projects – noting the fine job done on the Rillito Center project. Dr. Barrabee noted that at a recent Ribbon cutting event at Rillito “it was a very uplifting experience.”

B. Introduction of Canyon del Oro High School Student Advisory Council Member

Dr. Balentine introduced the students from CDO that serve on the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council and acknowledged their service to their classmates and school. She introduced the students.

C. Recognition of Dr. Carroll Rinehart

Board book information: *Dr. Carroll Rinehart has been highly involved volunteering his time and passion with our students. Dr. Rinehart is a fine arts educator and has been breaking ground with his innovative program to teach fine arts, language and creativity through the creation and production of operas in the classroom. He has been bringing his talents and wisdom to Amphitheater students in Rio Vista and Walker schools for the past ten years through his volunteer work in countless classrooms. Dr. Rinehart was instrumental in beginning the study and use of opera at Walker Elementary.*

The opera process involves students making all decisions: writing or adapting a story, developing a script, composing the music (Dr. Rinehart scores the music), conducting auditions and casting parts, performing as solo voices or ensembles, and in the end, doing a critical review. The process brings about a very deep comprehension of music and language at an aesthetic level, which research suggests may lead to high achievement.

In addition to the opera production process itself, the program facilitates students’ ability to learn to read and compose music, developing high levels of auditory memory and perception, which is essential to basic learning abilities. Currently we’ve begun a process in which third grade students will learn to score/write their own music. All processes are designed to connect with the inner energy of language and the arts which motivates a desire to learn and results in students assuming more responsibility for their own learning.

We are pleased to honor Dr. Rinehart for his amazing contributions to fine arts in our district!

Mrs. Eiting introduced Dr. Rinehart and provided a Summary of his career accomplishments and achievements, as well as, his contributions to the District through the years. Dr. Rinehart has served as Volunteer at both Walker and Rio Vista Elementary school through music and the arts to most effectively teach children to learn.

Dr. Rinehart addressed the Board and audience members, expressing his joy in working with students and the high level of importance students are. He expressed his concerns about the continued reduction of funding dollars being directed to public education (state and federal).

The Governing Board thanked Dr. Rinehart for his contributions to the students of Amphitheater Public Schools and presented him with a Certificate of Commendation.

D. Update on New Superintendent Search

Board book information: *In January, the Governing Board appointed the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) as a consultant to coordinate and facilitate the search for the District’s next Superintendent, following Dr. Balentine’s announcement that she will be retiring at the conclusion of her current contract. At the same time, the Board approved a timeline and parameters for the selection process.*

The search process includes opportunities for input from the community, district staff, and students. For example, several forums have already been held to obtain input from multiple segments of the District community. These forums, for parents, students, District staff, school principals, PTOs/Site Councils, the Amphitheater Education Association, and the general community, provided the Governing Board and its search consultant, with detailed, helpful recommendations regarding the qualities and characteristics sought in a new superintendent. In addition, an internet based survey was administered as an additional mechanism for similar input.

At the Board's meeting of February 1, 2012, the Governing Board and its consultant utilized input from the forums to develop a "profile" for the new superintendent – qualifications, characteristics, skills and abilities sought in applicants. This profile and other information about the District and community were to be used by the consultant to formulate the electronic brochure that will advertise the position and solicit applicants. The Board delegated to Board Member Jeff Grant the authority to finalize the brochure. It is expected that the finalized brochure will be made available prior to the February 7 meeting of the Board.

This item will permit review of the status of the search process, including the finalized brochure and an updated timeline following the Board's February 1 direction.

Dr. Balentine provided an overview of the Search process to date. The application is available on ASBA's website; it can also be accessed from the District's website via a link. Applications will be accepted until March 21st. The Governing Board will have a full day on March 27th to screen applications with the assistance of Ms. Beckvar, ASBA's consultant. Dr. Balentine reviewed the interview process for candidates; interviews scheduled for April 11th and 12th; possible site visits and staff and community forums, also on April 12th. [Staff and students at 4:00 p.m., and Community groups at 6:00 p.m.; both events will be held at Cross Middle School.] The appointment is anticipated to be effective July 1st or sooner if by mutual agreement between the Board and the candidate.

Mr. Boros added that the Board will be communicating details to the community about upcoming Forums.

E. Recognition of Recipients of National Board Certification

Board book information: *National Board Certified Teachers are nationally recognized as being among the best teachers in the profession. This year Amphitheater once again is distinguished to be able to recognize the following new National Board Certified Teacher(s): Monica Bermudez, Kindergarten Teacher, Walker Elementary School Carole Celaya, Kindergarten Teacher, Painted Sky Elementary School.*

Amphitheater would also like to recognize the following teacher(s) for the renewal of their National Board Certification: Karen Vick-Frantziskonis, Fourth & Fifth Grade Teacher, Walker Elementary School. [The District proudly boasts that thirty-two teachers have succeeded in achieving their NBCT status.]

The Governing Board congratulated Ms. Celaya, Ms. Bermudez, and Ms. Vick-Frantziskonis on their achievements and presented each with a Certificate of Commendation.

F. Recognition of Circle K Teacher of the Year Finalists

Board book: *Josh Tabor, a Mathematics teacher from Canyon del Oro High School, and Mimi Griffis, an Art teacher from Ironwood Ridge High School, were selected as two of the finalists for the 2011-12 Circle K/University of Arizona Outstanding High School Faculty Awards. Both teachers were honored at University of Arizona basketball games, in the newspaper and on a local television station. In addition, they will be honored at a banquet on February 24th.*

The Governing Board congratulated Ms. Griffis and Mr. Tabor on their achievements and presented each with a Certificate of Commendation.

G. Recognition of Arizona Master Teacher

Board book information: *The Arizona Master Teacher Program (formerly the Governor's Master Teacher/Mentor Program) has been in existence for several years. The Arizona Master Teacher Program places experienced, accomplished teachers into leadership roles in schools as mentors for their peers. Teachers with at least five years of experience, strong evaluations, and who have demonstrated student achievement and growth can apply through the Arizona K-12 Center portfolio process to become Master Teachers.*

The goal of the Arizona Master Teacher Program is to build capacity for teacher leadership and provide sustainability and support for the teaching profession. This is accomplished by cultivating exemplary instruction,

quality professional development, and dedicated mentoring and coaching in participating districts. There are currently 23 districts in Arizona with Master Teachers with Amphi having approximately 15 such teachers.

Corinne Blum, 8th grade reading teacher at La Cima Middle School, is our most recent Arizona Master Teacher

The Governing Board congratulated Ms. Blum on her achievement and presented her with a Certificate of Commendation.

H. New Administrator Leadership Academy

Board book information: *At the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year we began a Leadership Academy for new and aspiring administrators. This was initiated, in part, to assist new administrators into the procedures, policies, and culture of the district.*

Dr. Balentine introduced the seven administrators who have completed the New Administrator Leadership Academy in the 2011-2012 school year, as follows: Gerad Ball, Shannon Chandler, Michelle Goodman, Rob Jewett, A.J. Malis, Laurie Sheber, and Carol Tracy.

I. Review of 2012-2013 Budget Development; Projections and Site Staffing and Non-Staffing Allocations

Board book information: *Each year, the District prepares a projection of the number of students, by grade, attending each of the District's schools. The projection is based upon current student cohort information combined with other demographic information, such as expected property development in neighborhoods served by individual schools. These projections are used to establish site staffing allocations for the next fiscal year. Enrollment projections and staffing allocations are then used in calculating the non-staffing allocations for each school.*

Based upon this process, the District is currently projecting enrollment of 13,690 students for the 2012-2012 fiscal year. This number, it should be noted, calculates Kindergarten students at 0.50 of full time enrollment given the State's termination of full day Kindergarten. This enrollment projection again reflects a slight decrease in enrollment from current year levels, based upon recent population trends. Each site principal also reviews their school's enrollment projection and provides feedback. Given district budget limitations, a conservative approach to projections continues to be applied.

The Board will find a list of schools, together with their projected enrollment for next year, attached. For the purpose of this initial discussion, the Administration is also attaching a sample staffing and non-staffing allocations (one each) for a high school, middle school and elementary school, so that the Board can review these illustrations of the allocation process.

Mr. Jaeger reviewed enrollment projections for the 2012-2013. He believes the District may realize a slight increase from last year.

Mr. Jaeger was invited to provide an overview of the budget/staffing development process – to include enrollment projections and samples of staffing and non-staffing formulae used at each of the elementary, middle, and high school levels. A chart was displayed showing projected enrollment at each school for the 2012-2013 school year by comparison to enrollment figures from this year's 40th day enrollment report. He described the various factors used in calculating school allocations. He noted that the District has been victim to lost capital outlay and building renewal funding totaling millions of dollars as the state has been short-funding or no-funding for the past several years. He noted that in addition to Maintenance and Operations (M & O) funding, a portion of (voter approved) Override dollars funds additional staffing/support in the areas of Art, Music, and Physical Education (PE). Some reduction of positions is anticipated, approximately seven or 8 positions; however, those will likely fall through attrition so that staff reductions are unlikely to occur this year.

Mr. Grant noted that it is his belief that the capital funding level for textbooks is appalling.

3. CONSENT AGENDA³

Mrs. Boros asked if there were Board member requests to have items addressed separately; there were none. A motion was made by Mrs. Boros to approve the Consent Agenda, items A-L. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grant and it passed unanimously, 5-0. Appointment of personnel is effective, provided all district, state, and

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 24, 2012 Special Board Meeting and of the January 10, 2012, and 24, 2012 Executive Board Meetings were approved, as submitted.

B. Approval of Appointment of Personnel

Certified and classified personnel were appointed, as listed in Exhibit 1.

C. Approval of Personnel Changes

Certified and classified personnel were appointed, as listed in Exhibit 2.

D. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence

Leave of Absence requests were approved for certified and classified personnel, as listed in Exhibit 3.

E. Approval of Separation(s) and Termination(s)

Certified and classified personnel separations were approved, as listed in Exhibit 4.

F. Approval of Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding \$1,956,694.07

Board book information: *A copy of vouchers for goods and services received by the Amphitheater Schools and recommended for payment has been provided to the Governing Board. The following vouchers were approved as presented and payment authorized:*

Vo. 369	\$ 840,678.07	Vo. 370	\$361,514.92	Vo. 371	\$653,538.29
Vo. 372	\$100,962.79				

G. Acceptance of Gifts

Donations were accepted by the Governing Board as listed in Exhibit 5.

H. Approval of Project EXCELL! Payout Corrections

Board book information: *The review process for the December 2011 Project EXCELL! payout is complete.*

The Governing Board approved the additional award adjustments based on the review results: Katrina Schleicher - \$1,041.67; Joy Sholes - \$100.00; Jenny Knappenberger - \$625.00; Gail Legget - \$190.00; Laurie Seder - \$1,041.67; Cathy Sproul - \$ 80.03; Aaron Burger - \$1,041.67; Laurie Moore - \$ 187.50; Peggy Marner - \$ 500.00; Donald Dicus - \$1,000.00; Aimee Finkelstein - \$1,000.00; Jay Johnson - \$ 500.00; Eileen Farland - \$ 416.66; Kimberlee Medina - \$ 208.33; Natalie Gale - \$ 833.33; Gale Kirkendall - \$ 250.00; Barb Dowling - \$1,250.00; Lourdes Oros - \$1,250.00; Natalie Murdock - \$1,250.00; Karen Rakowitz - \$1,250.00; David Rainie - \$ 500.00; Joy Sholes - \$ 100.00; and, Rolande Baker - \$1,250.00.

I Approval of Out of State Travel

Out of state travel was previously approved at the October 4, 2011 Board meeting for district employees to attend the 33rd Annual LRP Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Individuals with Disabilities Conference in San Antonio, TX May 5-9, 2012. They wish to add another employee (expenses being paid by federal funds).

J. Approval of Grant(s)

The Governing Board approved the McDonald's Mac Grant in the amount of \$500 on behalf of Prince Elementary School; funding will be used towards the purchase of iPods for the 2nd grade ELD classroom.

K. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) for 2011-2012

The Governing Board approved the following Parent Support Organizations (PSO) from Ironwood Ridge High School pursuant to District Policy KBE-R: Fine Arts Booster and Wrestling Booster clubs.

L. Approval to Sell or Dispose of Equipment Using Other Disposal Methods

Board book information: *Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-1131 provides that surplus materials shall be offered through competitive sealed bids, public auction, established markets, trade-in, posted prices or state surplus property. If unusual circumstances render the above methods impractical, the school district may employ other disposition methods, including appraisal or barter, provided the school district makes a determination that such procedure is advantageous to the school district.*

With Governing Board approval the Administration will attempt to trade in used school buses towards the purchase of new buses. If an advantageous trade in cannot be secured, the district will attempt to utilize other markets or public auctions to dispose of the used school buses.

The Governing Board approved the disposal of used school busses at public auction or trade-in as deemed appropriate (Bus #'s: B-138 through B-144 and B-146 through B-157, and B-168), as submitted.

4. STUDY

A. Periodic Legislative Review

Board book information: *This Item is presented to permit the Governing Board to review and discuss the status of education-related legislation which has been proposed in the second regular session of the 50th Arizona legislature this year.*

On September 20, 2011, the Governing Board approved the following District Legislative Priorities for the 2011 Legislative Session(s):

- 1. Increase Funding for K-12 Education.*
- 2. Expand Career Ladder Funding.*
- 3. Maintain Desegregation Funding.*
- 4. Provide Adequate Funding to Serve English Language Learners.*
- 5. Establish a Reliable and Adequate Source of Funding for the School Facilities Board.*
- 6. Provide User-friendly and Practical Reporting Requirements and Provide Funding Support for the Same.*
- 7. Protect and Support Education Due Process Rights.*
- 8. Provide Adequate Support for Special Education*
- 9. Eliminate All Student Tuition Organization Tax Credits.*
- 10. Eliminate the Extracurricular Tax Credit Program*

A summary of bills introduced in the Arizona House of Representative and the Senate follows. In subsequent legislative updates, a status of each bill will be provided.

Mr. Jaeger reviewed the Board's list of District Legislative Priorities approved last fall. These are the goals the Board wishes to share with lobbyist groups and other associates at the state and federal levels on behalf of the District and its constituents. He provided an overview of education-related senate and house bills provided in the Board Book – he noted that several are proposing changes to Meet and Confer and retirement/ASRS related laws. Mr. Jaeger noted one specific ASRS related item, HB2264 – ASRS Employee and Employer contributions. Last year a bill was passed that had intended to save state funding by changing the contribution rates so that school district contributions went from 50% to 47% and employee rates from 50% to 53%. If successful, this legislation will return the split to 50/50% retroactively to July 1, 2011. Last year, the Governing Board approved an increase in compensation to cover the increase in retirement contribution costs. Upon passage – once this is rectified, employees will benefit from the increase in their take-home pay.

Mr. Jaeger anticipates including senate bills related to accountability and finance in next month's review. [The complete packet of proposed legislation as provided within the Board Book materials can be found on the Amphi website at: <https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicItemDownload.aspx?ik=32088583>]

Mr. Grant requested that the names of the sponsors be included in these materials.

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Grant requested a Friday memo report on the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program, to include student enrollment at the various high school with a possible interest in developing the District's own program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Grant that the Board Meeting be adjourned; Mrs. Boros seconded the motion; and it passed unanimously, 5-0. Mrs. Boros declared the meeting was adjourned; the time was 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Harris

Mrs. Diana L. Boros, President

Date

Approved: TBD