

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

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Mingus Union High School Library  
Tuesday, January 9, 2018 4:00 PM

**Members of the Committee**

Dan Mabery – Committee Chairman	
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 called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

Mrs. Glazar introduced Claudia Aeby as the community member selected by the Mingus Union High School Governing Board.

**II. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**II. 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes Not Previously Approved**

Mr. Micah Swenson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 12, 2017, not previously approved. Mrs. Anita Glazar seconded the motion. The motion passed (14-0).

**II. 2. Review of Sodexo Contract with COCSD**

Mr. Ledbetter had requested a copy of the Sodexo contracts with Cottonwood Oak Creek. The information received was incomplete. Complete Sodexo contracts will be sent to the committee and addressed at the next meeting.

**II. 3. Auditor General Review**

Mr. Phil Terbell did a comparison review of the Auditor General's reports for the past 5 years. Dr. Penny Hargrove addressed the Committee with additional information as it relates to the information presented by Mr. Terbell. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**II. 4. Yavapai County School Superintendent Information**

The Committee discussed answers to a series of questions generated from the Advisory Committee meetings to Yavapai County Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Mabery proceeded to review each question and answer.

1. How are the Forest Fund Fees able to be used by districts. These dollars are from the Secure Rural Schools Act, commonly called "forest fees", which flow from the federal government to the counties as a specific and separate form of PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) and are distributed to the school districts within the county on a ADM formula. The districts have voluntarily entered into an IGA with each other to form the Forest Fee Management Association (FFMA) and have elected a five member Board of Directors to control their

decisions. The By-Laws are attached. The dollars that the districts receive are “unrestricted”, so it is up to the individual district to determine how their funds are used. Under the IGA, the districts have agreed to return half of those dollars to the FFMA for joint use and collective purchasing as determined by the FFMA Board. One of the things that the FFMA routinely pays for their member districts, are all election costs incurred during normal November election cycles(candidates, property sales, over-rides, bonds, consolidation, unification, etc.).

2. How deep will the study go on financials once the districts decide to get this on the ballot. The study will provide the information required by statute. We assume those items are listed in ARS 15-459, and those that are directly related by text.

3. What is the function and/or composition of the boards if the community approves consolidation Nov 2018. Please especially review ARS 15-459.R and ARS 15-430. As I understand it, from the time a successful 2018 election is canvassed until June 30, 2019, the Mingus and COCSD Boards will continue to meet, and conduct their normal business. They will also start meeting as a joint unified Board, that will make decisions for the newly created unified school district. The joint Board will continue until five “new” Unified Board Members (they may be from the old existing Boards, or not) are selected by the voters in November 2019 and seated on January 1, 2020.

4. Can you clarify the statement that Clarkdale may have to go K-12 (create another unified district) as a result of our consolidation. Clarkdale-Jerome School District retains all the same options that any other “elementary (common) school district” has. I believe there are over a dozen options throughout statute. Becoming unified is only one of those options.

5. Can you answer questions about bond and override changes and capacity as a result of consolidation. We can not answer questions in this regard, until either the Governing Boards or voter/petitioners actually call for an election, so we know the applicable portion of the law. Generally the bond and over-rides are retained by the “property at the time of the affirmative election”, and the separate issue of “asset distribution” will also have to be decided. Clarkdale-Jerome voters have paid for some Mingus assets. How will they distributed?

6. Can you clarify reported statements that you have made in favor of or against consolidation. Please see the attached email (12.14.17) that I previously sent to Dan Mabery, all three of the school districts, my leadership team, and the media. I believe it clearly states my views.

7. Will Clarkdale vote? Yes, it is my opinion that the citizens of Clarkdale should participate as voters in the election as they are part of the Mingus Union High School District.

8. What is the effect on Clarkdale tax payers? This is unknown at this point. We do not plan to run these numbers until there is actually an election called.

9. What is the drop dead time for petitioners? We developed and distributed a timeline for the Governing Boards to use, if they wish to seek a consolidation vote. A timeline for petitioners has not been developed yet. Jenn will provide a copy of the timeline as soon as it can be developed, in conjunction with the County Attorney’s Office.

Mr. Mabery suggested that we invite Mr. Carter to attend an upcoming meeting to answer the questions.

Additional questions to Mr. Carter from the committee where discussed.  
How will the division of assets be determined?

## II. 5. **Report From Superintendent/Business Manager Meeting**

The Committee will hear a report regarding a meeting between the Superintendents and Business Managers of both Districts.

Mrs. Glazar reported to the committee regarding a meeting that took place January 5, 2018, with representatives from both district. The Business Managers will work to create a model for what the structure of the consolidated district would look like. Both District agreed that this project would take several weeks to present to the Committee. Mr. Westcott reported to the committee regarding a phone conversation he had with Ms. Parker from the Kingman Unified District. Ms. Parker's contact information was shared with some of the other committee members.

## II. 6. **Consultant**

The Committee discussed whether MUHSD would hire a consultant to provide information regarding the impact of consolidation.

Mr. Ledbetter reported to the board regarding the idea of hiring a consultant. Mr. Ledbetter contacted David Bogler with respect to the viability of the information from the 2012 Feasibility Study. MUHSD has received a quote from him to provide a new feasibility study. Mrs. Glazar asked if the COCSD Board would be willing to participate in the cost of hiring Mr. Bogler. They stated that it would be required to be a Board agenda item. Mr. Gray asked know how long it would take to complete the new study and would the information be viable prior to the community petition drive. Mrs. Rollins stated that she was opposed to spending money to hire an outside source for information.

## II. 7. **2012 Feasibility Study**

The Committee did not continue using a pro/con evaluation system to explore the 2012 Warner Feasibility Report as the starting point for issues and topics.

## II. 8. **Advisory Committee Meeting Location**

The Committee discussed whether to change the location of the meetings.

Mrs. Glazar made a motion to move the location to the Cottonwood Public Safety Building. Stephen Renard seconded the motion. The motion passed (14-0). It was agreed that the next meeting should be on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Mabery directed the Committee members to provide him with a list of the things that have been agreed upon and what we have learned.

## III. **Public Comments**

Stephen Currie of Clarkdale, shared with the Committee that he felt that consolidation would continue to come up. This is not a consolidation or unification. It is a hostile takeover. When Sedona left Mingus in the 1990's it was miserable for Mingus. The election in 1998 and it was called a thumping. In 2008, it was clear that percentages were a 60% opposed. The issue is divisive and the reality is that people vote on emotion. He felt that the newspaper was creating an inflammatory situation by calling names to his friends. Do not have divisive issues come in front of teachers that cause them to worry about their jobs. If you want to do what is best for kids allow the teachers to teach.

Lori Drake of Cottonwood and Mingus Union High School District Governing Board. Shared her concerns regarding the division of assets. Community members that are concerned about the cost of what the new consolidated district will be required to pay the Clarkdale Jerome District.

*(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)*

## IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Mabery adjourned the meeting at 5:39 PM.

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Dan Mabery  
Committee Chair

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