



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

DATE OF MEETING: **March 8, 2016**

TITLE: **Process for Study of High School Instructional Time and Schedule Matters**

BACKGROUND:

The Governing Board has previously studied matters pertaining to instructional hours and schedules. During those previous studies, the Board took separate actions on each of two occasions.

At the Board's last meeting of February 23, 2016, Administration presented a proposal to expand Governing Board oversight and review of District programs and operations in keeping with the Board's appraisal function expressed under policy. The agenda item for that proposal made reference to the recent discussions concerning instruction time and start times as the kind of issue the Governing Board might like to review on a recurring basis under the proposal.

During discussion of that agenda item, there was discussion that some reconciliation of the two previous actions concerning high school instructional and start times might be appropriate.

A review of those two actions does indeed indicate that there is a conflict between them.

January 26, 2016

At the Board's meeting of January 26, 2016, the Governing Board studied the Administration's recommendation that there be a formal study of the high school instructional time issues, with a potential recommendation to be effective for the 2017-2018 School Year. Administration recommended, specifically, that such study:

1. examine and ultimately report to the Board on the impacts any proposed change would have upon such factors as: class schedules, bus routes, food service programs, staffing levels, student achievement levels, programmatic design and offerings, student workloads, staff workloads, and District funding;
2. include surveys of a broad cross-section of the entire high school parent, student and teacher communities;
3. provide several updates to the Board on the progress and status of the study;
4. and be conducted on a timeline that would ensure the presentation of both the study results and a final recommendation to the Board no later than November 2016, to allow sufficient time for students, parents, staff, schools and departments to prepare for any resulting change in the 2017-2018 school year.

Following the staff explanation of the item and recommendation, Vice-President Grant moved that a committee be formed to study high school start times separate from instructional time. Mr. Leska seconded that motion. Discussion followed.

President Day asked for a clarification, before voting on the motion on the table, whether or not Vice-President Grant planned on making another motion.

Vice-President Grant then withdrew her motion to form a committee to separately study high school start times, stating that she understood that instructional hours and start times would have to come together.

Vice-President Grant moved that a formal study be conducted to look at instructional hours and the high school start times, with the proviso that two Board Members be part of the committee. Mr. Leska seconded the motion, and offered a “friendly” amendment: that no administration be a part of this committee, but that the administration “be at the pleasure of the committee.”

Extensive discussion about the how the membership of the committee might be established ensued. The friendly amendment offered by Mr. Leska was not accepted by the maker of the motion, Vice-President Grant. She stated that she believed high school principals needed to be involved and she could not support it.

President Day asked Vice-President Grant to restate her motion. The Vice-President moved that, “A formal study be conducted to study the instructional time for the three high schools and the start date [sic] [time] of high schools, with the provision that two Board Members serve on this committee and that a recommendation be made to the full Board in October of 2016.”

Mr. Leska said he had seconded that motion and was withdrawing his “friendly” amendment offer.

There was further discussion regarding the motion with specific respect to the inclusion of two board members in the membership.

President Day called for a vote on Vice-President Grant’s motion. Dr. Barrabee asked for clarification as to whether the motion requires two Board Members to sit on the committee. President Day confirmed it did. The vote was held, and the motion passed 4-1, with Dr. Barrabee casting the “Nay” vote.

Subsequent to the vote, Mr. Leska asked whether the Board could also determine the makeup of the committee that evening. Mr. Jaeger replied that the Board could do so within the agenda item. President Day stated that she would like more time to think about everything that was discussed that night, and that she recommended they discuss it on February 9th.

February 9 Action

At the Board’s meeting of February 9, 2016, the Administration presented an agenda item to facilitate the Board’s composition of the committee and the establishment of protocols and procedures for the same. There was extensive discussion on the item that, in relevant part, included the following exchange, which is provided *verbatim* given the confusion that has apparently arisen. The motion (board action) related language from the discussion is italicized for ease of reference.

Mr. Leska: *I just maybe make a motion on, that the two Board Members who are selected tonight to be on this will be able to then take all of these items that staff included in this Board agenda item, and those Board Members then would distill that into the and create the, I’m trying to think of the word, the protocol for establishing each one of these.*

President Day: Okay, is there a second...did you move that?

Mr. Leska: Yeah, that’s a move.

President Day: Is there a second? [Pause]. Okay, is there further discussion?

Ms. Cozad: *I don't think we need that committee anymore, for what we are talking about. I would rather redirect for Mr. DeWeerd and his folks to figure out the IB schedule. I mean if the two, if Ironwood Ridge and Amphitheater and most of CDO are fine, because we aren't hearing from anybody, maybe we start with the IB Program.*

Dr. Barrabee: Was there a second?

President Day: No, there wasn't.

Dr. Barrabee: Oh, then there's no motion.

President Day: Right, there's no motion. Vice-President Grant.

Vice-President Grant: *Thank you Ms. Cozad because I'm revisiting that whole committee issue and if it's IB that is the problem then we do need to start with focusing on IB. However, Ms. Burnett made an interesting comment and I would like information from, specifically now from Ironwood Ridge, on...she says that the information we got regarding instructional hours was incorrect. Did I understand you correctly Ms. Burnett? On that particular item?*

...[Discussion with Vice President Grant, Ms. Burnett and Mr. Jaeger then ensued, after which the President recognized Dr. Barrabee].

President Day: Okay then, Dr. Barrabee.

Dr. Barrabee: *I move that we move forward with Ms. Cozad's concept, which is to recommend that CDO continue its efforts to make accommodations for the IB Program, and that be the extent of our involvement. (Emphasis added).*

Ms. Cozad: *I second.*

President Day: *Any further discussion? All those in favor please say 'Aye'; opposed, 'Nay'. Motion carries 5-0.*

The agenda item was thus concluded.

Based upon the foregoing, it would appear that after the Board's January 26 action to form a committee, the Governing Board subsequently determined that, rather than form a committee, the Board preferred to have CDO pursue accommodations for the IB Program, with such action being the extent of the Board's involvement.

If this action, as framed above, was not that intended by the Board, some clarification would indeed appear to be in order.

Clarification

The Superintendent spoke with the Governing Board President by telephone on Tuesday, March 1, to ask the President how she wanted to proceed following the February 23 meeting. He asked President Day, specifically, whether she wanted the Administration to present any form of proposal of formation and protocols of an instructional time study committee or whether she would instead prefer an agenda item that would have the Board itself determine the formation and protocols.

President Day directed the Superintendent to present an item that included recommendations for formation and protocols from the Administration.

The Superintendent has therefore drafted two alternative proposals: one for a district-wide committee process and one for three site-based committees. The Superintendent will explain each of these proposals to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Administration recommends the Governing Board provide clarification of its intention and direction on the study of instructional time and start times for the District's high school programs.

INITIATED BY:



Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: March 3, 2016



Patrick Nelson, Superintendent