

# JOINT VERDE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICTS GOVERNING BOARDS MEETING

6:30PM (Wednesday, April 23, 2014)  
Clarkdale-Jerome School District Gym  
1615 S. Main St.  
Clarkdale, AZ 86326

*Generated by Tricia Winters on Thursday, April 24, 2014*

## Attendees:

### Beaver Creek School District Governing Board and Superintendent

- Karen DuFresne, President
- Jeannette Estes, Member
- Jackie Harshman, Member
- Karin Ward, Superintendent

### Camp Verde Unified School District Governing Board and Superintendent

- Bob Simbric, Member
- Christine Schneider, Member
- Amber Lee, Superintendent

### Clarkdale- Jerome School District Governing Board and Superintendent

- Jill Zaske, President
- Becky O'Banion, Clerk
- Michael Gordon, Member
- Laurie Lozano, Member
- Dale Williams, Member
- Kathleen Fleenor, Superintendent

### Cottonwood Oak Creek School District Governing Board and Superintendent

- Jason Finger, President
- Joanne Cook, Member
- Marv Lamer, Member
- Janice Rollins, Vice President
- Mary Valenzuela, Member
- Barbara U'Ren, Superintendent

### Mingus Union High School District Governing Board and Superintendent

- Anthony Lozano, Member
- Brenda Zenan, Member
- Paul Tighe, Superintendent

### Sedona Unified School District Governing Board and Superintendent

- Karen McClelland, Member
- John D. Miller, Member
- Dave Lykins, Superintendent

### Valley Academy for Career and Technology Education (V'ACTE)

- Steve Dockray, President
- Leland Wieweck, Clerk
- Lois Lamer, Superintendent

**Other Attendees Included:** Ms. Jennifer Chilton, Miss Yvonne Gonzalez, Mr. Scott Jacobson, Ms. Tammy Naef, Ms. Brandi Sauer, Mr. David Snyder, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Tankesley, Mr. Kirk Waddle, Ms. Tricia Winters

## Meeting called to order at 5:39 PM

### 1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

**Information: 1.01 Welcome by Jill Zaske, Clarkdale Jerome School District Governing Board President**

Clarkdale-Jerome Governing Board President Jill Zaske welcomed everyone.

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## **Information: 1.02 Call to Order**

Clarkdale Jerome President Jill Zaske called her respective board to order.

Cottonwood-Oak Creek President M. Jason Finger called his respective board to order.

There were no quorums present for Beaver Creek, VACTE, Mingus Union, Sedona-Oak Creek, or Camp Verde Unified.

## **Information: 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance Led By Yavapai County Superintendent, Mr. Tim Carter**

Yavapai County Superintendent, Mr. Tim Carter led the Governing Boards in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Information: 1.04 Introductions**

Representation from each district introduced their Governing Boards and respective staff present.

## **2. SHARED SERVICES OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Discussion: 2.01 Discussion on Shared Services Opportunities**

Yavapai County Superintendent, Mr. Tim Carter recognized the collaborative efforts of all seven superintendents for their global vision and desire to bring all Governing Boards together. Mr. Carter gave an update on the YCESA teacher recruitment process and encouraged further Governing Board discussion.

Superintendents Barbara U'Ren and Dr. Paul Tighe discussed the current shared services collaboration between COCSD & MUHSD regarding a shared special education director. The districts are also sharing a transportation director, busses, and mechanics. Superintendents from the Verde Valley share legislative input, trainings, special education trainers and are working together to align administrative direction. Dr. Tighe explained that districts are experiencing high costs for special education services. Superintendents are discussing a shared location to provide common needs and combine services to save costs and still provide for high needs students.

Superintendents Karin Ward and Dave Lykins discussed the professional development collaborative efforts, in regards to McRel Balanced Leadership. Beaver Creek receives payroll services from Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District. Superintendent Ward explained that articulation of costs amongst districts will help districts create a purposeful community with outcomes that matter to all students. Superintendent Lykins discussed the collaboration between superintendents in development of aligned calendars. Similarities in calendars will provide more opportunities for families who have students at multiple schools, districts will be able to combine professional development trainings, cut costs and collaboration will allow districts to model what education should look like in regards to Move On When Reading, AZ College and Career Standards.

Mr. Carter explained that his office provides funding for professional development and they can't do it spread out county wide but it is much easier to provide one day for many. Mr. Carter asked for input from Governing Boards.

Suggestions include:

PARCC Teesting

## **3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **Information, Discussion: 3.01 Yavapai County Superintendent, Mr. Tim Carter Will Present a Legislative Update**

Mr. Carter gave an update to the Governing Boards on the number of open Governing Board seats. There are 64 seats open for Governing Boards. 36 people have pulled packets. There are five open seats in the Verde Valley. August 6, 2014 is the last date to pull a packet.

Mr. Carter presented a Legislative Update. District Sponsored charter schools have been an ongoing topic. The legislature wants definitive lines between public schools and charter schools. COCSD is impacted and its school that was converted last year will revert and the fees will be waived. Empowerment Scholarship Accounts have also been a concerning topic. Empowerment scholarships allow parents to take student out of school, parents are given a credit card to purchase educational services with 90% of the ADM at a private school. It is a strong controversy at this time. The scope of ESA's

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continues to grow and there is growing support for this. There are several categories of students that will qualify: Free and Reduced, military families, special education. Mr. Carter will prepare a list and send it to superintendents to share with their boards. Significant numbers of ESA's are in Pima and Maricopa Counties. Mr. Carter discussed the six Common Core bills that were defeated. There is an equal split of legislators in favor and against. The testing issue is still in process. The RFP is soon to be released and the decision will be made based on that. The state was funded at 2/3 of what they would need. Assumption is PARCC but there are several vendors. Testing implementation has decided to phase out AIMS. AZ was part of the PARCC testing consortium and it experienced to examine how effective the process was. State Board will have the final say in the process. The Budget was better this year in some places. There was a JTED veto. ASBO Legislative webinar will give an update. Mr. Carter discussed the lawsuit of Cave Creek vs. Ducey and indicated that there will be determination when funds will be dispersed. Inflation factor was created in to the current budget but it is unclear how the funds tied to that funding will be released and there may be a special session.

## 4. LOBBYING

### Information, Discussion: 4.01 Information and Discussion on Lobbying, Yavapai County Superintendent, Mr. Tim Carter & CJSD Superintendent, Ms. Kathleen Fleenor

Superintendent Fleenor reported that the Empowerment Scholarship has been a difficult issue in Arizona. 287 superintendents signed the letter opposing the Empowerment Scholarship. Free and reduced students who could qualify are also the population majority of students are qualified to receive funding for it. Superintendent Fleenor asked if it is time to look at a lobbyist to go down to Phoenix and explain how people in the Verde Valley feel about legislative issues.

Mr. Carter reported that the state expects that superintendents will represent their districts on critical issues. Mr. Carter does represent Yavapai County however does not have time to be at the State Legislature all the time and urged Governing Board members to make frequent contact with the legislators and represent their districts. 61/90 of charters have representation at the legislature level. Superintendents may recommend hiring a lobbyist that would represent the Verde Valley or Yavapai County. Mr. Carter explained the disclosure requirements for public bodies and costs associated with lobbying and cautioned that there could be some public concern regarding public bodies lobbying and where the money will come from to pay for it.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

### Action: 5.01 Adjournment

The Governing Boards will adjourn the meeting at this time, 7:55PM.

Jill Zaske adjourned the Clarkdale Jerome School District without objection.

M. Jason Finger called for a motion to adjourn Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District's Governing Board at this time.

Motion by Mary Valenzuela, second by Janice J Rollins.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: M Jason Finger, Marv Lamer, JoAnne Cook, Janice J Rollins, Mary Valenzuela

Minutes submitted by Executive Assistant, Tricia Winters

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Governing Board President Signature

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Date