

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48**

December 15, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Scottsdale Unified School District, #48, Maricopa County, was called to order at 5:06 PM, at the Scottsdale Unified School District Coronado High School, 7501 E. Virginia Avenue, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Board Members in attendance were Bonnie Sneed, President; George Jackson, Vice President; Kim Hartmann; Pam Kirby; and Barbara Perleberg. Superintendent David J. Peterson was also present. A quorum was present. President Sneed led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Sneed welcomed approximately 60 visitors.

Mrs. Kirby moved to approve the Agenda. Mrs. Perleberg seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Students and Staff Recognition and Celebrations

Dr. Mitch von Gnechten, Executive Director of Secondary Education, recognized Chaparral HS teachers Ed Como and Sandy Flayton, along with Chaparral Theatre students who attended the Arizona State Thespian Festival and repeated as tech challenge champions for a third year in a row. The theatre group as a whole earned gold honor troupe again this year.

Also attending the Festival were students from Desert Mountain HS Players who were recognized as a gold honor troupe for their participation in performance, service and community.

Dr. Karen Benson, Executive Director of Instructional Services, recognized Chaparral HS teacher, Christine Marsh, who was chosen by the Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF) as the 2016 AEF Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Benson also recognized Chaparral HS teacher Twyla Preising, who was recognized by the Grand Canyon chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) as Outstanding American History teacher for 2015-2016.

Clif McKenzie, K-12 Athletic Director recognized the following:

- Coronado HS Football Team who was selected by the Arizona Football Officials Association as the recipient of the 2015 Varsity Football season Sportsmanship Award for Division IV.
- Chaparral HS Girls Swim and Dive Team who won their 2nd straight Swim and Dive State Championship.
- Saguaro HS Varsity Football Team Coach, Jason Mohns. The Valley of the Sun Chapter, National Football Foundation named Coach Mohns as Coach of the Year. Additionally, Coach Mohns was selected to be a game coach in the 2016 Semper-Fidelis All-American game in Los Angeles, CA, as well as for Team USA in the Under-18 International Bowl vs. Canada.
- Byron Murphy, HS senior on the Saguaro varsity football team, was recognized as the Inaugural Mike Haynes Defensive Back. He was also selected to play in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.
- Saguaro HS Division II State Football Champions. The team won its eighth state title in ten years and third in a row.

Kristine Harrington, Public Information Officer, shared a video, SUSD Year in Review – 2015.

Public Comment

Virginia Korte, longtime supporter of SUSD and honorary chair of the Yes To Children initiative, expressed gratitude to Dr. Peterson for his service to SUSD. She also expressed concern that SUSD has lost three top administrators in the last three years and would like an investigation into these resignations, as she feels it is a sign of systemic malaise.

Karen Treon thanked Dr. Peterson for his service, stating that he always made decisions in the best interest of students. The District has lost three top administrators and she feels the Governing Board needs to look very hard at its actions and direction.

Motion #32
Approval of Agenda

Students and Staff
Recognition and
Celebrations

Public Comment

Francesca Thomas expressed her thanks to Dr. Peterson and her concern for the District. She has seen too many superintendents come and go and feels it is incumbent upon the Board to ask why SUSD is unable to maintain its talent.

Margaret Serna thanked Dr. Peterson for his mentorship, leadership, guidance and support of SUSD children. He always made decisions on what is best for kids.

Denny Brown thanked Dr. Peterson for his unwavering commitment to SUSD students, staff and leadership team, and for working tirelessly for its students. In addressing the Board, Mr. Brown stated that all children deserve an education and that the Board should not treat children like “bags of potato chips” to be thrown away.

Christine Marsh thanked the District for its support in helping her be named 2016 Teacher of the Year. She also thanked Dr. Peterson for his “yes” attitude.

Price Nosky thanked Dr. Peterson for all he has done and for his commitment.

Heather Heroldt, on behalf of the Scottsdale Parent Council (SPC) Executive Board, thanked Dr. Peterson for his tireless commitment to SUSD. She asked the Governing Board to look closely to what is happening in the District and supports an investigation.

Julie Cieniawsky, president of the Scottsdale Education Association (SEA), stated that there are a lot of caring and diligent people in this District that are keeping the promise of quality education. She believes the District can and must do better. Personally, and as SEA President, she thanked Dr. Peterson for his kindness and support.

Katie Assali, Arcadia HS World History Honors teacher, asked the Board to keep World History Honors in the High School Planning Guide.

Rony Assali, past president of the SEA, spoke in regard to the liquidated damages language in the Teacher Employment Agreement, and that the method used to introduce it was not the best. People have now come together and the process now used is a good one. However, those teachers who had been with the District for many years and left the District, and were affected by the addition of the liquidated damages language, did not receive their funds from Proposition 301, and should be given those funds.

Eric Kurland thanked Dr. Peterson for his service. He also commended Christine Marsh on being named 2016 Teacher of the Year. He hopes Ms. Marsh will take on a public role in the future.

Superintendent Comments

Dr. Peterson stated that it is hard to believe that the first semester is coming to an end in three days. He is proud of SUSD teachers for the work they have done in their classrooms and is grateful for the support given District students by the community.

His comments included:

- AzMERIT scores were released and SUSD scored 20% higher than the state average.
- Thanked Building Services, Custodial Services and the IT Department for the seamless move of the Education Center to its new building in Scottsdale.
- Mohave MS hosted a FIRST LEGO League regional tournament. The tournament was organized by the Saguaro Sabercat Robotics team.
- Recognized the SUSD community who worked alongside of Service Learning, JAG Program, Community Specialists and School Social Workers to provide over 16,000 lbs. of food for families in need.
- Reminded everyone that SUSD will continue to accept tax credit donations. Donations represent a win-win situation.
- Announced that a visiting conductor from China will be coming to the District to practice with and conduct SUSD honor student orchestra.

Superintendent's
Comments

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of Gifts - \$82,235
- B. Accounts Payable Vouchers 11/12/2015 through 12/02/2015
- C. Payroll Vouchers Processed from 11/17/2015 through 12/03/2015
- D. Personnel Actions – 10/24/2015 through 11/30/2015 - **Amended**
- E. Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2015 Special Governing Board Meeting/Study Session
- F. Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
- G. Approval of Minutes of November 24, 2015 Special Governing Board Meeting/Executive Session
- H. Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2015 Special Board Meeting/Executive Session – **Pulled to be heard separately**
- I. Action of Hearing Officer’s Recommendation
- J. Overnight, Out-of-State, Foreign Trips
- K. Auxiliary Operations Statement for October FY16
- L. Student Activities Statement for October FY16
- M. Tax Credit Statement for October FY16
- N. Interim Superintendent Search – **Amended – Pulled to be heard separately**
- O. Approve the Award of Request for Proposal (RFP) #16083, Energy Conservation Services
- P. Approve the Award of Invitation for Bid (IFB) #16100, Off Lease Dell Computers and Parts
- Q. Ratification of Procurement Items Approved by the Superintendent or Designees with Prior Board Approval
- R. Approval of Employment Separation Agreement (AMENDMENT TO AGENDA) – **Pulled to be heard separately**

Mrs. Sneed noted that approval of Consent Agenda Item VII. N. Interim Superintendent Search, was pending approval of Item VII. R. Approval of Employment Separation Agreement.

Motion #33
Approval of Consent Agenda as Amended

Mrs. Sneed moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended without Items VII. H. Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2015 Special Board Meeting/Executive Session, N. Interim Superintendent Search, and R. Approval of Employment Separation Agreement. Mrs. Perleberg seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

•Amendment to Minutes of 12/7/15

Mrs. Kirby pulled Consent Agenda Item VII. H. Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2015 Special Board Meeting/Executive Session, to make a correction under Motion #27: *Mrs. Hartmann seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – 0 (Mrs. Kirby left the meeting at 4:00 PM 5:00 PM, as she had previously communicated to Ms. Como).*

Motion #34
Approval of Minutes of 12/7/15 Regular Meeting

Mrs. Kirby moved to approve the Minutes of December 7, 2015 Special Board Meeting/Executive Session, as amended. Mrs. Sneed seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

•Interim Superintendent Search

Mrs. Perleberg pulled Item VII. N. Interim Superintendent Search, for clarification on what the next steps will be and how the parameters for a potential contract will be laid out. Mrs. Sneed responded that the Board will meet with representatives from the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA), the consultants for the Interim Superintendent Search, to discuss the process and to answer any questions the Board might have.

Mrs. Hartmann noted that the Agenda includes the early retirement of Dr. Peterson. She thanked him for the countless hours of service both in front of and behind the curtain. However, she would like to know how the District pursues a permanent Superintendent. Mrs. Sneed replied that that is a separate line item and not on this Agenda.

Mrs. Kirby also asked how Interim is defined, from a time perspective: what does that mean? Mrs. Sneed replied it is her understanding it is how long it takes the Board to find a permanent Superintendent.

Motion #35
Approval of Interim Superintendent Search

Mrs. Sneed moved to approve VII. N. Interim Superintendent Search. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Mrs. Sneed pulled Item R. Approval of Employment Separation Agreement to be able to thank Dr. Peterson for his service. Mr. Jackson also thanked him for his friendship and outstanding and strong leadership.

Mrs. Kirby asked Mrs. Marshall if the Employment Separation Agreement was the same as the one provided to the Board. Mrs. Marshall responded that it was.

Mrs. Perleberg thanked Dr. Peterson for his tireless dedication to SUSD. She stated that she always looked at their relationship as a constructive one. She wished him well.

Mrs. Kirby stated that Dr. Peterson deserves thanks and praise and that his retirement gives the District the chance to bring new ideas to the District.

Mrs. Kirby moved to approve the Employment Separation Agreement of Dr. Peterson. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Information/Discussion

Before the presentation on the AzMERIT Results, Dr. Peterson noted that the results of the AzMERIT testing showed that SUSD is one of the top three large school districts in the state and that the District is doing great work and he is proud of its results.

Dr. Dave McNeil, Executive Director of Elementary Education, and Dr. Mitch von Gnechten, Executive Director of Secondary Education, presented Information/Discussion Item VIII. A. AzMERIT Results. A PowerPoint was shared that reviewed the results for both elementary and secondary grades. In looking at the schools, the results showed that the District had very good scores, and with a very large range. The Board discussed how to improve achievement in all schools and what is needed to achieve that goal. They encouraged staff to tell the Board what would be needed by teachers and schools.

Action Items

Dr. von Gnechten presented Action Item IX. A. Revisions to the 2016-2017 High School Planning Guide (HSPG). The recommendation is to approve the revisions to the HSPG with the elimination of Honors World History courses that are competing with Advanced Placement courses. The Board discussed whether students would take AP courses, or if they would take regular education World History and, thereby, reduce rigor in schools. Mrs. Kirby and Mrs. Perleberg expressed their concern with eliminating the World History Honor course. The other Board Members felt that the committee’s recommendation is a valid one.

Mrs. Hartmann moved to approve the Revisions to the 2016-2017 High School Planning Guide. Mrs. Sneed seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 3 AYES and 2 NAYS (Mrs. Kirby and Mrs. Perleberg voted NAY).

Michelle Marshall, General Council, presented Action Item IX. B. Revisions of Governing Board Policies: Section K – Community Relations (KFA-KL). Mrs. Marshall noted that the policies were first presented to the Board in June and that the policies presented at this meeting reflect minor changes.

Mrs. Sneed moved to approve the revisions to Governing Board Policies: Section K. The Policies are KFA, KFAA, and KHA. Mrs. Kirby seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Future Items

Mrs. Hartmann would like a review of the NPBEA (National Policy Board for Education Administration) 2015 Professional Standards for Education Leaders and to discuss how these standards align with SUSD’s Strategic Plan, leadership team evaluation process, Principal/AP leadership development curriculum and goals. Also, a discussion on how SUSD is building a succession-based organization and the processes and tools it has in place to support this goal.

•Employment Separation Agreement

Motion #36
Approval of Employment Separation Agreement

Information/Discussion

•AzMERIT Results

Action Items

•Revisions to 2016-17 High School Planning Guide (HSPG)

Motion #37
Approval of revisions to 2016-17 HSPG

•Revisions to Governing Board Policies: Section K (KFA-KL)

Motion #38
Approval of Revisions to Governing Board Policies: Section K

Future Items

Dates of Upcoming Board Meetings

Thursday, December 17, 2015 – 4:00 PM – Study Session – Search for Interim Superintendent
Thursday, January 7, 2016 – 12:00 PM – Study Session
Tuesday, January 12, 2016 – 2:00 PM – Regular Board Meeting

Governing Board Reports

Mrs. Hartmann reported:

- Community Outreach – attended and worked with Supai MS leadership team on the Supai Imagine Project with Author, Dianne Maronney, Allison Bundy and Supai Principal, Shelley Hummons
- Community Partnerships – continued to work with BUSS organization, specifically met with SkySong leadership to find a location for a community outreach program
- Board Development and Governance – attended ASBA Board Development and Training Seminar that was focused on ethics and continuous improvement

Mr. Jackson reported that he has been working with Mrs. Hartmann with BUSS organization on a community breakfast in February.

Mrs. Sneed reported that she also attended the ASBA seminar and heard Christine Marsh, Teacher of the Year’s speech. She also worked with Navajo ES, helping its leadership team with the STEAM Academy and its A+ School application. Personally, Mrs. Sneed stated that she is very sad that this is her last meeting with Dr. Peterson. He has set the bar really high. She thanked him for his service, his friendship and his leadership.

At 8:12, Mrs. Sneed moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Kirby seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Dated this 15th day of December 2015.

The Governing Board of the Scottsdale Unified School District #48

Bonnie Sneed, President

George Jackson, Vice President

Kim Hartmann

Pam Kirby

Barbara Perleberg

Dates of Upcoming Board Meetings

Governing Board Reports

Motion #39
Adjournment

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