

CASA GRANDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

220 West Kortsen Road
Casa Grande, Arizona

The Governing Board of the Casa Grande Elementary School District No. 4 met Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in the Governing Board Room, Elementary Administration Building, 220 West Kortsen Road, Casa Grande, Arizona.

1.01 **Call to Order:**

President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.02 **Roll Call:**

Present:

Barbara Davis
Rachel Snider
David Snider
Dolores Underwood
Judee Jackson, President

JoEtta Gonzales, Ed.D., Superintendent
Tom Wohlleber, Chief Financial Officer
Barbara Wright, Assistant Superintendent
Brenda Tijerina, Director
Lisa Bradshaw, Director
Jennifer McClintic, Director
Cecilia Montijo, Secretary

Also Present:

Press: Heather Smathers
Casa Grande Dispatch

See Exhibit 1

Patricia Dee, Principal
Celie Downey-Foye, Principal
Julie Holdsworth, Principal

Jeff Lavender, Principal
Robert Quinones, Principal
Kendra Tate, Principal

1.03 Mr. Snider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 A moment of silence was observed.

2.01 **Agenda Adoption:**

Ms. Underwood moved that:

"The agenda be accepted and adopted, as presented."

Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 3.01 Mrs. Jackson called for objections from Board members, staff, and the public regarding consent agenda items.

Ms. Hernandez moved that:

"The agenda items marked with an asterisk be approved and/or ratified."

Mr. Snider seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- *4.01 The minutes of the September 27, 2017 meeting will be presented for approval at the November meeting.

- *4.02 The minutes of the October 10, 2017 special meeting will be presented for approval at the November meeting.

- 5.01 Norm Sam from the Sunrise Optimist Club recognized two fifth grade students from Cottonwood School as Students of the Month for October. The students must be in good standing with positive leadership traits, must have an active interest in community service, and must be considered role models. The following students were recognized: Addison Downs and Tyler Velasco.

- 6.01 The Superintendent recommended the Board accept the following donations:

Marlin and Charlene Jeffers donated a trumpet and a world globe to the District. The trumpet was sent to Palo Verde School.

Trinity Southern Baptist Church donated school supplies to Evergreen School.

Cholla School received numerous school and office supplies from Sun Valley Community Church, Frito-Lay, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Hexcel Corporation.

Mesquite teacher, Sarah Taylor, received \$349.88 in Donors Choose funding for flexible seating and lap desks. Sarah also received an iPad from Jonathan Gill.

Ollie Archambault donated six books by Dr. Nancy Flood to Casa Grande Middle School. Three of the books are autographed by the author.

Larry Webb from Quemetco Metals donated \$4,400 to Cactus Middle School to help fund after school programs as well as other needs at the school.

Mrs. Davis moved that:

"The donations be accepted, as read."

Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 6.02 Information from Mr. Wohlleber related to the 1.06% teacher salary increase had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting. State law requires that the Governing Board hold a public hearing, as well as a vote on the allocation of monies related to the intended 1.06% teacher salary increase pursuant to Laws 2017, Ch. 305, §33.

The 2017-18 adopted budget approved by the Governing Board in June included an estimate of the allocation needed to fund the 1.06% salary increase and related benefits for eligible teachers (\$156,711). The updated allocation amount to be funded by the state is \$161,879 and has been incorporated into the 2017-18 revised budget. Earlier this year the District committed to fund the same 1.06% increase for teachers that, based on criteria established by the state, are not eligible for the increase. Those teachers include teachers on assignment, district specialists, elementary literacy/math coaches, gifted coaches, apprentice teachers and Title 1 academic coaches. The cost to fund the 1.06% salary increase and related benefits for non-eligible teachers is \$21,542.

Mrs. Jackson declared that the public hearing regarding the allocation of monies related to the intended 1.06% teacher salary increase pursuant to Laws 2017, Ch. 305, §33 be opened at 6:14 p.m.

There being no questions or comments from the public, the public hearing closed at 6:14 p.m., at which time the regular board meeting was reconvened.

- 6.03 Mr. Wohlleber provided a presentation regarding the budget changes related to the 1.06% teacher salary increase. The budget revisions will address the revised allocation required for the 1.06% teacher salary increase, changes in budget balance carry-forward as reflected in the 2016-17 Annual Financial Report approved by the on October 10., and the addition of Proposition 123 additional funding that was omitted from the adopted budget in June.

Mr. Snider moved to:

“Approve the revision of the 2017-18 budget and allocation of \$161,879 related to the intended 1.06% teacher salary increase pursuant to Laws 2017, Ch. 305, §33, as proposed.:

Ms. Underwood seconded the motion. The motions passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 6.04 School districts are required to hold a meeting each year between September 1 and October 31 in order to provide an update of the progress of capital improvements financed through bond funds and provide the public an opportunity to comment. A memorandum from Mr. Wohlleber summarizing the use of override funds was included in the Board’s information.

Mr. Wohlleber provided a presentation with regard to the expenditure of budget override and bond funds. During the 2016-17 fiscal year, the District's Maintenance & Operations (M&O) override amounted to \$3,544,892. Funding the current certified and classified salary schedules to attract and retain highly qualified staff cost \$3,218,106. Certified employees eligible for pay increases from M&O over the years and the 20% of benefits costs associated with the increases amounted to \$2,573,010 of additional salary and benefits funded from the 2016-17 override. Additionally, the District has continued to fund the group performance pay program.

Bond expenditures include school construction as well as furnishings and equipment, facility improvements, safety and technology at a cost of \$40 million, school buses at a cost of \$4.66 million, flooring projects at Ironwood and at McCartney Ranch Schools, and the parking lot renovation at Cholla. Bond capacity utilized is \$27.62 million, leaving a remaining bond capacity in the amount of \$17.04 million.

With regard to the construction of the new school facilities, Mr. Wohlleber reported that he would provide monthly updates for Board members, and the contractor plans to provide quarterly updates.

Discussion was held with regard to the phone system. Mr. Wohlleber stated that a request for proposals has been submitted for a new voice over IP system for the district, however, other funding sources for the system would need to be considered.

For fiscal year 2017-18, the adopted budget includes \$3,660,000 in M&O override funds or a \$115,108 increase compared to 2016-17.

- 6.05 A proclamation declaring the month of October as Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) month had been shared with Board members prior to the meeting. The organization recognizes women who have proven themselves to be strong, efficient, professional teachers; to build fraternal fellowship with high standards of education; to assist in strengthening the status of the teaching profession; to sponsor scholarships and altruistic programs; and to cooperate with community projects. The proclamation was signed and disseminated throughout the District.

ADK members Barbara Sundust, Nancy Harrison, and Mary Peoples provided a report concerning the various organizations that ADK supports, i.e., St. Jude's Children's Hospital and the Alzheimer's Association. The local chapter supports the food bank, New Life Pregnancy Center, the Mondo Anaya Center, St. Vincent de Paul, Against Abuse, as well as other local charities. ADK has contributed to projects that help build schools in Haiti, Peru and Viet Nam.

ADK has given nearly \$12 million in monetary gifts, \$2 million in scholarships, and over \$2 million of volunteer services on an international level. The local chapter sponsored an event at Casa Grande Middle School that raised \$800 for the Alzheimer's Association, and another one is scheduled on February 20. The local

ADK also awards two scholarships for students pursuing careers in education, and provide many volunteer hours to local schools.

Dr. Gonzales read the Alpha Delta Kappa month proclamation into the record.

Board members commended the ADK members for their work.

6.06 Dr. Gonzales provided an update of discussion that occurred at the September Board meeting with regard to naming of the replacement facilities. The following priorities surfaced as a result of the discussion:

- The facility is considered a replacement facility, and a new name may not be necessary or appropriate;
- The teaching staff, students, and community have an investment in the history and traditions that go along with the current names, Casa Grande Middle School (CGMS) and Saguaro Elementary;
- The K-8 facility will technically house two distinct schools because hundreds of students from feeder schools other than Saguaro will attend CGMS each year as 6th grade students; because of this, one name for the K-8 facility may not send a message of inclusion and belonging to the students that don't matriculate through all grade levels on that campus; and
- A name that ties the two schools together on one campus was considered, and it was concluded that the unifying measure would include common systems and curricular focus.

Dr. Gonzales recommended that the two schools retain their names, Casa Grande Middle School and Saguaro Elementary School.

Ms. Underwood moved that:

“Casa Grande Middle School and Saguaro Elementary School retain their names in the K-8 replacement facility.”

Mr. Snider seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

*6.07 A memorandum from Mr. Wohlleber regarding authorization to dispose of surplus items was included in the Board's information. The District is able to sell obsolete and unused items through Sierra Auctions. Board members authorized the disposal of surplus property, as proposed.

*6.08 Policy BBBA - Board Member Qualifications, was presented for a second reading. House Bill 2416 makes adjustments to language found in A.R.S 15-421, related to Board member qualifications pertaining to employment with a third-party contractor. Language in Policy BBBA, Board Member Qualifications, reflects the new language in statute. Board members approved revision of Policy BBBA, as recommended.

7. **Instructional Program**

A copy of a presentation from Dr. Wright regarding the Arizona school accountability labels had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting.

The Arizona State Board of Education recently finalized the A-F Accountability System, and the Arizona Department of Education awarded letter grades to schools based on a range of academic measures. The letter grades are intended to measure achievement in the 2016-2017 school year as a tool to help schools improve.

Dr. Wright stated that the purpose of the letter grades is to provide schools with a measure to determine the effectiveness in providing students the education that prepares them for college and careers, and felt that the program was not effective in determining the effectiveness of District schools. The grading system is as follows: A - Excellent, B - Highly Performing, C - Performing, D - Minimally Performing, and F - Failing.

Dr. Wright provided a comparison between the previous letter grade system and the new one. With the new system, 80% of the score is based on the state assessments, 10% is based on English language development improvement and 10% on student acceleration and readiness. The new system is based on 100 points plus two bonus points. Students must be enrolled within the first ten days of school and be continuously enrolled throughout the year to be included, and there must be 20 full academic year students for an indicator to count.

She explained the methods by which students or schools can earn points; growth percentiles and growth to target, which are worth 50 points and based on both AzMERIT and AIMS scores.

Dr. Wright explained that there were some difficulties as a district and added that appeals are still in place. She stated that 36% of schools in the state received a "B" grade. Eight percent of District schools scored a "B" grade, 50% scored a "C" grade, and 41% scored a "D" grade.

She expressed concerns with the formula used to calculate the scores since 50% of the grade is based on one third of the student population, or fourth and fifth grade students. In addition, there was limited time and access to the data to make any requests for adjustments to determine its accuracy.

Dr. Wright reported that in an effort to improve scores, internal discussions will take place with leadership teams with a focus on professional development and support for the new curriculum.

Discussion was held with regard to filing appeals for the letter grades. Dr. Wright stated that, in order to write an appeal, districts were required to prove that a catastrophic event had occurred.

***8.01 The following certified personnel actions were ratified by the Governing Board:**

Supplemental Agreements for Professional Growth: Board members approved the supplemental agreements to 2017-18 contracts in recognition of professional growth. The new salary amounts were reflected on the October 20, 2017 payroll.

Certified Personnel Employment, 2017-18: Cynthia Beck, Language Arts, Cactus; Marjorie Clark, First Grade, Evergreen; Kisha Collins, Fifth Grade, Desert Willow.

***8.02 The following classified personnel actions were ratified by the Governing Board:**

Notification of Intent to Retire Effective at Conclusion of Contract Year 2017-18/Request for Benefits: Katheryne Lairmore, Special Education Specialist, Ironwood.

Notification of Intent to Retire Effective January 19, 2018/Request for Benefits: Irma Chavarin, Central Kitchen Manager, McCartney Ranch. Ms. Chavarin plans to continue working for the District as an ESI employee effective January 22, 2018.

Classified Personnel Employment: Claudia Chacon, Health Technician-Student Specific, Evergreen; Priscilla Clover, Office Specialist, Desert Willow; Evangelina Garcia, Special Education Specialist, Cactus; Marcella Guadian, Special Education Specialist, McCartney Ranch; Alisa Schantz, Educational Assistant, ECLC; Angelica Wilson, Educational Assistant/Crossing Guard/Noon Assistant, Saguaro.

Classified Personnel Resignations: Jessica Alvarez, Educational Assistant, Palo Verde, Effective October 13, 2017; Daveen Newman, Educational Assistant, Cottonwood.

Reclassification of Classified Personnel: April Blaine, Relief Bus Driver; Ramiro De la Cruz, Transportation Assistant; Yvonne Faulstick, Bus Driver; Tambra Miller, Bus Driver; Yvette Steward, Relief Bus Driver; Jereld Whitmer, Bus Driver.

9. Pupil Personnel

No items this meeting.

10. Buildings and Grounds:

No items this meeting.

11. Reports:

- *11.01 The student activities report for September, 2017 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *11.02 The financial report for September, 2017 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *11.03 The breakfast and lunch menu for students had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *11.04 The vehicle status report for August 16 to September 15, 2017 had been provided in the Board's information.
- *11.05 The vehicle maintenance report for August 16 to September 15, 2017 had been provided in the Board's information.
- *11.06 The weekly attendance reports for September 27, October 4, and October 11, 2017 had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting.
- *12.01 The vouchers presented at the meeting, listed in Exhibit 2, were approved by the Governing Board.

13.01 The next regular meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m. Discussion took place with regard to rescheduling the meeting due to a conflict, however, no other date was selected at this time.

The Music at the Mall event will be held on Saturday, November 4, at 9:00 a.m. the Promenade Mall.

Board members commended the schools and students that collected funds and supplies for hurricane victims in Houston, Florida and Puerto Rico.

14.01 Call for Audience Questions Pertaining to Agenda Items and Items of Interest

15.01 Mrs. Jackson adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Approved: _____

President