

# CASA GRANDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

220 West Kortsen Road  
Casa Grande, Arizona

The Governing Board of the Casa Grande Elementary School District No. 4 met Wednesday, September 27, 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 Hernandez  
David Snider  
Dolores Underwood  
Judee Jackson, President

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

Press: Heather Smathers  
Casa Grande Dispatch

Also Present:

See Exhibit 1

Celie Downey-Foye, Principal  
Joanne Kramer, Principal  
Jennifer Murrieta, Principal

Scott Raymond, Principal  
Kay Steward, Principal

1.03 Ms. Hernandez 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."

Mrs. Davis 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.

Mr. Snider moved that:

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

Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- \*4.01 The minutes of the August 15, 2017 special meeting were approved by the Governing Board.
- \*4.02 The minutes of the August 15, 2017 special meeting were approved by the Governing Board.
- \*4.03 The minutes of the August 24, 2017 special meeting were approved by the Governing Board.
- \*4.04 The minutes of the August 29, 2017 special meeting were approved by the Governing Board.

- 5.01 Norm Sam from the Sunrise Optimist Club introduced a new program that would recognize two fifth grade students from each of the District's K-5 schools each month. 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 Cholla School students were selected as the students of the month for September: Diego Jimenez and Celeste Villanueva.

The students attended a Sunrise Optimist breakfast and received a certificate and \$50. Mr. Sam read the comments provided by teachers regarding each of the students, and expressed appreciation to Board members and the administration for allowing him to make the monthly presentations. Board members commended Mr. Sam for his efforts.

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

Monica Kenny, from Culver's, organized a school supply drive that resulted in numerous supplies for the District. The supplies were sent to various schools.

Members of the Elks Lodge donated dictionaries for all third grade students in the District.

First American Credit Union collected over \$300 worth of school supplies from staff and members. The items were sent to various schools.

The Special Education Department received \$50 worth of Sonic gift cards from Dr. Grant Walton.

The Support our Students organization donated numerous school supply items. The items were separated and sent to the nurse's offices at all the schools.

The Hexcel Corporation collected backpacks, clothing items, and school supplies. A total of 100 backpacks filled with school supplies and children's clothing and shoes were donated to Cottonwood School.

Cottonwood School received \$200 worth of school supplies from the Pinal County Sheriff's Department Explorers.

Mick Degn from the Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation, donation an HP OfficeJet Pro color printer for the reading intervention program at Cottonwood School.

The Wal-Mart Distribution Center donated \$600 worth of school supplies and backpacks to Palo Verde School.

Richard Rosales from APS donated \$500 worth of uniform shirts and school supplies to Palo Verde.

The residents of Ironwood Village donated school supplies to Mesquite School.

Palo Verde teacher, Sarah Taylor, received an \$831.32 grant from the Arizona Community Foundation for the purchase of flexible seating items.

Abigail Meerdink received a \$3,763 grant from the Arizona Cardinals "Donate to Educate" program, for the purchase of six iPads for Palo Verde School.

Jackie from Fast Auto Loans donated a backpack and school supplies to McCartney Ranch.

McCartney Ranch received a \$677.20 grant from the Arizona Science Center in order to fund a field trip for second graders to the Science Center in October.

Daniel Miller donated a flute and saxophone valued at \$400 each to the Villago Middle School band.

The Villago Middle School band received three ukuleles from an anonymous donor, and a bell kit holder, maracas, and a cow bell from the Villago band boosters.

Ms. Hernandez moved that:

“The donations be accepted, as read.”

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

6.02 A copy of Policy FF and the accompanying regulation had been included in the Board’s information.

Dr. Gonzales reported that staff from Casa Grande Middle School (CGMS) and Saguaro School met to discuss the name of the new K-8 facility. Some of the points discussed were whether the facility would be considered a replacement facility, in which case a new name may not be necessary or appropriate. If the facility is considered a new facility, a new name may be in order.

She added that staff concluded that it would be a replacement facility and not a brand new facility. A name that ties the two schools together on one campus was considered, as well as names pertaining to desert trees and cacti, however, because the saguaro cactus is the grand symbol of the area, the team opted not to discard the Saguaro name. Other names considered were, “Ingenuity at Casa Grande Saguaro,” “Inventiva at Casa Grande Saguaro,” the “Casa Grande Saguaro School of Ingenuity,” or “Saguaro Grande Campus.”

Dr. Gonzales stated that principals have sent surveys to staff and students, however, no decision had been made. A recommendation would be presented to the Board once a name is selected.

In response to a question concerning whether parents and community members had been given an opportunity to provide input, Mrs. Downey-Foye stated that Saguaro parents have shared their thoughts as they enter the school. Mrs. Murrieta stated that she has not sent out a parent survey but did send a survey to staff and a group of students that included the three choices mentioned above.

Mr. Snider asked that consideration be given to a repurposing of the “Ocotillo” name for the new facility.

Discussion was held regarding retaining the existing names. Mrs. Downey-Foye stated that her staff prefers to keep the Saguaro name. Mrs. Murrieta stated that her staff is split evenly.

Two Casa Grande Middle School eighth grade students spoke and stated they were in favor of keeping the existing names.

Dr. Gonzales stated that she hopes to make a recommendation to Board members by the October meeting, if possible.

Casa Grande Middle School teacher, Jessica Duran stated that she is a Casa Grande native that attended Saguaro and Casa Grande Junior High School and has now taught at CGMS for nine years. She added that she is confident that she would receive positive feedback with regard to each school keeping its own individuality.

Mrs. Jackson stated that if the District is committed to making changes to the name, she wondered if a name selection committee that would be representative of the schools and community would be in order. She added that she has heard from staff members who are proud of their respective schools and the prospect of a new facility that would like to proudly display their traditional names.

Dr. Gonzales stated that some individuals thought that it would be good to bridge the two schools together since they would now be on one campus, however, she would be open to feedback from the community. If it is the community's wish to maintain two separate names in order to preserve the history of the schools, the administration would support that.

Mrs. Davis voiced that since it is a new school community, perhaps the names should be combined. Mrs. Underwood stated that the names should be retained as they are, even though there would be changes to the curriculum or culture of the schools.

Dr. Gonzales plans to make a recommendation with regard to the name of the new K-8 facility at the October board meeting.

- 6.03 Mrs. Downey-Foye and Mrs. Murrieta provided a presentation on the academic program for the new facility, which include Wagner's List of Seven Survival Skills: Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving, Collaboration across Networks and Leading by Influence, Agility and Adaptability, Initiative and Entrepreneurship, Effective Oral and Written Communication, Accessing and Analyzing Information, and Curiosity and Imagination.

Students will have an opportunity to actively learn and have hands-on opportunities where they explore, discover, experiment, and re-think the purpose of education. The goal is to promote a deep understanding of learning through project based activities. Students will be asked to demonstrate higher order thinking skills and apply basic knowledge to complex skills, use coherent clarification, explanations or arguments, and have an in-depth understanding and be able to elaborately communicate.

- \*6.04 A copy of a proclamation declaring the week of September 17-24, 2017 as Constitution Week was included in the Board's information. The proclamation was disseminated throughout the District. Schools will conduct a variety of educational activities in recognition of Constitution Day.
- \*6.05 A copy of the amended 2017-18 Performance-Based Compensation Plan had been included in the Board's information. The plan was approved at the December 13, 2016 Board meeting. Based on discussions with the Interest-Based Bargaining Committee after that date, slight modifications to the plan were made. Board members approved the amended Performance-Based Compensation System for 2017-18, as proposed.
- \*6.06 A copy of revised Policy BBBA, Board Member Qualifications, was presented for a first 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 reflects the new language in statute. Since it was a first reading, no action was taken by Board members at this time.
- \*6.07 A copy of revised Policy GCCA, Professional/Support Staff Sick Leave, was included in the Board's information. When Policy GCCA and GDCA were combined into one policy, GCCA, at the June 27, 2017 meeting, the reference to classified employees was inadvertently omitted from the policy. Classified staff members have the benefit of receiving compensation for unused sick leave if they have the required sick leave accrual. The wording in Policy GCCA was revised to reflect that practice. Board members approved revision of Policy GCCA, as proposed.

## 7. **Instructional Program**

No items this meeting.

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

Request for Release from Certified Personnel Contract: Laura Lee, First Grade, Evergreen, Effective August 25, 2017. Board members released Laura Lee from her contract and waived the payment of liquidated damages, which is consistent with the past practice of the Board.

Ratification of Certified Personnel Employment, 2017-18: Maria Berecin-Rascon, Hourly Certified, District; Kevin Chavez, Math, Casa Grande Middle School; Candace Galbraith, Teacher, ECLC (short-term contract); Jill Jones, Language Arts, Casa Grande Middle School (short-term contract); Amanda Ramos, Fourth Grade, Palo Verde (short-term contract); Diana Ullrich, Fourth Grade, Saguaro (short-term contract).

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

Termination of Classified Personnel Employment: Amber Filut, Bus Driver Trainee, Effective August 29, 2017; Maryellen Guilkey, Bus Driver, Transportation, Effective August 10, 2017; Debra Gonzales, Health Technician, Ironwood/Saguaro, Effective August 21, 2017.

Classified Personnel Resignations: Savannah Cantu, Educational Assistant/Noon Aide/Crossing Guard, Ironwood, Effective September 1, 2017; Lupe de Santiago, Transportation Assistant, Transportation, Effective September 20, 2017; Tara Gomez, Bus Driver, Transportation, Effective September 25, 2017; Samuel Hall, Bus Driver, Transportation, Effective September 21, 2017; Marjorie Houle, Office Specialist, Desert Willow, Effective September 21, 2017; Santannah Perry, Educational Assistant/Crossing Guard/Noon Aide, Evergreen, Effective August 24, 2017; Cristina Rascon, Crossing Guard, Cottonwood, Effective August 29, 2017.

Classified Personnel Employment: Cecilia Barradas, Crossing Guard, Cottonwood; Diana Cochran, Educational Assistant/Crossing Guard/Noon Aide, Ironwood; Erika Coleman, Food Service Worker, Villago; Benjamin Combs, Cook/Driver, Cottonwood; Danielle Harding, Transportation Assistant, Transportation; Melissa Henry, Floater, Food Services; Katie Kramer, Educational Assistant, Ironwood; Esther Maldonado Cortes, Educational Assistant/Noon Aide/Crossing Guard, Cactus; Danielle Miller, Crossing Guard, Evergreen; Tambra Miller, Bus Driver Trainee, Transportation; Karla Nunez, Educational Assistant, Palo Verde; Daniel Pelissier, Computer Lab/Art Paraprofessional, Mesquite; Alejandra Pena-Tuleja, Educational Assistant, ECLC; Nurhya Rivera, Educational Assistant, Villago; Rose Rodriguez, Noon Assistant, Villago; Katrina Russell, Special Education Specialist, Mesquite; Claudia Villalba Tellez, Food Production Worker/Floater, Cottonwood; Michelle Virgen, Food Service Worker, Ironwood; Reyna Walker, Crossing Guard/Noon Aide, Saguaro; Jamie Wilson, Educational Assistant/Crossing Guard, Noon Aide, Evergreen; Yolanda Yanes, Van Driver, Transportation; Destiny Young, Educational Assistant, Cactus.

Request to Rescind Notice of Retirement: Mercedes Medrano, Office Specialist, Mesquite.

Reclassification of Classified Personnel: Myriam Bergantin, Educational Assistant/Crossing Guard/Noon Aide, Saguaro; Isaac Chavez, Food Service Assistant Manager, Villago; Debra Cunningham, Health Technician, Saguaro/Ironwood; Lorena DeWood, Cook/Driver, Cottonwood; Megan Griffis, Interim Paraprofessional, Cottonwood; Melissa Henry, Food Service Worker, Ironwood; Olivia Molina de Aguilar, Cook, Cottonwood; Frances Ortega, Food Service Assistant Manager, Ironwood; Martha Pavlicko, Educational Assistant, Saguaro; Shannon Randall, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, Desert Willow.

9. **Pupil Personnel**

- \*9.01 A request from Mike Brideschge regarding an overnight field trip to take Casa Grande Middle School Wildcat Outdoor Club students on a camping trip to Box Canyon in Florence was included in the Board's information. Board members approved the overnight field trip to Box Canyon on October 20-22, 2017.

10. **Buildings and Grounds:**

No items this meeting.

11. **Reports:**

- \*11.01 The student activities report for August, 2017 had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting.
- \*11.02 The financial report for August, 2017 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- \*11.03 The breakfast and lunch menu for students had been included in the Board's information.
- \*11.04 The vehicle status report for July 16 to August 15, 2017 had been included in the Board's information.
- \*11.05 The vehicle maintenance report for July 16 to August 15, 2017 had been included in the Board's information.
- \*11.06 The weekly attendance reports for August 16, August 23, August 30, September 6, September 13, and September 20, 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 will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Manuela Bowler, Executive Director from the United Way of Pinal County recognized District employees for their payroll contributions to the United Way campaign. She reported that eight District employees donated a total of \$3,354 and presented a plaque to Dr. Gonzales.

Ms. Bowler provided a summary of the programs sponsored by the United Way and the annual dinner held on September 15.

Board member Rachel Hernandez expressed appreciation to teacher, Tammy Santilli for the fund raiser she held in which \$560 was raised to help hurricane victims. Those funds were sent to a teacher at Sullivan Middle School in Pasadena District in Texas. Dr. Gonzales stated that most District schools participated in some type of community outreach program for people impacted by the earthquakes and hurricanes.

15.01 Mrs. Jackson adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President