

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

September 13, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Scottsdale Unified School District, #48, Maricopa County, was called to order at 5:05 PM, at the Scottsdale Unified School District Coronado High School, 7501 E. Virginia Avenue, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Board Members in attendance were Bonnie Sneed, President; Barbara Perleberg, Vice President; Kim Hartmann; George Jackson; and Pam Kirby. Interim Superintendent Dr. Denise Birdwell was also present. A quorum was present. President Sneed led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Sneed welcomed approximately 90 visitors.

Mrs. Kirby moved to approve the Agenda as submitted. Mrs. Hartmann seconded the motion.

Motion #9
Approval of Agenda

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

Students and Staff Recognition and Celebrations

Dr. Mitch von Gnechten, Executive Director for Secondary Education, introduced Chaparral High School junior Taylor Ruck, who represented the nation of her birth, Canada, in the Olympic Games held last month in Rio de Janeiro. Taylor was part of Canada's 4 by 200 freestyle relay swimming team, which won two bronze medals.

Students and Staff
Recognition and
Celebrations

Daniel O'Brien, CFO, introduced Dennis Roehler, Director of Facilities, who recognized members of the District's Facilities Department. Greg Skelton's crew of Joe Arteca, Robert Beck, Barry Fenstermacher, Dave Lemire and Chris Russell did yeoman's work over the summer getting the Hopi Elementary School's fields in shape for start of school.

Public Comment

Sarah Dorsch, President; Mia Rubio, Vice President; and Jordyn Blew, Secretary, of the Student Advisory Board (SAB), updated the Governing Board on the SAB's activities. They also asked the Governing Board to remember to call upon members of SAB for student input on issues that relate to the students.

Public Comment

Nancy Cantor spoke in regard to Tonalea K-8 school. The community likes what they are seeing. She reminded everyone that there is a lot to make up for in that learning community and feels the efforts expended by the District and Governing Board have been worthwhile.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Birdwell:

- Thanked Dr. Kyle Ross, Director of Assessment, for his role as advisor to the SAB. She also thanked the three young ladies who spoke on behalf of the SAB and called upon all the members who were present at the Board Meeting to stand and be recognized.
- Thanked the SUSD Foundation for hosting its very successful "Quest for the Best" Gala, held over the weekend that benefitted SUSD.
- Recognized the 6th annual Middle School Fall Sports Festival held over the past weekend and had more than 800 SUSD middle school students converge on Cocopah Middle School and Saguaro High School to compete in baseball games and volleyball matches.
- Thanked Coronado High School for hosting a workshop earlier in the day presented by the Scottsdale branch of the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Phoenix for several hundred female students of the Coronado High School senior class. The non-partisan event, called "Running and Winning," was aimed at educating high school women about leadership, public service and the electoral process.
- Noted that the 2016 Bond and Override Election Community Information meetings will begin on Tuesday, September 27 through Wednesday, October 5. More information

Superintendent's
Comments

can be found on the District website Elections page.

- Noted three SUSD schools, Cochise and Desert Canyon Elementary schools and Arcadia High School, have been named finalists in the Maricopa County Trip Reduction Program’s Most Creative Bulletin Board competition.
- Announced that Arcadia High School will host the Sanghi Foundation Arizona State FIRST Robotics Championship competition on October 15.
- Announced the SUSD Showcase will be held on October 22 from 10 AM to 1 PM at Cocopah Middle School. All 30 schools will be on hand to share with the community the wonderful programs they offer. The free event is open to all stakeholders.

Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of Gifts - \$45,584.94
- B. Accounts Payable Vouchers August 17, 2016 through August 29, 2016 FY16
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers August 15, 2016 through August 31, 2016 FY17
- D. Payroll Vouchers Processed from August 11, 2016 through August 25, 2016
- E. Personnel Actions – 08/06/2016 through 08/26/2016
- F. Approval of Minutes of August 23, 2016 Regular Board Meeting
- G. Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2016 Special Board Meeting/Study Session
- H. Overnight, Out-of-State, Foreign Trips
- I. Approval of IGA between SUSD and Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- J. Approval of Revisions and Updates to SUSD Facility Rental Policy Manual for 2016-17
- K. Approval of 2017 Capital Plan and New Construction Application to State of Arizona School Facilities Board
- L. Ratification of Procurement Items Approved by Supt. or Designees w/Prior Bd. Authorization

Mrs. Kirby moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Mrs. Hartmann seconded the motion.

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

Information/Discussion Items

Dr. Anna McCauley, Assistant Superintendent for Accountability and Instruction, and Dr. Kyle Ross, Director of Assessment, presented Information/Discussion Item VIII. A. Academic Data Trends Update – Continued. A PowerPoint was shared that focused on the ACT test and what the results means to the District. The ACT is the most administered college entrance exam in the nation today. The test has benchmark scores for every area of instruction. The District would like to encourage more students to take this test and believes that financial reasons prevent more students from participating. This is an issue Administration would like to focus on and find ways to offer scholarships for the exam fee. Discussion ensued regarding the trends shown for SUSD in the scores. The District has seen growth in almost every school in every year, as compared to the state average as well as the national average. Desert Mountain and Saguaro High Schools showed a large increase in its scores. Dr. McCauley called upon the principals of both schools to share what might have caused their schools to show such surprisingly positive results. Ann Achtziger, principal of Saguaro High School, stated that Saguaro made it an initiative to promote the test, starting when students registered for school and getting information to the parents. Nikki Wilfert, principal of Desert Mountain High School, stated that they have seen a shift in students choosing to take the ACT instead of the SAT test.

Dr. Ross continued the presentation with a progress report on SchoolCity, the assessment instrument purchased by the District for use by teachers. SchoolCity was chosen by the Assessment committee because of the ease of use. Teachers received training on the use of SchoolCity, not only as an assessment tool, but for use as an instructional tool. Students are also able to use SchoolCity by logging in to see their progress and how they are doing on mastering the standards. This tool can be used to empower students who use the data to move forward.

Dr. Steve Nance, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, and Dr. Karen Benson, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, presented Information/Discussion Item VIII. B. First, Best Practices. A PowerPoint was shown reviewing first, best instruction and how it is

Consent Agenda

Motion #10
Approval of Consent Agenda as Submitted

Information/Discussion

•Academic Data Trends Update – Continued

•SchoolCity

•First, Best Practices

used. Dr. Benson discussed the practice in which an environment is created in which each student is expected to learn at high levels supported by clear objectives and appropriate planning. Increasing rigor is expected with the focus on higher engagement and deeper learning. This is accomplished by raising the level of content, raising expectations and giving appropriate support. Dr. Nance continued the presentation by revisiting what research has indicated are the four most important questions to focus on in Professional Learning Communities to promote student learning. Meetings are conducted with very specific discussions regarding instruction and student progress. Classroom walkthroughs are being conducted. These are generally three to five minutes visits by administrators looking for evidence of planning, objectives being taught, student engagement and/or participation, and other components typical to PLCs. Discussion ensued regarding feedback to teachers which should be positive in nature, and how support may look different at every campus. The Board hopes that what is found to be needed will be brought to the Governing Board during budget discussion. Dr. Birdwell noted that there are great leaders in SUSD. Principals and teachers are excited, dedicated and working hard to improve academic achievement throughout the District. A culture change is happening, but the Board and Administration are working together to effect this culture change.

Future Items

Mrs. Hartmann would like a discussion on topics brought to the Board at Board Study Sessions and Regular Meetings.

Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, October 6, 2016 – 3:00 PM – Study Session

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 – 5:00 PM – Regular Governing Board Meeting

The Governing Board Retreat scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2016, will be rescheduled to a later date. A Governing Board Study Session will be held instead on November 17, 2016, at 3:00 PM.

Governing Board Reports

Mrs. Hartmann reported on the recently held BUSS (Business United for Scottsdale Schools) breakfast. Over 200 business and community members attended. She thanked Julie Brassell, Executive Director of BUSS for the work she has done for BUSS.

Mrs. Hartmann reported that over the summer, she had an opportunity to connect with Arizona State University and Dr. Benson on a program for middle school students on coding and working with Title I schools.

Mr. Jackson reported that he also attended the BUSS breakfast, which was outstanding. The BUSS initiative is about one year old and is making great progress with the business community to promote education in Scottsdale.

Mr. Jackson also attended the SUSD Foundation “Quest for the Best Gala,” commenting on the outstanding event.

Mrs. Sneed thanked Alyssa Tarkington, principal of Coronado High School, for hosting the Running and Winning event held that day at Coronado. Mrs. Sneed, along with Mrs. Kirby and Mrs. Perleberg, attended the workshop presented by the Scottsdale branch of the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Phoenix.

At 6:59 PM, Mrs. Sneed moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Kirby seconded the motion.

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

Dated this 13th day of September 2016

The Governing Board of the Scottsdale Unified School District #48

Bonnie Sneed, President

Barbara Perleberg, Vice President

Future Items

Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Board Retreat to be Rescheduled

Governing Board Reports

Motion #11
Adjournment

Kim Hartmann

George Jackson

Pam Kirby


