

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

March 21, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Scottsdale Unified School District, #48, Maricopa County, was called to order at 5:09 PM, at the Scottsdale Unified School District Coronado High School, 7501 E. Virginia Avenue, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Board Members in attendance were Barbara Perleberg, President; Pam Kirby, Vice President; Allyson Beckham; Kim Hartmann; and Sandy Kravetz. Superintendent Dr. A. Denise Birdwell was also present. A quorum was present. President Perleberg led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Perleberg welcomed approximately 150 visitors.

There were two amendments to the Agenda posted to the District's website:

1. Consent Agenda Item VII. N. Offer of Contracts to certified Administrative Staff, Executive Directors, Directors (N Level) and School Psychologists for 2017-2018
2. Action Item IX. A. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Withdrawal from Valley School Employee Benefits Trust

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

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

Students and Staff Recognitions and Celebrations

Dr. David McNeil, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Leadership, recognized Cheyenne Traditional School Roadrunner Robotics Team. The team, brand new to the competitive world of school robotics this school year, was one of seven teams chosen to advance to the state championships in January at ASU. The team of 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders is comprised of:

- Cooper Beckstead
- Gage Belt
- Mitchell Fesmire
- Max and Spencer Millstine
- Christopher Quintana
- Daniel Ulrich
- Jake Weiss

Dr. Mitch von Gnechten, Executive Director of Secondary Education, recognized Desert Mountain High School senior Aakanksha Saxena, who was one of five Arizona students to be named one of the nation's 300 young scientists by Regeneron Science Talent Search. In addition, Aakanksha is one of 150 students nationwide named to Coca Cola's 29<sup>th</sup> class of Coca-Cola Scholars and was awarded a \$20,000 college scholarship.

Public Comment

Tom Vining, SUSD teacher and a member of the Insurance Committee, spoke in regard to the Valley Schools Employee Benefits Trust issue and the questions that have resulted from the changes being proposed. Teachers feel that the last-minute changes effect teacher morale.

Dr. Birdwell noted that there is an Action Item on the Agenda for this meeting which will bring clarity and factual information to the issue.

Thava Freedman spoke in opposition to the Consent Agenda item Abolishment of Administrative Positions, stating that this abolishment does not comply with the District's published goals.

Josh Friedman, a Pima parent and member of the PTO, spoke in support of Pima becoming a traditional school. However, the PTO feels there should have been more communication to parents regarding the change.

Joshua Pantier, a member of the Scottsdale Education Association (SEA) executive board, spoke concerning the Compensation Salary Package and the lack of details given to teachers.

Amendments to Agenda

Motion #67  
Approval of Agenda as Amended

Students and Staff Recognitions and Celebrations

Public Comment

Barbara Holden spoke in regard to the rebuild of Hopi Elementary School and concerns that parents have not had an opportunity for input.

Billy Aton spoke in regard to Pima Elementary School becoming a traditional school and the lack of information given to parents.

Julie Cieniawski, president of the SEA, spoke in regard to her organization’s feeling that teachers are not valued. She feels that progress has been made but that the District has not made a long-term commitment to include teaching staff in its communication process.

Catherine Skinner spoke concerning the Teachers Employment Agreement and her opposition to the suspension of two portions of the agreement, stating the need to trust the process.

Andrew Barciz spoke in opposition to the relocation of his son’s special education program from Navajo Elementary School to Tavan Elementary School. He feels the program should be based on where there is a need.

Jennifer Flory spoke in opposition to the elimination of the early childhood program for infants and one-year-olds, asking the Board to reconsider its decision.

Marissa Jimenez spoke in opposition to the elimination of the early childhood program for infants and one-year-olds, asking the Board to reconsider its decision.

Elizabeth Halverson spoke in opposition to the elimination of the early childhood program for infants and one-year-olds, asking the Board to reconsider its decision.

Dr. Birdwell noted that the early childhood program that is being eliminated served six students out of the approximately 24,000 students in SUSD.

Karen Treon spoke in opposition to the proposed Spanish Language program at Hopi Elementary School. She does not support the elimination of any of her children’s “specials” programs.

Cassie Hancock spoke in opposition to the proposed Spanish Language program at Hopi Elementary School. She does not support the elimination of any of her children’s “specials” programs.

Dina Musselmann spoke in opposition to the proposed Spanish Language program at Hopi Elementary School. She does not support the elimination of any of her children’s “specials” programs.

Mike Peabody thanked the Governing Board for its decision to rebuild Hohokam Elementary School as a K-6 school. He asked the Governing Board to reconsider making Hohokam a K-8 school.

Beth Parsons spoke concerning the Teachers Employment Agreement and her opposition to the suspension of two portions of the agreement, stating the action was outside of the process.

Ian Stephan spoke concerning the Teachers Employment Agreement and his opposition to the suspension of two portions of the agreement, stating the action was outside of the process.

Superintendent’s Comments

Dr. Birdwell commented on:

- Reunification Drill at Redfield Elementary School and Saguaro High School. She thanked James Dorer, Chief Security Officer, for his work on the testing of the campus emergency procedure.
- State testing will take place over the course of the next few weeks, with SUSD students taking state AIMS and AZMerit tests in science, math, language arts and writing.
- The 22 SUSD seniors named Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholar competition have now advanced to Finalist status.

Superintendent’s  
Comments

- The All-City Awards Banquet was held on March 20, celebrating the academic and athletic achievement of 48 of the District's winter sports student athletes.
- There are the following upcoming District events:
  - The SUSD Fine Arts Festival - March 30, 31 and April 1
  - On March 31, Redfield Elementary School will host an information meeting for families of children who have already qualified to attend the new Pre-K Gifted Academy, opening at Redfield in August.
  - The District will host its first Gifted Learning Institute on April 6 at the MDA
- This is the budgeting season and it appears there will not be any additional funding from the State. Dr. Birdwell will be asking members of the Governing Board to work with her Cabinet on the District's budget. In order to be competitive with other districts and give increases in compensation to employees, it was necessary to do some type of budget reduction.
- The District will now establish Department Chairs at the middle school and elementary school levels.
- The District has been without a Communications and Marketing Officer for over a month. That position has now been filled and the marketing of the District will resume.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of Gifts - \$59,456.61
- B. Accounts Payable Vouchers February 28, 2017 through March 1, 2017
- C. Payroll Vouchers Processed from February 7, 2017 through February 23, 2017
- D. Personnel Actions – 01/28/2017 through 02/24/2017
- E. Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2017 Special Board Meeting/Study Session/Exec. Session
- F. Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
- G. Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2017 Special Board Meeting
- H. Approval of Minutes of March 2, 2017 Special Board Meeting
- I. Approval of Minutes of March 2, 2017 Special Board Meeting/Executive Session
- J. Overnight, Out-of-State, Foreign Trips
- K. Action of Hearing Officer's Recommendations
- L. Abolishment of Administrative Positions for 2017-2018
- M. Approval and Issuance of Contracts to All Certified Employees
- N. Offer of Contracts to Certified Administrative Staff, Non-Certified Staff, and School Psychologists for 2017-2018 - **AMENDED**
- O. Revision of Governing Board Policies: Section L-Education Agency Relations
- P. Ratification of Approval of Annual Renewal of IGA with EVIT Carl Perkins for 2016-2017 SY
- Q. Approve the Issuance of RFP for Nutrition Services Point-of-Sale Software
- R. Approve the Award of RFP #17065, GPS Vehicle Tracking Services
- S. Approve the Award of RFP #17071, Routing and Fleet Maintenance Software
- T. Ratification of Procurement Item Approved by the Superintendent or Designees with Prior Board Authorization

Motion #68  
Approval of Consent  
Agenda as Amended

Mrs. Kirby moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Mrs. Beckham seconded the motion.

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

Dr. Birdwell thanked the Governing Board for its approval of the Consent Agenda, which included Personnel Actions. She highlighted the following:

- Introduced Erin Helm, the new Public Information and Marketing Officer
- Commended retiring Chaparral High School principal Gayle Holland for her years of service and noted that Dr. Angela Chomokos, will be the new principal of Chaparral High School
- Congratulated Arcadia High School principal Nathan Slater on his promotion to District Athletic Director
- Introduced Kristopher Treat, the new Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction

Information/Discussion

Information/Discussion Items

Dr. Birdwell, before introducing Daniel O'Brien, CBOO, noted that at this stage of the process in the 2016 Bond Program, design comes to the District Office first. The design then goes to the

principal of the school in question for input and then it goes to the community. At this time, the design for Hopi Elementary School is just about ready to go to the community.

Mr. O'Brien presented Information/Discussion Item VIII. A. Update on 2016 Bond Program. A PowerPoint was shown that gave an overview of progress thus far on:

- The rebuild of Hopi Elementary School, the first project for the program. Hunt Carroway is the architect on the project. The selection of the contractor is due March 28.
- Cheyenne Traditional School, which is not a total rebuild. The work at Cheyenne includes the addition of a gymnasium, a classroom wing and fire lanes. Work will be done on Cheyenne over the summer months. The architect is Orcutt Winslow.
- Football fields and tracks – Chaparral, Coronado and Saguaro High schools. It is anticipated that the work will begin at the end of April/beginning of May and be a 2 to 2 ½-month process. The architect is Hunt Carroway. Saguaro and Coronado High schools will need to hold their graduation ceremonies off-campus, as its fields, where the ceremonies take place, are being fully replaced.

Discussion followed regarding the Request for Quote (RFQ) process, using the CM@R (construction manager at risk) method. Also discussed was the District taking the financial responsibility for securing the two alternate sites for Saguaro and Coronado's graduation ceremonies. Also discussed was the anticipated enrollment for Hopi Elementary School, which will determine the size of the new school. Dr. Birdwell stated that Hopi is a very complicated rebuild due to the size of the property, 11.5 acres. She stated that Cabinet will work closely with the Governing Board to ensure that enrollment is properly communicated to stakeholders.

Debbie Ybarra, Director of Early Childhood Learning, and Dr. Karen Benson, Executive Director of Instructional Services, presented Information/Discussion Item VIII. B. Preschool Adoption – Literacy Curriculum. A PowerPoint was shown, reviewing the Preschool Literacy Instructional Materials Adoption process. Discussion was had concerning the preschool program and how it benefits students. The program that is being recommended for adoption will enable teachers to share best practice ideas and will serve as a stepping-stone to kindergarten and beyond. The adoption will be an Action item on the April 25, 2017 Board Agenda.

Action Items

Dr. Steve Nance, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, presented Action Item IX. A. Approval of the Rebuild of Pima Traditional School. It is recommended that Pima Elementary School open as Pima Traditional School K-5, as a new facility in August 2018; that Pima's boundaries stay the same; that a sister school be named for those parents who choose not to have their student attend a traditional school; and that parents and staff work with the principal to decide if uniforms will be required. A PowerPoint was shared reviewing the traditional instructional model. The Board discussed the math progression demonstrated in the PowerPoint. Also discussed was the rationale behind becoming a K-5 school rather than a K-8 school. Dr. Nance stated that staff has had ongoing conversations with parents, and the conclusion is that parents are happy with the choices available for middle school.

Mrs. Perleberg moved to approve the rebuild of Pima Traditional School K-5 with a goal of completion Fall of 2018. Mrs. Hartmann seconded the motion.

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

Dr. Pam Sitton, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Specialized Services, presented Action Item IX. B. Approval of Compensation Salary Package. A PowerPoint was shown, reviewing the proposed salary adjustments, as well as options for three additional teacher professional development days. A discussion ensued regarding the Meet & Confer process and communication between employee groups and administration. Dr. Birdwell stated that the District is taking a bold step by decreasing administrative costs to be able to put money back in the classroom. It is important the District be able to attract and retain both teachers and administrators.

Mrs. Perleberg moved to approve the compensation salary package for 2017-2018, as outlined by Dr. Sitton:

- Certified Step (2%) \$1,665,830

•Update on 2016 Bond Program

Preschool Adoption – Literacy Curriculum

Action Items

•Rebuild of Pima Traditional School

Motion #69

Approval of Rebuild of Pima Traditional School K-5

•Compensation Salary Package

Motion #70

Approval of Compensation Salary Package for 2017-2018

• Horizontal	\$341,000
• Beginning Salary	\$160,000
• Classified 1%	\$297,189
• Support Exempt/Admin 1%	\$67,106
 Total	 \$2,531,125

Mrs. Hartmann seconded the motion.

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

Dr. Birdwell stated for the record that the District intends to have contracts out to teachers by March 28. She also commended Dr. Sitton and Mr. O'Brien for their work.

Dr. Birdwell presented Action Item IX. C. Approval of Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Intent to Withdraw from Valley School Employee Benefits Trust (VSEBT). Dr. Birdwell noted that it was recently brought to her attention that the District would incur an \$800,000 increase in the cost of medical insurance. Further negotiation brought the increase down to \$300,000, and then \$0. Other options were then researched. The District is under a contractual obligation to give VSEBT 90 days' notice to terminate. With the Board's approval of this Resolution, it gives notice to VSEBT that we will consider its proposal as well as two other providers, the caveat being it must be with another trust (state procurement law). Without this Resolution, the District does not have an option. The proposals will be presented to the Insurance Committee and its recommendation will then be given to the Superintendent for presentation to the Governing Board for its approval. The Insurance Committee could recommend renewing the District's contract with VSEBT.

•Adoption of Resolution – Withdrawal from VSEBT

Mrs. Beckham moved to approve adopting the Resolution authorizing Scottsdale Unified District to withdraw from Valley Schools Employee Benefits Trust, effective June 30, 2017. Mrs. Kravetz seconded the motion.

Motion #71  
Approval of Adoption of Resolution Withdrawing from VSEBT

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

Future Items

There were no Future Items requested.

Future Items

Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, April 20, 2017 – 3:00 PM – Governing Board Study Session

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 – 5:00 PM – Regular Governing Board Meeting

Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board Reports

Mrs. Kravetz reported attending the Choral Exhibition at Chaparral High School on February 27, stating that it was an excellent exhibition.

Governing Board Reports

Mrs. Perleberg reported that she and Mrs. Kravetz attended the SUSD Adapted PE Staff Special Kids Field Day at Mountain View Park on February 22, stating it was a wonderful event.

At 8:35 PM, Mrs. Kirby moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Beckham seconded the motion.

Motion #72  
Adjournment

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

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2017

**The Governing Board of the Scottsdale Unified School District #48**

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Barbara Perleberg, President

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Pam Kirby, Vice President

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Allyson Beckham

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Hartmann

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Sandy Kravetz

