

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

November 22, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Scottsdale Unified School District, #48, Maricopa County, was called to order at 5:12 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 Denise Birdwell was also present. A quorum was present. President Sneed called upon Mrs. Hartmann to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Sneed noted that an Amendment to the Agenda had been posted 24 hours prior to the meeting. Action Item VII. B, C, & D. Gifted Learning Services Testing Fee, was amended and was listed as VII and it was actually IX.

Mr. Jackson 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 Recognition and Celebrations

Dr. Mitch von Gnechten, Executive Director of Secondary Education, recognized:

- Joao Silvestre De Souza from Desert Mountain High School was honored for English Language ELL. Learned English in less than one year.
- Katie Dempsey will have December HS graduation from Saguaro and Spring Scottsdale Community College graduation (AA degree), and will go on to attend NAU in the Fall to continue her studies.
- Cameron Whyte, Saguaro, received a perfect score on the ACT test

Public Comment

1 William Teske – Bond & Override Issues - General Election – both passed. The pamphlet issued by the County School Superintendent's office had no opposition listed in the book, despite his having submitted one. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time his objections have not been posted or printed in the booklets. The schools should last 100 to 150 years.

2 Rick Carpinelli – Encourages the Board to negotiate a contract with the interim superintendent. Everything he has seen through the Charros has endorsed and helped the nonprofit organization. Dr. Birdwell is doing a great job and he is pleased to speak to the Board on Charros' behalf as community members to support this superintendent.

3 Edmond Richard – Items IX C. and D. on the agenda seem to contradict each other. Dr. Birdwell is the right leader for Scottsdale. He is a father of 6 children in the Coronado community and Dr. Birdwell is the first superintendent bringing positivity and change to our community.

4 Nancy Cantor - Spoke about the Superintendent search and possible contract with Dr. Birdwell. With Dr. Birdwell, we have seen 9 months of positive change, and she takes the time with parents and offers real solutions. Issues from the past are now well on the way of finding solutions. Teachers, as well, are so important with boots on the ground and are partners with parents. She is worried about the negative talk and urges the wheels on the bus to keep moving forward.

5 Jim Heather – Superintendent - I want the best education for our students. Dr. Birdwell has really helped with Tonalea, so please let's support Dr. Birdwell. He would like to debate with the group ROSS (Respect Our Scottsdale Students).

6 Shanna Sadeh - Psychologist in the district and moved from MN. Education is a model in the AZ school system - Don't have to dismantle what is working in SUSD. Wants to stay a highly

Amendments to Agenda

Motion #19

Approval of Agenda as Amended

Students and Staff Recognition and Celebrations

Public Comment

qualified school district and she has learned so much from SUSD. MASP Model – How to integrate learning with students. Don't just test and place in SPED: we teach.

7 Joe Geusic – He has visited 13 school districts and spoken to their Boards, and asks the question 'Why do we educate?' GDP - Protect our civil liberties. We need a Mission Statement – He is from Gilbert Public Schools. We are one united country – Dr. Birdwell is a beacon of hope.

8 Christine Marsh - Why are we taking action for the superintendent without additional conversation?

9 Julie Cieniawski – SEA overview – Non-Agenda - Importance of listening. We need this skill for the personal connection and respect. Please expand this input by listening to the teachers, parents, students and community members.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Birdwell commented that:

- We are extremely appreciative and grateful to our community for passing the Bond and Override. Thanked the Board for its leadership, the staff for its support, Mr. O'Brien for all of his hard work and leadership, Kristine Harrington and her team, and 2 parents, Cindy Bitcon and Karen Treon, for their hours of service.
- Open Enrollment began November 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through December 15<sup>th</sup>. Currently, 963 open enrollment applications have been submitted and we anticipate about 1,200.
- There is talk in the community of combining Hohokam and Yavapai schools, but this is a myth. Hohokam is asking to be a K-8 school, and the District is reaching out to the community for its response.
- State Marching Band competition – The 2016 Arizona State Marching Band Championship was held and SUSD high school bands represented the District with high-level performances. Coronado, Chaparral, and Arcadia High schools all received awards. Congratulations to all band members and their leaders!
- Top Arizona Heart Association Fundraisers – Juli Maryhew, Cochise ES: AZ Top Fundraiser; Julie Sparks, Desert Canon ES: Arizona Top 10 Online Fundraiser.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SUSD Showcase – Turnout was nearly 3,000 people, doubling attendance from last year. Many thanks to all staff, students and community for all your hard work to make it a great success.
- Good luck, Saguaro, in the high school football playoffs.

Mrs. Sneed pulled item B from the Consent Agenda and recused herself for a conflict of interest.

- A. Acceptance of Gifts \$147,955.52
- B. Accounts Payable Voucher 10-07-2016 through 11-09-2016 **PULLED FROM CONSENT TO BE HEARD SEPARATELY**
- C. Payroll Voucher: 10-06-2016-through-11-03-2016
- D. Personnel Actions: 10-1-16 to 11-4-16
- E. Approval of the Minutes of the Oct. 6, 2016 Special Governing Board Meeting-Exec Session-StApp-Study Session
- F. Approval of Minutes of Oct. 18, 2016 Regular Board Meeting
- G. Hearing Officer's Recommendations
- H. Auxiliary Operations Statement for October 31, 2016
- I. Student Activities Statement for October 31, 2016
- J. Tax Credit Statement for October 31, 2016
- K. Overnight, Out of State, Foreign Field Trips
- L. ASBA Bylaw Proposals
- M. Approval of Proposed School Year District Calendars 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21
- N. Approval of Second Read of Open Enrollment Policy Revisions
- O. Approval of Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Maricopa County Department of Public Health for Tobacco Use Prevention Program for the 2016-2017 School Year
- P. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with City of Scottsdale for Palomino Library Artwork Project
- Q. Approval of IGA with Arizona State University for Sustainability

Superintendent's  
Comments

Consent Agenda as  
Amended

- R. Approval of Amendment #1 to Development and Joint Use of Pulte Park aka Aztec Park IGA
- S. Approval of Extension of the Existing IGA with City of Scottsdale for Ballfield Maintenance
- T. Ratification of Procurement Items Approved by the Superintendent or Designees with Prior Board Authorization

Mrs. Sneed moved to approve the Consent Agenda without item B. Mrs. Perleberg seconded the motion.

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

Accounts Payable Voucher -10-07-201 -through 11-09-2016 – Pulled from Consent Agenda due to a conflict of interest with Board President Mrs. Sneed.

Mrs. Kirby moved to approve Accounts Payable Voucher 10-07-2016 through 11-09-2016. Mrs. Hartmann seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0-1 (Mrs. Sneed recused herself).

#### Information/Discussion Items

Dr. von Gnechten, Executive Director of Secondary Education, presented Information/Discussion Item VIII. A., Revisions to Middle School Planning Guide for 2017/2018. Dr. von Gnechten thanked Dr. Benson and SUSD principals for all their hard work to prepare the changes. A PowerPoint was shown reviewing the recommended changes. They are as follows:

- Updated language,
- College and Career Enhancement-course,
- World Language to include: Japanese Exploratory, Level A & B options, and Levels I and II.
- Additional information added to clarify:
  - ELA Honors
  - Science shift from inquiry to experimental design
  - English Language Development (ELD) structure
  - Comprehensive Gifted Program

Dr. von Gnechten, presented Information/Discussion Item VIII. B., Revisions to High School Planning Guide for 2017/2018. Dr. von Gnechten thanked Rose Wright for all her hard work to prepare the changes. PowerPoint was shared, reviewing the summary of work and Recommended Changes to the High School Planning Guide. The committee used a timeline to finalize the process by December 16, 2016. The process includes guiding principles for new course consideration, new courses, including IB HL Theatre, IB SL Mandarin, College and Career Enhancement, and Career and Technical Education CTE. They also included Banked Courses 2017-2018. The Seal of Biliteracy – State guidelines – local control for implementation/cost. Recognizes students demonstrating a high level of proficiency in English and one or more other languages prior to high school graduation. Seal on diploma and noted on transcript. District guidelines and procedures forthcoming. Discussion followed with Mrs. Kirby, Mrs. Hartmann and Mrs. Sneed asking clarifying questions.

#### Action Items

Dr. von Gnechten presented Action Item IX. A., Middle Years International Baccalaureate Program. The IB MYP exposes students to as many different subjects, skills and experiences as possible so that students will learn to see knowledge as an interrelated whole. It is essential that the curriculum reflects and is responsive to the different perspectives of all our students. It should guide them in forming their own international outlook. The curriculum seeks to shift the emphasis from teacher-led instruction to student-led learning, wherever possible. A focus on higher-order thinking skills gives students opportunities to develop a growing awareness of themselves and others as they explore real-world issues. The process would include the application, authorization of the IB MYP schools, budgets and 4-year commitment to full IB MYP implementation of \$557,420. The next step would be approval for an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program at Mountainside Middle School and Desert Mountain High School. Discussion and clarification followed, and the Board communicated its appreciation for all the work and information.

Motion # 20  
Approval of Consent Agenda as Amended

Consent Item B pulled from Agenda and voted on by 4 remaining Board Members

Motion #21  
Approval of Consent Item B

#### Information/Discussion

•Revisions to Middle School Planning Guide

•Revisions to High School Planning Guide

#### Action Items

•Middle Years International Baccalaureate Program

Motion # 22

Mrs. Hartmann moved to approve the Middle Years International Baccalaureate Program. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion.

Approval of Middle Years International Baccalaureate Program

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

Dr. Mai-Lon Wong, Director of Gifted Learning Services, presented Action Item IX. B., Update on Gifted Learning Services Testing Fee. A PowerPoint was shared, reviewing the focus and practices of Gifted Learning. Areas Dr. Wong will be focusing on are Recruitment and Customer Service, Retaining Excellence, and Raising the Bar and Opportunities for Growth. It is being recommended that the Gifted Services program be offered starting with pre-kindergarten children through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Wong also reviewed the next steps for the department, which include an accelerated Math program and revamping Middle School Honors courses. Mrs. Kirby questioned if the plan was within all state and federal laws. Michelle Marshall confirmed there are no federal laws currently for Gifted fees, only state laws, and we are in compliance.

Action Items  
• Gifted Learning Services Testing Fee

Mrs. Perleberg moved to approve the Gifted Learning Services Testing Fee. Mrs. Kirby seconded the motion

Motion # 23  
Approval of Gifted Learning Services Testing Fee

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

Governing Board Members discussed Action Item IX. C., Vote to Issue a Request for Proposal for Executive Search Consulting Services for a Superintendent Search. Mrs. Hartmann thanked Dr. Birdwell for the extensive background information provided in the binders. She believes Dr. Birdwell puts students first and is getting great feedback from parents, public comments with positive responses. Teachers are extremely important, and there are both supporters as well as teachers with concerns. We need to keep improving and look back a year from now, and have data to keep moving forward.

• Vote to Issue a Request for Proposal for Executive Search Consulting Services for a Superintendent Search

Mrs. Kirby thanked the community for all the feedback. She has heard from both supporters and those with concerns. Mrs. Kirby does not feel the search would benefit the community and the cost would also be a concern.

Mr. Jackson expressed that Dr. Birdwell has been detailed, set goals and assessed the issues, as well as helped to pass the Bond and Override. The Board and the community is inspired and excited to go forward and grow SUSD. Teachers should be heard and feel comfortable to contact the Board and the Administrators. We need to commit to openness and have teachers feel empowered. The Board goal is to make Scottsdale Unified District the district of choice.

Mrs. Perleberg stated she is proud of the Board and all the stakeholders for this process. We are owning our votes and this is an extremely important decision. It's been a 10-month-long discussion and ongoing interview of Dr. Birdwell. She believes Dr. Birdwell's team has a strong basis and goals going forward for the vision of Scottsdale Unified District.

Mrs. Sneed discussed how she is a 'rule follower' and believes the more time you put into assessing a situation, the better the outcome. She has heard concerns from others and would like to honor them. Mrs. Sneed believes education takes time to change and you can't do it overnight. We want to keep the teachers and we want them to be inspired as well, not just to benefit Dr. Birdwell.

Motion # 24  
Motion Failed - Vote to Issue a Request for Proposal for Executive Search Consulting Services for a Superintendent Search

Mrs. Sneed makes a Motion to vote to issue a Request for Proposal for Executive Search Consulting Services for a Superintendent Search. No Second, Motion Failed.

Governing Board Members discussed Action Item IX. D., Vote to Appoint Two Members of the Governing Board to Negotiate with Dr. A. Denise Birdwell a New Superintendent Contract.

• Vote to Appoint Two Members of the Governing Board to Negotiate with Dr. A. Denise Birdwell a Superintendent Contract

Mrs. Pam Kirby makes a motion to appoint Vice President Barbara Perleberg and Board Member Mrs. Kim Hartmann of the Governing Board to Negotiate with Dr. A Denise Birdwell a Superintendent Contract.

Mr. George Jackson seconded the motion. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

**Future Items – AMENDED AT DECEMBER 13, 2016 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

There were no items.

***Mrs. Hartmann – Study Session discussion item for an employee engagement survey/assessment preferably in January.***

Dates of Upcoming Board Meetings

Thursday, December 8, 2016 – 3:00 PM – Study Session

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 – 5:00 PM – Regular Board Meeting

Governing Board report - No Reports

At 7:32 PM, Mrs. Sneed moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Perleberg seconded the motion.

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

Dated this 22<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016

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

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Bonnie Sneed, President

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Barbara Perleberg, Vice President

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Kim Hartmann

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George Jackson

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Pam Kirby

Motion # 25

Approval to Appoint Mrs. Barbara Perleberg and Mrs. Hartmann

Future Items

Dates of Upcoming Board Meetings

Governing Board Reports

Motion #26

Adjournment