



Sahuarita Unified School District No. 30

Sahuarita High School Sahuarita Middle School Sopori Elementary School
Sahuarita Primary School Sahuarita Intermediate School

MINUTES

REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:30 p.m. - Sopori Elementary School – 5000 W. Arivaca Rd, Amado AZ 85645

October 8, 2003

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Elaine Hall called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Also present were Board members Michael Lurkins, Anthony Bruno, Daniel Zobenica, Superintendent Dr. Jay C. St. John and Business Manager Charlotte Gates. Board Member Martin McGee was absent. There were 22 guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

II. Approval of Agenda

Dr. St. John recommended approval of the agenda as revised with a change to Item VII – New Business – A. Instruction, #2 High School Schedules from Information Only to a Discussion and Possible Action item. Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bruno. The motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes – September 24

Dr. St. John recommended approval of the minutes for September 24 as distributed. Mr. Bruno made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Zobenica. The motion carried.

IV. Approval and Ratification of Vouchers

Mrs. Gates recommended ratification of previously approved payroll Voucher 7 in the amount of \$409,897.24. She further recommended approval of expense vouchers 5013 and 5014 in a total amount of \$146,566.62. Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Zobenica. The motion carried.

V. Call to the Public - None

VI. Recognition of Staff, Students and Community - None

VII. New Business

A. Instruction

1. This Years Labels under Arizona Learns – Information Only

Dr. St. John made a presentation to the Board in regards to the Arizona Learns Labels as he has them calculated. The program looks at test scores for the 3rd, 5th, 8th & 10th grade levels and then labels the school in terms of underperforming, performing, highly performing or excelling. He reminded the Board members that the calculation is rather complex. Dr. St. John was able to look at the test scores and with a spreadsheet that was developed he was able to predict the labels for the schools. He stated that these are tentative labels as he predicted them. Two buildings are on the level between two different types of labels so this could change if the calculations are not correct. Each building receives points based on how the students performed on tests. The scores are taken from 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003. The system also looks at whether the number of students who meet or exceed has

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increased and/or decrease the number of falls far below. Dr. St. John stated that unfortunately, Sahuarita Intermediate School would be labeled as Underperforming. Dr. Ross is aware of this and will do everything possible to change this. Sopori School would be labeled as Performing. Sahuarita Middle School would be labeled Highly Performing. He stated the middle school has been recognized as one of the Title I Distinguished Schools in all of Arizona. Sahuarita High School would be named Performing. It is different at the high school level, they are also graded on their graduation rate and their drop out rate, so the high school has received points for their high graduation rate and low drop out rate. Dr St. John stated that again these are his predictions for the labels and they may change.

2. High School Schedules – Discussion and Possible Action

Dr. St. John stated that Mr. Kellermeyer would like the Board to look at some changes that have been made to the Block Schedule at the high school.

Mr. Kellermeyer stated that the schedule would remain as a 7 period modified block schedule. The change is for the better, the 4th period classes would benefit from the change with longer blocks of time. He stated that the following changes would take place: students will no longer have the 40 minutes classes that were too short, Monday and Friday can be used for pre-view/review, which was originally designed, each class period will remain timed to other periods, flow will improve due to more daily continuity, instructional time will match designed lessons, announcements will still be provided three times per week, extra materials such as labs, production projects, art assignments will be used in a logical pattern, substitute teachers could use the same lesson plan for each matching course of the day and each period of a given course will maintain identical time and sequence.

Mr. Bruno stated that most of the teacher's complaints were in regards to the 7 different lesson plans. He stated that he would hope that all teachers would have 7 different lesson plans because students learn different.

Mr. Zobenica noted that the original schedule has not actually been followed. Mr. Kellermeyer stated that the original schedule had to be modified a bit due to the early release Wednesday.

Dr. St. John recommended approval of the change in schedule. Mr. Zobenica made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Lurkins. The motion carried.

B. Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Annual Financial Report 02-03

Mrs. Gates stated that every year the school districts prepare a financial report containing budgeted and actual expenditures for the preceding fiscal year. This is the Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year 2002-2003.

The District budgeted in the Maintenance & Operation Fund \$11,173,673 and expended \$10,826,237. From the remaining balance of \$347,435 an amount of \$27,464,349 of unused excess utilities will be subtracted therefore, the District will carry forward \$319,971.27 to FY 2003/04.

The District budgeted in the Unrestricted Capital Fund \$692,398 and expended \$458,133; therefore, the District will carry forward \$234,265 to FY 2003/04.

The District budgeted in the soft Capital Fund \$473,739 and expended \$442,611; therefore, the District will carry forward \$31,128 to FY 2003/04.

She stated that this year there has been a lot spent on books already.

Mrs. Gates stated that \$91,000.00 was lost from cash due to a bad investment not on the districts part.

Mrs. Gates recommends approval of the Annual Financial Report for FY 2002/03

Mr. Bruno made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Zobenica. The motion carried.

2. Intergovernmental Agreement – Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures

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Dr. St. John stated the Mrs. Gates recommends entering into an intergovernmental agreement in which the district will be able to cooperatively make purchases. There is not cost to the district for entering this agreement. Dr. St. John recommended approval of the agreement. Mr. Zobenica made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bruno. The motion carried.

3. Intergovernmental Agreement – Excess Utilities Lawsuit

Dr. St. John stated that several districts in Arizona are banding together to challenge the legislatures freezing of the Excess Utilities Law. With the passage of Prop 301, the voters in the state agreed that the Excess Utilities Law should be removed in its entirety in the year 2009. The position of the school districts involved in this lawsuit is that the legislatures is freezing of the Excess Utilities Law prior to its expiration by the vote of the people is illegal. Dr. St. John recommended joining into the agreement. He stated that a purchase order not to exceed \$1000.00 would be issued. Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bruno. The motion carried.

4. District's Growth Plan – Information Only

Dr. St. John has been asked to make a presentation to the Town Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Sahuarita on growth in the district and its affect on the school district. He stated that as a public school, it is required to accept any student who is a resident of the district.

The school cannot build schools, the School Facilities Board builds schools, they are also in charge of the capacity of the school, they have a formula they use and they tell the District what their building is.

In August of 2006, the District should have new wing at the high school a new elementary school. In August of 2007, the District should have a new middle school. In August of 2009, the District should have an additional elementary school and a second high school.

The District is required to file a Capital Improvement Plan with the School Facilities Board. Pinnacle One has been hired to prepare a report on the District's growth and the above needed schools are what this company has told the District they need.

These needs are based on new growth in the community, new growth doesn't include any buildings that are currently owned by families who do not have children, but are purchased by families who have children that will attend school.

C. Governing Board – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Revision of Policy GCQE – Retirement of Professional Staff Members

Dr. St. John stated that in the current policy it states that we pay teachers for unused sick leave. There are some conditions that the employees need to meet to receive that sick leave pay, they include the following: an employee must be 55 years of age prior to July 1 of the calendar year in which the retirement is planned or have 25 years service in the District. Dr. St. John recommended a phrase to be added to the policy to make the policy more beneficial to the School District. He recommended adding the phrase "or qualify for retirement through the Arizona Retirement System". Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Zobenica. Discussion followed. Mr. Zobenica asked how many people qualify at this time. Dr. St. John did not have a figure at this time, but stated it could be approximately 5, may 10 people. Mr. Bruno questioned how much it would cost the district. Dr. St. John stated it depended on the particular situation. The motion carried.

2. Possible Retreat Date

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Dr. St. John recommended a possible Board Retreat date of October 22, 2003 at 2:00. This day is an early release day and the administrators will clear their responsibilities for this date and attend the retreat.

3. Kay Stupy Park – Discussion only item

Elaine, Tony and Dr. St. John met with Sharon Bronson, Pima County Board Supervisor, Chuck Huckleberry, Pima County Administrator and several Pima County staff concerning growth in Santa Cruz County. This growth could spill over into Pima County and the School District. Dr. St. John suggested the idea of Sahuarita Unified School District No. 30 becoming owners of Kay Stupy Park (including the pool) in the future. He felt any developer could be forced to give the land to the School District, which the School District might want to trade for the park. Mr. Huckleberry stated that they would give the District an Intergovernmental Agreement for the park now and allow the district to operate and maintain it against any future trade. The operation of the park would allow the District to use the pool for the Sopori swimming lessons.

VIII. Superintendent/Administrative Reports

Steve Kellermeyer – Mr. Kellermeyer stated that there are 840 students at the high school. The site seems to be maintaining same numbers even as they lose students. The Open House held last week was successful. The clubs that sold food before the Open House had great success. Steve introduced Jack Lehmkuhl, the chorus sang and students spoke. Teachers reported that there were over 30 parents going through their rooms at a time. The high school is getting ready for Survivor night on October 23; this is an all night activity to prepare for Homecoming on October 24.

New quarter begins on October 20, 2003 with a new schedule that was approved at tonight's meeting. A formal visit from NCA is scheduled on the 21st of November. A visit from the mayor of Sahuarita will also take place.

Kathy Shiba – Everything is going well at the middle school. The student population is still moving. The athletics programs are doing really well. Football team will be at a tournament on Saturday. Volleyball team is also doing a good job. Kathy thanked Mike Lurkins and the Elks club for visiting and congratulating a few of the soccer students. Two new teachers have been hired and she feels very fortunate to have them. The staff did 130 schedule changes this week. Students are positive and doing well. At this time the student population is at 632.

Wayne Ross – At this time the intermediate school has 460 students. This week was the parent involvement council meeting. The subject of fund raising was disgust. The majority of the funds from the fundraisers will be used for the accelerated reader program. Cookie dough will be sold starting this Friday. Three of the staff members attended a workshop in Tucson regarding math and reading standards. Dr. Ross stated that they do have a plan to improve achievement in this new year at SIS and he will share it with the Board in the future.

Barb Smith - Barb thanked the Optimist Club for their support at the Open House, it was a successful night. The Scholastic book fair did really well; they almost sold out of their stock. End of the quarter testing is in progress and she is pleased with the progress of the teachers and what she sees in the classroom. On October 13, Barb will hold a training session for K-5 in Sub Hall B of the Auditorium. She will be sharing information she received for Arizona Department of Education on the LTRS Program.

Charles Oldham – Charles stated that it is harvest time at Sopori. During the middle of the month, K-4 will be going to a farm to harvest pumpkins. There is a lot of parent participation. He stated that the AIMS writing test is issued earlier in the year and he won't receive the results, but they will be used for future AIMS testing and to prepare students when it is done later in the year. He and Dr. Ross will be attending an HVA administrators reading workshop. Everything is quite at Sopori except for learning activities.

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Charlotte Gates – Charlotte stated that the report on transportation should be on the next Board Agenda and that the auditors will be in the office next week.

Superintendents Report – Dr. St. John stated that the Middle School has met the eligibility criteria and has been asked to participate in the Title I distinguished Schools Recognition Program.

He shared a letter from Cathy Havner at the Department of Economic Security – Division of Developmental Disabilities in regards to the Project Inspire program. It was a very nice letter and had positive things to say about Project Inspire.

Dr. St. John received a letter in regards to the inadequacy of SAIS. There have been several problems with the program; the attendance information that needs to be uploaded to the state has never worked on their end. Laura Blanco will be attending a meeting in a couple of weeks. Dr. St. John also received a document on "A Dozen Ways to Reduce Statutory Burdens on Schools and Increase Effectiveness" from AASBO.

Dr. St. John attended a P20 council meeting where they discussed issues with education in Pima County.

There have been interesting situations with the ID Cards. Grades 3-12 and all Employees are required to wear them and some people are not happy with this. There will come a time when the students will not be allowed on the buses without them. These cards are being issued for safety reasons and should be worn at all times.

IX. Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommended approval of those items on the Consent Agenda, as they are routine items. Mr. Bruno made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Lurkins. The motion carried.

A. Employment

1. Gilbert, Shannon – Substitute Instruction Aide III – SHS – Ratification to 9/25/03
2. Koenig, Patsy – Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher – SMS – New Position - Ratification to 9/15/03
3. Scheiner, George – Instruction Aide II, ASP – SHS – Replacement – Effective 10/9/03
4. Substitute Teachers – George Christakos, Lee Billings, Judy Sainsbury, Donna Severidt, Stephen Terrell, Loretta Bogdanowicz, Sandra Spahr-Parker, Jerry Crosser, Paul Williams, Robert Mayer, Lisa De La Ossa – Ratification to 10/2/03

B. Resignations/Terminations/Separations

1. Katie Lemke – Instructional Aide II – SIS – Resignation effective 10/10/03
2. Scott Webb – Custodian – SHS – Effective 10/3/03
3. Joseph Rocco – Security – SHS – Effective 10/14/03
4. Nora Smith – Instructional Aide III – Project Inspire – Termination Effective 10/8/03
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C. Volunteers

1. Valentine Koppy – SHS – Ratification to 9/18/03
2. Kathleen Kreuzer – SMS – Ratification to 9/16/03

D. Gifts & Donations

1. James and Leann Larson - \$40.00 – SMS Cheerleaders
2. Andra Jones - \$40.00 – SMS Cheerleaders
3. Jennifer E. Andino - \$40.00 – SMS Cheerleaders
4. Daniel and Diana Guzman - \$40.00 – SMS Cheerleaders
5. Beth and Travis Hill - \$40.00 – SMS Cheerleaders
6. Roman and Blanca Rascon - \$40.00 – SMS Cheerleaders

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7. Robert and Jackie Ashton - \$80.00 - SMS Cheerleaders
8. Norberto and Laura Acosta - \$40.00 - SMS Cheerleaders
9. Martin and Frances Garcia - \$40.00 - SMS Cheerleaders
10. Willie Wood Carpet and Floor Covering - \$40.00 - SMS Cheerleaders
11. Anonymous Local parent group - \$407.59 - SPS

E. Student Fund Raisers

1. Sahuarita Middle School Cheerleaders - Selling of Cookie Dough - date to be determined.

F. Student Travel

1. MS Music Department - April 19-23 - Phoenix AZ
2. HS Science Club - Spring Semester, Date TBA - Puerto Penasco/Rocky Point, Mexico
3. HS Band and Choir - May 2004 - Los Angeles, CA
4. HS Band - October 31-November 1, 2003 - Safford and Thatcher, AZ

X. Board Communication

Mike Lurkins thanked the teachers and administrators for being great at what they do. He stated that the District has some of the best around.

XI. Establish Next Board Meeting - October 22, 2003, District Auditorium

XII. Executive Session

Mr. Bruno moved the Board enter executive session pursuant to §A.R.S. 15-843 to hear the request of several students in the high school Alternative to Suspension Program to return to the mainstream classroom setting and to hear the possible appeal of the decision of the hearing officer in a long-term suspension hearing. Mr. Zobenica seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. The time was 8:07 PM. The Board returned to regular session at 8:42 and adjourned the meeting.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully,

Clerk of the Board