



Sahuarita Unified School District No. 30

Sahuarita High School
Sahuarita Primary School

Sahuarita Middle School
Sahuarita Intermediate School

Sopori Elementary School
Sahuarita Intermediate School

MINUTES

**Regular Governing Board Meeting & Executive Session
6:30 p.m. – January 14, 2004 – Sub Hall B - District Auditorium
350 W. Sahuarita Rd., Sahuarita, AZ 85629**

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, Martin McGee, Superintendent Dr. Jay C. St. John and Business Manager Charlotte Gates. There were 45 guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

IA. Reorganization of the Governing Board

1. Election of President
Mr. Bruno was unanimously elected president.
2. Election of Clerk
Mrs. Hall was unanimously elected clerk.

II. Approval of Agenda

Dr. St. John recommended approval of the agenda as revised with a change to Item VIII – New Business – B. Personnel, #2 Schedule Date for Hearing for James Phillips and the addition to IX – Consent Agenda – A. Employment, #6 Mary Swigert, Payment of Additional Credit Hours for 2003 Spring/Summer. Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded by Mr. McGee. The motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2003

Dr. St. John recommended approval of the minutes for December 10, 2003 as distributed. Mr. McGee made the motion and was seconded by Mrs. Hall. The motion carried.

IV. Approval and Ratification of Vouchers

Mrs. Gates recommended ratification of previously approved payroll Vouchers 12 in the amount of \$414,857.08, Vouchers 13 in the amount of \$424,563.96, Vouchers 14 in the amount of \$396,757.92 and new payroll Vouchers 15 for the pay period ending January 16, 2004 in the amount not to exceed \$500,000.00. She further recommended approval of expense vouchers 5026 thru 5029 in a total amount of \$409,941.40. Mr. Zobenica made the motion and was seconded by Mr. McGee. The motion carried.

V. Call to the Public – None

VI. Recognition of Staff, Students and Community – Ron Potts; Kathy Eskew

Kathy Shiba, Middle School Principal, would like to recognize the following staff.

Ron Potts - Ron has not only taught his students how to use and repair computers and creates web sites; he has also kept our school computer system running. He takes care of the computer problems for the middle school and keeps us up to date on all the new tech things.

Cathy Eskew - Cathy Eskew keeps the computer lab open and available to all staff. She works with our teachers to provide assistance when and wherever she is needed. The AR program would be lost without her. Getting computer tests ready for the students and finding parent volunteers to man the testing room is a big part of a job well done.

A moment of silence was held for Sue Autrey, a teacher at the Primary School, who passed away last month. Barb Smith, principal of the primary school, spoke at Sue's funeral. Dr. St. John complimented Barb Smith and stated that he appreciated this.

Dr. St. John recognized the Sahuarita Unified School District Governing Board. The Board was awarded the Total Boardmanship Award at the Arizona School Boards Association Conference. There are 225 School Districts in Arizona and only six School Boards received this award. All School Board members are required to attend training. In order to receive this award each member of the Board must complete the minimum level of training that is required to be a School Board member.

VII. New Business

A. Instruction – Information Only

1. Alternative to Suspension Program

Dr. St. John stated that this is an information only item. Updated information regarding the Alternative to Suspension Program and its requirements from Joni Keating, the new ASP Instructor at the high school, was distributed to all the Board members.

B. Personnel – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Cindy DiJulio, Request for Leave of Absence – Remainder of 2003-2004 School Year

The Board received a request for a leave of absence from Cindy DiJulio, a 1st grade teacher at the primary school. Cindy requested a medical leave of absence for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year. Barb Smith recommended approval of the leave. Dr. St. John also recommended approval of the leave of absence for Cindy DiJulio. Mr. McGee made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Zobenica. The motion carried.

2. Schedule Date of Hearing for James Phillips ++

Dr. St. John stated that at the last Board meeting, the Governing Board members adopted a Statement of Charges against James Phillips, a teacher at the high school. By state statute, he is allowed 30 days to request a hearing. A letter was received from Mr. Phillips requesting a hearing. The earliest possible date for the hearing to be held is January 17; the latest date is

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February 2. Denise Bainton will represent the Governing Board and Scott Rash will represent the district and conduct the hearing.
The Board agreed to tentatively set the hearing on Wednesday, January 21 at 10:00 AM.

C. Business – Information Only

1. Kay Stupy Park

Pima County is willing to allow the district to operate Kay Stupy Park on a lease. They are not interested in transferring ownership to the district. The district would be responsible for operating expenses, which would be a considerable expense for the district. Dr. St. John stated that it is now the responsibility of the School Facilities Board to acquire property for the district if the district needs new buildings. He suggested that at this point in time the district is not interested in acquiring the property and this will be his recommendation to the Board.

The following members of the community address the Board regarding Kay Stupy Park.

Margaret Piel asked if the park would be opened to the public if the school acquired the park. Dr. St. John stated that the school is public and the park would still be opened to them. She also questioned pool access. Dr. St. John stated that it would be operated as a school facility. Ms. Piel asked what the timeline would be if the school were to acquire the park. Dr. St. John stated that he could not answer this question at this time and again stated that the district probably is not interested in acquiring the park. She asked if there would be a School Board meeting on the subject and Dr. St. John replied that unless the Board directs him to, this would be the only meeting on the subject.

Perry Stupy was curious what the potential effect would be if the park were acquired by the school. He stated that his questions were answered when Ms. Piel's questions were answered.

2. Cox Cable Update

Dr. St. John updated the Board on the group in the community who is trying to entice Cox Cable to open a community access channel available to the Green Valley/Sahuarita area. He met with the group this week and they are continuing their efforts on this matter. He stated that the Town Council is very interested in seeing that the community has its own community access channel. The district's interested in the channel because of the opportunities it would open for the students at the high school who are ready to do these projects, not because the Board meetings would be broadcasted on the channel. The district could also utilize the channel for competitions, concerts and other events that happen at the schools. Dr. St. John reminded Cox Cable that they are still required to wire the district buildings and this has not been done yet. He also indicated that when the district was dissatisfied with their Internet provider, Cox Cable was asked to provide the district's Internet service and they did not respond. The district has approximately 34 telephone lines, Cox is now providing telephone service, and if the price is lower and the services are the same, they may be able to provide that service to the district.

3. School Facilities Board Update

Anthony Bruno, Steve Kellermeyer and Dr. St. John attended a School Facilities Board meeting last week. Several items were approved for the district. Dr. St. John stated that he wrote a letter to the School Facilities Board asking them to remove the Auditorium from instructional space. The Auditorium was hurting the district's chances for getting permission to build a new elementary school. The SFB approved the district's request to remove this building from instructional space. On January 8, 2004 Sahuarita Unified School District received permission to use funds to add an addition to Sahuarita High School for grades 9-12. The new wing needs to be open in August of 2006. The plans are complete for the new wing and Dr. St. John believes it can be opened prior to the August 2006 deadline. The amount that is allowed for the new wing is \$2,877,312.00 for 23,048 square feet @ \$125.00 per sq. ft. Sahuarita also received permission to build a second middle school for grades 6-8. It will house 600 students and will be 58,000 square feet. The amount allowed for the new building is \$6,143,572.00 @ 96.67 per sq. ft. This building needs to be opened in August 2006 as well. Rancho Sahuarita has donated a 25-acre site to use for this building and a new elementary school when the SFB gives permission to do that. The SFB will give the district 25 or 30% of value of the property in cash. At the February meeting of the SFB there will be an agenda item in which they will be asked to bring a second well the district has back on line. This is a big concern of the district. If the well is not functioning properly, there is not a backup well at this time that can be utilized and all students will have to be sent home.

D. Governing Board – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Revision of Policy GDQC – Retirement of Support Staff Members

Mary Northey, Director of Personnel, brought to Dr. St. John's attention that when the retirement policy for the certified staff members was revised, the policy for the support staff was overlooked. These two policies should mirror one another. Dr. St. John recommended the changes to the policy. Mrs. Hall made the motion and was seconded Mr. McGee. The motion carried.

2. Out of State Travel for Board Member Anthony Bruno to attend "Bridging the Gap" Conference in San Diego, CA., March 18 thru March 21, 2004.

Mr. Bruno requested to attend the "Bridging the Gap" conference in San Diego. Dr. St. John recommended approval of the request. Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded by Mr. McGee. The motion carried.

VIII. Superintendent/Administrative Reports

Dr. St. John – Dr. St. John updated the Board on Diane Miller's Evening Woodworking class. The class has fifteen students enrolled for the Tuesday night class and six students for the Thursday night class. The following events will be happening throughout January: District spelling Bee will be held on January 28 at 9:00am. The SMS Grad night meeting will be held on Monday January 26 at 6:30 pm.

Dr. St. John received information from John Flannery regarding a Barbershop quartet from Sweden. The group was looking for a place to hold a warm up concert for a competition that they were going to be in. This place turned out to be the Sahuarita Auditorium and in their newsletter was an article regarding the auditorium. The

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article stated "A small group from our Chapter checked out Sahuarita Auditorium and discovered, far from being a "barn," it is a jewel of a performance venue-full-size stage (57 ft) with a grand curtain, professional lighting, 750 padded, folding, theater-type seats, a prince of an auditorium manager (John Flannery) and a friendly price."

The Arizona Education Association is interested in having a representative from the school district attend a meeting in Phoenix on February 24 to discuss a statewide health insurance purchasing pool.

The ASBA Bolt workshop will be held on January 27, 2004. Debralee will be attending along with any other Board members who would like to attend.

The middle school is having some classroom space problems. Dr. St. John may be providing information to the Board about remodeling of the 6th grade science laboratories and splitting of the old woodshop into smaller classrooms. Daryl and Dr. St. John will also be looking at remodeling is the primary school.

Dr. St. John reported that the district received \$72,530.00 in tax credits this year. This is approximately \$2000.00 or \$3000.00 less then the year before. The district appreciates the donations from everyone.

The Town of Sahuarita is very close to issuing a purchase order to Mohave for the construction on the new administration building.

The bid for the HVAC system was opened yesterday. There were three bids that ranged from \$340,000 to 369,000.00, this is less then expected. The bid will be awarded at the next Board meeting.

Steve Kellermeyer – At the end of December the high school enrollment was at 808, now it is at 820. The Town of Sahuarita is currently issuing 135 building permits a month. Rancho Sahuarita has sold 100 homes a month for the last four months. They have gone from 800 to 1200 homes.

Steve reported that the basketball teams, both boys and girls are doing great at the high school and the wrestling team is doing phenomenally well.

Kathy Shiba – Kathy reported on the Positive Incentive Program at the middle school. She stated that there were over 500 students participating. To qualify for the PIP, students could not have a grade below a C, no in school suspension and no out of school suspensions. For over 500 students to accomplish this is outstanding. The students behaved wonderfully.

The middle school will be hosting a wrestling tournament on Saturday, January 17 at 9:00 am.

A reception was held last night for several students who competed in a local essay contest. Several students read their winning essays at the reception. Kathy thanked the community for their role in helping the students become better people and to reach for the excellence within themselves through essay contests, scholarships and other events.

Thanks to Trico, the 6th grade students will be going to the Challenger learning center in Tucson. They have done this in the past and the cost can be \$800.00 per class and thanks to Trico, the community and the White Elephant they will be able to go again this year.

Wayne Ross – The staff and students at the intermediate school wished everyone a bountiful, joyful and healthful 2004.

SIS is getting ready for their next community service project. The project is to raise money for the American Heart Association. They are also in the process of contacting the Salvation Army and other organizations in Tucson to distribute blankets to the homeless. These two items are on the student council's agenda for action. In March and April they plan to help restock the Amado Food Bank.

The White Elephant donated \$16,000.00 to the intermediate school and will be used for guest speakers, field trips and special events for the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. From now through May the staff of the intermediate will be volunteering at the White Elephant. This is their way of saying thank you to the White Elephant for all they do.

Barb Smith – Barb wished everyone a Happy New Year.

She indicated that the first musical performance at the primary school would be tomorrow night. The first graders will be performing a child's musical called "Music all over me"; it begins at 6:30 in the gym.

Barb welcomed Sue Johnson to the primary school. Sue will be the new gifted specialist.

IX. Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommended approval of those items on the Consent Agenda as it was revised. Mr. McGee made the motion and was seconded by Mrs. Hall. The motion carried.

A. Employment

1. Willa Balliett, Custodian – SHS – Replacement – Ratification to 12/12/03
2. Jesse Clark, Technology Asst-CTE – SHS – New Position - Ratification to 1/05/04
3. Jennifer Myers, Instructional Aide I – SIS – Replacement – Ratification to 1/05/04
4. Nicole Davila, Clerk III-Receptionist – District Office – Replacement – Ratification to 1/05/04
5. Armando Tanori, Asst. Girls Basketball – SHS – New Position – Ratification to 11/03/03
6. Mary Swigert, Payment for Additional Coursework for 2003 Spring/Summer - \$280 ++

B. Resignations/Terminations/Separations

1. Michelle Chase, LINK Aide – SIS – Resignation Effective 12/8/03

C. Volunteers

1. James Beales – SHS – Effective 1/14/04
2. Daryl Lewis – SMS – Effective 1/14/04
3. Janice Lewis – SMS – Effective 1/14/04
4. Carl Patscheck – SMS – Effective 1/14/04
5. Donnie Sheets – SMS – Effective 1/14/04
6. Rebecca Sheets – SMS – Effective 1/14/04

D. Gifts & Donations

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1. Country Fair White Elephant, Inc. – \$9500.00 – Sahuarita Primary School
2. Country Fair White Elephant, Inc - \$26,000.00 – Sahuarita Middle School
3. Country Fair White Elephant, Inc - \$16,000.00 – Sahuarita Intermediate School
4. Country Fair White Elephant, Inc - \$11,000.00 – Sopori Elementary School
5. Country Fair White Elephant, Inc - \$2000.00 – Sahuarita Unified School District
6. Country Fair White Elephant, Inc - \$28,000.00 – Sahuarita High School
7. Trico Electric Cooperative, Inc. - \$150.00 – SHS NJROTC
8. Green Valley Chapter Reserve Officers Assoc. - \$300.00 – SHS NJROTC
9. Raytheon Hispanic Employees Association - \$500.00 – Sahuarita Intermediate School
10. Tucson Proving Ground Employee Club - \$400.00 – SHS VICA
11. La Posada at Park Centre Inc. - \$50.00 – SMS Music Program
12. Carol Brown – Computer hardware (monitor, tower, keyboard, mouse, and speakers) – SIS
13. Bill & Barbara Sutton - \$14.00 – SHS Key Club

E. Approval of Student Activity, Auxiliary and Revolving Fund Expenditures – October & November – 2003

X. Board Communication - None

XI. Establish Next Board Meeting – January 28, 2004, District Auditorium

XII. Executive Session

Mrs. Hall moved the Board enter executive session Pursuant to §A.R.S. 15-843 to hear the request of a middle school student to return to the regular classroom setting and to hear the possible appeal of the decision of the hearing officer in a long-term suspension hearing and Pursuant to §A.R.S. 38-431.03.A.1. For Board self-evaluation and evaluation of the superintendent. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. The time was 7:25 PM.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. Mr. Zobenica made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bruno.

Respectfully,

Clerk of the Board