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Office of the Superintendent

MINUTES

Regular Governing Board Meeting & Executive Session
6:30 P.M. – December 5, 2007 – Sub Hall B - District Auditorium
350 W. Sahuarita Rd., Sahuarita, AZ 85629

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Tom Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M. Also in attendance Clerk of the Board, Diana Kellermeyer, Board Members Elaine Hall, Mike Lurkins, Martin McGee, Business Manager Charlotte Gates, Superintendent Dr. Jay C. St. John, and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Manny Valenzuela. There were 81 guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

II. Approval of Agenda

The superintendent recommended approval of the agenda as it was revised. Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded by Mr. McGee. The motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes – September 26, 2007

The superintendent recommends approval of the September 26, 2007 minutes as published. Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded by Mrs. Kellermeyer. The motion carried.

IV. Approval and Ratification of Vouchers

Mrs. Gates recommended ratification of previously approved payroll Vouchers 10 in the amount totaling \$803,314.61, new payroll 12 through 13 for the pay period ending December 28, 2008, and new payroll 14 for the pay period ending January 11, 2008 in the amounts not to exceed \$3,000,000. She further recommends approval of expense vouchers 8129 through 8134 in the amount of \$907,322.35. The motion was made by Mrs. Kellermeyer and seconded by Mr. McGee. The motion carried.

V. Call to the Public

Paul Williams – Resident of Rancho Resort extended an invitation to the Sahuarita School District and the community to attend a seminar Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 12:15 p.m. and ends at 1:45 p.m. The seminar is titled *Discovering Your Personality.....The Key to Understanding Others and Improving Relationships*. Mr. Williams has over 40 years experience as a trainer and consultant throughout the world. There is no cost to attend the seminar. Attendees will receive course material compliments of his past employer. Local business will also be present at the seminar.

Mary Paquet and Cynthia Randell – Sahuarita Wal-mart presented three grant checks for our schools in the district. The Volunteerism Always Pays program (VAP) planted plants at Anza Trail and as a result they were able to apply for a special grant. As a result a check in the amount of \$500.00 was presented to Mrs. Kathy Shiba for Anza Trail School. The second check was awarded to Sahuarita Primary School in the amount of \$1,000.00 for their project vision program. The project visions program will provide students with vision exams and new eyewear for those who are unable to supply eyewear. The third check was awarded to the

Sahuarita High School Baseball team in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the purchase of a new score board. Mrs. Paquet said, "It is our pleasure to be able to support the community".

Kelly Park, President of Park Company of Arizona Inc. - 18550 S. La Canada, Sahuarita, AZ 85629- Mr. Park presented a letter from Park Company of Arizona, Inc. to the Sahuarita Governing Board. The letter read:

The Park Company of Arizona, Inc. desires to maintain a very good, long term relationship with the Sahuarita Unified School District. Park Corporation and its subsidiaries own nearly 9,000 acres in the Sahuarita area, come of that property ownership dating back to 1986 and we plan to be here and be good citizens for a long time to come.

For the past several months, the Sahuarita Unified School District has expressed an interest in acquiring 66 acres from our prim tract for the development of a second high school and subsequently another K-8 school. We further understand that District does not have the funds to purchase a site. The State School Facilities Board entered the picture and has appraisals ranging from \$20,000 to \$80,000 per acre for the 66 acres. These appraisals culminated in an offer for the site at \$25,000 per acre or \$1,650,000. That offer being approximately \$18,000,000 less than we think should be paid as just compensation. The Park Company of Arizona, Inc. has an unsolicited offer in hand for \$278,784 per acre for 50 acres. Because of the large difference in opinion of values, the School District is considering taking our property by way of eminent domain. If this action is taken, the Court will ultimately determine the damages awarded to The Park Company of Arizona, Inc. due to the loss of value of remaining property owned by The Park Company of Arizona, Inc. and its affiliates. Since it is in the best interest of both parties to avoid extended court proceedings, The Park Company of Arizona, Inc. believes that the School District should pursue the acquisition of another site for its planned facilities.

We at The Park Company of Arizona, Inc. deeply regret the possibility of such an adversarial action, especially in view of the fact that there are many other parcels of vacant land within the District's boundaries. We have thoughtfully prepared an aerial photograph on which we have outlined just a few other potential properties that could be utilized for the District's purpose.

Finally, we would like to reiterate that our offer still stands that if the School District acquires an alternate site which does not interfere with our development plans, The Park Company of Arizona, Inc. would donate One Million Dollars to the School District to be used towards the purchase or improve such alternate site.

A copy of the letter, a list of vacant parcels, and a map indicating where the parcels are located was provided to the Governing Board.

Recognition of Staff, Students and Community

- A.** Dr. Valenzuela introduced the December "Leaders in Character" Honorees – Daniel Valdez, 2nd Grade, Sopori; Sariah Fabian, 3rd Grade, Anza Trail; Meagan Bokal, 1st Grade, SPS; Nicole Poligala, 4th Grade, SIS; Vicram Vettiyl, 8th Grade, SMS; Sara Minker, 11th Grade, SHS. The Governing Board recognized the above students for their excellent display of leadership and service among their peers at each of their perspective schools.
- B.** Dr. Valenzuela presented the "Friend of Sahuarita" award to incredible team of supportive community members, business, and people who really come forward to serve and work with the district in making the school district the best it can be for the students.

Dr. Valenzuela stated that a land mark event took place in the history of Sahuarita School District where the voters of this community approved a bond program, capital override, and a K-3 override. The outcome could not have been done without the support of members of the community who stepped up and provided leadership, time, and tremendous dedication to communicate and do everything possible to support the passage of these critical measures. On behalf of the Sahuarita Unified School District and the Sahuarita Governing Board Dr. Valenzuela presented the "Friend of Sahuarita" award to Mr. Jeff Herndon, Mrs. Kris Ham, and Mr. Stuart Meinke.

Dr. Valenzuela also presented the "Friend of Sahuarita" award to Mr. Ray Durazo of Durazo Landscaping. They identified a need for additional landscaping and drip system at Anza Trail School and came forward to get the job done.

The next group is no stranger to their presence and support of educational initiatives, Ms. Mary Paquet from Wal-mart Supermarket was recognized with the "Friend of Sahuarita" award for their tremendous support and specifically for their dedication of donated plants and hard work in planting the plants that were donated.

Rancho Sahuarita Clubhouse was also given the "Friend of Sahuarita" award for their continued involvement and willing to step up when needed. The Rancho Sahuarita Clubhouse recently donated a dozen televisions and pumpkins to support the programs at Anza Trail School.

Dr. Valenzuela informed the Governing Board and community that the district was bestowed with a very special honor this morning. The Milken Family Foundation is a national organization that presents the most prestigious award to K-12 educators. The Milken award has been likening to the "Oscars of Education". This morning the district received a surprise notification that one of our own Sahuarita educators received the only Milken Educator Award to be given in Arizona. The award winner will attend an all expense paid conference next spring in Los Angeles and have an opportunity to network with others throughout the country. Dr. Valenzuela proudly announced Mrs. Carolyn Torres as the Milken Educator Award recipient.

Mr. Murphy stated that Mrs. Torres is the third winner that we have in our school district. Mrs. Raye Nelson from Anza Trail and Dr. Valenzuela were also previous award winners.

Dr. St. John mentioned that the State Superintendent of Schools, Tom Horne, was in attendance today and awarded a certificate of achievement to Sahuarita Unified School District on behalf of the Department of Education in congratulations on having every school within the district achieve a performance plus profile or higher. The school district also received special congressional recognition to the school district for outstanding and invaluable service to the community which was signed by Gabrielle Giffords.

Dr. Valenzuela presented Dr. St. John with an award of Distinction from the Pima County Joint Technological Education District.

VII. New Business

A. Instruction – Discussion and Possible Action

Velia Leyvas, a researcher at the University of Arizona and Mrs. Terri Noe presented information regarding the possibility of a conduction dissertation level research with our students at Sahuarita Middle School. Ms. Leyvas is a doctoral candidate in the College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. Specifically, she is working on identifying factors and symptoms related to depression in middle school girls, specifically, Latina girls. She is

studying the impact of a life skills enhancement intervention in order to positively impact student well-being within the Latina population. Her study would involve administering a baseline survey to identified young ladies who meet the targeted demographic group. Ms. Leyvas plans to administer two surveys, one in January and another one year later. A randomized sample of this pool would receive the life skills enhancement intervention as an afterschool program. This program is sponsored by the Latina Family Partnership, which has been present on the district's campus for multiple years. Additionally, the girls in the experimental group would also be allowed to participate in a three day summer camp at the University of Arizona, where they would focus on related topics such as social skills, self-advocacy, body image, sexual health and development, gender stereotypes, and decision making. The survey would then be administered after the intervention in order to look at statistically significant differences.

The program is a thirteen week after school program with two facilitators and would last about an hour and a half just before the after school busses leave the campus. The summer camp is two nights, three days at the U of A with all expenses paid. The girls will learn about cultural identity, science, math, and participate in a scavenger hunt to teach them about the university. A nurse or a doctor will talk to the girls about their pubertal changes and what is normal development. Additionally, the girls participating in the camp will be taught how to be physically active.

Mrs. Noe mentioned that this program has been going on at the middle school for the last three years. She thanked Kathy Shiba and Desi Raulston for being instrumental in starting this program. Mrs. Noe indicated that the only difference that will take place this year is that the program will be allowed to keep statistics and have before and after surveys. She stated that she is very interested in what the differences may be and sees this to be very beneficial for our students. Mrs. Noe asked the Board if the middle school would be allowed to be involved with this program.

Dr. Valenzuela added that the study appears to meet all of the critical attributes that he would be concerned about prior to approving a study in the District. First, it consumes minimal academic learning time, involves multiple safeguards and parental notification, is minimally invasive, and serves a redeeming purpose that is aligned with our core values and student centered initiatives, namely prevention and student well-being. Dr. Valenzuela recommended approval of the program as it has been presented. Mrs. Kellermeyer made the motion and was seconded by Mrs. Hall. Motion carried.

Mr. McGee stated that he would have wanted to see all forty girls participate.

Mrs. Noe stated that no one will be excluded but some will be given the intervention and the others will be considered part of the control group.

Mrs. Leyvas mentioned that she believes this program is very effective and needs to have the science part of the study. Therefore, a control group and an intervention group will be part of the study.

B. Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Attached to the Board packets was a preliminary spreadsheet of the 2007 Bond Project Scope and Sequence. The superintendent presented the results of a discussion with Mrs. Gates, Mr. Rawson, and Dr. Valenzuela concerning the various bond projects, how they are to be sequenced and the scope of each project. Dr. St. John and Mrs. Gates have made arrangement to borrow \$9,000,000 at the end of January or first of February to get started on projects. The superintendent reported that the district is continuing to work on certain situations and will set up a bond oversight committee to ensure the district does exactly what

they set out to do. The situation that the district is running up against is that the middle school gym allocations are currently up in the air due to damages that have recently taken place. The money that is spent on the new high school depends on the location of the high school site in terms of athletic facilities. The superintendent stated that he will make a recommendation to hire a full time construction manger at the upcoming Board meeting. No action was taken.

Mr. Murphy thanked the superintendent for his presentation and felt that it is important that the community is informed how the district is spending the money, how projects are going, and where the district is in terms of the projects.

2. Included in the Board packet was the Local Education Agency Strategic Long Range Technology Plan that Scott Boone puts together every year. The superintendent mentioned that this plan is not a household item and is required in order for the district to receive the erate money back from the Federal Government. The Local Education Agency Strategic Long Range Technology Plan is one of the ways to retrieve some of the erate tax from the Federal Government. The superintendent recommended approval of the Strategic Long Range Technology Plan. Martin McGee made the motion and was seconded by Elaine Hall. Motion carried.

3. Mrs. Gates notified the Board about the Aggregate Expenditure Report for FY 2008. Included in the Board packet was a letter from Tom Horne that indicated that the Constitutional Aggregate Expenditure Limit for 2007-08 school year has been exceeded. She also included a letter from the Arizona Department of Education indicating what amount would have to be reduced from the district's budget for 2007-08 school year. The amount that the district would have to reduce from the current budget is \$545,706. The Legislature by a two-thirds vote can approve action to exceed the limit on an annual basis. Mrs. Gates stated that she is hoping that the Legislature approves the action to exceed the limit but is not a sure thing. She stated that the money would be classified under M & O. No action was taken.

4. The superintendent stated that he will be walking Anza Trail Park with Mr. Stahle and SUNDT Construction. There are some continuing situations that need to be cleaned up before we can turn the park over to the Town of Sahuarita. The superintendent stated that the district should be able to turn over the park soon. No action was taken.

5. Included in the Board packet is a list from payroll that demonstrates what employee gets paid for additional jobs, i.e. athletics, academics, and performing arts. The spreadsheet is broken down from athletics, academics, and fine arts. The superintendent mentioned that at the last Board meeting a gentlemen comment about inequities on how much money is spent on athletics compared to fine arts and district academics. The gentleman's specific concern was the fact that the high school band teacher had 55 students in band and only one band instructor with no help. The superintendent stated that the district spends a total between \$235,000 - \$257,000 in athletic stipends and does not include transportation cost, equipment, ect. In the academic area the district spends between \$116,000 - \$117,000 on academic stipends. In the area of fine arts, the district spends between \$12,000 - \$13,000. The superintendent stated that there is definitely an inequity. He has not yet had Elsa Young contact all the school districts in southern Arizona to find out how this compares to other school districts. However, Elsa Young contacted each major high school in the area that has a marching band and asked those schools if they have a paid assistant. The result were that each major school in the area has at least one paid assistant and Rio Rico has about four or five paid assistance with the same number band students as our district. Mr. Murphy requested that Dr. St. John meet with all school administrators to find a way to make it fair and balanced for all schools. He also requested that Dr. St. John report his findings. No action was taken.

6. Mrs. Gates indicated that a correction was made to the 2006-2007 AFR portion regarding Food Service. Section B – number of meals served has been revised. The financial portion of the report remained unchanged. Mrs. Gates recommended approval of the amended 2006-2007 AFR report to submit to the Arizona Department of Education. Mr. McGee made the motion and was seconded by Mrs. Hall. Motion carried.

C. Personnel – Discussion and Possible Action

1. The superintendent recommended the reclassification of the Maintenance Supervisor position in the Maintenance department to be increased from \$10.89 - \$11.98 to \$13.00-\$14.30 in order to attract a pool of candidates. The position has been vacant for a full calendar year. Increasing the pay rate for this position will also allow the district to compete more effectively with neighboring school districts that have similar positions in their maintenance departments. He also recommended that the starting hourly pay range for the Mechanic in the Transportation Department be increased from \$10.63 - \$11.69 to \$13.00 - \$14.30. The average starting pay rate for Mechanics in neighboring school districts is closer to \$13.00 per hour. The Mechanic position has gone unfilled for several months and has placed a burden on the current Mechanic. Additionally, the superintendent recommended that the incumbent Mechanic's hourly pay rate be adjusted to reflect the upgrade of the position so that a newly hired Mechanic does not enter the District at a higher hourly rate than the incumbent's. The superintendent recommended the reclassification of the above positions. Mrs. Kellermeyer made the motion to approve the reclassification of the above positions and was seconded by Mr. McGee. Motion carried.

2. Included in the Board packet was information from Chris Fanning, the athletic director at the high school. Mr. Fanning has requested that the addendum for "Assistant Girls Tennis Coach" be changed to "Head Girls Tennis Coach, "and paid accordingly. Since the District has moved to the 4A Conference, the current assistant coach will no longer assist the head boys tennis coach because the boys and girls not play opposite of each other, meaning that when one team competes at home, the other competes in away games. The teams are now functioning as if they are separate teams. The superintendent recommended the approval of two head tennis coaches, rather than a head and an assistant. Mrs. Kellermeyer made the motion and was seconded by Mr. McGee. Motion carried.

3. The superintendent stated that the district is having a hard time filling the payroll specialist position. The payroll job is critical to the district and therefore the superintendent recommended that the district reclassify the district's payroll specialist position to add prior payroll experience as required qualification of the job. Additionally, with this added requirement, the district will need to upgrade the position one grade level on the support staff salary schedule to increase its starting hourly range to \$10.63-11.69/hour. Mr. Lurkins made the motion to approve reclassification of the payroll specialist position and was seconded by Mr. McGee. Motion carried.

4. Included in the agenda was information from Dr. Barb Smith. The district has the opportunity to add an intern that can be paid for out of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The intern is receiving her master's degree in Special Education and Vocation Rehabilitation she will be working specifically on Vocational Rehabilitation. The superintendent recommended the approval to add an intern to the special education department. Mr. McGee made the motion and was seconded by Mrs. Kellermeyer. Motion carried.

VIII. Superintendent/Administrative Reports

Dr. St. John – Included in the Board packets were written reports from the Principals. The district enrollment is 4613. Upcoming Events include a MEC Executive Board Meeting and Town of Sahuarita Town Council and the SUSD Governing Board will have a special meeting tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. Next week Mr. McGee, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Gates, and Dr. St. John will be attending the ASBA 50th Annual Conference and a superintendent's meeting before Christmas break.

Recent events include a meeting with TRICO corporation key accounts and talking to them about energy savings situations with the new high school. He spoke on KGVY radio on Saturday morning. He continued to meet with Rancho Sahuarita representatives about the property next to the maintenance office. Also, he met with Mr. Huckleberry concerning Sahuarita Park. Dr. St. John was in "jail" with the Muscular Dystrophy Association and was able to "make bail" with some donations.

Mrs. Gates stated that Fred Huff provided her with estimates of the busses that will be purchased with the Capital Outlay Override. The district has \$500,000 and the cost will be approximately \$545,000 for the five busses. Mrs. Gates stated that this is something the district will have to discuss on what will be done. The current prices for busses are as follows:

- 84 Passenger busses @ 106,711.36 = \$320,134.08.
- 1 - Team bus with A/C and under carriage = \$124,811.21
- 1 - Special Ed Buss - 24 passenger 3 wheelchair spaces = \$99,029.16

These prices include tax - Grand total = \$543,974.45.

Mrs. Gates mentioned that the district is looking at possible trade-ins but the amount would be very minimal. She is hoping that she will have a recommendation at the January Board meeting because the busses need to be ordered right away in order to have the busses by July 1st. Mrs. Gates mentioned that the district started our United Way Campaign with the staff and ends December 18, 2007. She also stated that there are a couple of areas that we can serve through United Way such as the Early Childhood Center and the SUSD Education Enrichment Foundation.

IX. Consent Agenda – Action

The superintendent recommends approval of those items on the Consent Agenda as it was distributed. Mrs. Kellermeyer made the motion and was seconded by Mr. McGee. The motion carried.

A. Employment / Change of Status /Transfers

1. Gregorio Acosta, Groundskeeper, Facilities, Replacement – Effective 11/19/0
2. David DeGroot, 5th Grade Teacher, SIS, Status Change – Effective 12/01/07 ++
3. Ignacio De La Cruz, Groundskeeper, Facilities, Replacement – Effective 11/27/07
4. Patricia Durazo, Bus Driver, Transportation, Status Change – Effective 11/19/07 ++
5. Jim Grooms, Part Time Bus Driver, Transportation, Status Change – Effective 10/29/07++
6. Yolanda Hernandez, Campus Monitor, SMS, Replacement – Effective 11/15/07
7. Jennifer Johansen, 4th Grade Teacher, SIS, Status Change – Effective 11/26/07++
8. Petra Karnatz, Human Resources Specialist, District Office, Status Change – Effective 11/26/07++
9. Melissa Killgore, Health Assistant, Anza Trail, Status Change – Effective 11/26/07++
10. Armando Lopez, Lead Custodian, SHS, Replacement – Effective 11/16/07
11. Sabrina Mills, Campus Monitor, SPS, Replacement – Effective 11/28/07

12. Bassilisa Noriega, ECC Aide, ECC, Replacement – Effective 11/28/07
13. Mariela Ramos, Spanish Teacher, SHS, Status Change – Effective 11/09/07 ++
14. Laura Simons, Campus Monitor, Anza Trail, Replacement – Effective 11/27/07
15. George “Bernard” Sinkler, Bus Driver Trainee, Transportation, New Hire – Effective 11/28/07
16. Martin Valdez-Noriega, Preventative Maintenance Technician, Facilities, Status Change - Effective 11/14/07 ++

B. New Addenda's

1. Bernie McCall, Conditioning Coach – Winter Season, SHS – Effective 11/12/07
2. Ninette Moreno, JV Cheer Sponsor, SHS, Replacement – Effective 11/05/07
3. Katrina Powell, Cheer Sponsor, SHS, Replacement – Effective 11/06/07

C. Resignations / Terminations / Separations

1. Rhea Angle, Assistant Principal Secretary, SHS, Resignation – Effective 11/23/07
2. Julia Johnson, Campus Monitor, Anza Trail, Resignation – Effective 11/9/07
3. Susan Kachel, Technology Assistant, Sopori, Retirement – Effective 12/31/07
4. Stacy Meade, Health Assistant, Anza Trail, Resignation – Effective 11/06/07
5. Jessica Mejia, Early Childhood Aide, ECC, Termination – Effective 11/05/07

D. Guest Teachers

1. Kathy Grissom
2. Stephanie Higginson

E. Volunteers

1. Christina Colchado, SHS
2. Mark Guzman
3. Brandon Hangan, SHS
4. William R. Lamarr, SHS
5. Marie A. McClure, Anza Trail
6. Sandy Parker, Anza Trail
7. Christopher R. Salisbury, SHS
8. Sean Szeja, SHS
9. Anita M. Valencia, Sopori

F. Gifts and Donations

1. American Lung Association, 6th Grade Teachers at Anza Trail, \$600.00
2. County Fair White Elephant, SMS - Two Recline Chairs
3. First, SHS, Science Fund Grant - \$305.10
4. Joe Foss Institute, Anza Trail - Use of Speakers, 60 flags, and U.S. Constitutions.
5. Greater Arizona Bicycle Association, Donation for “T” Century - \$100.00
6. Jorge Torres, SHS, P.E Program – Pre-Core Stretch Trainer Machine - \$600.00
7. Town of Sahuarita, SHS, Summer Art Project - \$643.76
8. Wells Fargo Foundation Ed. Gift Program Shannon L. Shepherd, Gifts & Donations - \$115.38
9. Diane Willcox, Anza Trail - Couch

G. Use of School Facilities

1. KGVY AM, LLC, Concert in Main Auditorium Sunday, March 2, 2007

2. AASBO, District Auditorium Pod "B", February 20, 2008 for a E-Rate Workshop from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ++

H. Out of State Travel/Student Travel

1. SHS Music attending the NAU Honor Band Festival, January 17th -19th, 2008; 8-10 students attending and 2 adults.
2. SMS, NASSP 2008 Convention, San Antonio, Texas, February 20, 2008 – February 26, 2008

X. Board Communication

Mr. Lurkins expressed his gratitude for an amazing day. He stated that we have one of the best teachers from the state of Arizona. The district has some of the best administrators, teachers, staff, and students. He recognized the facilities department and congratulated the district for a job well done.

Mrs. Kellermeyer concurred with Mr. Lurkins and added that she was impressed with the high school students. They were well behaved and the teachers did a wonderful job in keeping them well managed. She stated that the teachers, students, staff, and facilities are outstanding.

Mr. Murphy also concurred and stated that we have a lot to be thankful for and it's been a great year. He thanked the staff for their hard work.

XI. Establish Next Board Meeting – January 9, 2008 – 6:30 PM – District Auditorium

XII. Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Pursuant to §A.R.S.15-843 Discussion Pertaining to Pupil Disciplinary Proceedings
2. Pursuant to §A.R.S. 38-431.03.7 discussions or consultations with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase or lease of real property – Discussion and Possible Action. ++

Roll call was taken and five board members were in attendance.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Mr. McGee made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Lurkins. The motion carried.

Respectfully,

Clerk of the Board