



## *Sahuarita Unified School District No. 30*

Sahuarita High School

Sahuarita Middle School

Sopori Elementary School

Sahuarita Primary School

Sahuarita Intermediate School

**Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes**  
**6:30 p.m. – April 27, 2005 Pod 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, Diana Kellermeyer, Thomas Murphy, Martin McGee, Superintendent Dr. Jay C. St. John, and Business Manager Charlotte Gates. There were 75 guests.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Dr. St. John recommend approval of the agenda as it was revised and with the removal of Item E under the Consent Agenda. Mr. McGee made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Lurkins. The motion carried 5-0

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**IV. Approval and Ratification of Vouchers**

Mrs. Gates recommended ratification of previously approved payroll Voucher 21 in the amount of \$498,658.88 and new payroll Voucher 23 for the pay period ending May 6, 2005 in the amount of 600,000.00. She further recommended approval of Expense Vouchers 6038 and 6039 in a total amount of \$219,169.47. Mr. Murphy made the motion and was seconded by Mr. McGee. The motion carried 5-0.

**V. Call to the Public**

Mr. Tim Hull from Tucson, AZ, Assistant Managing Editor for the Green Valley News/Sahuarita Sun. He announced that the Sahuarita Sun, which is an addition to the Green Valley News on Wednesday, would be accepting Letters to the Editor and Guest Commentaries.

**VI. Recognition of Staff, Students and Community**

The Sahuarita Middle School Cheerleaders placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in a competition in California, they performed their routine for the Board members and members of the audience in the Main Auditorium.

The Board, on behalf of the Sahuarita Middle School, recognized Mabel Johnson for her outstanding volunteer service. Since January Mrs. Johnson has volunteered twice a week for the middle school's new Life Skills class. She

comes in on Tuesday and Friday, for a total of 160 minutes, to assist the teacher and work with the students on their sewing and cooking projects (she hasn't agreed to help with the woodworking project - yet). The students look forward to her arrival and actively seek her help. She is encouraging and 'adopts' those students who need the 'grandmotherly attention'. She has also served as a 'personal shopper' while volunteering several times a week at the White Elephant. She has procured (and been reimbursed from the funds The White Elephant donated for this class) 4 sewing machines, 4 electric skillet, 4 toaster ovens and numerous other supplies for use in the class at the very reasonable prices charged by The White Elephant. This is a very hands-on class where the students get to learn a variety of life skills and the extra attention that Mrs. Johnson provides to those students is greatly appreciated by everyone at SMS.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **A. Instruction**

#### **1. Stagger Start the Schools**

Dr. St. John stated that traditionally all the schools start at the same time, with the exception of Sopori, and stagger end the schools. He stated that there are two dilemmas:

- A. Instructional Time - the intermediate and primary school students are at the minimum amount of minutes that the State requires for instructional time. In Dr. St. John's opinion, instructional time should be the item that drives what goes on in the district rather than the transportation schedule.
- B. Increase in Transportation Costs - the District is experiencing a tremendous increase in transportation cost. Fred Huff reported to Dr. St. John that he would need 14 new additional busses to start the school year. The District is concerned about these increased transportation costs, it is currently paying off approximately \$700,000.00 worth of busses.

Dr. St. John discussed these concerns with the administrators and staff of the school district. He also discussed the fact that the traditional way things have been will have to change. All the schools on this campus cannot continue to start at the same time. His recommendation remained as it was in his memo at the last meeting and that is to start

the K-5 students on the main campus at 7:30 and the middle and high school students at 8:30. After discussing this with the Fred Huff, Director of Transportation, they feel this would save the District approximately 5 bus routes. The ending times would be 2:30 for K-5 and 3:30 for middle and high school and move the late bus to a 5:30 start. Staggering the school starts will also increase the instructional time for SPS and SIS by 16% or 17%, which is the real reason to make the changes.

Discussion followed:

James Jenson, 360 E. Atlas Cedar Pl., Sahuarita, AZ 85629 – Mr. Jenson stated that he is new to the area. He stated that he was under the impression that SPS and SMS would be sharing the bus, but now realizes that it would be SPS & SIS and SMS & SHS sharing the busses. Since this is way it is proposed he has no concerns/issues with the recommendation.

Elena Cozine, 22 E. Placita Vista Campo, Sahuarita, AZ 85629 – Ms. Cozine stated that she is concerned with the primary and intermediate starting earlier than the middle and high school. She asked why they are recommending these times? She likes the idea of stagger starting the schedules so that the younger children do not have to ride with the older students. She also stated that she is in favor of increasing the instructional time.

Mrs. Kellermeyer stated that a primary concern of hers, as a parent, if she had a high school student and a primary school student and the high school student would start school earlier than the primary school student there would not be anyone home to make sure that the primary school student got on the bus safely due to the fact that both parents will have already left for work. Also, studies have shown that younger children have a lot of energy in the morning and instructional time is more valuable earlier in the day. The students tend to be tired in the afternoon.

John M. Hoover, 123 W. Calle Bayeta, Sahuarita, AZ 85629 – Mr. Hoover stated that he agreed with Dr. St. John regarding the instructional time. He feels that the 7:30 start would be better for the older students and the 8:30 start would be better for the younger students.

Ken Hunter, 171 Calle Punte Azul, Sahuarita, AZ 85629 – Mr. Hunter stated that he also agrees with Dr. St. John and his recommendation to increase the instructional time. He stated that he is new to the community and he is worried that his children are not getting enough instructional time.

Amy Kalm, 47 E. Placita Vista Campo, Sahuarita, AZ 85629 – Ms. Kalm appreciates the idea of increasing the instructional time. She stated that she recognizes that the more time the students spend in class, the better the chance of their success, however, they she would prefer that the older students start earlier and the younger students start later. She would like to make sure that the older students have time to participate in after school activities.

Mrs. Kellermeyer stated that she would like Dr. St. John to look into a committee to study transportation and report back to him what they find and if they have recommendations to improve transportation.

Mrs. Kellermeyer made the motion to try the stagger start for a period of one year and during this year Dr. St. John can designate a committee to investigate the transportation issues. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1 with Mr. McGee voting nay.

## **2. Additional Instructional Aides for Project Inspire – Discussion Only**

Dr. St. John met with several parents of students in the Project Inspire Program and they expressed their concerns regarding the fact that the Board did not approval any additional aides for the program. He stated that when the Board met to discuss hiring new staff, he suggested hiring Certified staff first because this is the hiring season for certified staff; he did not necessary turn down the request for 7 new instructional aides. The item was put aside until a later date. He presented the following information regarding the program:

1. There are 29 students in the program
2. Each student has an individual aide and there is one student who has two aides
3. There is one aide position that is not filled right now

4. The District is spending approximately \$500,000.00 for staff in the program. Of the \$500,000.00 only \$188,000.00 comes from a Grants and \$314,000.00 is out of M & O.
5. The Board did approve an additional certified position for the program next year. There are two certified teachers in the program at this time.

Mary L. Tidwell, 102 W. Camino Rancho Quito, Sahuarita, AZ 85629, spoke on behalf of the special needs children and their families who take part in the Project Inspire Program. She stated that they are pleased with the success of the children in the program; however, with the growth in Sahuarita and the current budget proposal it will not be sufficient. She stated that there are 24 aides currently in the program and 29 students, which is only 83% coverage and it is an imbalance. She asked the Board to reconsider their budget plans to include more instructional aides for the program. The enrollment in August will be 37 students; they would like to see 37 aides.

## **B. Business**

### **A. Bond/Override**

Dr. St. John distributed information from the County School Superintendent's Office as to the earliest date at which the Board may call for a Bond and Override Election. The Board may not call for that election before June 11<sup>th</sup>. He recommended that the Board pass a motion that directs the Superintendent of Schools on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June to contact the County School Superintendent's Office and call for the election at that date, which is the first available date. He stated that his understanding is that this will satisfy the requirements for not calling for the election before June 11, but will also give the community an opportunity to begin to discuss the need for the election. Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Murphy. The motion carried 5-0.

## **VIII. Superintendent/Administrative Reports**

**The administrators distributed written reports to the Board.**

**Dr. St. John** stated that Mr. Daryl Rawson and he walked through the old administration buildings and have come up with some rough estimates as to

what it will take to renovate those buildings so that the L.I.N.K program and Wellness program can be housed in them.

The building that is used by the Edge Charter School belongs to the school district, they need a bigger building and unfortunately the district cannot help them at this time so the district will be removing that building. Mr. Rawson will look at the building and make arrangements to bring it back to the campus.

The Metropolitan Education Commission will be hosting their annual Crystal Apple Luncheon at the Doubletree on May 11. The Sahuarita Educational Enrichment Foundation has purchased a table and has invited the Board members to attend.

Elaine Hall and Dr. St. John met with Jim Stahle from the Town of Sahuarita, Mayer Oldham and Ken Brown, Superintendent of Continental Schools. This was a follow up meeting to the joint meeting that was held a few months ago. If the Town Council approves their Capital Improvement, there will be one million dollars, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, added to the K-8 building to build playgrounds and recreational facilities that the community may use after hours. The District is pleased with this.

Sundt/EMC2 continue to meet with members of the District to discuss construction of the new wing at the high school and the new K-8 school.

Job interviews are being held for the Assistant Superintendent position and the Director of Student Services position.

## **IX. Consent Agenda**

Dr. St. John recommended approval of those items on the Consent Agenda, as they are routine items. Mrs. Kellermeyer made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Lurkins. The motion carried 5-0.

### **A. Employment**

1. Roberta Lehman, SPED Teacher – SHS – New Position – Effective 08/01/05
2. Kevin Steeves, Science Teacher – SHS – New Position – Effective 08/01/05
3. Kelly Bell, English Teacher – SHS – Replacement – Effective 08/01/05

4. Kathryn Chaisson, CTE Coordinator – SHS – Replacement – Effective 08/01/05
5. Gilbert Garcia, Math Teacher – SHS – Replacement – Effective 08/01/05
6. Gloria “Lori” Punske, English Teacher – SHS – Replacement – Effective 08/01/05
7. Jennifer Huwiler, ELL Teacher – SHS – Replacement – Effective 08/01/05
8. Mary Swanson, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher – SMS – New Position – Effective 08/01/05
9. Shari Gibson, WSI Swimming Aide – SIS –
10. Approval of New Certified Substitute Teachers – Georgia Hutton & Kathy Brandis – Effective 04/27/05

#### **B. Resignations/Terminations/Separations**

1. Audrey Cook, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher – SIS – Resignation Effective 05/23/05
2. Monica Dorame, Instructional Aide – Project Inspire – Resignation Ratification to 04/22/05

#### **C. Gifts & Donations**

1. Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts – 2003 Dodge Neon Taurus – To be given to a graduating senior at 2005 Grad Night.
2. Santa Rita Landscaping – \$175.00 – SPS – End of Year Field Trip for Mrs. Tingle’s Class
3. Minnesota Lamplighters – \$3578.00 – SMS – Purchase a new Samick 247 Piano
4. Trico – \$200.00 – SMS – Music Department
5. R. Wayne & Patricia Ross – \$1100.00 – SIS
6. American Lung Association – \$1200.00 – SIS
7. American Assn University of Women, Green Valley Branch – \$600.00 – SPS

#### **D. Volunteers**

1. Kevin DeFilippo – SIS – Effective 04/27/05

#### **E. Approval of eligibility for health benefits for Kay Richardson, District**

Temporary Employee.

F. Approval of New Job Description for the Assistant Superintendent Position

G. Approval of Extra Duty Addendum - Tammy Steeves, SHS Freshman Class Sponsor

**X. Board Communication**

Mr. Lurkins stated that he went to California with the Middle School Band. The group included approximately 180 students. He was impressed with the student's behavior during dinner and the trip. He thanked the chaperones and all involved with the trip. He also made a trip to California with the cheerleaders and they too had exceptional behavior.

Mrs. Kellermeyer thanked Mrs. Powell for her involvement with the cheerleaders. She stated that it is not an easy job. The group is an impressive group who perform like college athletes.

Mr. Murphy thanked Debralee for keeping everyone on track and he also asked Fred Huff to pass on his appreciation to the bus drivers. He stated that it was great to see that the Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts again donated a car to give away to a senior at the Grad Night celebration. Mr. Murphy asked to set up a better recognition program to thank those who contribute to the district such as the Minnesota Lamplighters, White Elephant, Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts, etc...

**XI. Establish Next Board Meeting - May 11, 2005 - District Auditorium**

**XII. Executive Session**

A. Mr. Lurkins moved the Board enter executive session pursuant to §A.R.S. 15-843 Appeal of Long-term Suspensions/Expulsion Hearings - Discussion and possible action, pursuant to §A.R.S. 38-431.03.A.5 Discussion or consultation with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations with employee organizations regarding the salaries, salary schedules or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits to employees of the public body and pursuant to §A.R.S. 38-431.03.A.2



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Discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection. The time was 7:49 pm. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. The Board returned to regular session at 8:42 and adjourned the meeting.

**XIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Murphy.

Respectfully,

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Clerk of the Board