



Sahuarita Unified School District No. 30

Sahuarita High School

Sahuarita Middle School

Sopori Elementary School

Sahuarita Primary School

Sahuarita Intermediate School

Special Governing Board Meeting Minutes

**6:00 p.m. – July 7, 2004 – Sahuarita High School Library
350 W. Sahuarita Rd., Sahuarita, AZ 85629**

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Anthony Bruno called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Also present were Board members Michael Lurkins, Daniel Zobenica, Superintendent Dr. Jay C. St. John and Business Manager Charlotte Gates. Board members Martin McGee and Elaine Hall were absent. There were 60 guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

II. Approval of Agenda

Dr. St. John recommended approval of the agenda as distributed. Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded Mr. Zobenica. The motion carried.

III. New Business

A. Business – Discussion Only

1. School/Bus Schedule Changes

Dr. St. John presented the proposed schedule changes to the Board. He stated that the school buses drive approximately 3000 miles a day. The transportation is a very big expenditure in the district. The primary purpose of the proposed change to the schedule is to increase instructional time. SPS and SIS dismiss at 2:00pm and begin approximately 8:00am. Two years ago the district attempted to take all students home on the same bus routes. This led to a situation where pre-school and primary students waited on the buses for about 40 minutes before they left to go home. This was not a very efficient process so the schedule was changed to have SIS and SPS dismiss earlier allowing the buses to take those children home, turn around and come back for SMS and SHS. If the schedule were to remain as it is now, at least four buses would need to be purchased. The funds for these buses would be taken from funds used to purchase textbooks, chairs, desk etc. for the classrooms.

The administration has proposed splitting buildings into two groups and staggering the start time. Sopori School would stay with the current schedule. When the administration began discussing the idea, the natural split would be Sahuarita Primary School/Sahuarita Intermediate School riding on buses together and Sahuarita Middle School/Sahuarita High School riding together.

The transportation department needs one hour turn around time. This idea doesn't work out for a few reasons.

1. Dr. Smith believes that the primary school students learn better earlier in the day.
2. The high school schedule is dominated by athletics. This schedule would decrease the amount of time out of school by those students and faculty who are involved in sports.

The administrators have proposed the following schedule: SPS and SHS begin at 7:30 and end at 2:30 and SIS and SMS begin at 8:30 and end at 3:30, which would increase the instructional time for the primary school and intermediate school.

The following community members and parents of the district addressed the Board regarding the proposed changes: Vonda Robling, Youngson Rueb, Nancy Brown, Karen Campbell, Kristy Harris, Teri, Enrique Santa Cruz, Brock Gibson, Irene Sanders, Marjolaine Deslauriers, Ashley Frank, Teresa Estrada, Dawn Sherman, Cathy O'Connor, Kathie Rieman, Mark Walsh, Tera Weech, Terry Nay, Jose Madrigal, Irma Celez, Carla Wymer, Angie Reddig, Michael & Betsy Riley, Debra I Kushner, Mable LaValley, Armando Valenica.

Those who spoke had concerns regarding safety of the younger students while traveling with the older students on the buses. The use of inappropriate language by the high school students. The younger children would be exposed to subject matters above their level. Some felt that beginning school at 7:30 would be too early for the students from certain areas to meet the bus at the bus stops. Others had several students in different buildings and felt this would cause a problem with after school care plans. With the buses dropping off younger students earlier, their older children would not be home to look after them.

The following suggestions were made: SPS and SIS ride the buses together and SHS and SMS ride the buses together, start SMS and SHS at 7:30 instead of 8:30, students walking to school, purchase more buses. Most were not opposed to increasing instructional time.

Mr. Zobenica asked the public how many would be interested in expanding the student's day for educational purposes. The majority was in favor of expanding the day.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. St. John shared a Sales and Traffic Report from Rancho Sahuarita. The report stated that there was 111 houses sold in 2001, 477 in 2002, and 587 in 2003 and thru the end of June in 2004 they have sold 356.

A Request for Qualifications has been sent out to construction companies the either the district or the architect has had experience with before to build the new wing at the high school and the new middle school. A contractor will be pre-qualified and Dr. St. John will recommend to the Board in August hiring of that contractor to begin working with the architect.

The School Facilities Board has tentatively approved K-5 students for 600 students in August of 2006 and a second high school for 1000 students in August of 2007 if the numbers hold.

The Long Range Planning committee meets regularly regarding the future of the new buildings that are being built.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. Mr. Lurkins made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Zobenica.

Respectfully,

Clerk of the Board