



LIBERTY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 25  
Governing Board Minutes

TIME: February 13, 2017 – 6:30 PM

PLACE: Jerry Rovey District Facility, 19871 West Fremont Road, Buckeye, AZ 85326

**I. OPENING MEETING**

1. Mr. Paul Jensen, Governing Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present; Mr. Thad McCloud, Mr. Mike Newman, Ms. Kelly Olson-Stewart and Ms. Regina Simmons.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Olson-Stewart.
3. A motion by Mr. Newman/Mr. McCloud was entered to approve the Regular Agenda form and temporarily suspend Governing Board Policy with which this agenda may be inconsistent.  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
4. School Reports / Presentation / Recognitions - Each administrator reported on happenings and notables on their campuses. Schools presenting are listed below:
  - Freedom Elementary School – Ms. Toni Reynolds introduced Ms. Cynthia Steele and Ms. Elizabeth Corbett. Art was presented by Ms. Cynthia Steele, Freedom Art teacher. A musical performance of “The Mitten” was presented by first grade students led by Ms. Elizabeth Corbett, Freedom Music teacher. Ms. Jennifer Samland, Freedom 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher had several students present their timelines by retelling stories of past events.
  - Teacher Advisory Group - Ms. Jennifer Samland, teacher representative from Freedom Elementary School, reported on topics that had been discussed at the February 13<sup>th</sup> Teacher Advisory Group meeting.

**II. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- Ms. Christy Buboltz, Westar Elementary School parent, addressed the Governing Board regarding concerns of the class size in 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Ms. Jennifer Schmus, Westar Elementary School parent, addressed the Governing Board in support of Mr. Bogart and teachers at Westar Elementary School.
- Ms. Amber Burnell, Westar Elementary School parent of primary child, addressed the Governing Board in support of Mr. Bogart and teachers at Westar Elementary School and requested class sizes be kept low as child advances in grade levels.
- Ms. Julie Haut, Westar Elementary School parent, addressed the Governing Board regarding the Gifted and Talented Education program, in support of Mr. Bogart and Mr. Budge.
- Ms. Kate Wright, Westar Elementary School parent, addressed the Governing Board thanking them, Mr. Bogart and Mr. Ceja. She met with Mr. Bogart and Mr. Ceja and encouraged others to make an appointment with them. Ms. Wright also asked with the difficulty of finding teachers, what was the timeline to fill position and what was the plan if not filled.
- Ms. Jennifer Murray, Westar Elementary School parent, addressed the Governing Board in support of the Multi-age Gifted Program and Ms. Connie Crowley and regarding her concern of the leadership in the district.
- Ms. Kim Svabik, Westar Elementary School parent, addressed the Governing Board regarding concerns of the leadership in the district.
- Ms. Robin Johnson, Westar Elementary School parent, addressed the Governing Board regarding concerns of the leadership in the district.
- Ms. Emily Snyder, Westar Elementary School parent, addressed the Governing Board regarding concerns of the leadership in the district and district’s response to a Public Records Request.
- Mr. Michael Todd, Westar Elementary School parent, addressed the Governing Board in support of a junior high gifted program, concerns of the leadership in the district and district’s response to a Public Records Request.

**III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

1. Job Fair – Dr. Rogers reported the Teacher Hiring Fair held on February 4<sup>th</sup> was very successful. Sixteen teacher contracts were offered, 8 signed immediately, 6 are pending and 2 declined. Many teachers stated they had heard and were excited about what is happening in the Liberty District.
2. Teacher Hiring – see #1 above.
3. Food Services Update – Ms. Stephanie Lucas, SFE Senior Director of Regional Operations, and Ms. Cindy Cabanilla, Director of Dining Services, provided a Food Services update. The update included

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- information such as opening week of school, innovative programs ie, Farmers Market, Roving Chef, Curbside Breakfast Carts, Breakfast Smoothie Rollout and A la Cart Upgrades, Thanksgiving service, feedback and next steps possibilities.
4. Governing Board Update
    - o Mr. Paul Jensen – NA
    - o Mr. Thad McCloud – NA
    - o Mr. Mike Newman – NA
    - o Dr. Kelly Olson-Stewart – NA
    - o Ms. Regina Simmons – NA

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion by Mr. McCloud/Mr. Newman was entered to approve the February 13, 2017 Consent Agenda as presented.

Approved

**UNANIMOUS**

1. Approval of Minutes of the Revised December 12, 2016, January 9, 2017 and January 30, 2017 Board Meetings  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
2. Approval/Ratification of Payroll Vouchers 123, 124, 1023 & 1024 in the amount of \$1,217,919.46  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
3. Approval/Ratification of Expense Vouchers 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1731, and 1732 in the amount of \$993,824.31  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
4. Approval of Student Activity Fund for the Month of December 2016  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
5. Approval of Gifts and Donations for January 1, 2017 thru January 31, 2017  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
6. Approval of Personnel Action Items  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
7. Approval of Appointment of Hearing Officer(s) for Student Disciplinary Matters for the 2016-17 School Year  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
8. Approval of Overnight and Out-of-State Travel  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**

### V. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion/Consideration to Approve FY18 Certified Teacher Contract Issuance  
After discussion, a motion by Mr. Newman/Mr. McCloud was entered to approve FY18 Certified Teacher Contract Issuance as presented.  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
2. Discussion/Consideration to Approve Appointment of Principal at Freedom Elementary School  
After discussion, a motion by Mr. McCloud/Mr. Newman was entered to approve the Appointment of Ms. Toni Reynolds as Principal at Freedom Elementary School.  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
3. Discussion/Consideration to Approve Advanced Classes for Grades 7 and 8  
After discussion, a motion by Mr. McCloud/Mr. Newman was entered to approve Advanced Classes for Grades 7 and 8 as presented.  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
4. Discussion/Consideration to Approve Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Task Force  
After discussion, a motion by Mr. McCloud/Dr. Olson-Stewart was entered to approve a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Task Force as presented.  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
5. Discussion/Consideration to Approve the Hiring of Two Additional Teachers at Las Brisas Academy and Westar Elementary School to Address High Class Size  
After discussion, a motion by Mr. McCloud/Mr. Newman was entered to approve the Hiring of Two Additional Teachers one at Las Brisas Academy and one at Westar Elementary School to Address High Class Size as presented.  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
6. Discussion/Consideration to Approve the Hiring of Instructional Coaches for the 2017-2018 SY  
After discussion, a motion by Mr. Newman/Dr. Olson-Stewart was entered to approve the Hiring of Instructional Coaches for the 2017-2018 SY as presented.

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- Approved **UNANIMOUS**
7. Discussion/Consideration to Approve Stipends for Special Education  
After discussion, a motion by Mr. McCloud/Dr. Olson-Stewart was entered to approve Stipends for Special Education as presented.  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**
8. Discussion/Review of Governing Board Policies BHC-Board Communications with Staff Members  
BHD-Board and Communications with the Public  
This was an information item; no action was taken.
9. CALL TO EXECUTIVE SESSION  
A motion by Mr. Newman/Mr. McCloud was entered to recess to executive session pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 (a) (3); Consultation with District Attorney(s) - Advice from Attorney(s) Concerning Personnel Matter  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**

**RECESSING OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:53 – 9:17 p.m.**  
**RECONVENING OF REGULAR MEETING**

10. CALL TO EXECUTIVE SESSION  
A motion by Mr. McCloud/Mr. Newman was entered to recess to executive session pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 (a) (1); Personnel - Discussion of Employment of Teacher and Possible Abandonment of the Teaching Position  
Approved **UNANIMOUS**

**RECESSING OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Mr. Ceja informed the Governing Board that Mr. Paul Budge requested the Executive Session be held in an open forum/public meeting.

- A. Mr. Paul Jensen, Governing Board President, called the Executive Session to order at 9:18 p.m.  
B. Confidentiality Statement was recited - All persons present are hereby reminded that it is unlawful to disclose or otherwise divulge to any person who is not now present, other than a current member of the Board, anything that has transpired or has been discussed during this executive session. To do so is a violation of ARS 38-431.03 unless pursuant to a specific statutory exception.  
C. ARS 38-431.03 A.1; Personnel--Discussion of Employment of Teacher and Possible Abandonment of the Teaching Position – Mr. Ceja recited the calendar of events that led to this agenda item.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – 9:18 – 9:26 p.m.**  
**RECONVENING OF REGULAR MEETING**

**VI. GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS OR RECOMMENDED AGENDA TOPICS ADDITION**

Dr. Olson-Stewart requested training through the Arizona School Board Association or legal counsel regarding Governing Board communication with the public and/or staff.  
Mr. Paul Jensen requested the topic of Public Records Request process and what is requested be placed on a future agenda.

**VII. UPCOMING GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS:**  
**March 6, 2017 - Regular Board Meeting**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING**

On a motion entered by Mr. McCloud/Mr. Newman and by unanimous vote the Special Governing Board Meeting ended at 9:28 p.m.

Signed:

Date:

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March 6, 2017

UNCONFIRMED