



LIBERTY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 25
Governing Board Minutes

TIME: April 29, 2019 – 6:30 PM

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

I. OPENING MEETING

1. Dr. Shough announced the absence of Mr. Paul Jensen. Governing Board members supported Mrs. Kathy McNamara to oversee the Governing Board Meeting in Mr. Jensen's absence. Mrs. McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present: Mr. Mark Aguire, Mrs. Yolanda Lopez-Bearden, Mrs. Kathy McNamara, and Mr. Jeffrey Turbitt. Absent was Mr. Paul Jensen.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Aguire.
3. A motion by Mr. Turbitt, a second by Mr. Aguire was entered to approve the Regular Agenda form and temporarily suspend Governing Board Policy with which this agenda may be inconsistent. Upon call to vote, Mr. Aguire, Mrs. Lopez-Bearden, Mrs. McNamara, and Mr. Turbitt voted "aye", and the motion carried.

II. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- o Brandon Eimerman-stated he has been part of the Rainbow Valley Elementary School family for 27 years. He heard that all the support staff was being eliminated and was concerned because the community is considered lower income and needs the all the support they can get from the staff members. Dr. Shough stated she would follow up with facts.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Save Our Schools Presentation - Kristin Roberts & Nicole Wolff
Ms. Roberts stated Save Our Schools is a community-based organization who is fighting for strong public schools for a stronger Arizona. She further stated Arizona has the 2nd most crowded classroom sizes, ranks 48th in teacher salary, and has the highest turnover. She further stated there are 70,000 students without a permanent teacher. Ms. Wolff stated 95% of families chose public schools. The statistics she presented suggested \$184,149,744 is being diverted from the schools due to Empowerment Scholarship Accounts and School Tuitions Organizations. With these vouchers, there is minimal accountability and STOs have topped \$160 million in 2016. Mr. Aguire asked if there were any bills that would affect the school system. Ms. Roberts stated there were no active vouchers and the bills have slowed down the vouchers but will see what the budget will hold. Mr. Aguire asked if they knew where the money went with the cuts. Ms. Wolff stated Arizona didn't bring in any revenue with the tax credits and loopholes. Mr. Aguire asked what the public can do. Ms. Wolff suggested contacting their representatives.
2. Capital Plan - Mrs. Baysinger
Mrs. Baysinger reviewed the capital plan that the district has been reviewing since the Spring of 2018 regarding the district capital needs. In the fall, the district met with the stakeholder groups and gathered information to prioritize projects. With the assistance of the Facilities and Growth Committee, the district and the stakeholders group discussed the facility needs. Mrs. Baysinger discussed the district additional assistance which is derived from the State and local dollars allocated to schools for capital purpose. The state and legislature has planned to restore the capital allocations by fiscal year 2023.
3. DLR Building Improvements and New Constructions Costs - Mr. David Schmidt / Mrs. Baysinger
Mr. Schmidt stated he has been servicing Arizona for about 45 years and mentioned he was the developer for Las Brisas Academy. He briefly discussed each schools recommended upgrades. Mr. Aguire asked where the recommendations were coming from. Dr. Shough stated the principals and maintenance supervisor made recommendations, and the committee provided further recommendations. School recommendations are based on the age of the school and their necessity. This was reviewed and prioritized by the Facilities and Growth Committee. Mrs. McNamara asked if there was any discussion about building a barn for Liberty Elementary School because of their signature program. Dr. Shough stated this was only preliminary information to provide general costs. It does not include design for programmatic needs and user interests. Actual design would come later if

bond funds were approved. Mrs. McNamara asked if the water issue at Liberty ES was taken into consideration. Mr. Schmidt stated they looked at the total cost and was tied into the project.

4. Community Market Survey Results - Mr. Paul Ulan / Dr. Shough

Mr. Ulan stated that between April 17-22, 2019, 300 surveys were completed with a margin of 5% error. He discussed some of the survey answers and who the primary groups consisted of. Mr. Ulan stated that while the majority supported the \$60 million option, it was not as high as 60% approval. This is likely because of the tax increase and suggested the Governing Board consider a reduced bond amount. Mr. Turbitt asked if there was a better time to present the option to the community and what was the best way to communicate to the public the districts interests. Mr. Ulan stated there is not a specific time but urged the district to use multiple platforms to talk to the voters. Mr. Aguire asked when the district should start communicating and what funding they should ask for. Mr. Ulan urged the district to start communicating now and suggested this was not the perfect venue to discuss the funding. Dr. Shough asked Mr. Ulan to provide more information on the surveys. Mr. Ulan stated that combining those who supported \$60m with those who said no but would support a \$48m bond, the district reaches a marketing research threshold of 60% approval. He recommended the \$48m option and suggested less is more. He further stated every district is different. Some districts campaign every two (2) years and the key is not to campaign every ten (10) years. Need a consistent basis and the community will begin to support the district. Mrs. McNamara asked if these surveys were completed through phone calls. Mr. Ulan confirmed the survey was conducted randomly over the phone, and Dr. Shough stated they will provide the Governing Board with updates.

5. Stifel Bond Capacity - Mr. Mike LaVallee / Mrs. Baysinger

Mr. LaVallee discussed the district options that were considered for total bond sales. The options included \$45 million, \$55 million, \$60 million, and \$65 million. He reviewed the tax rate for each option and the election pamphlet. He further discussed how scenario A was based on the restricted growth and scenario B was based on conservative growth of 5%. Mr. Turbitt asked if the key factors included the voter pamphlet and asked if he was aware of any polling. Mr. LaVallee stated communities do not read based on their need and confirmed that last year's voting included education. He further stated the atmosphere is different from last year. Dr. Shough stated Mr. Ulan does the market research and can elaborate on this research. Mr. Aguire stated that 4A showed \$65 million and confirmed that residents would see an increase of \$200 a year in their tax rates. Mr. LaVallee stated it would be roughly \$128 tax rate on a home valued at \$100,000. Mrs. McNamara stated if it was a 5% projection the amount would be less than \$40. Dr. Shough asked if there was anything that was brought back. Mr. Aguire suggested eliminating the \$45 million and \$55 million options. Mrs. McNamara suggested leaving the scenarios as is until Mr. Jensen gets a vote.

6. Maintenance and Operations Override for 15% - Mr. Mike LaVallee / Mrs. Baysinger

Mr. LaVallee reviewed the potential override discussed at the April 8th Governing Board meeting. The discussion for the Override Election is to move from 10% to 15%. He stated that in 4th or 5th year the override begins to phase down. He suggests the option of asking for an increase to 15% which would increase the tax rate by \$1.08. If it fails it will continue you on through the 6th year. The pamphlet will review the tax rate information. Mr. LaVallee stated in 2018, one new override occurred and increase by 50% and passed. He stated the continuation is easier to promote to the public. Each district has their own philosophy and some may be in need of overrides. He suggested addressing the bond first. Mr. Turbitt asked if the community understand the financial priorities. Mr. LaVallee stated the tax rate is a big impact. He further stated there is a success rate of 51% for Maintenance and Operations Override but did confirm last year was rough for the overrides. Mr. Aguire asked about the tax rates. Mr. LaVallee stated that tax rates are based on the average values. Mr. Aguire and Mr. Turbitt asked how the public was being educated. Mr. LaVallee stated through the pamphlets and Mr. Ulan.

7. Facilities & Growth Committee Recommendations - Dr. Shough

Deene Villa, Erin Estes, and Chris Williams presented on behalf of the Facilities and Growth Committee. Mrs. Estes stated the purpose of the committee was to represent the stakeholders and invest in the students. She further reviewed the timeline and the progression the committee has done to benefit the district. Mr. Williams discussed the tasks of the schools which encourages equality. He further stated the progression of the housing units will continue to increase. As a result, the student growth has also increased. Ms. Villa discussed the projection needs for the schools. The committee agreed that option 4, \$45,000,000, is not enough to fund the needed improvements throughout the district. Option 2, \$60,000,000, provides the district with what it needs. Mr. Aguire thanked the team for their efforts.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion by Mr. Aguire, a second by Mrs. Lopez-Bearden was entered to approve the April 29, 2019 Consent Agenda as presented. Upon call to vote, Mr. Aguire, Mrs. Lopez-Bearden, Mrs. McNamara, and Mr. Turbitt voted 'aye', and the motion carried.

1. Approval of Personnel Action Items Mrs. Matsuura
2. Approval of Agreement Between Board of Regents (Arizona State University) and Liberty Elementary School District for Student Placement Agreement Mrs. Camp

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion/Consideration to Approve Support Staff Work Agreements for FY 2020.

Mr. Nuttall presented the Governing Board will support staff work agreements for the FY 2019-2020. The work agreements will include a step increase with the exception of those employees who will receive the increase when the AZ state minimum increases to \$12 per hour on January 01, 2020. He confirmed there were no significant changes.

A motion by Mrs. Lopez-Bearden, a second by Mr. Aguire was entered to approve the support staff work agreements for FY 2019-2020. Upon call to vote, Mr. Aguire, Mrs. Lopez-Bearden, Mrs. McNamara, and Mr. Turbitt voted 'aye', and the motion carried

2. Discussion/Consideration to Approve Non-Renewal of Employment Work Agreements for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 of the Support Staff Listed Herein and Authorize Superintendent, Dr. Shough, to Issue Notice of Non-Renewal.

Mr. Nuttall stated with the reorganization of the departments it is recommended the Governing Board not approve the renewal of the Food Service Compliance, Migrant Advocate, and the temporary Paraprofessionals. Mr. Aguire questioned if the positions for the Paraprofessionals would return at the end of the school year. Mr. Nuttall stated the positions have been filled with certified staff members. Mrs. Lopez-Bearden asked if we would need the Paraprofessionals. Mr. Nuttall referred to the previous Governing Board meetings that discussed the need for appropriate placement for Paraprofessionals I and II. Mrs. McNamara confirmed that 22 positions were filled with Paraprofessionals.

A motion by Mr. Turbitt, a second by Mr. Aguire was entered to approve the non-renewal work agreements for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 of the Support Staff listed herein and authorize the Superintendent to Issue Notice of Non-Renewal. Upon call to vote, Mr. Aguire, Mrs. Lopez-Bearden, Mrs. McNamara, and Mr. Turbitt voted 'aye', and the motion carried.

3. Discussion/Consideration to Approve Sara Schaefer and Loren Velasquez as Assistant Principals. Mr. Nuttall introduced Ms. Sara Schaefer and Mr. Loren Velasquez as the Assistant Principals. Ms. Schaefer will split between Liberty Elementary School and Westar Elementary School. Mr. Velasquez will be split between Freedom Elementary School and Rainbow Valley Elementary School. A motion by Mr. Aguire, a second by Mrs. Lopez-Bearden was entered to approve Sara Schaefer and Loren Velasquez as Assistant Principals. Upon call to vote, Mr. Aguire, Mrs. Lopez-Bearden, Mrs. McNamara, and Mr. Turbitt voted 'aye', and the motion carried.

4. Discussion/Consideration to Approve Two-Hour Weekly Early Release Schedule.

Mrs. Camp presented a two-hour early release schedule that would provide consistency across the district and would meet the needs of the stakeholders.

A motion by Mrs. Lopez-Bearden, a second by Mr. Turbitt was entered to approve the two-hour weekly early release schedule. Upon call to vote, Mr. Aguire, Mrs. Lopez-Bearden, Mrs. McNamara, and Mr. Turbitt voted 'aye', and the motion carried.

VI. GOVERNING BOARD REPORT, COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS, OR RECOMMENDED AGENDA TOPICS ADDITION

1. Governing Board Update
 - o Mr. Jensen – Absent.
 - o Mr. Aguire, Mrs. Lopez-Bearden, and Mrs. McNamara – Suggested an additional meeting to discuss the Bonds. He suggested the community involvement. Dr. Shough questioned if he was referring to an Administration meeting or Governing Board meeting. Mr. Aguire suggested a public forum to discuss the importance of the Bonds. Dr. Shough stated they would need to be approved by June 8, 2019. Mrs. Lopez-Bearden suggested May 20th or 21st. Mr. Aguire suggested May 9, 2019. Mrs. McNamara stated the community didn't show up but would like to give the parents an option to ask questions. Dr. Shough stated they have a PTO meeting and could suggest the option to the parents. Mrs. McNamara suggested articulate what has been said. Mr. Aguire

wants to add a call to the public to allow the public to speak about the topic. He also suggested the PTO meetings should not happen at 4:30 PM. Mrs. Lopez-Bearden asked how the district could reach the public not just the parents of the community. She encouraged the board to invite the general public to reach out to 60% of the community. Dr. Shough stated this could be addressed at the study session. Mrs. McNamara would like to confirm on Mr. Jensen's availability prior to moving forward with suggested meetings.

- Mr. Turbitt – Stated the district was making a mild change in the public's opinion and suggested the students need a well-funded school.

VII. UPCOMING GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS:

May 09, 2019 – Work Study Session

May 13, 2019 -- Regular Monthly Board Meeting

May 21, 2019 – Work Study Session

VIII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

A motion by Mr. Turbitt, a second by Mrs. Lopez-Bearden was entered to adjourn the Governing Board Meeting at 9:05 p.m. Upon call to vote, Mr. Aguire, Mrs. Lopez-Bearden, Mrs. McNamara, and Mr. Turbitt voted 'aye', and the motion carried.

Signed:

Date:

May 13, 2019