

WICKENBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2016

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Joe Maglio, President, Mr. Curtis Arnett, Member, Ms. Amy Brown, Member, Ms. Sandee Gill, Member, Mr. Daniel Scott, Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Howard Carlson, Lynn Greene, Jennifer Lougee, Derek Streeter, Carissa Hershkowitz, Christina Strauss, Rose Garcia, Gary Hodgkiss, Eva Orlando, Sue DuBois, Bill Moran, Jennifer Appleby, Vince Lorefice, Patty Slattery

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Maglio called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adoption of the Board meeting agenda for April 14, 2016

A motion was made to adopt the agenda for April 14, 2016, moving New Business Item – First Reading of Policy JJJ – Extra Curricular Eligibility, to take place immediately following the Presentation.

Motion	Mr. Arnett	Aye
Second	Ms. Brown	Aye
Vote	Ms. Gill	Aye
Vote	Mr. Maglio	Aye
Vote	Mr. Scott	Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

PRESENTATION

Hassayampa Elementary School Parking Lot/Drainage Project Update

Mr. Bill Moran, Wickenburg Unified School District (WUSD) Director of Maintenance and Mr. Vince Lorefice, Public Works Director for the Town of Wickenburg, gave an update on the Hassayampa Elementary School (HES) Parking Lot/Drainage Project.

Mr. Lorefice explained Phase I and Phase II of the Project. Phase I contained issuance of a formal bid, which was awarded to The Standard Construction Company. Work began Monday, April 11, 2016, for the construction of Phase I. The contract has a 60 day limit, making the completion date June 11, 2016. Funding from the grant awarded by the Maricopa County Flood Control must be expended by June 30, 2016. Water will be channeled via an underground drainage pipe located on South Tegner Street to Coconino Street and across the driveway. Water will be released through a bubbler vent on to the soon to be developed spillway located on the east side of the driveway. Utilities, such as gas, electric, sewer and water will be relocated as necessary.

One of the key pieces in moving forward with the implementation of Phase II of the plan will be the issuance of a formal bid request by the Town of Wickenburg for construction management, which they hope to award by June 20, 2016.

Mr. Maglio asked about the detours and closure on Tegner Street. Mr. Lorefice told him Tegner Street would be closed between Cochise Street and Coconino Street; the school busses would detour from Tegner Street to Cochise Street and circle the area of Tegner Street that is closed.

Mr. Arnett asked if a road from Coconino Street to Kerkes Street were still eventually looked at. Mr. Lorefice told him yes. There will be a concrete channel that will serve as a one-way road allowing traffic going from Coconino Street to Kerkes Street, and ending at the new trailhead. The channel will have a flat bottom approximately 16 to 20 feet wide with a 4 to 1 slope up the embankment. It will be very shallow in nature and accessible to traffic to Kerkes Street. The exit from the trailhead would be from Kerkes Street onto Highway 60.

Ms. Gill asked if there was a reason the project was being started before school was out for the summer. Mr. Lorefice explained the grant awarded by the Maricopa County Flood Control must be expended by June 30, 2016, with no possible extension.

Ms. Gill asked it had been determined if it was necessary for the relocation of gas, water and electric lines. Mr. Lorefice told her that, at this time, the water line would have to be relocated in Phase I and the sewer line would have to be relocated in Phase II.

Dr. Carlson expressed appreciation to Mr. Lorefice and Mr. Moran for the work done on this project.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Policy Revision JJJ – Extra Curricular Eligibility

Mr. Derek Streeter, Wickenburg High School (WHS) Principal, and Adam Malik, WHS Athletic Director, gave a presentation to the Board on the proposed policy changes for Policy JJJ – Extra Curricular Eligibility. WHS has been struggling with a high graduation failure rate, plus the number of students that arrive at their senior year with such deficiencies that a realistic schedule cannot be built for that student. Many of these students have participated in sports for all four years under the “No Pass No Play” policy. Many students keep their grades up to participate in athletics and begin failing classes when the season ends. This results in failing grades at the end of the semester and growing credit deficiencies for the student athlete.

The revision to Policy JJJ would require student athletes to keep graduation within reach in order to be allowed to try out for a team. The closer that a student gets to their senior year, the smaller their credit deficit must be to participate. Grade checks will still be conducted during the season, so the regular “No Pass No Play” policy would be in force. This change would begin with 2016/2017 incoming freshmen.

For students that participate in winter sports there are some additional considerations. If a student finishes Semester 1 with one or more F's, they would remain ineligible for the first two weeks of Semester 2. Then when the first grade checks are done for Semester 2, the student would be allowed to participate if they were passing all classes at that point in time. Additionally, students that drop below the minimum number of credits allowed for participation due to Semester 1 failures would be allowed to finish the season after the first two weeks of Semester 2 and grade checks. However, they would not be allowed to participate in spring sports due to their deficiencies.

Survey data collected from parents, coaches, and teachers support this new policy, with two thirds of those surveyed in support of the change and one third not.

Mr. Scott asked how many students failed because they simply did not turn in their work. He felt students who do not do the work do not deserve any extra help, but students who are struggling do. Mr. Malik told him $\frac{3}{4}$ of the kids he deals with in discipline are missing assignments. Mr. Streeter told him one difficulty is that the curriculum varies between classes where homework and testing may carry different grading weights.

Ms. Gill asked how the non-athletes were held responsible for eligibility. Mr. Streeter told her they would follow the same criteria for non-athletes participating in extra-curricular activities. He also told her students who were participating in programs such as choir or theater, if the activity were part of their grade, they would be allowed to participate, but would not be allowed to participate in activities that were not a part of their grade.

Ms. Gill questioned the slide in the PowerPoint that showed the number of students who would probably not graduate. Mr. Streeter told her these were athletes who had done what was necessary to participate in sports but were falling short of the credits necessary to graduate.

Ms. Brown commented she would like to eventually see the “No Pass No Play” rule progress to requiring athletes must have a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA). She had reviewed Scottsdale’s eligibility policy, which states a student must maintain a 2.0 GPA to be eligible. She also felt students would meet requirements and would reach the higher threshold. She would like to see this implemented, although not this year. Mr. Streeter told her he had reviewed Scottsdale’s rule, but was uncomfortable with some of its aspects, as students can earn an A in one course and an F in another, which would average out to a C, or a 2.0 GPA. AIA only states a district must have a plan in place to determine eligibility.

Ms. Brown asked if students were allowed to practice, attend meetings, and travel with the team to out of town games when ineligible. Mr. Malik told her they are allowed to practice, provided they are attending tutoring, but are not allowed to travel with the team. She asked if parents were notified when their student became ineligible. Mr. Malik told her he had come to the point of informing coaches, but wants to begin meeting with the student and giving them a letter informing them of their pending ineligibility and sending a letter to the parent.

Ms. Gill commented she feels the schools cannot be responsible for everything, and the parents, and students themselves, need to step up and set standards.

Mr. Arnett stated that given the particular discussion, this policy really addresses motivations when it comes to athletics. There have been other comments that students have to be motivated; athletics are a great motivator. From a Board point of view, he heard comments that freshmen were failing 4 subjects, and wondered who was looking at this. The Board has no other information concerning how many students are failing, and if they don’t know, they can’t help the administration. His goal would be for an information system be developed to give the Board knowledge of an objective measure.

Mr. Gary Hodgkiss requested to address the Board. He told the Board he would like to go on record as not agreeing with this policy, stating he saw too many holes in the policy. He felt a weekly grade check was unrealistic, as it is very time consuming and difficult. He also stated he observed that during this pilot season, he saw difficulties throughout the winter and spring seasons in meeting the one week grade check. He felt this could cause a student to walk away from schooling, if, as a junior in high school, he lost the motivation of being able to play sports. He also commented that some students did not have a home life and no parents to motivate them.

No motion was required.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

This is a time set aside for any recognition the Board or the Superintendent may wish to make to an individual, group or organization for services and/or contributions made to the District. This is also a time allowing an opportunity for the Board to recognize groups or individuals publically by issuing of a proclamation in recognition of events and/or persons for special occasions. There were none.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Monthly school reports from the principals of Wickenburg Unified School District No. 9, which include enrollment figures, Safe & Orderly (Student Discipline) Report, how the school is moving each student to the “Next Level” academically, how the school is focusing on providing Quality First Instruction and a general school update.

- A. Festival Foothills Elementary School, Ms. Christina Strauss, Principal
- B. Hassayampa Elementary School, Ms. Carissa Hershkowitz, Principal
- C. Vulture Peak Middle School, Ms. Jennifer Lougee, Principal
- D. Wickenburg High School, Mr. Derek Streeter, Principal
- E. Wickenburg Virtual Academy, Ms. Rose Garcia, Principal

Mr. Scott asked why Festival Foothills Elementary School (FF) included Galileo data in their report, but none of the others did. Dr. Carlson told him not all of the schools chose to do an extra Galileo. Hassayampa Elementary School did four Galileo testing sessions this year, FF did five, as the schools had a choice to do an extra one. Mr. Scott asked if this was one of those things where the District is teaching to one thing and Galileo was testing for something different. Dr. Carlson told him the District has made a switch this year, changing from the “VAIL Method”, which involved looking back at the standards that had been taught and measuring against those standards. The District implemented a different testing called CBAS, which replicates the state test every time it is taken. This is a different kind of test than has been previously done. Mr. Scott asked if this meant the District is testing for things students have not yet been taught. Dr. Carlson told him yes, because it is replicating the state test to see where students are. Mr. Scott asked at what point the scores would be predictive of the state test. Dr. Carlson told him it would be the last test. Mr. Scott was concerned that the proficient scores were very low and is an indication that students will do very poorly on this test. Dr. Carlson told him this will occur across the state, as the bar was raised very high and it will take a number of years to get where we need to be; teachers will need to learn to teach to the higher level and students will need to learn, as the bar has been raised so high. Mr. Scott asked Dr. Carlson where he felt the District would be in comparison with other districts that are the same size. Dr. Carlson said WUSD students would do as well, not better, in Math, but will have challenges in English Language Arts, as we have focused more on math and are in the process of putting in new curriculum for English Language Arts.

Ms. Gill asked if in three years, when teachers have learned to teach to the higher level and students are getting it, what happens to the students who did not get it in the previous three years. Dr. Carlson told her the District is providing additional support and programs such as iReady to assist students in learning and moving them to where they will be proficient.

Mr. Scott commented about the numbers reflecting the kids succeeding at reading reteach/enrich, but are still showing a poor percentage in proficiency when tested on the same curriculum, something is wrong. Dr. Carlson told him when you look at Galileo, you are going through a calibration process and they are trying to figure out how to truly measure students’ performance as compared to the state test. Each year we send them our data and they start to align it more and more to what the actual performance is. Another challenge is when you talk about the DFA’s, you may see where students are doing pretty well on a particular standard, but you have to look to what extend Beyond Textbooks is truly aligned with all of this. We are in the time period where we have to align all of this and are looking into different curriculum to fix this issue, such as “Engage New York”.

Ms. Brown asked if the District is at the stage of when a 3rd Grade student is not proficient in reading, that student would be held back. Dr. Carlson told her that it was his last understanding that this will be suspended for now, but there has been talk of keeping a portion of this and have students work over the summer.

Mr. Scott commented the art show at Festival Foothills Elementary School was awesome.

Mr. Brown spoke of the Leprechaun Project with Hassayampa Elementary School, commenting these were big projects for 2nd grade students.

Mr. Arnett expressed appreciation for the time and organization put into developing the Principal Reports. He commented on the graphs that were under discussion earlier. He noted Ms. Hershkowitz told the board that students who need help are being identified, which is probably the key to the whole business. He also commented that sometimes we think ignorance is a disease that can be cured with treatment, but that he also knew motivation plays a big part. He asked how the board can help in this area.

Mr. Maglio asked about 2nd grade academic parent teacher team. Ms. Hershkowitz told him a lot of energy goes into this project and they were organizing a 3rd session. She commented they have a good mix of parents involved. Mr. Maglio commented The 21st Century Grant is amazing and feels HES will hit their 100 student attendance mark. Ms. Hershkowitz told him they were getting close and feels they will hit that number. He commented on the Counseling Corner at Vulture Peak Middle School, stating he felt this was a neat piece. He thanked the principals for the Principal Reports.

Ms. Gill asked what weapons were referred to under the “Weapons Other Than Guns” section in the discipline report. Mr. Streeter told her knives.

GOVERNING BOARD REPORT

Bases Loaded Home Run Project Update, Mr. Curtis Arnett

The baseball and softball dugouts have been completed and are now in use. The field name signs (Kenrick Field and Douthat Field) and the Wrangler cutouts are the next step towards the completion of the project. The signage went out to bid and was awarded to Wickenburg Welding. Bill Moran and his staff will install the signs. A ceremony recognizing donors and helpers will be organized.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The financial reports include a monthly summary of business accounts, which include a detailed Operating Statement with encumbrance for the Maintenance & Operation Budget, Unrestricted Capital Account, Soft Capital Account, and Cash Controlled Funds-Expenses; a summary payroll and expense vouchers; a detailed summary of credits, debits and expenditures for all student activity accounts and all student auxiliary accounts for the period stated.

- A. Business Accounts Summaries as of March 31, 2016
- B. Payroll Voucher Summary – \$989,113.16
- C. Expense Voucher Summary – \$385,440.08

A motion was made to approve the Financial Reports, as submitted.

Motion	Mr. Arnett	Aye
Second	Ms. Brown	Aye
Vote	Ms. Gill	Aye
Vote	Mr. Maglio	Aye
Vote	Mr. Scott	Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Governing Board Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Regular Board Minutes for March 10, 2016
- B. Personnel
 - 1. Approval of New and/or Restructured Positions
 - 2. Personnel Action Reports
 - 3. Substitute Teachers

- C. Financial Items
 - 1. Selection Of Contractor Under Board Of Regents RFP# L02112 For Bond Counsel and Associated Services Related To The Potential Issuance of School Improvement Bonds From A Bond Election
 - 2. Selection of Contractor Under SAVE Contract RFP #C-007-1213 for Underwriting, Placement Agent and Associated Services Related to the Potential Issuance Of School Improvement Bonds from a Bond Election
- D. Curriculum
 - 1. Changing of the Official Status of Festival Foothills Elementary School to Pre-School through 8th Grade and Hassayampa Elementary School to Pre-School through 5th Grade
 - 2. Wickenburg High School 2016/2017 Student Handbook
- E. Donations
 - 1. Festival Foothills Elementary School, Ms. Christina Strauss, Principal
 - a. Donation of a Large Corner Desk Unit by Mr. Don Watts
 - b. Donation of 2 laptops, wireless keyboard, misc. educational books and binders, and 3 tripods by Mr. Tom Massey
 - c. Donation in the amount of \$300 by The Sun City Festival Crafty Scrappers
 - d. Donation of a collection of books by Mr. Thomas Paradise, Jr., Personal Representative of the Diane Paradise Estate
 - 2. Wickenburg High School, Mr. Derek Streeter, Principal
 - a. Donation in the amount of \$92.58 to the WHS Band Program Towards the Purchase of a French Horn
 - b. Donation in the amount of \$100.00 to the WHS Theater Program from Ms. Jane Johnson
 - c. Donation in the amount of \$2000 to the WHS Football Program for Shoulder Pads by Champions of Wickenburg Youth

Mr. Arnett requested Consent Agenda Item B2-Personnel Action Reports be pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Consent Agenda Item 9B-2 – Personnel Action Reports, for April 14, 2016.

Motion	Ms. Brown	Aye
Second	Mr. Scott	Aye
Vote	Mr. Arnett	Aye
Vote	Ms. Gill	Aye
Vote	Mr. Maglio	Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Arnett requested this item be pulled because he felt there was a hidden element that was significant. Although not brand new, it is the concept that some teaching positions (natural classroom positions) are more worthy of support than others. The market forces are at work and the mood of the times is to go with the market forces and to believe the market will basically solve the problem.

He made the general comment that for instance, take the matter of current year funding, if it goes into place and you happen to find you have fewer students that were anticipated, well, you just toss out a teacher, you combine some kids, and that's the way you do it. You simply treat your professional staff as moralist at will, you come and go. He did not want to make a big deal out of this, but wished to point out we are in a different position than we have been in the past. This will become more or less a problem if it becomes wide-spread. In the broadest sense, what we are doing tonight in the agenda and looking at the prospects with the legislature and what is being proposed, there are serious questions as to whether this is really good. We as people respond to market forces, but we as people are not marketable commodities.

A motion was made to approve Consent Agenda Item B-2 – Personnel Action Reports.

Motion	Mr. Arnett	Aye
Second	Ms. Brown	Aye
Vote	Ms. Gill	Aye
Vote	Mr. Maglio	Aye
Vote	Mr. Scott	Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Policy Advisories

1. Policy IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students
2. Policy JFAB – Tuition/Admission of Nonresident Students

A motion was made to approve the second reading of Policy IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students and Policy JFAB – Tuition/Admission of Nonresident Students, as submitted.

Motion	Ms. Brown	Aye
Second	Mr. Arnett	Aye
Vote	Ms. Gill	Aye
Vote	Mr. Maglio	Aye
Vote	Mr. Scott	Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the 2017/2018 District Calendar

A motion was made to approve the 2017/2018 District Calendar, as submitted.

Motion	Ms. Gill	Aye
Second	Ms. Brown	Aye
Vote	Mr. Arnett	Aye
Vote	Mr. Maglio	Aye
Vote	Mr. Scott	Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- ❖ Financial Calendar
- ❖ Accounting of Tax Credit monies
- ❖ Discuss a meeting with legislators

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CALENDAR

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion	Ms. Gill	Aye
Second	Ms. Brown	Aye
Vote	Mr. Arnett	Aye
Vote	Mr. Maglio	Aye
Vote	Mr. Scott	Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

ATTEST: _____

Mr. Joe Maglio, Board President