

WUSD School Board Meets with Legislators

Earlier this week members of the WUSD Governing Board and I met with State Representative Steve Montenegro (House Majority Leader) and Senator Don Shooter. The goal of the meeting was to establish a relationship with our elected state representatives and for the Governing Board to discuss some of the challenges we face.

Attending board members were President Joe Maglio and Daniel Scott, Amy Brown, and Curtis Arnett. Representative Darin Mitchell was scheduled to attend but had to cancel because of illness. The meeting was held over breakfast down in Surprise.

The Governing Board and I focused on a few local issues, which we believe are vital to the District's ongoing success. We discussed WUSD's need to offer competitive salaries in order to attract and retain highly qualified staff & teachers, a need for monies to address facilities maintenance and for capital concerns ranging from buses to books. We also discussed general school funding concerns and the need to retain local control of our facilities.

Discussion also included Arizona's anticipated current year budget shortfall of approximately \$500 million, a court decision requiring the state to pay school districts for monies called for by law but not paid, a need for the state to restore capital funding for schools, and a "no new taxes" pledge by Governor Ducey.

The Governing Board and I felt that we had a productive meeting and that our goals were accomplished. We have now established a foundation for ongoing communication with our state representatives, which will be vital as we enter this year's legislative session.