

**J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016**

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the J.O. Combs Middle School. Members of the Governing Board present were Shelly Hargis, President; Bob D'Elena, Clerk; Kathy Bourgeois, Member; Dr. Gary Kemp, Member (absent); and Pat Pinckard, Member. Administrators, Directors, and Coordinators present were Marcus Berkshire, Tammy Stimatze, Angie Beauchene, Sue Kruse, Chasity Cruz, Mark Mauro, Laura Ridge, Brooke Davis, Steve Miller, Karla Slovitsky, Shannon Weber, Jack Wallbrecht, Kelly Guerra, Santa Dunker, and John Scrogam; Dr. Patty Rogers, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Gayle Blanchard, Superintendent, and MaryLou Martinez, Administrative Assistant.

**Call to Order** — Governing Board President Ms. Shelly Hargis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** — Mr. D'Elena made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Pinckard, and the motion carried 4-0. *Dr. Kemp was not present.*

**Welcoming of Guests**

**Pledge of Allegiance** — Ellsworth Elementary student, Andrew Brooks, helped lead the pledge.

**Superintendent Report** — Dr. Blanchard shared a few items from the Superintendent's Update:

- District enrollment is 4,741 students, which includes community Pre-K through Grade 12.
- Combs High School would like to thank our military personnel both active and veteran, along with our senior citizens for their dedication and support of our students and community. Beginning immediately, all athletic and activity events will be \$4.00 per person. This rate reflects our gratitude to these individuals who have served our country and community without reservation and we at CHS thank you.
- The Combs community was once again very generous this year during the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The Food Bank served 67 families for a total of 315 individuals, which includes 108 children, with complete Thanksgiving meals. Harmon Elementary won the food drive by collecting over 1,450 food items generously donated by Harmon families. Their Student Council participated by selling "Tom the Turkey" feathers for \$0.25 with all proceeds going directly to the food drive. Harmon students had an opportunity to write what they were thankful for on the feathers. One student wrote, "I'm thankful for my family" while another student wrote, "I'm thankful for the world." Thank you to the Harmon community for showing your generous spirit!
- Congratulations to Mr. Mark Mauro, Combs Middle School Principal and Ms. Sue Kruse, Ranch Elementary Principal both who recently received the Silver Partner Award from the Beat the Odds Institute, an initiative of the Center for the Future of Arizona. Mr. Mauro and Ms. Kruse were recognized with Dr. Lattie Coor (Chairman/CEO) and Dr. Amanda Burke (Senior Director, Education) for the Center for the Future of Arizona. Beat the Odds began as a research study to answer important questions regarding what it takes to get positive results in schools. Mr. Mauro and Ms. Kruse have been participating in this program since the fall of 2014.
- Congratulations to Combs High School teacher, Ms. Susan Belshe for receiving the Banner Health's Spirit of the Promise Award. Ms. Belshe was nominated because she exemplifies the Banner Mission and portrays her passion for the medical field and patient experience by teaching and mentoring students' every day. She supports students' realistic preview of the life of medical professionals and supports students in their goals after high school. Ms. Belshe was recognized at a special ceremony hosted by Banner Ironwood on November 17th.
- Special congratulations to Ms. Kate Dyament and the garden club at Simonton Elementary! More than 2,400 teachers from across the state of Arizona applied in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl Wishes for Teachers program and Simonton's wish was selected to receive a grant for \$5,000 in support of their wish to remodel the school garden that provides healthy lunch options for the students.

**Focus on Students/Programs** — Combs High School band director, Mr. Jedediah Mixdorf, shared highlights and happenings about the Combs High School band program. A few members of the Combs High School Chamber Brass Ensemble (quartet) performed traditional holiday music combinations. Mr. Mixdorf announced the upcoming CHS concert in the amphitheater is scheduled March 1, 2017.

**Student of the Month** — Ms. Sharon Lind, Chief Executive Officer from Banner Ironwood Medical Center was present to assist with the Student of the Month recognition.

The J.O. Combs District continues to partner with Banner Ironwood Medical Center recognizing one student every month from each of the schools where students are recognized for the various pillars of character, which include Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Citizenship, Caring, Respect, and Fairness. Dr. Patty Rogers, Assistant Superintendent read a brief paragraph about each student and presented certificates to all recipients and they then had a photo taken with the representative from Banner Ironwood, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Blanchard.

Dr. Patty Rogers acknowledged the many Combs District staff members present in the audience supporting the student of the month recipients.

**Citizen’s Comments** — None

The Governing Board invites the viewpoints of citizens throughout the District under guidelines as presented in Policy BEDH. (Policy BEDH—Public Participation at Board Meetings is posted in the Governing Board Room or available at the District Office.) State statutes prohibit the Governing Board from discussing an item that is not on the agenda, but they do listen to compliments / concerns and request that staff follow up on any questions.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Action Items** — Ms. Pinckard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Bourgeois, and the motion carried 4-0.

In reference to the Human Resources Consent Agenda, Mrs. Hargis took a few moments to recognize and thank Mr. Mark Mauro and Ms. Tammy Stimatze for everything they have done. Both principals are leaving at the end of the school year. Ms. Hargis said, “What a great asset to our students, staff and leadership team. Not easily replaced, we do appreciate everything you have done.” Dr. Jane Rupard will be retiring at the end of the school year and will be acknowledged at a future meeting.

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Regular Meeting November 9, 2016
- B. Business and Finance
  - i. Monthly Financial Report November 2016
  - ii. Student Activities Financial Statement November 2016
  - iii. Expense Vouchers
 

# 8021	\$ 358,242.37	# 8024	\$ 1,138.08
# 8022	\$ 173,983.42	# 8025	\$ 197,202.66
# 8023	\$ 68,942.52	# 8026	\$ 269,759.61
  - iv. Payroll Vouchers
 

# 20	\$ 225,976.96	# 25	\$ 4,383.32
# 21	\$ 637,937.53	# 26	\$ 343,011.18
# 22	\$ 111.79	# 27	\$ 627,331.79
# 23	\$ 660,294.15	# 28	\$ 1,981.66
# 24	\$ 340,512.58		
  - v. Intergovernmental Agreements
    - a. None
  - vi. Bid Requests / Proposals
    - a. Recommendation for Proposal Preparation for Purchase/Adoption of Textbooks and Supplemental Materials and Services for English Language Arts Grades K thru 12
  - vii. Bid Approvals
    - a. None

- viii. Purchases
    - a. None
  - ix. Grants, Gifts and Donations
    - a. Donation of new preschool kitchen sets and miscellaneous items from Dr. Jane Rupard, valued at \$279.86 to Ranch Elementary
  - x. Overnight and/or Out-of-State Travel Requests
    - a. ACTE AZ Midwinter Leadership Conference, Prescott, AZ, Professional Development, John Scrogam - Career and Technical Education Coordinator, February 1-3, 2017
    - b. NIKE Coach of the Year Football Clinic, Drew Ammon, Jesse Hart, Carl Hill, Steven Larson, and Jonathan Madura - Combs High School Football Coaches, Las Vegas, NV, February 10-12, 2017
    - c. Journalism Education Association National Convention, Seattle, WA, Newspaper Publishing and Broadcast Production, Gr. 10-12, April 5-9, 2017
  - xi. Substitute Teacher-Adjustment to Daily Rate
- C. Personnel  
(A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) the Governing Board may go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.)
- i. Job Descriptions: None
  - ii. Administrative Staff: Employment, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Resignation, Termination
  - iii. Certificated Staff: Employment, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Resignation, Termination
  - iv. Support Staff: Employment, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Resignation, Termination
  - v. Substitute Staff: Employment, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Resignation, Termination

**Revised Budget 2016-2017** — Ms. Karla Slovitsky, Director of Business Services, presented the 2016-2017 revised budgets for adoption. Ms. Slovitsky explained that the budget was revised because of the Annual Financial Report (AFR). The changes reflect actual carryover amounts, current student growth funds, and interest. She summarized the adjustments referencing student counts, capturing the carryover amount from the end of last year and what was projected, plus some interest in capital. The M&O budget was increased by \$1,265,062 million and the Unrestricted Capital budget was increased by \$209,575. She explained that over \$700,000 of that went to special education due to many students placed out of district and staffing.

Ms. Slovitsky answered questions regarding the M&O carryover percentage, which she stated is typically 4%. As for any forecast for next fiscal year, Ms. Slovitsky would like to see it at 4%.

Mr. D'Elena made a motion to Adopt the Revised 2016-2017 District Expenditure Budget as presented, seconded by Ms. Pinckard, and the motion carried 4-0.

**Bond Election Update and Timeline** — Dr. Blanchard provided an overview of the financial steps and the required board approval items necessary as it relates to the Bond. This agenda item is for discussion and information purposes only. Dr. Blanchard presented the financing timetable as prepared by STIFEL and explained the project manager posting, which will be funded with bond dollars. The project manager will oversee new construction and some of the repairs.

Dr. Blanchard said project updates and the financial timetable will be posted to the District website. Ms. Kelly Guerra, Coordinator of Community Education, will send project updates via twitter to keep the community informed.

Mr. D'Elena asked how long the project manager would be employed. Dr. Blanchard and Ms. Slovitsky acknowledged at least until the project is done and completed, about 2021-2022.

**Combs High School New Courses for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019** — Ms. Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction discussed the Combs High School list of new courses. At this time, there is no cost for curriculum development and courses will be scheduled only if sufficient enrollment is achieved. Ms. Dunker answered questions from the Board regarding last year's course offerings.

Ms. Pinckard made a motion to Adopt the Proposed Course Offerings for Combs High School as listed for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years, seconded by Mr. D'Elena and the motion carried 4-0.

**J.O. Combs Middle School New Elective Courses for 2017-2018** — Ms. Santa Dunker shared the list of the new elective course recommendations for Combs Middle School. The process was a collaborative one involving CMS administration, Career and Technical Education Department, and Curriculum Department. The purpose is to expand the course offerings at the middle school level and provide more exposure to a variety of electives. Ms. Dunker explained that most of the courses would be one semester long however, music will be yearlong.

Ms. Dunker confirmed that Spanish is a yearlong format, Introduction to Spanish will be a semester offering, and Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) will be split into semesters.

Mr. D'Elena asked about semester courses versus full year and if any thought was given to a half semester format. Ms. Dunker mentioned that the committee did discuss quarterly electives however, they decided to explore that format in the future and for now will start with a semester long course.

Mr. D'Elena made a motion to Adopt the Proposed New Elective Course Offerings for J.O. Combs Middle School as listed for 2017-2018, seconded by Ms. Bourgeois, and the motion carried 4-0.

**Adjournment** — Ms. Hargis made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m., seconded by Ms. Pinckard, and the motion carried 4-0.

One or more Governing Board members will / may participate by telephonic or video communications. The Governing Board reserves the right to change the order of items on the agenda, unless a specific time is listed on the agenda.

The Governing Board reserves the right to move into executive session for legal advice with its attorneys, in person or by telephone, for any item listed on the agenda, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3).

J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. Please call (480) 987-5300 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to request an accommodation to attend or participate in the public meeting.

Governing Board Members

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Shelly Hargis, President

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Bob D'Elena, Clerk

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Kathy Bourgeois, Member

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Gary F. Kemp, Ed.D., Member

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Patricia J. Pinckard, Member

Respectfully Submitted by:  
MaryLou Martinez  
Administrative Assistant  
Superintendent / Governing Board  
December 14, 2016