

**J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014**

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 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; Kathy Bourgeois, Clerk; Pat Pinckard, Member (absent); Rhett Homan, Member (arrived at 6:15 p.m.); Dr. Gary Kemp, Member; Marcus Berkshire, Tammy Stimatze, Ames Singley, Bradley Shepstead, Angie Beauchene, Brenda Mayberry, Jane Rupard, Shannon Weber, Jack Wallbrecht, Santa Dunker, Kelly Guerra, Karla Slovitsky, Dr. Patty Rogers, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Gayle Blanchard, Superintendent, and MaryLou Martinez, Administrative Assistant.

**Call to Order** – Governing Board President Mrs. Shelly Hargis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Pinckard was absent. Mr. Homan arrived at 6:15 p.m.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – Mrs. Bourgeois made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 3-0.

**Welcoming of Guests**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Blanchard presented regarding the many activities taking place around the district and community. She shared items from the Superintendent's Update.

President Hargis recognized Mr. Ames Singley who was named as a semi-finalist in the Rodel Foundation Exemplary Principal Initiative. She commented that the recognition is based on the student learning that has occurred at Harmon Elementary as demonstrated by data, his passion for working with his community, and his commitment to excellence as demonstrated by his leadership. Mr. Singley replied that he is pleased with the hardworking staff at Harmon, the quality and caliber of the community.

Martha McNair, Program Coordinator with Greater Valley Area Health Education Center, was on hand to formally present the \$4,000 donation to the Combs High School HOSA Medical Professions program. Mrs. Susan Belshe, Medical Professions advisor and several HOSA students were on hand to receive the donation.

Dr. Blanchard recognized Dr. Gary Kemp and President Hargis presented him with the ASBA Associate of Boardmanship award.

Dr. Blanchard recognized Mrs. Kelly Guerra, Coordinator of Community Education who was selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Arizona Community Education Association.

**Student of the Month** – Ms. Julie Nunley, Chief Executive Officer, from Banner Ironwood Medical Center (BIMC) was present to assist with the Student of the Month recognition. Ms. Nunley provided a brief statement about what has been happening at BIMC. She mentioned that Banner has added a nurse midwife program in direct response to community feedback. BIMC is also adding Neurology to their campus, has a cardiologist on site Monday through Friday, and has 57 beds as well as a level 2 nursery. Ms. Nunley encouraged community feedback and thanked the community for their support.

The J.O. Combs District continues to partner with BIMC 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 Superintendent Blanchard, the Governing Board, and Julie Nunley from Banner Ironwood Medical Center.

**Focus on Students** – Mr. Marcus Berkshire, Principal of Combs Traditional Academy introduced CTA's third grade team Mrs. Renee Lemons and Mrs. Lisa Hrubec. The teachers and their students presented their "Giving

Back” service learning project along with a PowerPoint. The third graders shared that they voted on helping the Phoenix Zoo because they love animals. Students decided to recycle cans and will continue to collect cans up until March 20, 2015 and will donate the proceeds to the zoo. To help sick animals, students are also collecting old towels, blankets, storage bins and other items the zoo has listed on their website. The third graders will present all of the items and money collected to the Phoenix Zoo on March 21, 2015. Their goal is to raise \$500 for the zoo’s outreach program.

**Staff Recognition** – Principal Berkshire recognized Mr. Terry Tucker, Bus Driver. Mr. Tucker has been driving a bus since Combs Traditional Academy (CTA) opened its doors and is responsible for picking up the mid-day kindergarteners. Principal Berkshire stated that Mr. Tucker knows all the students, always has a smile, and attends CTA sponsored events. He further stated that students know they are safe and cared for when they get on Mr. Tucker’s bus at the beginning of the day and at the end of the day.

**Volunteer of the Month** – Principal Berkshire recognized parent volunteer Arien Hubbard. Mrs. Hubbard has two children who attend CTA, a second grader and a kindergarten. Principal Berkshire shared that Mrs. Hubbard is a very active volunteer and serves on the PTO. He mentioned that she is always willing to lend a helping hand often helping with small groups. Principal Berkshire noted that Mrs. Hubbard was a huge help with the Book Fair helping to set-up, run, and tear down. She has given Art Masterpiece lessons which were engaging while encouraging students to be creative. Principal Berkshire stated that Mrs. Hubbard always has a positive attitude and everyone at CTA appreciates all that she does.

**Citizen’s Comments**

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.

Mrs. Jaime Cloma addressed the Governing Board and read from a prepared statement wanting the Board to reconsider the assessment of liquidated fees in reference to her resignation. She considers the assessment unjust and undue.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Action Items** – Dr. Kemp made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Homan, and the motion carried 3-0. President Hargis recused herself from the consent agenda.

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Regular Meeting October 1, 2014
- B. Business and Finance
  - i. Student Activities Financial Statement October 2014
  - ii. First Quarter Budget and Expenditure Report for 2014 – 2015
  - iii. 40<sup>th</sup> Day Student Enrollment – Four Year Comparison
  - iv. Expense Vouchers
 

# 6015	\$ 92,885.11	# 6020	\$ 137.89
# 6016	\$ 146,303.47	# 6021	\$ 176,925.43
# 6017	\$ 137.89	# 6022	\$ 278,738.74
# 6018	\$ 253,474.48	# 6023	\$ 110.74
# 6019	\$ 228,263.32		
  - v. Payroll Vouchers
 

# 19	\$ 522,457.65	# 22	\$ 176,491.66
# 20	\$ 265,055.94	# 23	\$ 217.02
# 21	\$ 527,852.17		
  - vi. Intergovernmental Agreements/Declarations
    - a. Letter of Declaration to Pinal County Treasurer’s Office for School District’s Line of Credit
  - vii. Bid Request(s)
    - a. None
  - viii. Bid Approval(s)
    - a. None

- ix. Purchase(s)
    - a. Recommendation to Ratify Sole Source Purchase for Two Additional Licenses for Bookstore System for J.O. Combs Middle School
  - x. Grants, Gifts and Donations
    - a. SRP Social Studies Grant in the amount of \$2,000 awarded to Combs High School (application submitted by Mrs. Deborah Plimley)
    - b. Donation of computer equipment from Four Peaks Landscape valued at \$538
    - c. Donation of six (6) file cabinets from Mrs. Suzana Battaglia value at \$420
  - xi. Overnight and/or Out-of-State Travel Request
    - a. Arizona Thespian Festival, Phoenix, AZ, Combs High School Drama Club, Gr. 9-12, November 21-22, 2014
    - b. NCTM Annual Meeting and Exposition, Boston, MA, April 15-18, 2015, Jennifer Smith Harmon Teacher (funded by AMP Partnership)
    - c. OELAS Conference, Tucson, AZ, December 10-12, 2014, Brenda Bencomo, Ellsworth Elementary ELL and Diane Ouellette, Combs High School ELD (funded by Title III)
  - xii. 2014/15 Per Student Costs – Tuition/Admission of Nonresidential Students Based on Adopted Budget
- 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
    - a. None
  - ii. Administrative Staff: Resignation, Termination, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Employment
  - iii. Certificated Staff: Resignation, Termination, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Employment
  - iv. Support Staff: Resignation, Termination, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Employment
  - v. Substitute Staff: Resignation, Termination, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Employment

Dr. Blanchard took a moment to wish Mr. Singley well in his new adventure. She then congratulated and introduced Ms. Angela Beauchene as the interim Principal at Harmon Elementary and Mrs. Laura Rems-Ridge as the interim Dean of Students at Combs Middle School. Ms. Beauchene expressed her gratitude for the opportunity. Mrs. Rems-Ridge said that she is grateful for the amazing opportunity as well as to be a part of the leadership team. President Hargis thanked them both.

**Governing Board Approval of J.O. Combs Unified School District’s Parent Organizations for the 2014-2015 School Year** – Dr. Blanchard presented the parent organization applications for Ellsworth Elementary, Ranch Elementary, and Combs High School. She said that these are the last of the applications submitted for approval. Dr. Blanchard explained that the District needs formal and official approval for these groups for insurance coverage through the Arizona Risk Retention Trust.

Dr. Kemp made a motion to approve the J.O. Combs Unified School District’s Parent Organizations for 2014-2015 School Year as listed: Ellsworth Elementary, Ranch Elementary, and Combs High School, seconded by Mrs. Bourgeois, and the motion carried 4-0.

**Accountability and Achievement Update** – Principals shared updated information regarding their goals, celebrations and areas of focus that support student achievement. Dr. Blanchard explained that since Mr. Mark Mauro and Mrs. Sue Kruse are attending the Beat the Odds program this evening, Ms. Beauchene and Dr. Rogers will present their PowerPoint slides.

Mrs. Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction opened the presentation by providing an update to District’s student achievement goals for math and reading. She noted that the district Quarter 1 math average score on Galileo was 62% with five schools increasing their overall score from Quarter 1 last year. The district Quarter 1 average score on Galileo was 63% with all schools increasing overall from Quarter 1 last year. She also discussed celebrations and areas of focus.

Each principal then discussed their tiered goals for math and reading, Quarter 1 benchmarks, and shared their celebrations and areas of focus.

President Hargis asked a question about the reading scores. Dr. Rogers explained that Galileo reading scores have stayed the same and Galileo math scores increased this year even though it appears as if the reading scores have decreased.

Mrs. Brenda Mayberry, Combs High School principal noted that their math student achievement goal was updated to include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

**Call for Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03A (7) - Discussion or consultations with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of real property** – President Hargis made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Bourgeois, and the motion carried 4-0.

Reconvene from Executive Session

**Adjournment** – Dr. Kemp made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Bourgeois 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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Kathy Bourgeois, Clerk

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Patricia J. Pinckard, Member

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Rhett A. Homan, Member

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Gary F. Kemp, Ed.D., Member

Respectfully Submitted by:  
MaryLou Martinez  
Administrative Assistant  
Superintendent / Governing Board  
November 14, 2014