

**J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014**

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, December 10, 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 (arrived at 6:47 p.m.); Pat Pinckard, Member; Rhett Homan, Member; Dr. Gary Kemp, Member; Marcus Berkshire, Tammy Stimatze, Angie Beauchene, Sue Kruse, Mark Mauro, Cindy Parravano, Jane Rupard, Shannon Weber, Jack Wallbrecht, Santa Dunker, 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.

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Mrs. Pinckard made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 4-0. Mrs. Bourgeois arrived at 6:47 p.m.

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.

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 shared that the holiday entry lights are on at the hospital. She thanked the Governing Board for the opportunity to be a part of the student of the month recognition and commented that the District is such a great supporter of Banner Ironwood. Ms. Nunley also thanked the community for their wonderful 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.

Volunteer Recognition – President Hargis took a moment to recognize fellow Board Member, Mr. Rhett Homan. She shared that this is his last meeting and wanted to say how much the board appreciates all that he has done, acknowledging his contributions while serving on the board. Mr. Homan shared a few words about his time spent serving on the board. He said it was a pleasure serving on this board, serving the community, and appreciated the community support.

Focus on Students – Dr. Blanchard introduced Ms. Julie Trent, Band Director, and the Combs High School Symphonic Band. Ms. Trent shared several highlights about the band program and noted that Fulton Homes will donate \$1,000 to the band program for winning the 94.5 KOOL FM radio event. Under her direction, the symphonic band performed three music selections.

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.

Miss Tatum R. Essary addressed the board in regards to her concern with having to stay in an elective high school course for the entire second semester, something she does not want to do. President Hargis stated that someone from the District would follow up on her concern.

Approval of Consent Agenda Action Items – Dr. Kemp made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mrs. Pinckard and the motion carried 4-0.

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Regular Meeting November 12, 2014
 - ii. Executive Session November 12, 2014
- B. Business and Finance
 - i. Monthly Financial Report November 2014
 - ii. Student Activities Financial Statement November 2014
 - iii. Expense Vouchers
 - # 6024 \$ 161,282.87 # 6027 \$ 253,294.05
 - # 6025 \$ 96,198.23 # 6028 \$ 32,740.58
 - # 6026 \$ 69,852.57
 - iv. Payroll Vouchers
 - # 24 \$ 254,245.93 # 28 \$ 600,674.78
 - # 25 \$ 529,326.36 # 29 \$ 517,930.38
 - # 26 \$ 7,456.13 # 30 \$ 264,006.41
 - # 27 \$ 1,038,885.36
 - v. Intergovernmental Agreements
 - a. Agreement to Donate Easement for Public Utilities and Waiver of Appraisal and Compensation
 - b. Skoollive, L.L.C. Advertising and Promotional Services Agreement
 - vi. Bid Request(s)
 - a. None
 - vii. Bid Approval(s)
 - a. None
 - viii. Purchase(s)
 - a. None
 - ix. Grants, Gifts and Donations
 - a. Donation of one (1) heavy duty cross cut paper shredder valued at \$200.00 to Combs Traditional Academy from Jutz Construction Inc.
 - x. Overnight and/or Out-of-State Travel Request
 - a. State Cheerleading Competition, CHS Varsity Cheerleaders, Prescott, AZ, January 23-24, 2015
 - b. Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, Professional Development, Julie Trent, CHS Band Teacher, Chicago, IL, December 16-20, 2014 (Substitute Cost Only of \$380.00)
- 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

Revision of the 2013-2014 J.O. Combs Unified School District Annual Financial Report – Mrs. Slovitsky, Director of Business Services, explained to the Board that the 2013-2014 Annual Financial Report (AFR) had several fund balances that were incorrect due to accounting errors and therefore needed to be revised. She also explained that the county schools office discovered a deposit made in food service was not our school district revenue; thereby decreasing the cash balance in fund 510 by \$12,158.37. Mrs. Slovitsky stated that revising the AFR will reflect the accurate information of fund balances and will not cause 2014-2015 beginning fund balances to be incorrect.

President Hargis made a motion to approve the revision of the 2013-2014 J.O. Combs Unified School District Annual Financial Report as presented, seconded by Mr. Homan, and the motion carried 4-0.

Facility and Construction Projects – Dr. Blanchard explained that District has identified building needs that impact space and growth. Mrs. Slovitsky presented a PowerPoint identifying the facility maintenance projects and the location of work to be performed. She discussed the needs within the district, specifically a two bay building and purchase of a portable building for the transportation office in order to free up space for CTA classrooms. She stated that the District would like to move forward on construction of a two bay building to alleviate poor working conditions and provide the ability to secure buses and equipment. She also discussed renovating the existing mechanic area to be used as a warehouse facility. Mrs. Slovitsky discussed the total cost of the projects as \$770,995. She explained that we may use some of the \$159,532 adjacent ways fund and can earmark some of the \$151,742 bond fund money however, the remaining amounts would need to come from the \$459,721 capital funds.

There was a brief discussion regarding fencing when Mrs. Pinckard asked about the area that needs to be fenced. Mrs. Slovitsky explained the additional fencing is to secure the three additional classrooms in the courtyard area. Dr. Blanchard noted that there is an existing fence along the bus area. Mr. Homan inquired about the permitting process. Mrs. Slovitsky explained that the District will start the permit process upon approval.

Dr. Kemp made a motion to approve the construction and facility projects as presented, seconded by Mrs. Pinckard, and the motion carried 5-0. (Mrs. Bourgeois arrived at 6:47 p.m.)

Combs High School Courses for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 – Ms. Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction, presented the new course offerings for Combs High School for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. Ms. Dunker explained that the listing is updated annually to provide parents and students updated information about course requirements and options. She noted that courses would only be scheduled if sufficient enrollment were achieved. Mr. Homan commented that he is excited to see additional technology classes added to the course catalog.

Mrs. Pinckard made a motion to adopt the proposed course offerings for Combs High School as listed for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years, seconded by Mrs. Bourgeois, motion carried 5-0.

J.O. Combs Middle School Courses for 2015-2016 – Ms. Dunker presented and recommends adopting the course offerings for 2015-2016. She explained that the attached list represents the official course list for J.O. Combs Middle School for the 2015-2016 school year. Ms. Dunker noted that there are no new courses being offered for 2015-2016.

Mr. Homan made a motion to adopt the proposed course offerings for J.O. Combs Middle School as listed for 2015-2016, seconded by Mrs. Pinckard, motion carried 5-0.

Arizona's New Statewide Achievement Test AzMERIT – Ms. Dunker gave a PowerPoint presentation noting that the slides were adapted with the permission of Mr. Joe O'Reilly of Mesa Public Schools. She mentioned that the new statewide achievement test will be an Arizona created test with Arizona choosing items from the Sage (UT) item bank and American Institute for Research (AIR) item bank. Ms. Dunker shared that AzMERIT is not a requirement for graduation however, AIMS is required for the 2016 cohort.

President Hargis asked for clarification regarding the spring, summer, and fall testing windows for end of course testing. For example if a student takes the test in the fall but has not yet completed the course. Dr. Rogers explained that end of course testing is specific to high school only. Ms. Dunker commented that the spring testing window is for Elementary. President Hargis inquired about grading of the test. Ms. Dunker stated that they would be graded/scored over the summer and results should be received in September.

President Hargis asked about the standards that are already in place and how they compare. Ms. Dunker explained that our current standards that we are teaching are in alignment with state standards.

Adjournment – Mr. Homan made a motion to adjourn at 7:02 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Bourgeois and the motion carried 5-0.

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

Shelly Hargis, President

Kathy Bourgeois, Clerk

Patricia J. Pinckard, Member

Rhett A. Homan, Member

Gary F. Kemp, Ed.D., Member

Respectfully Submitted by:
MaryLou Martinez
Administrative Assistant
Superintendent / Governing Board
December 10, 2014