

J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 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; Bob D'Elena, Member; and Dr. Gary Kemp, Member. District Leadership present were Marcus Berkshire, Tammy Stimatze, Angie Beauchene, Bradley Shepstead, Sue Kruse, Mark Mauro, Cindy Parravano, Jane Rupard, Shannon Weber, Jack Wallbrecht, Santa Dunker, and 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 – Mr. D'Elena made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Mrs. Bourgeois, and the motion carried 5-0.

Welcoming of Guests

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Blanchard presented regarding the many activities taking place around the district and community. From the Superintendent's Update, she shared the following:

- Tuition-Free Kindergarten Program for 2015-2016 and Kindergarten Roundup February 19th at 6:00 p.m.
- J.O Combs Middle School PTO Golf Tournament on April 11th
- Ellsworth Elementary's Pen Pal Writing Assignment
- Combs High School Varsity Wrestlers Sectional Championships
- Combs High School Girls' Basketball and Boys' Basketball team wins their respective regular season section titles

Student of the Month – Mrs. Julie Nunley, Chief Executive Officer from Banner Ironwood Medical Center (BIMC) was not present to assist with the Student of the Month recognition. Dr. Blanchard commented that J.O. Combs is thankful for Banner's partnership and 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 and the Governing Board.

Focus on Students – Principal Shepstead from Simonton Elementary introduced Mrs. Angela Albers, Simonton Social Worker. Mrs. Albers discussed Simonton's anti-bullying video project which was produced with the help of Simonton students. She talked about being proactive rather than reactive about the topic. The video demonstrates the principles of the *7 Habits of Happy Kids* based on Stephen Covey's *7 Habits*. Through the video, Simonton wants to teach about the different roles in a bullying situation and what the other students around them can do about it. Three Simonton students spoke about their involvement in the project and shared their personal stories about their reasons for participating.

President Hargis remarked that the students did an excellent job in their public speaking.

Principal Shepstead introduced a short video which spotlighted Simonton students engaged in various activities such as Hour of Code, BizTown, Read Across America, Band and Orchestra just to name a few.

Staff Recognition – Principal Shepstead explained that since Simonton has strong certified and classified staff members on campus he turned over recognition to staff. Cynthia Soto, Library Aide and Kristin McCord, Reading

Coach were both recognized. He presented them with a personalized matted frame filled with quotes taken from the nomination forms of their peers.

Volunteer Recognition – Principal Shepstead recognized PTO members Traci Gilbert, Michelle Kaechelein, Betsy Roath, and Peggy Carter. He said that they are at every event, helped to acquire new equipment for students, and helped with event set up and break down. He presented them with framed certificates and one large framed “thank you” from the rest of the staff.

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 – Mrs. Hargis made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and to approve the Minutes with a minor correction, seconded by Mr. D’Elena and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. D’Elena asked for clarification in regards to the support document for the *Leader in Me*. He wanted to know what is the approval process. Principal Shepstead explained the application process is a multi-step process. He said that it requires a book study (*Leader in Me*). Principal Shepstead stated that the application is due February 28 and the process is competitive; therefore, Simonton is working with a Franklin Covey representative on the grant application. Mr. D’Elena asked when Simonton expects to hear an answer and Principal Shepstead responded that he expects to hear an answer in May.

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Regular Meeting January 14, 2015
- B. Business and Finance
 - i. Monthly Financial Report January 2015
 - ii. Student Activities Financial Statement January 2015
 - iii. 100th Day Report
 - iv. Expense Voucher
 - # 6034 \$ 156,538.90 # 6036 \$ 52,917.13
 - # 6035 \$ 157,791.37 # 6037 \$ 307,112.23
 - v. Payroll Voucher
 - # 39 \$ 529,380.01 # 42 \$ 269,465.37
 - # 40 \$ 125,292.08 # 43 \$ 522,542.21
 - # 41 \$ 258.01
 - vi. Intergovernmental Agreements
 - a. Agreement between The Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind and Participating Public Schools in the Desert Valleys Regional Cooperative
 - vii. Bid Request(s)
 - a. None
 - viii. Bid Approval(s)
 - a. None
 - ix. Purchase(s)
 - a. The Leader in Me, Franklin Covey Education - Simonton Elementary (pending grant approval)
 - x. Grants, Gifts, and Donations
 - a. Donation from William Ilnitsky for J.O Combs Food & Clothing Bank, \$500 donation for clothing
 - b. Donation from Dan Laumeyer for J.O. Combs Food & Clothing Bank, Target gift card valued at \$250
 - xi. Overnight and/or Out-of State Travel Request
 - a. NCTM Annual Meeting & Exposition, Boston, MA, April 15-18, 2015, Ashley Morris J.O. Combs Middle School math teacher (funded by NSF AMP Grant)
 - b. Nike Coach of the Year Clinic, Las Vegas, NV, February 5-8, 2015, Drew Ammon and Jesse Hart Combs High School Football Coaches - Ratify

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

Audit of Financial Statement and Supplemental Information for School Year Ending June 30, 2014 – Mrs. Karla Slovitsky introduced Mrs. Miranda Wendtlandt of CliftonLarsenAllen. Mrs. Wendtlandt discussed the results of the 2013-2014 financial audit by reviewing the comprehensive annual financial report, single audit act reports, and Uniform System of Financial Records (USFR) questionnaire. She shared that auditors had looked at Title I as well as the Nutrition Cluster and USFR compliance testing. Mrs. Wendtlandt acknowledged and thanked Mrs. Karla Slovitsky and the Business Department for their time.

Mr. D'Elena commented on the compliance questionnaire noting that there are 20 categories to review. He noted the amazing level of detail the auditors had to go into. Mr. D'Elena said he was impressed that very few areas received a "no" answer. He asked Mrs. Wendtlandt to speak briefly about the "no" areas. She reviewed the "no" areas and discussed their recommendations.

Mr. D'Elena asked Mrs. Wendtlandt to give a quick review regarding a USFR questionnaire revenue/expenditure finding. She explained that the finding relates to credit card handling. Mrs. Slovitsky commented that there is a corrective action plan in place and the finding has been taken care of.

Mr. D'Elena inquired about one of the findings noted in the single audit act report - Section II Financial Statement Findings (page 8). Mrs. Wendtlandt explained that this would require a full time person to perform the financial account review and that most districts include that service as part of the audit contract.

Student Achievement Update – Dr. Blanchard shared with the board that this agenda item is a follow up to provide information on identified focus areas. Director of Student Services and the Administrators used a PowerPoint presentation to address focus areas in reading and math.

Each principal addressed their efforts towards increased achievement in reading and math. Mr. D'Elena asked Principal Berkshire (Combs Traditional Academy) about "Socratic Seminar". Principal Berkshire explained that "Socratic Seminar" will take a piece of text with a lot of meaning and depth to that piece and read line by line pulling out the context, and looking at what those words mean when they are put together. He mentioned that it also helps students work on active listening skills.

President Hargis commented that she appreciates the bullet points and likes the fact that principals are sharing information and utilizing the Academic coaches. She said that she wishes parents would attend board meetings to hear what the sites are doing.

Arizona School Board Association Board Operations and Leadership Training (BOLTS) Conference January 23, 2015 Update – Dr. Blanchard, President Hargis, and Mr. D'Elena attended the conference. Board members were given an opportunity to share their thoughts and information.

Mr. D'Elena commented that attending the conference was a valuable experience. There were attendees from all around the state. He learned about the open meeting law, how to run meetings, transparency, and that it was good for him to know the requirements to follow (state law), and how to run an effective meeting. Information was also shared on the role of the board president.

President Hargis shared her thoughts about the open meeting law and mentioned a refresher course to make sure we are all on track. She learned how important the board secretary's job is. President Hargis noted that we do an excellent job on both the Superintendent's Evaluation and Governing Board Evaluation. In regards to the Board Evaluation, she cited that they might need to add another category such as "superior category". The board members plan to address this at the board retreat to help narrow down evaluation of themselves.

Adjournment – Mrs. Pinckard made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m., seconded by Mr. D'Elena 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

Gary F. Kemp, Ed.D., Member

Bob D'Elena, Member

Respectfully Submitted by:
MaryLou Martinez
Administrative Assistant
Superintendent / Governing Board
February 11, 2015