

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

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 6:00 pm 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; Rhett Homan, Member (absent); Dr. Gary Kemp, Member; Marcus Berkshire, Tammy Stimatze, Ames Singley, Bradley Shepstead, Angie Beauchene, Brenda Mayberry, Jane Rupard, 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. Mr. Rhett Homan was absent.

President Hargis thanked the entire staff for working together through the recent rainy weather. She acknowledged the transportation department on doing an awesome job in safely transporting students to school. She also commended staff for doing everything they do and then some.

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Mrs. Bourgeois made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Mrs. Pinckard, and the motion carried 4-0.

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.

Student of the Month – Mr. David Dunning, Director of Security, of Banner Ironwood Medical Center (BIMC) was present to assist with the Student of the Month recognition. Mr. Dunning shared that BIMC was able to test some of their emergency operation plans as a result of the weather. He also shared that BIMC is partnering with United Way at all their hospitals to help raise money for a variety of causes. Mr. Dunning said that employees are excited about their fundraiser at the Ironwood facility, which will help create a healing garden for patients. He also noted that BIMC is increasing orthopedic services for patients in the community and have welcomed a new general surgeon, Dr. Andri Olafsson.

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 Mr. Dunning from Banner Ironwood Medical Center.

Focus on Students – Mrs. Tamara Stimatze, Principal of Simonton Elementary introduced three former sixth grade students Madison Bukentin, Hailey Bradley, and Alyssa Carrier. The students discussed their role in working on the "Buy a Bestie" social action project. The fundraiser was handled under the supervision of Ms. Jaime Cloma, 6th grade teacher who also oversees the Champions Against Bullying program. Ms. Cloma shared that the fundraiser was a huge success. The students mentioned that they were able to purchase a red carpet and a Kindle Fire with the proceeds received. They shared what they learned from participating in Champions Against Bullying and how it changed them as a person. Dr. Kemp commented on a job well done. Mrs. Bourgeois also shared that she did not know until now that the bear her son had purchased had been a part of a fundraising effort put in place by Ellsworth students.

Staff Recognition – Principal Stimatze recognized Susan Orban, Mary Plunk, Joline King, and Christine Murphy for the awesome job they do throughout the year. She spoke of the character traits they have in common and commented that these four wonderful ladies are always putting the team first and staying Ellsworth tough.

Volunteer of the Month – Principal Stimatze recognized parent volunteer, Ms. Jenni Vilhauer, who is at Ellsworth almost every day of the week helping.

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. Pinckard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Consent Agenda Action Items – Discussion / Motion

A. Approval of Minutes

- i. Regular Meeting August 13, 2014

B. Business and Finance

- i. Student Activities Financial Statement August 2014

- ii. Expense Vouchers

#	5058	\$	58,718.47	#	6005	\$	299,835.42
#	5059	\$	5,973.51	#	6006	\$	295,131.56
#	5060	\$	539,188.86	#	6007	\$	114,136.54
#	5061	\$	10,958.53	#	6008	\$	303,441.00
				#	6009	\$	165.57
				#	6010	\$	100,477.95

- iii. Payroll Vouchers

#	7	\$	311.73	#	11	\$	490,119.76
#	8	\$	133,112.74	#	12	\$	242,575.27
#	9	\$	479,611.01	#	13	\$	458.38
#	10	\$	2,605.35				

- iv. Intergovernmental Agreements

- a. Intergovernmental Agreement between Pinal County Community College (D.B.A. Central Arizona College) and J.O. Combs Unified School District No. 44, Dual Enrollment Courses

- v. Bid Request(s)

- a. None

- vi. Bid Approvals(s)

- a. Recommendation for Award proposal for Student Photographs K-8th Grades and Elementary Yearbooks

- vii. Grants, Gifts and Donations

- a. None

- viii. Over Night and/or Out-of-State Travel Request

- a. Combs High School Wrestling Team Tournaments Gr 9-12, Holbrook, AZ, Las Vegas, NV, Prescott Valley, AZ, Tucson, AZ, Travis Miller, November 25, 2014 to February 15, 2014
- b. Professional Development AT Tech Grant, Flagstaff, AZ - Marty Spitz, Program Specialist; Jane Chu, Teacher; Renee Reed, Teacher; Laurel Buell, Therapist; and Kelly Hart, Therapist, September 17-18, 2014
- c. Professional Development Schoolmaster Conference, Prescott, AZ - Deanna Craine, SAIS Coordinator; and Jack Wallbrecht, IT Director; September 29-30, 2014
- d. Arizona Interagency Farmworkers Coalition Annual Conference, Tucson, AZ - Elizabeth Kloehr, Migrant Liaison, September 9-11, 2014 - Ratify

- ix. Auction/Disposal of Computers, Monitors, Technology Equipment, and Refrigerator

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. Paraprofessional, Special Education - ED/ED-P
- b. Paraprofessional, Special Education - Self-Contained and Preschool

- c. Teacher - Special Education (Autism)
- 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

Accountability and Achievement Update – Dr. Blanchard shared that principals will present site goals in conjunction with district goals and the strategies to achieve their goals. Directors and Coordinators will present their goals at the next board meeting. Ms. Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction, shared information outlining action plans that support the District’s math and reading student achievement goals. Ms. Dunker noted that District has partnered with Pinal County ESA for additional support for secondary math teachers. Principals then provided an overview of their tiered goals and action steps. They discussed math and reading proficiency benchmarks using Galileo pre- and post-test scores. Mr. Mauro and Mrs. Kruse were not in attendance due to another school business commitment and will present at the next board meeting. Ms. Beauchene presented for Combs Middle School and Dr. Rogers presented for Ranch Elementary.

President Hargis asked for feedback in regards to the math coaches specifically if they feel like they are making a difference. Math coach Ms. Murphy, commented that she feels that coaches are well received and that teachers feel that they are effective.

Mrs. Pinckard wanted to know if District’s goal is 80% proficiency than where are we now. Ms. Dunker explained that not all pretest data had been collected therefore, District does not have the average baseline data to share at this time. President Hargis asked if an update would be provided. Dr. Blanchard stated that she will provide the pretest data within the next few days to the Board Members.

Dr. Blanchard asked Ms. Dunker to explain the reason behind using Galileo as opposed to AIMS. Ms. Dunker stated that the State assessment has yet to be named therefore, District required some sort of measure. President Hargis asked for additional information and wants to see specific data such as starting point and updates throughout the school year.

President Hargis asked if Saxon benchmark assessments are tied to Galileo. Mr. Berkshire responded “no” not at this time. President Hargis wanted to know the timeframe to align the Saxon with Galileo. Mr. Berkshire stated that he would contact Galileo representatives to find out how this may be accomplished including timeframe. Mrs. Pinckard asked for clarification concerning CTA’s first and second graders. Mr. Berkshire clarified that the 45-minute “target time” is for third to sixth graders.

Mrs. Pinckard asked for the definition of FYA as shown in Harmon’s PowerPoint slide. Mr. Singley stated the acronym means full academic year. President Hargis commented that she is pleased to see in the action steps that students will chart and graph their own results. She likes that students are held accountable for their progress.

Mrs. Pinckard asked what Tier 2 RTI refers to as shown on the Ellsworth slide. Dr. Rogers explained that Tier 1 is core instruction, Tier 2 is additional remedial strategies required for student and taught by classroom teacher and Tier 3 is additional remedial strategies and taught by specialist.

Mrs. Bourgeois asked if District knows why students struggle. Mr. Singley stated that we have additional assessments to pinpoint specific reading deficits.

Dr. Kemp commented that District’s goals are really ambitious given the fact that we do not have students a 100 percent of the time which is part of the problem. Dr. Blanchard added that now that we have social workers in place this should help us support the family and the whole child.

Dr. Rogers reviewed Ranch Elementary goals and action steps but took a few minutes to talk about those students that do not make the 80% proficiency goal. She said that District’s goal is to show growth for those students, which becomes the focus versus the actual percentage.

Mrs. Pinckard asked for the number of attendees at the Academic Parent Teacher Team (APTT) meeting held at Ranch Elementary. Dr. Rogers did not have the information readily available and will provide to the Board at a later date.

President Hargis asked where the 12 most powerful vocabulary words originated from. Dr. Rogers explained that the vocabulary words are taken from the actual reading or math assessment as it appears. For example the word “analyze” i.e. analyze the problem.

Mr. Shepstead, Simonton Elementary Principal, discussed the tiers and action steps. There were no questions from the board members.

President Hargis asked about the action step “using professional learning community to drive instruction through continuous data analysis” as shown in the Combs Middle School slide. Ms. Beauchene, Dean of Students, explained that the middle school would not use Galileo all the time. In fact, the middle school will be using teacher made tests along with Galileo data. President Hargis asked about math intervention and if that is a separate class. Ms. Beauchene clarified math intervention is an additional class and is for the bottom quartile students who will then only get one elective course to choose.

Mrs. Pinckard asked for clarification of “close reading” as shown on the high school PowerPoint slide. Mrs. Mayberry explained that close reading refers to the process of annotating text by picking out different parts of the text to help with reading comprehension. She further added that the skill was taught to the parents who attended the high school Academic Parent Teacher Team meeting.

President Hargis complimented the principals on their presentation. Dr. Blanchard added that principals and leadership have worked very hard to compile their goals and action steps by reviewing all the data. She also thanked Dr. Rogers, Ms. Dunker, and Mr. Berkshire for pulling together the data.

Policy First Read – Dr. Blanchard stated that the Policy First Read is for information and discussion purposes only. She explained that there are minor, mostly cosmetic type changes in policies. Dr. Blanchard noted that policy IKF Graduation requirements cover a new state law to allow school districts to create a computer course for math credit. District intends to work with Mrs. Mayberry and perhaps create a computer class to meet this requirement.

Dr. Blanchard will return in October for the second read of the policies. President Hargis asked about the graduation requirement specifically how it will transfer to a college credit. Dr. Blanchard explained that it would count as a math credit. Mrs. Mayberry stated that other schools offer this type of option for a math credit.

BCB	Board Member Conflict of Interest
BDB	Board Officers
BEC	Executive Sessions/Open Meetings
BEDBA	Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
ECB	Building and Grounds Maintenance
GDF	Support Staff Hiring
GDFA	Support Staff Qualifications and Requirements
GDQA	Support Staff Reduction in Force
IKE, IKE-RB	Promotion and Retention of Students
IKF	Graduation Requirements
JFAB	Tuition/Admission of Non-resident Students
JLCB-E	Immunization of Students
JQ	Student Fees, Fines, and Charges
KDB-R	Public’s Right to Know/Freedom of Information
KF, KF-EA	Community Use of School Facilities
JKE	Expulsion of Students

Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Superintendent Performance Plan and Goals for 2014-2015, as required by A.R.S. 15-341 (4) – Dr. Blanchard explained that the State passed a law that performance pay plans are now required for Arizona Superintendents. Dr. Blanchard stated that she worked with President Hargis to establish the performance plan and goals, which focus on the District priority map.

Mrs. Bourgeois made a motion to approve a Superintendent Performance Plan and Goals for 2014-2015, as required by A.R.S. 15-341 (4) and as presented, seconded by President Hargis, and the motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment – President Hargis made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 pm, seconded by Dr. Kemp 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

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
September 10, 2014