

**J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016**

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 5:30 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; and Pat Pinckard (absent), Member. Administrators, Directors, and Coordinators present were Marcus Berkshire, Tammy Stimatze, Angie Beauchene, Sue Kruse, Bradley Shepstead, Mark Mauro, Brenda Mayberry, Jane Rupard, Karla Slovitsky, Jack Wallbrecht, Shannon Weber, and Kelly Guerra; 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 5:30 p.m. Ms. Pinckard was absent.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – Ms. Bourgeois made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. D'Elena, and the motion carried 4-0.

**Call for Executive Session** – Ms. Hargis called for executive session at 5:30 p.m., seconded by Ms. Bourgeois, and the motion carried 4-0.

Reconvened into regular session at approximately 6:00 p.m.

**Welcoming of Guests**

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Ms. Hargis invited Combs Middle School student Jason Washington to help lead the pledge.

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

- District enrollment is 4,512 students, which includes community Pre-K through Grade 12.
- The first annual Community Health Fair at Combs High School was a success! Approximately 150 members from the community participated in the Health Fair. Sixty-one students received free physicals, approximately 25 students attended the Bike Rodeo, and Lions Club screened 40 individuals for vision. Ms. Susan Belshe, CTE teacher, is working with the Pinal County Health Department and the Pinal County Sheriff's Office to coordinate future events (probably in the Fall).
- Congratulations to Ranch Elementary band students Cambri Elder, Christian Laufer, and Trinity Muniz for their wonderful performance in the 6th Grade All-State Band at Dobson High School on March 12. Ranch is extremely proud of their musical accomplishments!
- Combs Traditional Academy is proud to recognize Uchechi Ubosi, Alexandra Garcia, and Aiyannah Scism at the San Tan Valley Scholastic Recognition Event on April 25, 2016 at the San Tan Valley Campus of Central Arizona College. These students were nominated by their teachers and selected for their representation of Academic Excellence, Respect, Character, and School Spirit. Combs Traditional Academy is proud of the Rigor, Responsibility, and Respect shown by these three students and all of the students that were nominated! Elementary and middle school sites will be participating in this annual event.
- Congratulations to Combs High School Junior Brandon Wu. Brandon's artwork was chosen as Best of Show in the Arizona Junior Duck Stamp competition. Brandon's drawing will represent Arizona in Florida for the National Competition where it will compete with other Best of Show winners from other states. His conservation message "Conservation can't be a choice. It is a responsibility" was also chosen and will be entered into the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Competition where it will compete with Best of Show Conservation Message along with others submitted from across the United States.
- Simonton Elementary is hosting its first annual Leadership Day on May 18th from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Simonton will be highlighting their student leadership groups and students from their upcoming Variety

Show. Guest speakers will include teachers, students, and parents. This is a community event, all are welcome to attend and see why "Great Happens at Simonton."

- J.O. Combs Middle School eighth grade students attended the Central Arizona College (CAC) Promise for the Future presentation today. Promise for the Future is a program designed to encourage students who reside in Pinal County to stay in high school, graduate with a 2.75 grade point average, and participate in 20 hours of community service. Students graduating from a Pinal County high school who meet the requirements will be eligible for free tuition to any Central Arizona College campus for up to four consecutive semesters. For more information, please contact Dr. Leslie Wiberg at 480-882-3510.

**Focus on Students/Programs** – Ms. Kelly Guerra, Coordinator of Community Education, highlighted the Combs Kidz program. The before and after school care program is offered at all five elementary sites. Ms. Guerra introduced Ms. Sara Marquez (Simonton Program Facilitator) and Ms. Wendy Singleton (Ellsworth Program Facilitator) along with a few of the Combs Kidz students. Ms. Singleton discussed the variety of activities students engage in each day for a positive learning experience. Students presented and demonstrated one of their amazing activities, building a rocket (a STEM project). Ms. Guerra explained students built their rockets using the scientific method in which students were given the general design and they learned how the rocket and wing designs affected the flight pattern. In class, they did look at the design of the rockets and used math and science skills to determine best fin shape. Students explained the composition of their rockets, the materials they were made of. Other students shared what they liked most about attending Combs Kidz.

**Staff Recognition** – Ms. Guerra recognized Ms. Tammy Carley, Lead Program Facilitator. Ms. Carley began her career with J.O. Combs in 2006 and in 2011 joined the Community Education Department as a Program Facilitator. Ms. Carley has been instrumental in pushing the department to offer programs that meet the needs of the community and best support Combs families. Ms. Guerra announced that on April 22, Ms. Carley will receive the Arizona Community Education Association Program Leader of the Year award.

**Volunteer Recognition** – Mr. Marcus Berkshire spotlighted a joint venture between Combs High School and Combs Traditional Academy. Mr. Berkshire worked with Ms. Goodrick, CTE teacher, to identify high school students who would be interested in volunteering in the kindergarten class at CTA. Mr. Berkshire recognized Combs High School student Yvette Campos. Yvette has been volunteering two days a week in the kindergarten class the entire year. She assists students with technology, during specials, physical education class, and helps in the classroom. Mr. Berkshire noted that Yvette really loves working with the kindergarten students and that she plans to attend Central Arizona College to pursue a career in education. Mr. Berkshire made Yvette an honorary CTA Knight with all the privileges it comes with and presented her with a certificate and wristband. He feels that she is an example of the District motto "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow."

**Student of the Month** – Ms. Tracy Baskara, Culinary Director from Banner Ironwood Medical Center was present to assist with the Student of the Month recognition. Ms. Baskara shared updates as it relates to Banner Ironwood. She also shared information (including flyers) about an upcoming event "It's a Girl Thing" being offered on Saturday, April 23, as part of the Spirit of Women quarterly program which addresses different topics each time. Seating is limited for this event and you may contact Banner Ironwood at 602-230-2273 for additional details.

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. Rogers thanked Ms. Carley for helping with Combs Kidz and Yvette Campos with Combs Traditional Academy kindergarteners. Dr. Rogers also recognized staff members in the audience who came to support students.

**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. Bourgeois made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. D'Elena and the motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Hargis thanked administration, staff, and everyone else involved in putting together the Job Fair.

After the approval of the HR Consent Agenda, Mr. Steve Miller, newly hired Combs High School Assistant Principal, addressed the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to join the Combs team/Combs family. Ms. Chasity Cruz also addressed the Board thanking them for the opportunity and said that she is excited to be the new principal at Simonton and is really looking forward to joining the Combs team.

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Regular Meeting March 2, 2016
- B. Business and Finance
  - i. Monthly Financial Report March 2016
  - ii. Student Activities Financial Statement March 2016
  - iii. Expense Vouchers


#	7042	\$302,136.72	#	7045	\$132,555.93
#	7043	\$242,466.53	#	7046	\$329,041.04
#	7044	\$57,253.77	#	7047	\$65,026.75
  - iv. Payroll Vouchers


#	41	\$91.67	#	45	\$597,920.32
#	42	\$318,883.41	#	46	\$335.24
#	43	\$604,506.31	#	47	\$603,491.21
#	44	\$225,188.24	#	48	\$302,365.92
  - v. Intergovernmental Agreements
    - a. Memorandum of Understanding between J.O. Combs School District #44 and Pinal-Gila Community Child Services, Inc./Head Start Program for the period of August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017
    - b. Data Processing Service Program Agreement 2016/2017 between Pinal County School Districts and the Office of the Pinal County School Superintendent
    - c. Intergovernmental Agreement and Declaration of Trust for Schools Medical Insurance Trust, Amendment to Exhibit A Participating Entities
  - vi. Bid Request(s)
    - a. Recommendation to Prepare a Request for Proposal for Background Investigative Services Vendor
    - b. Recommendation to Prepare a Request for Proposal for Landscape Management/Maintenance Services
  - vii. Bid Approval(s)
    - a. Recommendation to Award for Purchase/Adoption of Textbooks and Supplemental Materials and Services for Algebra I, Algebra II; and Geometry/non-award
    - b. Recommendation to Extend Contract for Landscape Management Services
  - viii. Purchase(s)
    - a. RATIFY - Purchase of two Ricoh Pro907EX Copiers and Disposal/Trade-in of Asset Tag Numbers 40140 and 40142
  - ix. Grants, Gifts, and Donations
    - a. Donation from DonorsChoose in the amount of \$692 for sport equipment to Ranch Elementary
    - b. Donation of one HP Deskjet printer valued at \$40 from Megan Stewart to Jack W. Harmon Elementary
    - c. Donation of 60 Blood Pressure Cuffs and 50 Stethoscopes valued at \$1,600 to Combs High School

- x. Overnight and/or Out-of-State Travel Request
    - a. ASPRA Annual Professional Development Conference, Tucson, AZ, June 14-15, 2016, Kelly Guerra - Coordinator of Community Education
    - b. FCCLA National Leadership Conference, San Diego, CA, July 2-8, 2016, Grade 12
  - xi. Fee Schedules for 2016-2017
    - a. Young Coyotes, Kindergarten Prep, Peer Model Preschool, Combs Kidz Before and After School Program for Elementary Students, Combs Kidz Camps, Summer School for Elementary and Secondary Students
    - b. Food Service School Breakfast and Lunch
    - c. High School and Middle School Athletic/Activity Fees and Transportation Field/Sports Trip Fees
    - d. Elective Course and Other Fees for Combs High School
    - e. Community Use of District Facilities
    - f. Supplementary Fee Schedule for Tax Credit Eligibility
- 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: 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

**Employee Medical Insurance Plan for 2016-2017** — Ms. Karla Slovitsky, Director of Business Services provided information pertaining to the employee medical insurance plan. Ms. Slovitsky noted there are no increases in health insurance rates for next year for all plans. There is a change in the plan design; the Classic Gold plan will see an increase in copays of \$5, the Value Gold plan will have an increase of \$250 to the individual deductible and the Value Silver plan will increase to a \$1,000 individual deductible and a \$2,000 family deductible. The District will offer and pay 100% of the Value Silver plan to all 30 hours or more of service employees.

Mr. D'Elena made a motion to approve the Employee Medical Insurance Plan and Rates for 2016-2017, seconded by Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 4-0.

**Policy Second Read** — Dr. Blanchard presented the policies for a second review stating they are recommendations from the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) with most of the changes pertaining to clarifying language.

BEC	Executive Sessions/Open Meetings
BEDA	Notification of Board Meetings
BEDH	Public Participation at Board Meetings
GBEB-R	Staff Conduct
GCCC-ED	Professional/Support Staff Leaves of Absence Without Pay
GCQF	Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff Member
IKE	Promotion and Retention of Students
IKF	Graduation Requirements
IKF-RB	Graduation Requirements, regulation
IKF-EA	Graduation Requirements, exhibit
IKF-EB	Graduation Requirements, exhibit
JFAB	Tuition/Admission of Nonresident Students
JK	Student Discipline
JK-RB	Student Discipline, regulation
KDB-R	Public's Right to Know/Freedom of Information

Ms. Bourgeois made a motion to approve the Second Read Policies as presented, seconded by Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 4-0.

**Adjournment** – Ms. Hargis made a motion to adjourn at 6:36 p.m., seconded by Mr. D’Elena 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  
April 13, 2016