

**J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2016**

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 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; Bob D'Elena, Clerk; Kathy Bourgeois, Member; Dr. Gary Kemp, Member; and Pat Pinckard, Member. Administrators, Directors, and Coordinators present were Marcus Berkshire, Tammy Stimatze, Angie Beauchene, Sue Kruse, Chasity Cruz, Mark Mauro, Brooke Davis, Karla Slovitsky, Shannon Weber, Jack Wallbrecht, Kelly Guerra, Santa Dunker, and John Scrogam; 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 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – Mr. D'Elena made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 5-0.

**Welcoming of Guests**

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Combs Middle School student Kylee Wiles helped lead the pledge.

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

- District enrollment is 4,684 students, which includes community Pre-K through Grade 12 (up by 200 students compared to this same time last year).
- Congratulations to Combs High School student Josh Allen for his letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program. This recognition is given for his exceptional work on the PSAT/NMSQT test.
- Congratulations to the Combs Middle School baseball team who finished the regular season as the #1 seed with a 10-7 victory and winning their championship game against Apache Junction.
- J.O. Combs sixth grade students placed as either a semi-finalist or finalist in the Pinal County Anti-Drug Poster Contest. Congratulations to:  
Finalist Lyndsey Threlkeld - Ranch Elementary  
Semi-finalists Hana Ali and Shelby Walag - Combs Traditional Academy  
Gage Solis and Katherine Nevarez - Ranch Elementary
- Plan to attend Parent University on October 22 offered at Ranch Elementary. Parents may select from a wide-range of classes.
- Congratulations to John Scrogam Career and Technical Education Coordinator and Combs High School coach who has been selected to serve as the 4A representative on the AIA Baseball Sports Advisory Committee.
- On October 17, several colleges will be visiting Combs High School to share information with the community about advanced education degrees. Parents and community members are invited to visit with college representatives and learn more about higher education programs.
- Also on October 17, a special training on BoardDocs as it relates to board meeting agenda preparation.

**Focus on Students/Programs** – Mr. Marcus Berkshire, Combs Traditional Academy Principal, put a spotlight on the yearbook club. Second grade teachers Ms. Megan Cox and Ms. Autumn Lord oversee the yearbook club. This is the second year Ms. Cox is sponsoring the club and she discussed the work involved in producing the student led and designed yearbook.

Student elected officers talked about what they like most about being involved in the yearbook club. Mr. Berkshire noted that all photos taken by the yearbook club are saved to google drive and shared with Ms. Kelly Guerra, Community Education Coordinator. Mr. Berkshire appreciates what the teachers and students are putting together.

**Staff Recognition** – Mr. Berkshire recognized fourth grade teacher Ms. Krista Nino who is coming into her fourth year at CTA and is part of their leadership team. Mr. Berkshire stated that Ms. Nino works hard to challenge her students. Mr. Berkshire attributes CTA’s AIMS Science top scoring in San Tan Valley to Ms. Nino’s efforts in the classroom. He commented that the district is fortunate to have her.

**Volunteer Recognition** – Mr. Berkshire acknowledged Ms. Crystal Pava who volunteers in Mrs. Hargarten’s class and is the parent of a first grader. He noted that Ms. Pava puts in many hours in the classrooms, runs copies, is involved in the masterpiece art program, and often helps CTA’s parent-teacher organization. Mrs. Hargarten had written of Ms. Pava as patient in reading with students one on one all the while praising and encouraging them. Mr. Berkshire is proud to recognize Ms. Pava saying CTA could not be a top ten school without parents like her.

**Student of the Month** – Ms. Tracy French, Chief Financial Officer from Banner Ironwood Medical Center was present to assist with the Student of the Month recognition.

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. Patty Rogers took a moment to recognize and thank staff members who were present among the audience to support student recognitions.

**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. Pinckard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Bourgeois, and the motion carried 5-0.

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Regular Meeting September 14, 2016
  - ii. Executive Sessions September 14, 2016
- B. Business and Finance
  - i. Monthly Financial Report September 2016
  - ii. Student Activities Financial Statement September 2016
  - iii. Expense Vouchers
    - # 8011 \$124,220.38 # 8014 \$244,531.40
    - # 8012 \$1,138.08 # 8015 \$276,727.10
    - # 8013 \$126,272.45
  - iv. Payroll Vouchers
    - # 11 \$628,796.26 # 13 \$627,210.61
    - # 12 \$328,846.04 # 14 \$328,263.08
  - v. Intergovernmental Agreements
    - a. University of Phoenix School Affiliation Agreement
    - b. Ottawa University Affiliation Agreement
    - c. Higley Healthcare, Inc., D/B/A Citadel Post Acute Clinical Affiliation Agreement
  - vi. Bid / Proposal
    - a. Request for Proposal for Wide Area Network Product and Services
  - vii. Bid Approval(s)
    - a. Award Proposal for T-Shirts, Polo Shirts and Printing or Embroidery on Shirts

- viii. Purchase(s)
    - a. None
  - ix. Grants, Gifts and Donations
    - a. Grant in the amount of \$3,400 from the Greater Valley Area Health Education Center (GVAHEC) to the Combs High School Medical Professions program
    - b. Arizona Cardinals grant in the amount of \$5,000 to provide math training to teachers
  - x. Overnight and/or Out-of-State Travel Request
    - a. Leadership NOW presented by Solution Tree, Las Vegas, NV, Professional Development, Santa Dunker - Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction, Dorsey Middaugh - Professional Development Specialist, November 2-4, 2016
    - b. AZ Thespians Festival, Phoenix, AZ, CHS Drama Club Gr 9-12, November 18-19, 2016
    - c. 2016 OLEAS Conference, Tucson, AZ, Professional Development, Brenda Bencomo, Diane Ouellette, Jaime Haugland, December 7-9, 2016
- 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

**Governing Board Approval of J.O. Combs Unified School District's Parent Organizations for the 2016-2017 School Year** –

- Combs Middle School, Combs Traditional Academy, Harmon Elementary, and Simonton Elementary

Dr. Blanchard presented this item as the last of the parent support groups brought before the Board for official approval in order to be acknowledged by Arizona Risk Retention Trust.

Mr. D'Elena made a motion to Approve the J.O. Combs Unified School District's Parent Organizations for the 2016-2017 school year as listed: Combs Middle School, Combs Traditional Academy, Harmon Elementary, and Simonton Elementary, seconded by Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 5-0.

**Student Achievement Update** – Ms. Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction and Mr. Berkshire provided an update about the 2015-2016 AzMERIT assessment data and included celebrations. Such celebrations indicated Combs Traditional Academy ranked #1 in Pinal County for AzMERIT English Language Arts with Ranch Elementary ranked in top 15%. AzMERIT Math indicated CTA and Ranch ranked in top 10% and Harmon ranked in top 25% proficiency.

Ms. Dunker summarized state, county, and district percent passing proficiency ELA comparisons for grades 3-6, grades 7-11 noting Combs does outperform the county in most grade levels. In Math proficiency for grades 3-6, we do outperform the county in almost every grade level showing an increase in proficiency from last year's scores and for grades 7 to Algebra II, we did outperform the county on percent proficiency in most grade levels.

Dr. Kemp inquired if the assessment data can be found on the Expect More Arizona website as a resource for the Board to look at in order to compare individual schools to other schools.

Mr. D'Elena asked about the county comparison data and if it compares to charter or private schools. Mr. Berkshire explained that private schools are not required to take AzMERIT therefore the assessment data does not include them, but does include charter.

**District Department Goals** – Coordinators, Directors, and Dr. Rogers gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining department action plans and strategies that support the District's goals. Dr. Blanchard identified the main standard, "the district has resources and provides services in all schools that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students" explaining that directors and coordinators reviewed data resources and support systems. Each department presented their goal as well as action steps and strategies to achieve said goal.

Ms. Hargis congratulated Mr. Scrogam on the recent East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) Governing Board approval of the Combs CTE drama program and gave “kudos” to Mr. Nick Smith, Drama teacher.

After the Food Services presentation, Ms. Hargis congratulated Ms. Shannon Weber for the recent article reflecting the district’s transportation inspection and noting the bus drivers are “awesome.”

**Policy Second Read** – Dr. Blanchard presented the policies for a second read and board approval. She clarified these policies will not have a negative impact on our district.

EBA	Reporting of Hazards/Warning Systems
IKE-RB	Promotion and Retention of Students
JC	School Attendance Areas
JFABD	Admission of Homeless Student
JFB	Open Enrollment
JICI	Weapons in School
JJJ	Extracurricular Activity Eligibility
JL-RA	Student Wellness
KB	Parental Involvement in Education
KFAA	Smoking on School Premises at Public Functions

Ms. Bourgeois made a motion to Approve the Second Read Policies as presented, seconded by Ms. Pinckard and the motion carried 5-0.

**Capital Bond Expense Report** – Ms. Karla Slovitsky, Director of Business Services explained although this agenda item is an annual requirement for discussion and information purposes, this will be the last time to present it in connection with the 2006 bond. She reviewed the items the bond was used for last year.

**2015-2016 J.O. Combs Unified School District Annual Financial Report** – Ms. Karla Slovitsky, Director of Business Services presented the 2015-2016 Annual Financial Report. She detailed the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) budget, actual expenses, and carryover amount and noted the Prop 123 funds (used for employee raises) are in the carryover amount of \$1.5 million.

Ms. Slovitsky explained the M&O expenditures as well as the M&O programs spending. Ms. Slovitsky noted that as a cost of doing business, the District needs to make sure we have at least \$350,000 in software maintenance funds allocated.

Ms. Slovitsky stated there is no more bond dollars left. District has taken advantage of building renewal grants from State Funding Board (SFB) and explained what those monies were used for. Further mentioning, unless the bond election passes, we no longer have bond money available.

Mr. D’Elena inquired as to the cost to purchase a used bus. Ms. Slovitsky mentioned our last purchase was from Tempe Elementary and was sold to us for \$13,000 dollars. Mr. D’Elena also asked about the Prop 123 monies. Ms. Slovitsky explained that Prop 123 funding is based on student enrollment and there have been many changes in current year funding, however our enrollment is up. She gave “kudos” to Ms. Deanna Craine, SAIS Specialist for all her hard work and for keeping District data current.

Dr. Kemp made a motion to Approve the 2015-2016 Annual Financial Report as presented, seconded by Ms. Pinckard, and the motion carried 5-0.

**Adjournment** – Ms. Hargis made a motion to adjourn at 7:11 p.m., seconded by Ms. 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

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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  
October 5, 2016