

J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 6:11 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 (absent); Pat Pinckard (arrived at 6:11 p.m.), Member; Bob D'Elena, Member; and Dr. Gary Kemp, Member (absent). Administrators, Directors, and Coordinators present were Marcus Berkshire, Tammy Stimatze, Sue Kruse, Bradley Shepstead, Mark Mauro, Brenda Mayberry, Karla Slovitsky, Jane Rupard, Jack Wallbrecht, Shannon Weber, Kelly Guerra, and Santa Dunker; 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 6:11 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Ms. Pinckard made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. D'Elena, and the motion carried 3-0.

Welcoming of Guests

Pledge of Allegiance – Combs Middle School student Jaden Bernhardt led the pledge.

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

- Late breaking news shared concerning the bond election results
- Current District enrollment is 4,488 students which is up slightly from last month.
- J.O. Combs Unified School District annual food drive has kicked off at all school sites with donations directly benefiting Combs families.
- Congratulations to Combs Traditional Academy and Ranch Elementary sixth grade students Anissa Deel, Dinay Holmes, and Jasmyn Hermann who were selected as finalists in Pinal County's Anti-Drug Poster Contest.
- Congratulations to the Combs High School Varsity football team as they qualified for the State playoffs playing Show Low on Saturday, November 7.
- Congratulations to the Combs High School marching band who has qualified for state competition and will perform at McClintock High School on Saturday, November 7.
- At Combs Middle School, teachers are participating in a program this year called Love and Logic. The program teaches consequences and healthy decision making, emphasizes dignity and respect for both students and teachers, provides real limits in a nurturing way and uses humor and empathy to build up the student/teacher relationship.
- Harmon Elementary celebrated Red Ribbon Week with different activities and themes each day. Red Ribbon Week began in 1985 to help students of all ages across the nation become aware of the potential pitfalls of substance abuse. A special thank you to Harmon's Social Worker Ms. Emily Phares, for organizing Red Ribbon Week.
- In honor of Veterans Day, J.O. Combs Unified School District has many school events planned. A list of events are included in the superintendent's update. Everyone is welcome to come and participate in a very special day and honor our veterans.

Staff Recognition – Mr. Mark Mauro, Principal at J.O. Combs Middle School (CMS), recognized Ms. Emily Hubbard who he says has had an amazing impact on the Combs school community. Ms. Hubbard serves in the role of team leader, department chair, and National Junior Honor sponsor. She is also organizing activities for two community service projects at the middle school (for veterans and a family for the thanksgiving season). Ms. Hubbard was presented with a certificate.

Volunteer Recognition – Mr. Mauro recognized the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) volunteers Ms. Shelly Hargis, President; Ms. Michelle DeLeon, Vice President; Ms. Lora Rael, Treasurer; and Ms. Shannon Bernhardt, Secretary. He described the PTO officers as four people who have done great work since the beginning of the

school year and who have taken time from their work schedule and their private lives for the staff, students, and middle school community. Ms. DeLeon was unable to attend tonight's recognition. The PTO volunteers were presented with a certificate.

Focus on Students/Programs – Mr. Mauro talked about Combs Middle School Choir led by Mr. Scott Lloyd and stated that he is proud for a number of reasons. He shared highlights of last spring's festival competition in which Combs Middle School band, choir, and orchestra competed and won a number of trophies which were on display this evening.

Mr. Lloyd shared the sentiment that he is in a district that supports art and music. He thanked the Board for allowing students the opportunity to participate in festival competitions which he said creates a valuable experience for them. Mr. Lloyd shared some of the recognitions they have received such as Best Orchestra, Best Band, and Overall Instrument Program, among others. He shared some upcoming concert dates—December 7 Orchestra concert and December 8 Guitar and Band concert. He noted that students are held to very high standards. Led by Mr. Lloyd, the choir performed one traditional tune, a cappella piece, clearly demonstrating "antiphonal anterior" which is an echoing back and forth.

President Hargis commented on the choir's great performance.

Student of the Month – Ms. Sharon Lind, Chief Executive Officer from Banner Ironwood Medical Center (BIMC) was present to assist with the Student of the Month recognition. Ms. Lind shared a bit about herself and talked about what is happening at the hospital. Banner Ironwood is celebrating their five year anniversary as of November 1. Ms. Lind stated Banner Ironwood is here to serve the community of San Tan Valley and Queen Creek and looking to partner with the school system and community partners to meet the growing needs of the community.

Dr. Rogers acknowledged community members and staff in the audience who are here supporting our students this evening.

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 the representative from Banner Ironwood, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Blanchard.

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 – Mr. D'Elena made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Pinckard, and the motion carried 3-0.

A. Approval of Minutes

- i. Regular Meeting October 14, 2015

B. Business and Finance

- i. Monthly Financial Report October 2015
- ii. Student Activities Financial Statement October 2015
- iii. 40th Day Student Enrollment – Five Year Comparison
- iv. Expense Vouchers
 - # 7016 \$ 79,922.55 # 7019 \$ 404,774.68
 - # 7017 \$ 193,897.62 # 7020 \$ 321,047.52
 - # 7018 \$ 1,198.93
- v. Payroll Vouchers
 - # 16 \$ 310,620.71 # 18 \$ 217,401.99
 - # 17 \$ 600,019.12 # 19 \$ 598,445.11
- vi. Intergovernmental Agreements/Declarations
 - a. Letter of Declaration to Pinal County Treasurer's Office for School District's Line of Credit

- vii. Bid Request(s)
 - a. None
 - viii. Bid Approval(s)
 - a. None
 - ix. Purchase(s)
 - a. None
 - x. Grants, Gifts, and Donations
 - a. Donation of one complete set of Britannica Great Books (1-54), Gateway to the Great Books (1-10), The Great Ideas Program (1-10), William Durant The Story of Civilization (1-11) from James Glihsman, valued at \$516.38 to Combs High School
 - b. Donation of golf clubs from Jeff Christ valued at \$175.00 to Combs High School
 - xi. Overnight and/or Out-of-State Travel Request
 - a. ASPAA Conference, Prescott, AZ, Professional Development, Dr. Patty Rogers, Assistant Superintendent, November 18-20, 2015
 - xii. 2015/16 Per Student Costs – Tuition/Admission of Nonresidential Students Based on Adopted Budget
- 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

Proposed Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Bylaw Change – Dr. Blanchard explained that this is more of a procedural issue necessary for governing boards who are members of ASBA to take official action to move forward on changes to proposed bylaw changes. The first change is Hispanic Native American Indian Caucus and the second relates to governing committee. Dr. Blanchard pointed out that added information is underlined.

Mr. D'Elena made a motion to approve the proposed change as it relates to both Article V, Section 2 and Article V, Section 5, seconded by Ms. Pinckard, and the motion carried 3-0.

Current Year Funding – Ms. Karla Slovitsky, Director of Business Services, presented a PowerPoint to discuss current year funding and the potential impact to District. Ms. Slovitsky explained the funding formula will change starting fiscal year 2016-2017. She commented that we need to consider the unfunded year (which is next year), the double impact on declining districts, and how this will impact J.O. Combs Unified. Ms. Slovitsky provided an explanation of what exactly an unfunded year looks like and referenced the “Unfunded Year” slide.

Mr. D'Elena asked a clarifying question about “two years of decline” of funding. Mr. D'Elena also asked what day is used to determine funding in our current model. Ms. Slovitsky stated the 100th day but with the new model there are many questions regarding the funding data.

Adjournment – Ms. Hargis made a motion to adjourn at 6:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. D'Elena and the motion carried 3-0.

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
November 4, 2015