

**J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015**

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, October 14, 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. Administrators, Directors, and Coordinators present were Marcus Berkshire, Tammy Stimatze, Angie Beauchene, Bradley Shepstead, Brenda Mayberry, Karla Slovitsky, Jane Rupard, Jack Wallbrecht, Shannon Weber, 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 Ms. Bourgeois, and the motion carried 5-0.

**Welcoming of Guests**

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Combs High School student Adriana Hiraes led the pledge.

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

- Current District enrollment is 4,470 students.
- Congratulations to Ms. Jess Furman, Combs High School Math Teacher and Mr. Chris Combs, System Specialist for being selected as a local Hero of Public Education as part of the Arizona School Boards Association's statewide HOPE campaign. They will be recognized at the ASBA Pinal County Meeting October 20, 2015.
- The Combs High School Marching Band performed at Northern Arizona University Band Day where they received an "Excellent" rating to qualify for the State Marching Festival which is scheduled Saturday November 7 at McClintock High School, Tempe, AZ. Congratulations to all of the Marching Band performers and Ms. Julie Trent, Band Director.
- Ellsworth Elementary in partnership with the Combs Community Education Department will host the first annual San Tan Valley Home, Garden, Health and Lifestyle show on Saturday, October 17. The event is free to the public.
- Community Education's Combs Kidz will be celebrating Lights On Afterschool on October 22nd at all program sites. This national event brings awareness to the importance of quality after school programs and the correlation to student academic and social success.
- Congratulations to Combs Middle School baseball and softball teams for qualifying for the playoffs. Combs' Cougar baseball team finished the regular season with a record of 8-2 and Lady Cougar softball team finished the regular season with a record of 7-3. Baseball Coach David Mills and Softball Coach Robert Peterson led the Cougars to play for the championship title at Apache Junction High School October 3rd.
- Congratulations to Combs High School swim team state qualifiers Jarren Heiken, Joshua Haynes, Domenic Mazza and Levi Smith who are eligible to participate in the Division II State Meet at Skyline Aquatic Center, Mesa, AZ. Prelims are scheduled November 6 and Finals are November 7, 2015.

**Recognition** – Ms. Martha McNair of Greater Valley Area Health Education Center (GVAHEC) presented a \$5,000 grant donation to Combs High School Medical Professions program. Ms. Susan Belshe, Medical Professions Teacher, HOSA Club and medical professions students were on hand to accept the donation. Ms. Belshe explained the monies are used to help students continue their education and offset some of the expenses they incur.

**Staff Recognition** – Mr. Berkshire, Principal at Combs Traditional Academy (CTA), recognized Izyajaira Laguna who has moved from her long time position at CTA to CHS. Ms. Laguna started as a noon aide at CTA, has worked in Kinder Express, Food Services and for Combs Kidz. Mr. Berkshire commented that Ms. Laguna is hands down one of the best people he has worked with and has received nothing but wonderful positive feedback from parents about her.

**Volunteer Recognition** – Mr. Berkshire recognized parent volunteer Allyson Erickson whom he said is the life support system at CTA. Mr. Berkshire remarked that Ms. Erickson does it all, often helping students when not volunteering at home and shared that she is working on her emergency substitute training for Combs District. He commented that she recognizes what needs to be done and jumps right in.

**Focus on Students/Programs** – Mr. Berkshire talked about CTA’s positive recognition program, Knight’s Notes which promotes positive behavior strategies in rigor, responsibility, and respect. Aside from page, squire, and knight, ambassador is a new label. Upon receiving a certain number of notes, students may select from a list of privileges such as saying the school announcements or helping out in the library. Two sixth grade students presented CTA’s program developed to help new students understand Knight’s Notes, describing what it means to be a Knight and demonstrating expectations. This program will include a campus tour.

**Student of the Month** – Dr. Rogers took the opportunity to acknowledge teachers and parents in the audience who came to support the student recognitions.

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. A photo was taken with the Governing Board members 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 5-0.

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Regular Meeting September 9, 2015
  - ii. Executive Sessions September 9, 2015
- B. Business and Finance
  - i. Monthly Financial Report September 2015
  - ii. Student Activities Financial Statement September 2015
  - iii. Expense Vouchers
 

	#	7010	\$ 185,487.22	#	7013	\$ 267,254.74
	#	7011	\$ 155,729.02	#	7014	\$ 1,161.50
	#	7012	\$ 124,037.21	#	7015	\$ 258,846.06
  - iv. Payroll Vouchers
 

	#	11	\$ 581,652.85	#	14	\$ 309,567.26
	#	12	\$ 305,460.32	#	15	\$ 555,387.50
	#	13	\$ 3,648.10			
  - v. Intergovernmental Agreements
    - a. First Amendment to Education Affiliation Agreement with Banner Health
  - vi. Bid Request(s)
    - a. Recommendation to Prepare a Request for Qualifications for Architectural Services
    - b. Recommendation to Prepare a Request for Proposal for Construction Project Management

- vii. Bid Approval(s)
    - a. Recommendation for 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 \$5,000 from the Greater Valley Area Health Education Center (GVAHEC) to the Combs High School Medical Professions program
    - b. Donation of 35 reams of legal size paper from Wells Fargo Bank for Combs High School, valued at \$100
  - x. Overnight and/or Out-of-State Travel Request
    - a. Arizona Art Education Association Conference, Prescott, AZ, Professional Development, Carol Mandell and Treena Scism, Combs High School Art Teachers, November 5-6, 2015
    - b. 2015 MEGA Conference, Tucson, AZ, Professional Development, Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction and Kathy Kendall, Grants Management Assistant, November 17-19, 2015
    - c. AZ Thespians Festival, Phoenix, AZ, CHS Drama Club Gr 9-12, November 20-21, 2015
    - d. Combs High School Wrestling Team Competition Gr 9-12, Prescott Valley, AZ, January 8-9, 2016
    - e. Combs High School Wrestling Team Competition Gr 9-12, Tucson, AZ, January 15-16, 2016
    - f. Heritage Festival, Anaheim, CA, Combs Middle School Band, Orchestra, and Choir students, Gr. 7-8, May 13-15, 2016
    - g. Sousa Band Festival, Washington, D.C., CHS Bands Gr 9-12, April 2-5, 2017
    - h. Projected Combs High School Fall State Tournaments 2015 requiring overnight stay (pending qualifications of teams/individuals)
- 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 2015-2016 School Year** – Dr. Blanchard presented for approval the parent organization applications for Combs Traditional Academy, Ellsworth Elementary, Harmon Elementary, and Simonton Elementary.

Ms. Pinckard made a motion to Approve the J.O. Combs Unified School District's Parent Organizations for the 2015-2016 school year as listed: Combs Traditional Academy, Ellsworth Elementary, Harmon Elementary, and Simonton Elementary, seconded by Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 4-0-1. Ms. Hargis recused herself from voting on this agenda item.

**Accountability, Achievement and Department Goals** – Dr. Blanchard explained this agenda item is informational and a follow up to the presentation given in September. Coordinators, Directors, and the Assistant Superintendent shared their department goals, action plans, and strategies that support the District's goals. Business Services, Special Education, Community Education, Career and Technical Education, Human Resources, Curriculum and Instruction, Food Services, Maintenance, Transportation, and Technology were the departments highlighted in the PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Hargis inquired about the substitutes in training and if many live in our community. Dr. Rogers stated a majority of the candidates live in or around our community and noted quite a few of them are parents.

**Capital Bond Expense Report** – Ms. Karla Slovisky, Director of Business Services presented the 2014-2015 expense report for discussion and information purposes. Ms. Slovisky explained that J.O. Combs is required to hold a public meeting each year between September 1 and October 31 to provide an update of the progress of

capital improvement financed with bond dollars referencing the 2006 CIP Bond categories. She reviewed the 2014-2015 expenditures and the remaining budget for 2015-2016 pointing out that the expense of the modular building for the transportation department is because of the growth at Combs Traditional Academy (CTA). The modular building is located behind CTA.

**2014-2015 J.O. Combs Unified School District Annual Financial Report** – Ms. Slovitsky presented a summary of the financial report for 2014-2015. She included an opening day history chart for informational purposes. Ms. Slovitsky noted a slight decrease in enrollment going into 2015-2016; mentioning that J.O. Combs fluctuates a bit within the first 15 days of school.

Ms. Slovitsky reviewed the increases and decreases from the previous year’s expenditures, saying the maintenance and operations expenditure pie charts are typical to what was provided last year. She explained that special education costs have increased since services for nine students have been outsourced. Ms. Slovitsky is hoping to see some savings in special education for 2015-2016 as District is now offering one of the special education programs that had been outsourced.

Referring to the classroom dollars pie chart, Mr. D’Elena asked if it was possible to see the data as a tenth of a percent. Ms. Slovitsky noted that the format only shows whole percentages and that compared to last year we are right on, mainly seeing a difference in the area of instruction and student support.

Mr. D’Elena made a motion to Approve the 2014-2015 J.O. Combs Unified School District Annual Financial Report as presented, seconded by Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 5-0.

**Adjournment** – Ms. Hargis made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 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

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Shelly Hargis, President

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Kathy Bourgeois, Clerk

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Patricia J. Pinckard, Member

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Gary F. Kemp, Ed.D., Member

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Bob D’Elena, Member

Respectfully Submitted by:  
MaryLou Martinez  
Administrative Assistant  
Superintendent / Governing Board  
October 14, 2015