

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

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, January 13, 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; Kathy Bourgeois, Clerk (absent); Pat Pinckard, Member (arrived at 6:19 p.m.); Bob D'Elena, Member; and Dr. Gary Kemp, Member. Administrators, Directors, and Coordinators present were Marcus Berkshire, Tammy Stimatze, Angie Beauchene, Sue Kruse, Bradley Shepstead, Mark Mauro, Brenda Mayberry, Karla Slovitsky, 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 Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 3-0. *Ms. Pinckard arrived at 6:19 p.m.*

Welcoming of Guests

Pledge of Allegiance – Ms. Hargis invited Combs Middle School student Samantha DeSouto to lead the pledge.

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

- Current District enrollment is 4,504 students which includes community pre-K through Grade 12.
- Congratulations to Combs High School Principal, Ms. Brenda Mayberry who has been selected to receive the Arizona Music Educators Association's (AMEA) Raymond G. Van Diest Music Advocacy Award.
- Join us on Tuesday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m. for our Kindergarten Kick-Off and to register your child. This event will be held at all five elementary school sites.
- Combs High School welcomes all incoming freshman/new students and their parents to attend the student registration night on Tuesday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Combs High School gymnasium.
- Simonton Elementary hosted its second LEAD assembly on January 11. Simonton recognized the Student Leaders of the month and the monthly Golden Ticket winners. Congratulations to Evan Cooley, Jon Dodge, Jeremiah Johnson, Luke Hannum, Aliyah Madrid, Kaydence Pacheco, and Hunter DeMoss.
- The District will be hosting its first SciTech Festival at Combs High School on February 4 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- We look forward to the Ranch Elementary Career Expo to be held on January 22. Students will be given the opportunity to walk through the multi-purpose room and interview volunteers about their careers or hobbies they have developed.

Volunteer Recognition – Harmon Elementary Principal, Ms. Angie Beauchene, recognized Harmon's PTO members Ms. Chantel Mower, Ms. Cassandra Schupp, Ms. Shelly Hargis, Ms. Tracie Dunne, and Ms. Hope Estrada, who was unable to attend. Principal Beauchene commented that these individuals put in countless hours for a number of events, such as the parade, fundraisers, and grandparents' day. She appreciates all their time and effort, which she added helps build the community. Ms. Beauchene thanked the group and handed each a certificate as well as a small token of appreciation.

Staff Recognition – Principal Beauchene recognized Ms. Ashley Hessler, 5th/6th Resource Teacher, nominated by the Harmon staff. Principal Beauchene shared that Ms. Hessler moved in to the special education department this past year and that she does a phenomenal job with the fifth and sixth graders. Ms. Beauchene shared a few comments from colleagues noting that Ms. Hessler is "always so positive," "very flexible," "very good with communication," "always willing to help out," and "she is an amazing teacher and helps with inclusion students on a daily basis." Ms. Beauchene remarked "she is super dedicated and a very hard worker." Ms. Hargis agreed. Ms. Hessler was presented with a framed certificate of recognition.

Focus on Students/Programs – Before introducing the Kindergarten program, Principal Beauchene acknowledged the kindergarten parents in the audience. Ms. Beauchene commented about how much the kindergarten students have grown not just academically and that she is proud of the progress they have made. Principal Beauchene announced Ms. Heather Domarad, Ms. Leilani Alger, Ms. Mary Spooner, and Ms. Erika Rodriguez teachers and paraprofessionals who are part of the kindergarten program at Harmon Elementary.

Ms. Spooner and the students demonstrated a “choral reading” of the book *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* Ms. Domarad invited three students to the podium to help demonstrate their sentence writing task that was part of a weeklong study about bears. Ms. Spooner displayed one of the “grizzly bear” tree maps, which students utilized to write their sentence about grizzly bears. Students read their sentence to the audience. Ms. Domarad explained this is part of a science grant Harmon received in conjunction with Gilbert and Peoria School Districts.

Student of the Month – Mr. Erich Schoenberger, Director of Medical Imaging at Banner Ironwood Medical Center was present to assist with the Student of the Month recognition. Mr. Schoenberger shared a few highlights saying Banner Ironwood has experienced expansion and growth over the past five years and is expanding urology and cardiovascular departments. He commented that 2016 is an exciting year for Banner Ironwood.

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 took the opportunity to acknowledge staff that came to support the 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 – Mr. D’Elena made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Pinckard, and the motion carried 4-0.

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Regular Meeting December 9, 2015
 - ii. Special Meeting December 14, 2015
 - iii. Executive Session December 14, 2015
- B. Business and Finance
 - i. Monthly Financial Report December 2015
 - ii. Student Activities Financial Statement December 2015
 - iii. Expense Voucher

#	7025	\$ 295,477.25	#	7028	\$ 177,242.99
#	7026	\$ 1,190.01	#	7029	\$ 141,773.44
#	7027	\$ 76,224.84	#	7030	\$ 274,158.82
 - iv. Payroll Voucher

#	26	\$ 321,606.25	#	29	\$ 636,852.70
#	27	\$ 593,393.79	#	30	\$ 316,259.35
#	28	\$ 310,279.96	#	31	\$ 633,688.26
 - v. Intergovernmental Agreements
 - a. None
 - vi. Bid Request(s)
 - a. None

- vii. Bid Approval(s)
 - a. None
 - viii. Purchase(s)
 - a. Recommendation to Ratify Emergency Procurement of Wet Utility Repair at the District Office
 - b. Recommendation to Ratify Emergency Procurement of Legal Services for Election Recount
 - ix. Grants, Gifts, and Donations
 - a. Donation from DonorsChoose to Harmon Elementary - one play kitchen valued at \$250
 - b. Donation from DonorsChoose to Ranch Elementary - basketball hoop, soccer goals, carpet squares, table trays and math manipulatives valued at \$793; healthy snacks for the remainder of the school year valued at \$452; four student tablets valued at \$480; bean bag chairs, timers, reading cart, and plastic inserts valued at \$680; three digital microscopes valued at \$878.39; and seed set/supplies, valued at \$500.61
 - x. Overnight and/or Out-of State Travel Request
 - a. AASC State Convention, Flagstaff, AZ, February 4-6, 2016, Combs High School Student Government, Grades 9-12
 - b. Dance Tour, Los Angeles, CA, April 7-10, 2016, Combs High School Dance Club, Grades 9-12
 - c. Journalism Education Association National Conference, Los Angeles, CA, April 13-17, 2016, Combs High School Journalism/Broadcast, Grades 9-12
- 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

Policy Second Read – Dr. Blanchard explained the proposed policy is to be able to provide a unique experience for high school students.

IHAQ Career/Transition - To - Work Education (Work Experience Learning Opportunities)

Dr. Kemp made a motion to Approve the Second Read Policy as presented, seconded by Mr. D'Elena, and the motion carried 4-0.

J.O. Combs Middle School New Elective Courses for 2016-2017 – Ms. Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction recommended three new elective courses for Combs Middle School. They are:

- Theatre & Stagecraft
- Careers & Your Future
- Communication & Media Technologies

Ms. Dunker explained this was a collaborate effort between middle school administration, the Career & Technical Education Department, and the Curriculum Department. She mentioned the addition of courses will allow District to expand the choices for middle school students and develops a pathway to high school fine arts and media programs. Ms. Dunker noted the costs for curriculum development will be grant funded and courses will only be scheduled if sufficient enrollment achieved.

Ms. Hargis inquired about the Communication & Media Technologies course wondering if students will need to take Technology I course first. Mr. John Scrogam, Career & Technical Education Coordinator, answered no.

Mr. D'Elena asked how many additional teachers would be required. Ms. Dunker replied a maximum of 1.0 FTE but could be less depending on enrollment. Ms. Hargis asked for clarification if high school staff were to be used, would that person come over to the middle school campus for the last hour of instruction. Ms. Dunker stated she is looking at what could be done and would depend on course enrollment.

Dr. Kemp made a motion to Adopt the proposed new elective course offerings for J.O. Combs Middle School as listed for 2016-2017, seconded by Ms. Pinckard, and the motion carried 4-0.

Update from Arizona School Board Association Conference, Dec. 9-11, 2015 – Dr. Blanchard explained this agenda item allows the opportunity to share pertinent interesting topics to the board. Both Dr. Blanchard and Dr. Kemp attended the conference in December. Dr. Kemp remarked it was like a pep rally for education, saying he was impressed with the event offerings. A few of the presentations:

- Keynote speaker Ms. Christine Marsh - Arizona Teacher of the Year from Chaparral High School was the best by far and that it really touched him since the theme was Heroes of Education.
- Keynote speaker Mr. Claudio Sanchez - former teacher and current education correspondent who spoke about student performance and what we have to try to overcome as teachers.
- New teacher orientation - Dr. Kemp mentioned Tolleson Union High School District saying they developed an orientation program and has some good information in that presentation.
- Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) session - there are many considerations based on school size and it is a huge task. AIA provides officials, scheduling, and championships.
- Tech Tips, Tricks and Techniques - how technology has changed, commented about “Piktochart,” saying it’s a more glorified PowerPoint program with video and mapping options. Dr. Kemp thinks it is worth exploring. He was also impressed with the topic of website analytics, especially how people view websites. Dr. Kemp recommended looking at the online ASBA presentations.
- Keynote speaker Marshall Trimble, an Arizona historian - Mr. Trimble wrote *Arizona: A Land of Anomalies and Tamales*
- AdvancED
- Session on middle school intervention programs.

Summary of Governing Board Self-Evaluation – President Hargis gave a brief summary about the Board Self-Evaluation. This year, Board members met and agreed to incorporate an “Excellent” rating into the form. A few key points were shared:

- Board relationship with Superintendent rated Excellent - the Board has a very good relationship with Superintendent and keeps Board informed
- Board relationship with community rated Excellent - the Board is doing the best they possibly can, will continue to verify excellence to community
- Board relationship during meetings rated Excellent - the Board is very respectful of each other and noted the comments they have received regarding their great working relationships
- Staff and personnel relationship rated Excellent with one Satisfactory - the Board is handling the best they can, acknowledges that they do not know everybody and will work to attend one staff meeting annually. The Board clarified that they just want staff to know who they are.
- Instruction program rated Excellent with one Satisfactory - Explore more options to gain information from community (question has been added to parent survey)
- Financial management of the school rated Excellent - Mr. D’Elena remarked that Ms. Karla Slovitsky, Director of Business Services is doing a wonderful job
- In regards to the challenges the Board faces, these are the priorities
 - Student achievement, finances
 - More parent involvement and support
- Some of the accomplishments include:
 - District’s use of Social Media and Technology

Mr. D’Elena shared some thoughts by saying this has been a pleasant experience for him serving on the board for the past year. He just wants to say how privileged he is to be on the board and is very happy serving and is looking for another successful year.

Organizational Meeting – The board conducted the organizational meeting.

- A. Call to Order by President Hargis at 6:50 p.m.
- B. Election of Governing Board President for Calendar Year 2016 – There was one nomination; Ms. Shelly Hargis. A vote was taken and it passed with a 4-0 for Ms. Shelly Hargis as Governing Board President for Calendar Year 2016.
- C. Election of Governing Board Clerk for Calendar Year 2016 – There were two nominations; Mr. Robert D’Elena and Ms. Kathy Bourgeois. A vote was taken and it passed with a 4-0 for Mr. Robert D’Elena as Governing Board Clerk for Calendar Year 2016.
- D. Schedule Regular Board Meetings and Special Board Meetings or Study Sessions for Calendar Year 2016 – Ms. Pinckard made a motion to schedule Regular Board Meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. for Executive Sessions (if needed), and to schedule Special Board Meetings/Study Sessions on the fourth Wednesday of each month, seconded by Mr. D’Elena and the motion carried 4-0.
- E. Adjournment – Ms. Hargis made a motion to reconvene into regular session at 6:54 p.m. seconded by Mr. D’Elena and the motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment – Ms. Hargis made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m., seconded by Ms. Pinckard 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

Gary F. Kemp, Ed.D., Member

Bob D’Elena, Member

Respectfully Submitted by:
MaryLou Martinez
Administrative Assistant
Superintendent / Governing Board
January 13, 2016