

**J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016**

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, May 11, 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 (absent). 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, Santa Dunker, Kelly Guerra, 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 – Dr. Kemp made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. D'Elena, and the motion carried 4-0. Ms. Pinckard was not present.

Welcoming of Guests

Pledge of Allegiance

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

- District enrollment is 4,503 students, which includes community Pre-K through Grade 12.
- Congratulations to Combs High School for receiving the 2016 A+ School of Excellence award from the Arizona Educational Foundation. This prestigious award was given to only 40 schools statewide. Schools are selected after an extensive evaluation process including an application and site visits. Congratulations to all the faculty, staff, and students. Additionally, Combs High School has been recommended for AdvancED accreditation.
- Community Education Department is pleased to announce *Summer of Learning 2016!* Elementary summer enrichment classes are a great way for students to learn about fun new topics this June. Classes include LEGO robotics, art, cooking, technology, fitness, dance, theater and much more! All classes can be found at the district webpage under the Community Education tab, Summer School link.
- Summer Camp runs May 25 to August 2 and is a safe, fun place for children ages 5-12. Hosted at Harmon Elementary, campers will enjoy games, crafts, computers, and field trips all summer long. Register today by visiting the district webpage under the Community Education tab, Camp programs link.
- Harmon Elementary students submitted entries into the Pinal County Juvenile Court Community Advisory Board Character Counts Essay Contest earlier this year. Winners were chosen based on their essays about one of the six pillars of character: responsibility, citizenship, respect, fairness, caring and trustworthiness. Sophia Kelsey (6th grader) won 2nd place and Christian Tillard (5th grader) won honorable mention and will be recognized at a special awards ceremony at the Pinal County Superior Courthouse in Florence in May.
- Congratulations to 58 students at Ranch Elementary for earning a math facts medal. Each month students have the opportunity to participate in the Principal's Math Fact Club. The students are required to complete a designated amount of math facts per their grade level in a given amount of time. When they achieve the goal, they receive a medal. The students will receive their medals at the awards assembly on May 23.
- Combs Traditional Academy's (CTA) Battle of the Books team placed 2nd in the J.O. Combs/Queen Creek District Battle of the Books on Tuesday, April 26. The competition ended in a tie between the team from CTA of Anissa Deel, Anjali Kok, and Kateland Williams and the team from Queen Creek's Gateway Polytechnic. The tiebreaker was intense and both teams had opportunities to win it all. CTA is very proud of the time, effort, and success of their team!
- Ellsworth Elementary fifth grade's field trip to Skateland was more than just skating. The students learned how the concepts of Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM) could be found in everyday

experiences, such as roller-skating. Students received instruction on the subject of reverse engineering and observed a PowerPoint presentation, took apart roller skates, collected data, learned about different inventors and the different types of friction that can be caused by the roller skate. Students enjoyed a day full of skating, eating, and fun!

- May 18th will be Simonton Elementary's first Annual Leadership Day. Leadership Day begins at 8:30 a.m. and will highlight student and parent speakers as well as student talents and songs. The day will end with a tour of the campus and a special sendoff for our guests. Please feel free to attend. RSVP at mwynn@jocombs.org
- Combs Middle School eighth grade students had the opportunity to develop their science curiosities as they have worked in developing an experiment based on a set of observations. The middle school would like to commend Science teachers Mr. Jonathan Spray and Ms. Janel Garner for the outstanding work they have done assisting their students with this activity. Top projects will be chosen to be on display for the Science Fair, which will take place on Monday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. "Congratulations" on this special project and "Good Luck!" This is an open and free event for the community.

Mr. D'Elena shared a few highlights regarding the District's Transportation Department meeting he attended earlier in the day. He remarked that the transportation department has dedicated people, drive 2,400 miles per day transporting students, and are doing a fantastic job. Further stating, they do have some challenges such as old buses (some as old as 23 years) with the highest mileage exceeding 160,000. He congratulated the transportation department because all of their fleet has been inspected and no child safety issues were found.

Staff Recognition – Dr. Patty Rogers recognized the District's retirees and Staff Award of Excellence recipients for the 2015-2016 school year. Additionally, Dr. Rogers thanked the numerous Combs staff present to help recognize students and fellow colleagues.

Retirees

- Ms. Debbie Jones – Professional Development Specialist, District
- Ms. Brenda Mayberry – Principal, Combs High School
- Ms. Sandra Du Priest – Bus Aide, Transportation
- Mr. Jeffrey O'Keefe – Resource Teacher, Combs Middle School
- Mr. Dale Stange – Bus Driver, Transportation
- Mr. Walter Sylvia – Bus Driver, Transportation

Staff Award of Excellence

- Rookie Teacher of the Year - Ms. Lindsay Pennington, 6th Grade Teacher, Simonton Elementary
- Specialist - Ms. Kirsten Wilhelmi, School Psychologist, Simonton Elementary
- Support Staff - Ms. Melissa Walker, Paraprofessional, Simonton Elementary
- Teacher - Mr. Rick Surls, Science Teacher, Combs High School

Student of the Month – Mr. Eric Schoenberger, Director of Imaging at Banner Ironwood Medical Center was present to assist with the Student of the Month recognition. Mr. Schoenberger talked about the high school students who come to Banner Ironwood and visit the various departments. He commented that students get to see so much more that goes on at the hospital and all that it entails such as the laboratory, pharmacy, facilities, grounds keeping, accounting, finance, and culinary department. He pointed out science, math, and technology--it all continues to grow and students can see the application and the support that is needed for that.

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.

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 Dr. Kemp and the motion carried 4-0.

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Regular Meeting April 13, 2016
 - ii. Executive Session April 13, 2016
- B. Business and Finance
 - i. Monthly Financial Report April 2016
 - ii. Student Activities Financial Statement April 2016
 - iii. Expense Vouchers
 - # 7048 \$ 241,544.07 # 7051 \$ 332,839.26
 - # 7049 \$ 4,660.55 # 7052 \$ 98,612.24
 - # 7050 \$ 83,652.17
 - iv. Payroll Vouchers
 - # 49 \$ 596,962.94 # 51 \$ 595,175.73
 - # 50 \$ 321,963.88 # 52 \$ 323,773.16
 - v. Intergovernmental Agreements
 - a. Pinal County Education Service Consortium Agreement for 2016-2017
 - b. Pinal Gila Community Child Services Inc., Lease Amendment #725-016-B for July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017
 - c. Arizona State University School of Social Work Student Placement Agreement
 - vi. Bid Request(s)
 - a. None
 - vii. Bid Approval(s)
 - a. None
 - viii. Purchases
 - a. Instructional Materials for Combs High School Medical Professions 2 Textbook for Adoption
 - Nursing Assisting: A Foundation in Caregiving by Diana L. Dugan, RN
 - ix. Grants, Gifts, and Donations
 - a. None
 - x. Overnight and/or Out-of-State Travel Request
 - a. Connecting All the Pieces: Educating the Young Learner Conference, Professional Development, Prescott, AZ, June 8-10, 2016, Brendan Stynes - Program Specialist
 - b. Leader in Me Conference, Professional Development, Las Vegas, NV, June 15-16, 2016, Chasity Cruz - Principal
 - c. TAA 2016 Summer Conference, Professional Development, Flagstaff, AZ, June 19-23, 2016, Shannon Weber, Brissa Quevedo, Larry Smith, and Joan Gengnagel
 - d. Arizona Leadership Camp, Heber, AZ, July 5-8, 2016, Combs High School Drama and Dance Club, Grades 9-12
 - e. NSPRA Annual Professional Development Conference, Chicago, IL, July 17-20, 2016, Kelly Guerra - Coordinator of Community Education
 - xi. Estimate Excess Capacity for Open Enrollment Acceptance for 2016-2017
- 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: Employment, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Resignation, Termination

2016 J.O. Combs Working Conditions Survey Results — Dr. Rogers introduced two members of the Combs Collaboration Committee (CCC), Ms. Kathy Cassillo (Combs High School paraprofessional) and Ms. Kelly Bond (Ellsworth Elementary, Teacher). She stated the committee meets monthly and is made up of representatives from each school (support staff and certified staff). Dr. Rogers acknowledged the committee members in the audience.

Ms. Cassillo and Ms. Bond presented the results of the working conditions survey utilizing a PowerPoint. The survey was done in January via Survey Monkey. A few highlights: the number of employees who know the district vision map increased from last year and the letter grade results for the five priorities (Outstanding Student Achievement, Operational Excellence, Maximizing Technology, Exemplary Customer Service, and Safe, Secure Learning Environment) maintained their rating from last year except for Maximizing Technology, which dropped slightly, to a “C” rating.

Ms. Hargis asked why Maximizing Technology might have dropped to a “C” rating. Ms. Bond answered with we need technology updated. Mr. D’Elena inquired why respondents rated something a certain letter and was there an opportunity for comments. Dr. Rogers explained that although not very many comments were received, comments were shown to the committee and that a four point rubric was used. Dr. Rogers explained the four categories which respondents could choose from (very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, and very dissatisfied). She stated that a category of “neutral” would not tell us anything.

Mr. D’Elena asked how often are we able to provide a paraprofessional in classes that are over the Governing Board adopted class average. Dr. Rogers said that this year we were able to provide that support.

2015-2016 Revised Budget — Ms. Karla Slovitsky, Director of Business Services, presented the 2015-2016 Revised Budget. Ms. Slovitsky summarized the revision as adjustments for student growth and District Additional Assistance (DAA). She explained that student growth increased \$66,818.61 and a reduced adjustment of \$70,991 of DAA resulted in a reduction to Unrestricted Capital of \$4,172. She noted Maintenance and Operations remains the same.

Mr. D’Elena made a motion to Adopt the Revised 2015-2016 District Expenditure Budget as presented, seconded by Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 4-0.

Arizona School Board Association (ASBA) Delegate Assembly/Political Agenda Submission of Proposed Issues for FY 2017 — The Board discussed the political agenda items for 2017. They discussed and identified their top five priorities and two additional priorities. Dr. Blanchard had suggested capital / technology funding due to a reduction of capital funding as well as to emphasize a need for technology funding. After the discussion amongst board members, Ms. Hargis read the recorded topics in the order shown.

Top Five Priorities

1. School Finance Formula
2. JTED Funding
3. Teacher Availability (Teacher Shortage)
4. Charter School / Public School Funding - Equality
5. Empowerment Scholarship Accounts

Additional Items For Consideration

1. Capital Funding / Technology Funding
2. Change Override Language to Local Support

Ms. Hargis made a motion to Approve the following topics for the 2017 ASBA Political Agenda (as stated), seconded by Mr. D’Elena, and the motion carried 4-0.

Instructional Materials Review for Combs High School Dual Enrollment Early Childhood Education —

Ms. Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction presented this informational agenda item. Ms. Dunker explained that Central Arizona College requires that we utilize their approved textbooks for the Dual Enrollment Early Childhood Education course at Combs High School. The textbooks were reviewed by the

Career and Technical Education and Curriculum and Instruction Departments and will be on display for the required 60-day review process. This item will be brought back to the Board for adoption at a later date.

Mr. D'Elena had some questions as it relates to the textbooks' 2012 copyright date. Ms. Dunker will follow up.

Governing Board Approval of J.O. Combs Unified School District's Education Foundation Beginning the 2016-2017 School Year — Dr. Blanchard talked about the planning and implementation of an education foundation. Dr. Blanchard, Karla Slovitsky - Director of Business Services, and Kelly Guerra - Coordinator of Community Education will serve as the incorporators of the J.O. Combs Education Foundation. Plans are in motion to have the Board of Directors/Elected Board Officers in place by summer of 2016. The Governing Board's official recognition of a school district's education foundation enables the district's insurance policy with the Arizona School Risk Retention Trust, Inc. to include coverage for this group. The education foundation will help and support student and families in our district. Dr. Kemp said he supports this. Mr. D'Elena asked about contributions and how that will work--if it will impact the Arizona Tax Credit. Dr. Blanchard does not think it will compete with the Arizona Tax Credit.

Dr. Kemp made a motion to Approve the J.O. Combs Unified School District's Education Foundation beginning the 2016-2017 School Year, seconded by Mr. D'Elena, and the motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment – Ms. Hargis made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 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

Shelly Hargis, President

Bob D'Elena, Clerk

Kathy Bourgeois, Member

Gary F. Kemp, Ed.D., Member

Patricia J. Pinckard, Member

Respectfully Submitted by:
MaryLou Martinez
Administrative Assistant
Superintendent / Governing Board
May 11, 2016