

**J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015**

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, May 13, 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 (absent); 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, Sue Kruse, Mark Mauro, Brenda Mayberry, Jane Rupard, Jack Wallbrecht, Kelly Guerra, Santa Dunker, Shannon Weber, and Karla Slovitsky, 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** – Ms. Pinckard made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. D'Elena, and the motion carried 4-0. Ms. Bourgeois was not present.

**Welcoming of Guests**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Blanchard presented regarding the many activities taking place around the district and community. She shared a few items from the Superintendent's Update:

- Current District Enrollment is 4,557 students
- The J.O. Combs Special Education Department is excited to announce a successful inaugural year with the first Special Olympics Unified Basketball Team
- J.O. Combs Middle School hosted 6<sup>th</sup> grade students on campus on May 11 and May 12
- Combs Traditional Academy hosted its Celebration of Learning on May 12, focusing on citizenship
- J.O. Combs Middle School Advanced Band, Advanced Orchestra, Choir, Jazz Band, and Symphony Orchestra and the Combs High School string quartet competed at the Heritage festival held at Fullerton College in California and received superior ratings

**Staff Recognition, Retirees and Staff Excellence Award Recipients** – Dr. Rogers recognized retirees and staff award of excellence recipients. Congratulations to:

Sherry Shinn - District Nurse  
Frank Masharo - Bus Aide  
Peggy Parkinson - Bus Aide  
Susan Belshe - Medical Professions teacher  
Delores Ferro - Science Teacher  
Debra Kangas - Librarian  
Barry Smith - Counselor  
Jeffrey Thudium - Physical Education Teacher  
Deborah Serwa - Paraprofessional  
Cheryl Whitmore - Special Education Teacher  
Pat Rivera - Special Education Teacher  
Sharon Hamm - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
Chris Conrad - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
Pamela Mapes - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, received a plaque for ten years of service  
Susan Orban - Attendance Clerk, received a plaque for eleven years of service  
Jeremy Scherer - Administrative Assistant, Staff Excellence Award  
Elfida Telles Martinez - Counselor, Staff Excellence Award  
Tyseea Briggs – Classroom Teacher of the Year, Staff Excellence Award  
Nicholas Smith – Rookie Teacher of the Year, Staff Excellence Award

**Volunteer Recognition** – Ms. Santa Dunker recognized James and Lee Hallo for dedicating their time and effort to the district by completing the inventory of every Foss kit (science kits for students). The Foss kits have been restocked and are ready for use in classrooms.

**Student of the Month** – Dr. Jason Brown, Chief Medical Officer from Banner Ironwood Medical Center (BIMC) was present to assist with the Student of the Month recognition. Dr. Brown shared that he is the new chief medical officer at BIMC and is excited to be a part of the community. He gave a special congratulation to the retirees and teachers and thanked everyone for all the dedication that they have provided to the profession. Dr. Brown also congratulated the students of the month. Dr. Brown shared that Banner is bringing on two additional doctors, an Obstetrician and Orthopedic surgeon.

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** –

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.

Ms. Linda Lyon introduced herself as the new Pinal County Director for the ASBA Governing Board. Ms. Lyon stated that she also serves on the Oracle Elementary Governing Board. She talked about her duties and responsibilities in her role as Director and the desire to increase collaboration between our districts. Ms. Lyon also mentioned that ASBA is looking for a district to host the County Workshop Event on October 20, 2015.

**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 8, 2015
- B. Business and Finance
  - i. Monthly Financial Report April 2015
  - ii. Student Activities Financial Statement April 2015
  - iii. Expense Vouchers
    - # 6046 \$ 44,975.51 # 6048 \$ 83,199.44
    - # 6047 \$ 141,897.86 # 6049 \$ 74,360.11
  - iv. Payroll Vouchers
    - # 54 \$ 250,744.09 # 56 \$ 267,266.75
    - # 55 \$ 524,465.06 # 57 \$ 526,710.14
  - v. Intergovernmental Agreements
    - a. Agreement between Special Education Services d/b/a Southwest Education Center and J.O. Combs Unified School District for Provision of Specialized Educational Services for the School Year 2015-2016 and Extended School Years (Structured Lab Program)
    - b. Agreement between Gilbert Public Schools and J.O. Combs Unified School District for the Mathematics and Science Partnership Grant for Science Services
    - c. Pinal County Education Service Consortium Agreement for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016
    - d. Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the Provision of Printing Services by Kyrene Elementary School District #28
    - e. Lease Amendment #725-015-B for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 – Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. / Head Start Program
  - vi. Bid Request(s)
    - a. None

- vii. Bid Approval(s)
  - a. None
- viii. Purchases
  - a. Supplemental Instructional Materials for Combs High School English Language Arts and K-8 Writing
    - Senior English - *Intervention* by Terri Blackstock, Combs High School English Language Arts Department
    - AP English Literature - *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch, Combs High School English Language Arts Department
    - K-8 Writing - *Write from the Beginning and Beyond* by Thinking Maps, Inc., All Elementary Sites
  - b. RATIFY - Emergency Procurement - HVAC Unit, Combs High School, Funded by School Facilities Board (SFB)
- ix. Grants, Gifts, and Donations
  - a. Donation of one (1) trumpet valued at \$400 and one (1) flute with case valued at \$250 from Dr. Keith Johnson
- x. Overnight and/or Out-of-State Travel Request
  - a. Combs High School Football, Arizona High School Coaches' Camp, July 19-24, 2015, Show Low, AZ
  - b. AP Desert Summer Institute, Professional Development, Combs High School English Teacher - Andrea Dales, June 23-26, 2015, Tucson, AZ (Grant Funded)
  - c. Combs High School FBLA National Leadership Qualifying Student, June 27 - July 3, 2015, Chicago, IL
  - d. Combs High School Drama Club/Dance, Grades 9-12, Arizona Thespians Leadership Camp, Heber, AZ, July 7-10, 2015
  - e. Wilson In-District Trainer Conference, Professional Development, Academic Coach - Cassandra Bates, July 7-10, 2015, Newport, RI (Grant Funded)
  - f. ACTEAZ Summer Conference, Professional Development, Combs High School Teachers - Kris Wood, Ann Stevens, Alice Goodrick, and John Scrogam, July 17-22, 2015, Tucson, AZ (Grant Funded)

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: Resignation, Termination, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Employment
- iii. Certificated Staff: Resignation, Termination, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Employment
- iv. Support Staff: Resignation, Termination, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Employment
- v. Substitute Staff Employment: Resignation, Termination, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Employment

**2015 J.O. Combs Working Conditions Survey Results** – Dr. Rogers introduced Mr. Chris Conrad and Ms. Tracie Dunne who presented the working conditions survey results for certified staff and support staff. The Combs Collaboration Committee (CCC) met monthly to discuss, create the survey, review results and share information with the sites. The working conditions survey was distributed in March.

Mr. D'Elena inquired about the slide titled certified staff “respondents are somewhat dissatisfied with the following work interests” resources (46%). He asked what those resources are that respondents are somewhat dissatisfied with. Dr. Rogers noted that follow up will take place through CCC.

President Hargis inquired about the prep/planning time asking is it elementary, middle or high school. Dr. Rogers explained that the survey included a question about the workplace and results are by site.

Mr. D'Elena asked about the last slide titled certified staff “My PLC tasks are determined by consensus among our team members and driven by data” asking what data is used. Dr. Rogers explained that it depends on grade level and content used, and provided examples.

President Hargis asked how the survey was implemented. Dr. Rogers noted that SurveyMonkey was used.

President Hargis inquired about the survey question “Respondents are satisfied with the communication they receive from their supervisor and from the District” and the percentages (87% for Supervisor and 90% for District).

**2014-2015 Revised Budget** – Ms. Karla Slovitsky explained the revised 2014-2015 district budget. The changes reflect actual carryover amounts, student growth funds, interest from 2013-2014, and District Additional Assistance (DAA) legislative budget reductions.

Mr. D’Elena asked what the bottom line is. Ms. Slovitsky noted an increase in the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) budget. Mr. D’Elena then asked is that money we have access to in this school year. Ms. Slovitsky responded yes. She explained that no more than 4% of M&O dollars can be carried forward.

Mr. D’Elena made a motion to adopt the 2014-2015 Revised Budget as presented, seconded by Ms. Pinckard, and the motion carried 4-0.

**Technology Strategic Plan** – Mr. Jack Wallbrecht, Director of Technology presented a PowerPoint reviewing the objectives of the technology strategic plan. He addressed the discrepancies with some of the data on page 2 of the plan. He explained that on page 2 the number of students (Ranch column) should read 452 versus 402, which equals a student count of 4,350. Also, number of computers minus the district office is 1,778 and with district office, the total is 1,834. Additionally, all staff computers column should read 457 and all student computers column should read 542, which gives a total of 1,778 computers. As a result, 3.29 is the student to computer ratio district wide. Mr. Wallbrecht acknowledged the individuals who served on the technology committee.

Mr. Wallbrecht discussed the student panel needs assessment and survey results and noted that the most important need was keyboarding. Most students have no keyboarding experience and by the time they get to middle school and high school they need more practice. He also discussed the committee member’s needs assessment and survey results.

Mr. Wallbrecht reviewed the survey highlights and explained that 1:1 technology means one computer to one student. The recommendations, timelines, and financial obligations were also discussed.

Mr. D’Elena inquired about the current reality photos in the new lab wanting to know if devices are networked and if so how. Mr. Wallbrecht answered that they are and are wired in.

Mr. D’Elena asked about full implementation when complete what kind of safeguards are in place to protect the network. Mr. Wallbrecht explained that a firewall on the network is in place, including a content filter that looks at what is coming through the internet and that the network will flag it if it is unfamiliar.

Mr. D’Elena referenced the financial obligation slide, which shows \$2.8 million, mentioning that in the May 6 study session a dollar amount of \$4 million was given for technology proposed capital expenditures. He asked if the \$2.8 million is part of that \$4 million. Dr. Blanchard explained that it is part of that amount and any purchases is contingent upon funding. She noted that this is part two of the work study session held on May 6.

**Approval of Agreement between J.O. Combs Unified School District and Westcor Queen Creek LLC for Circle Cross Ranch North Development** – Dr. Blanchard explained the developer agreement noting the growth in development on the west side. There are 290 homes in the development.

Ms. Pinckard made a motion to approve the Developer Agreement with Westcor Queen Creek LLC as presented and authorize the Superintendent to sign the related documents, seconded by Mr. D’Elena, and the motion carried 4-0.

**Recommendation to Implement a Competitive Sports Program at J.O. Combs Middle School** – Mr. Mark Mauro discussed the purpose of the request, history, current offerings, committee, data collection, and parent survey results. He explained this came about in response to the community since J.O. Combs District had shifted to an intramural sports program due to the budget reduction because of non-continuation of override.

Ms. Laura Ridge, Mr. Michael Shannon and Mr. Jonathan Spray are teachers and coaches with the intramural sports program.

Dr. Rogers (filling in for Ms. Slovitsky who had to leave) reviewed the financial obligations, revenue, and proposed 2015-2016 sports schedule noting that male and female sports are offered in each quarter.

President Hargis asked if parents could use their tax credit to pay the \$75 dollar fee. Dr. Rogers answered yes.

Mr. D'Elena inquired about the revenue amount \$18,770 from auxiliary interest and tax credit balance. Dr. Blanchard explained that the interest has been accruing over several years in auxiliary funds and the second fund is a tax credit balance. She mentioned that tax credit dollars can be used for extracurricular activities and individuals can give annually. Mr. D'Elena asked if the amount can fluctuate from year to year. Dr. Blanchard explained those dollars can roll forward from year to year.

Mr. D'Elena asked why the proposed schedule shows soccer and basketball in different quarters. Mr. Mauro explained it is due to use of facilities. Sports are rotated sometimes due to facilities use and to offset with high school sports schedules. This helps participation and allows camps in order to build feeder programs from middle school to high school.

Dr. Kemp asked what is the maximum amount per year (what will it cost for all four quarters) for a multi-sport student. Mr. Mauro responded that the cap is \$225 dollars per student.

The group discussed the tax credit program concerned about those students (multiple sports) who want to participate in sports but have a financial hardship. They discussed that there is a payment system in place and a hardship waiver to participate. Dr. Blanchard explained that the \$225 per student is the cap at this time as we build this program. She noted that it is important that we are diligent in working with the families.

Dr. Kemp made a motion to Approve the Implementation of a Competitive Sports Program at J.O. Combs Middle School as presented, seconded by Mr. D'Elena, and the motion carried 4-0.

**Arizona School Board Association (ASBA) Delegate Assembly/Political Agenda Submission of Proposed Issues for FY 2016** – Dr. Blanchard asked the governing board to select the items to submit to the legislative session. Long term, short term, and 2015 session specific issues were discussed for the next legislative session.

Dr. Blanchard offered her suggestion to keep the issue of Empowerment Scholarship Accounts on the agenda. She believes that this will continue next legislative session. She also suggested Bonding Issues and Joint Technical Education District (JTED) funding. Dr. Blanchard shared these are the conversations that are happening right now.

Mr. D'Elena wanted to know if there is an order of priority under each section. Dr. Blanchard explained that it is in no particular order.

Regarding Short Term Issues, Dr. Blanchard commented that she does not believe there will be interest at the state level for funding full day kindergarten. JTED funding for school districts was a suggested topic by Dr. Blanchard. Mr. D'Elena asked if JTED includes Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Dr. Blanchard responded yes.

Concerning 2016 Session Specific Issues, Dr. Blanchard suggested keeping the topics of Empowerment Scholarship Accounts and Capital Funding.

Mr. D'Elena suggested adding “advocate to lessen unfunded mandates and administrative burdens” and removing “School Funding, policies and practices...” line item. Dr. Kemp said it is an issue we need to address and referenced the lawsuit that is out there and commented that it is a question of funding and he thinks we ought to leave the wording. The group discussed adding the item “Settle the lawsuit and distribute the dollars” in lieu of “School Funding, policies and practices...”

The Governing Board identified the following items for the 2016 Political Agenda submittal to ASBA:

Long-Term Issues

- School Finance Formula - revise and uphold
- Charter/Public School funding - equity issue, address procurement issues
- Change override language to local support

Short-Term Issues

- JTED Funding
- Charter/Public School funding - equity issue, address procurement issues
- Change override language to local support

2016 Session-Specific Issues

- Settle inflation funding lawsuit and distribute funds
- Empowerment Scholarship Accounts
- Capital Funding

Mr. D'Elena made a motion to Approve the topics for the 2016 Arizona School Board Association (ASBA) Political Agenda, seconded by Dr. Kemp, and the motion carried 4-0.

**Adjournment** – President Hargis made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 p.m., seconded by Dr. Kemp 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

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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  
May 13, 2015