



**MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION
AND REGULAR MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
FOUNTAIN HILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 98**

“We Achieve and Celebrate Educational Excellence”

April 13, 2016

Study Session – 5:30 p.m.

General Overview:

- Hawk Site – 15.71 acres (\$665,000 - \$1,260,000)
- El Lago Site – 35.07 acres (\$1,575,000 - \$2,350,000)
- Aspen Site – 19.95 acres (\$1,360,000 - \$1,980,000)
- Four Peaks School – 3.72 acres, building 69,277 square feet (\$8.3 to \$9 million)
- Total Valuation: \$3,600,000 to \$5,590,000

Options:

- Continue to hold on to properties
- Explore rezoning for increased yield and value
- Sell properties

Process for Selling:

- A.R.S. 15-342 – authorization by vote of school districts electors in an election called by the governing board (reason for election must be stated).
- State reason for election:
 - Bond indebtedness
 - Additional school sites
 - Capital improvement to existing properties
 - NOTE: Sale proceeds cannot be used for M&O expenses

Four Peaks School Site:

- Maintain the status quo
- Sell the property
- Develop a Community Education Center
- Pursue long-term lease with EVIT

Considerations for Status quo:

- Building in good shape
- Minimal cost to carry
- Currently in a partial lease agreement until 12/2016
- Building available for future needs

Consideration for selling:

- Valuation of property seems high (\$8.3 - \$9 Million)
- If offered for sale, we can't choose buyer
- Building would be unavailable for future needs

Community Education Center:

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- There would be Capital and M&O costs prior to the Center being self-sufficient
- Building available for future need
- Provides alternative use (student, adult programming before, during, and after school)

EVIT:

- Long-term 20 year lease
- Value to District and Community
- Not available for future needs
- Eliminates costs to district

Regular Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Fountain Hills Unified School District #98, Maricopa County, was called to order at **6:35 p.m.** at the FHUSD Learning Center, 16000 E. Palisades Blvd., Fountain Hills, Arizona.

Board Members in attendance were: Jill Reed, President; Edith Stock, Vice President; Dr. C.T. Wright; Judith Rutkowski, and Dr. Wendy Barnard.

Mrs. Rutkowski moved the Board approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Mrs. Reed called upon Donna Male, Four Peaks Honors Teacher to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Student Recognition

The Governing Board recognized the Fountain Hills High School Girls' Soccer Team. The girls won the Arizona State Championship, Division 3 (this is the second time in three years). They clinched the title on February 13 by beating Tucson Palo Verde with a score of 4-2. They had a great year with a 17-7 record. The team is coached by Alison Mabery. Ms. Mabery was named Outstanding Small Schools Coach of the year and Leah Carillo was named Outstanding Small Schools Player of the year. Dr. Sweeney presented a small token of recognition and congratulations to each player.

Informational Reports

a. Superintendent Comments – Dr. Patrick Sweeney

- The Falcon Band and Chorus won several awards on their adjudicated performances during their recent trip to Disney. They also competed in the 1,500 to 4,000 school students' category. Congratulations to Ms. Truby and the Falcon Band. The following placements were awarded:
 - 1st place – Concert Band (Superior rating)
 - 1st place – Jazz Band (Excellent Rating)
 - 1st place – Percussion Ensemble (Superior Rating)
 - 1st place – Jazz Choir (Excellent Rating)
 - 4th place – Mixed Choir (Excellent Rating)
 - Wynn Goltry – Outstanding Soloist
 - The Concert Band received the Judges Award for Outstanding Performance
- Applications for the new high school principal closed today. Interviews will take place on Monday, April 18. The district has received 14 solid applications to date. The

applicants will be screened and narrowed down to three candidates. Each applicant will meet with three separate committees (students, parents and community members, and staff). Each committee will have an administrator as the facilitator (Ms. Lynch, Mrs. Gomez and Mrs. Dehombreux). The high school principal candidate will be presented on April 27th for Board approval.

b. STUGO – The Freshman Class Representatives Reported

- Junior class is busy preparing for Prom. The date is April 23. The theme is “City of Lights.” They have sold 95 tickets to dates.
- The underclassman (freshman and sophomores) began selling snacks at the snack bar at the basketball games. Most classes wait until their junior year before selling bagels. The underclassman wanted to begin the fundraising process earlier.

c. Student Activity Accounts

d. Auxiliary Account Funds

e. Site Council Minutes – Dr. Sweeney explained Prop 123 and Current Year Funding.

f. Current Enrollment – Loss of 8 from last month. Four students moved out of the area, one transferred to online classes, two students were court ordered placements and one was dropped after 10 consecutive absences.

g. Status of Pickleball Courts Reconfiguration – The Governing Board approved the reconfiguration of the west outside Pickleball Courts in March 2015. The club received bids and chose contractors to complete the project. The Pickleball club deposited a check with the district along with a letter specifying the contractors chosen.

Public Comments - None

Consent Agenda

- Donations – approximately \$4,477.99
- Accounts Payable Vouchers – March 1 through March 31, 2016
- Payroll Vouchers – March 10 through April 7, 2016
- Personnel Actions – **Hired:** Heather Penkava, (Speech Language Pathologist); Tomeka Wilbourn (Special Ed Teacher, Pre-school) **Transfers:** Valerie Reichler (from McDowell Mtn. to Four Peaks); Esta Finely (from McDowell Mtn. Per-school to Kindergarten) **Resignations:** Tom Brennan (FHHS Principal); Sonya Montague (MM Sped Preschool) **Retirement:** Charlene Goldstein (FHHS Instructional Aide III)
- Minutes of March 9, 2016

Mrs. Stock moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Barnard seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Information/Discussion Items

On or before May 15 each year, the governing board shall **offer a contract for the next school to each certified administrator** who is in the last year of his contract unless, on or before April 15, the governing board gives notice to the administrator of the board’s intention not to offer a new contract. The following administrators’ contracts are due for renewal: Valerie Dehombreux, McDowell Mountain Principal (1 year, 2017) and Anita Gomez, Principal Four Peaks/Fountain Hills Middle school (1 year, 2017).

In 2015 Sodexo was selected as the Food Service Management Company after winning a successful Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP is in place for 5 years and the District can opt to renew annually with Sodexo through the 5th and final year. We have completed year one of five and FY 16/17 will be year two of five. The **renewal of this contract for the 2016/2017 school year would result in a meal price increase for our elementary schools, middle school and high school.** Our current Free/Reduced reimbursable rate is \$2.98 and ADE is requesting that our paid meal rate increase by \$.10 each year until it matches the reimbursable rate.

The **Certified and Classified agreements** were submitted for review. Both agreements contain updates to various dates in order to coincide with the district calendar and Sick/Personal leave has been changed to General Leave. The Certified agreement also includes new language on Teacher Resignations and Liquidation.

Action

Mrs. Rutkowski moved the Board **extend contracts** to Dr. Robert Allen, Ms. Caroline Lynch and Mr. John Flynn for the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Reed seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Mrs. Stock moved the Board **authorize the Superintendent to issue Teacher Contracts, Classified Employment Notices for the 2016/2017 school year** and proceed with reduction in force (RIF) notification to Certified staff, if needed. Dr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

After a lengthy discussion and several questions, Mrs. Reed moved to table the **Crown Castle Easement Proposal** pending more information. Dr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0. This agreement is an easement not a lease and will extend for 50 years. At closing the district would receive a lump sum of \$40,000 and 50% paid to site owner (approximately \$500 - \$1,000 per month). Questions from the board included:

- What is the \$50 in the first paragraph?
- What are our options to terminate?
- When does the 50 years begin? The agreement says, “a term of 50 years ending on December 31, 2049.” Clarification needed.
- Who owns the equipment presently on the property?
- Is AT&T using the equipment currently? If so, where is the income?

Dr. Barnard moved the Board authorize Administration to issue **contracts to Cox, NVision and Premise One** for E-rate Eligible Services. Mrs. Stock seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Mrs. Rutkowski moved the Board approve **revisions to Policy GCQC – Resignation of Professional Staff Members** as discussed in Executive Session on March 9, 2016. Mrs. Stock seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0. The Board may waive this payment if the employee’s non-performance results from circumstances beyond his/her control. Mrs. Reed stated that this is not a popular decision; however, a contract is to protect both parties. The district has suffered over the last few years from teachers who have walked away from their positions at a moment’s notice for various reasons. The veteran teachers in this district would never think of walking away. It is sad that because of some, all are penalized. But at the end of the day it’s really to protect every one (teachers, the district, and our students).

Mrs. Stock moved the Board **authorize administration to review and sign contracts** and work closely with the Pickleball Club to complete the reconfiguration of the west outside basketball courts. Dr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Future Action

- Principals’ contracts renewed
- Food Service Renewal with Price increase
- Crown Castle Agreement
- Certified and Classified Meet and Confer Agreements

Governing Board Reports

- Mrs. Stock attended the Four Peaks Honors Award Assembly. There were 175 students who qualified and Mrs. Gomez made each one feel special. Great event.
- Mrs. Rutkowski attended “Jazz Under the Stars.” It was a very successful fundraiser for the FHHS music program. She also toured the high school (signed up through a link on the website). She was able to visit several classrooms in which students were engaged and interactive with their teachers. The tour was very impressive.
- Mrs. Reed congratulated Mrs. Gomez on the Honors Assembly and the great job of making this event special for the students. She also thanked Mrs. Gomez and Mrs. Dehombreux for great Facebook pages – she’s a follower.

Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 6:30 p.m. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 5:30 p.m. Executive Session, 6:30 p.m. Regular Meeting

At 7:40 p.m. Mrs. Rutkowski moved to adjourn the business meeting. Dr. Barnard seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Dated this 13th day of April 2016

Jill Reed, President

Edith Stock, Vice President

Dr. C.T. Wright

Judith Rutkowski

Dr. Wendy Barnard