

Work-Study Meeting of the Governing Board

Tuesday, January 24, 2006

Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Fine Arts Center, Multi-purpose room 2
33606 N 60th St., Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Members of the Board

Javier Ledesma, President
Stephanie Reese, Clerk
Lisa Doche, member
Marvin Christensen, member
Mark Warren, member

ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY: Middle School Strings

APPROVED MINUTES (Approved at the February 7, 2006 Meeting)

1. OPENING

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present: Mr. Javier Ledesma, Board President, Ms. Stephanie Reese, Clerk, Board Members Ms. Lisa Doche, and Mr. Mark Warren. Absent was Dr. Marvin Christensen. Cabinet Members present Dr. Tacy Ashby, Superintendent, Dr. Debbi Burdick, Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Kent Frison, Associate Superintendent of Operations and Finance and Ms. Patti Tussey, Executive Director of Human Resources. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Call to fill out forms for Unscheduled Public Appearances/Address Agenda Items was made. Call for Formal Adoption of the Agenda was made. – Ms. Reese moved and Mr. Warren seconded, the motion passed unanimously

1.6 President's Report

Mr. Ledesma spoke previously with individual board members relative to where to go with the board. This information will be addressed at an upcoming retreat. Mr. Ledesma summarized that he is proud of the board, administration, staff and faculty support that has been received and the allowing of open dialogue. Opportunities for committees are being called for as it relates to issues for our students in the classroom. The diversity that is brought to the table cannot be overlooked; however, the board must maintain autonomy at the table.

1.6 A Short Term Program and Facilities Committee Board Member Report – no report made

1.6 B Job Embedded Professional Growth Committee Board Member Report – no report made

1.6 C Board Member Comments – no report made

1.2 Superintendent's Report

National School Board Week – Dr. Ashby thanked the board for all they do for the well-being of our students and schools. Ms. Linda Garvin and Mr. Garvin were thanked for the reception they provided before the board meeting. District Art teachers who currently have a display here at the Fine Arts Center were recognized and thanked. Strings students were congratulated for the entertainment they provided. Dr. Ashby reported that she subbed today in Ms. Garvin's room and was very impressed with the work being done in the classroom.

A concern over the proximity of the power lines near the construction of the new building was brought to Dr. Ashby's attention. Administration is pursuing more information. Dr. Ashby will be making further recommendations later in the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS -

Linda Garvin – Teacher at CSHS – President of CCEA. CCEA appreciates the Board every month of the year, however, this is the month that we make it known. CCEA appreciates the support and is proud of the district. Ms. Garvin introduced her Board: Linda Arthur, Keri Woods, Shelly Richardson, and Jonna Johnson. Thanked her husband Bill.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Short Term Program and Facilities Committee Presentation –

Debbi Militello and Meribeth Reeves presented the information accumulated from the Short Term Program and Facilities Committee. This committee determined that the capacities set by the Governing Board were the numbers they were going to use in arriving at their recommendation. A decision was made after a very extensive process to recommend to the Superintendent to move an existing middle school to the new facility. After arriving at that decision, it was voted to move Sonoran Trails Middle School. Recommendations as to further movement involving the vacated STMS will be provided to the Long Range Committee for consideration. All of the information used to come to this conclusion is currently on the web site. Questions/Discussions: Ms. Doche pointed out that the demographics for STMS consists of the children who live in the area of the new school. With the override not passing, the district does have the money to completely furnish and equipment a new school. With unavailability of funding, it came down to moving a middle school or not opening it. Mr. Ledesma reported the committee gave everyone ample opportunity to come forward with concerns. The Middle School Principals were asked their opinions regarding currently shared programs. Only program shared is music. With the possibility that the program could be offered at both sites once STMS moves, the program will probably grow. Since STMS currently doesn't have a band room, they have to send their students to DAMS for instruction.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Rees Candee was invited to speak concerning the information on the power lines which go across the Pinnacle Vista property. Mr. Rees Candee – 6964 E. Redbird Road. Mr. Candee is a parent of two students, a film maker of documentaries. He is currently studying Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF). Research is saying that EMF's are associated with certain cancers and illnesses. He took a sample at the site on a Sunday and got a reading of 8.1 milligauss. The building is 10 feet away from these power lines at the parking lot site. Mr. Candee reported that this subject matter is fickle and has gone both ways during litigation. He suggests the district have an assessment done on the site to see if levels are such that maybe the district shouldn't open the school. He has no answers, only asking questions. A safety audit needs to be done. There are potential answers (buried, shielded, etc). Experts will argue there is no issue. European standards say a school has to be 600 meters away.

Ms. Doche asked if the district should look at just the middle school or the entire complex area. Mr. Candee had referred to the entire complex as HTES when he meant the new building under construction. Mr. Roehler has done some research and has found no evidence that the state gives any guidelines. CCUSD worked under the easement that was granted to the power companies. Two power easements are involved. The nearest corner of the building is at 100 feet from center of power pole and 62 feet outside of easement. Mr. Ledesma asked Dr. Ashby to bring information back later.

Dr. Ashby thanked committee members who were in the room and presented Ms. Militello and Ms. Reeves with certificates of appreciation.

3.2 International Baccalaureate Presentation –

Mr. Bailey spoke to the board, administration and community regarding IBO. Mr. Bailey introduced Monica Barrett and the committee. IBO site visit occurred November 9 and 10th. By the time the application was completed and the visit occurred, everything had to be in order. The IBO interest meeting was attended by 167 students/parents of which 67 students would qualify. IBO increases the rigor that students take. Formal training for teachers began in May 2004. Eight teachers are trained and 5 others are scheduled for training in the spring of 2006. Training will be complete by May 2006. The committee has observed schools currently offering IBO. Staff feels by offering this program, the bar will be raised unilaterally, teachers will have opportunity to teach at a higher level, and opportunities for students will increase. It was reported the teaching staff are feeling more comfortable with the program and feel that IB won't take over the entire school. IB and Advanced Placement (AP) will work together. AP is already in place and there is a difference between the programs. AP allows students to choose areas that are of interest to them. The IB program pushes students beyond their strengths and interests because students are required to take all courses. Classrooms can consist of students in both programs. Adding IB gives students another choice. IB will address the global issues for students. Level of instruction in our district will be on par with the global community. School and community will grow with this program. Goal is open access for all students – students will be included not excluded. CSHS will amend application if board asks, so that it will assure open access to all students. Mr. Bailey said the staff has evaluated this program and they too want the program to be open access to all students. The committee assured Mr. Bailey that this process will be in place. Mr. Bailey thanked the IB committee for hard work and passion for this program. Also thanked the board for commitment to education.

Mr. Ledesma inquired as to the sequence of events that will happen from this point forward. Dr. Ashby responded that the purpose of this evening is to allow staff members the opportunity to come before the board to share information. The intent of Administration is to bring a recommendation to February 7th meeting to move forward or not.

Mr. David Lowith, 11548 East Solaro Drive. Mr. Lowith attended the information meeting on IBO. In an incredibly competitive world, this program is a differentiator. Mr. Lowith feels it is a positive when a student can be differentiated and feels it is helpful for the student to get admitted to college.

Mr. Pete Gorraiz, previous board member, spoke in support of the IBO program. (4330 E. Peak View). Mr. Gorraiz feels IBO is an opportunity for students to show what they can do. It is a global market and students need to be able to participate and compete in that world. Students are trying to raise the bar and work harder to get a better education. Mr. Gorraiz's son was encouraged by a teacher to take higher level math and he is convinced this is why son did well on the ACT. IBO is an opportunity to raise the bar and if we don't provide the program, what is the message we are sending? Mr. Gorraiz feels CCUSD may lose students to other districts due to not offering the IBO.

Mr. Warren asked when CCUSD will be moved from candidate to accepted. He also inquired about what was meant by amended. Ms. Barrett reported that amendments can be sent once the board has voted. Board members Warren and Doche were told by the IBO visit team that because of a timing issue on approval, the best we could hope for was a postponement. Ms. Barrett reported a decision by the board has to be submitted prior to March 1. Dr. Ashby clarified that the site visit team needs the Governing Board stamp of approval before moving CCUSD to an accepted status. If approval is received by end of January or first of February, we would be able to go forward with amendments. Currently in the contract, entrance criteria is a review of the

Explorer Test, teacher recommendation, review of core content area, and top 45% of reading comprehension. Ms. Reese asked if money was going to be diverted from other programs to pay for this program and if so, which programs. Mr. Bailey asked Dr. Frison to address. Roughly the cost is \$20K per school per year. Mr. John Stollar will be at the next meeting to address it. Establishing a program for students to remain in the program is supportable but to not allow students in initially is not supportable. Those students who cannot keep up with rigor, what would their curriculum look like. To get in the program under the current format of the proposal, they would have to be in the honors matrix. Ms. Doche, charged the committee with concern about us being ready to implement in the fall. Areas of concern, can we effectively deliver duality in the program (AP and IB) in one classroom. Do we have the staff to implement effectively right now? How does it affect the schedule? Board members want assurance that all questions can be answered and funding is available and we will be able to deliver the program. Board members are asking for this information in writing. Mr. Warren asked for a schedule as part of the presentation to see how IB will weave into the existing schedule? The Board wants to be shown how teachers currently teaching AP can also teach IB at the same time. Cost breakout needs to include the additional training. If CCUSD is told by IB that we are postponed, we would have to reapply. This program can only be implemented at the start of a year. Mr. Bailey said if they tell us it is going to be shelved, he is sure they will tell us exactly what we have to do. Ms. Reese asked if the leadership change at the high school is of any concern that they might want to come back and meet the new leader on campus. Dr. Ashby reported that if the Governing Board approves the implementation of IBO, we will submit that information on leadership change to IB. Ms. Ward reported the IBO visit team said the only thing we were lacking is board support.

3.3 Media Communication

Dr. Ashby introduced Nedda Shafir who presented a media communication plan. Nedda presented the mission of the district, and presented the school focus areas. She introduced to the board the various recognitions programs that will be utilized: Anchor Achiever Award, Lunch and Learn, Super Sub Program, Business/Community Leaders Breakfasts, Cave Creek Cares, Weekly Media Briefing, District Newsletter and Weekly Staff Newsletter. Goals of the Public Information Officer's office were presented. Ms. Reese thanked Nedda for being here.

8. UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

Mr. Ledesma thanked Cabinet members and Ms. Reese for the work in placing items in order of priority on the upcoming calendar. Clarification: Tuesday, February 16 should read Thursday, February 16. At the February 7th meeting, Dr. Ashby will comment on a procedure for the high school principal search. Regarding comments made earlier by Mr. Candee and in her Superintendent's Report, Dr. Ashby wants to do due diligence. Because of this recent concern, Administration wants to bring forward information at the work study on February 28th, regarding construction updates and issues on the new school. Mr. Roehler and Mr. Candee have been conversing at great length and this new timeline will help. Recommendations on flex school should be held until the regular board meeting on Tuesday, March 14. This puts the district back one full month; however, with the information brought to light, it still gives us time to move forward. Mr. Warren asked if the recommendation can be brought forward with a caveat of "pending what research happens" on February 7th. Dr. Ashby feels because the topic is so important and could have many implications, it would be best to wait. Mr. Warren would like to let constituents know as soon as possible, "pending research". Dr. Ashby could recommend that we are in the process of fact finding in the early part of February. We might be able to arrive at information and conclusions to bring information to vote on the same night. Dr. Ashby asked to wait minimally to February 28th. Administration wants to bring a thorough package to the Governing Board's attention. Administration has a lot of work to do. We will be moving ahead with principals; work will continue. No stoppage of construction has occurred.

Calendar items: Safety Forum, Beyond Denial is Thursday, January 26th. Gina Durbin was thanked for her efforts in putting this together. The District Spelling Bee is February 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Committee information was added to the Upcoming Calendar. Mr. Ledesma asked that Board Bits have the calendar added. He also asked that committee comments under the President's Report be left on work studies.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Warren, seconded by Ms. Doche. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at: 8:07 p.m.

Dated this 24th day of January, 2006

By _____ Linda Schaner _____

Ms. Linda Schaner
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Governing Board