

Special Meeting of the Governing Board

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Time: 5:30 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
Marvin Christensen, member
Lisa Doche, member
Mark Warren, member

APPROVED MINUTES – APPROVED AT THE 3/28/06 BOARD MEETING

1. OPENING

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Board members present: Mr. Javier Ledesma, Board President, Ms. Stephanie Reese, Clerk, Board Members Ms. Lisa Doche, Dr. Marv Christensen and Mr. Mark Warren. 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 Ms. Doche seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

No superintendent's report

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS – no public comments

3. PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATION/REPORTS

3.1 Safety Related Items – Dr. Ashby introduced the subsections to this presentation.

- A. Surveillance at the High School – Previous administration had asked the Board to consider installation of surveillance cameras on the CSHS campus for security and vandalism purposes. Current administration prefers teachers and administrators to be the eyes and ears for security purposes. If cameras are to be installed, the parking lot would be the area needing surveillance. Having security cameras would require the hiring of someone to sit in front of the monitors all day. Daytime hours cameras aren't the answer per Mr. Bailey – people are. Mr. Bailey would prefer that money be spent on maintenance and updating of the facilities. The campus is difficult to secure due to its layout. The Board asked Mr. Bailey to speak with his staff regarding safety priority and holding students accountable for actions. Further research will be done to see if the costs for surveillance cameras can be funded through Homeland Security. CCEA (Linda Garvin) needs to know the board's intent to ask teachers and staff to be eyes and ears. Mr. Warren asked for a statement from the Board via the Cabinet in writing to say this is a priority and they must follow this rule. It will be sent to all sites, not just the high school. Teachers need to understand and know what the expectations are. What are the boundaries – break up fight or call SRO – give the "how to" to help maintain safety.

- B. Drug Detection - Dr. Burdick reported on the canine locker searches and handed out the procedure. Dogs would not be on campus during the typical school day. Administration and SRO will escort team. If dogs smelled something, locker would be noted, not opened until a later time. Discussion occurred regarding the pros and cons of having the dogs on campus during the day when the students are there.

The Board was split regarding having the dogs on campus during the day, so Administration will make the decision as to when searches will occur. Mr. Ledesma spoke with 15 students last week – their perception is we as adults have to send a clear message that substance will not be allowed on our campus. Too much teaching time is spent disciplining students. Unsure of how often we can get the dogs to come on campus. Board asked Administration to see if we could utilize the Maricopa County Sheriffs office for this procedure too.

- C. Discipline on Buses – Dr. Burdick had a follow-up meeting with Cathy Erwin, a few bus drivers and principals. Issues identified were: drivers need a contact name at every school for referrals, re-emphasizing no balloons, no skateboards, no pass/no ridership, or no food on bus. Emails for referrals will be responded to within 48 hours and email will be sent with a red flag. Discipline is going well, except one campus is going a little slower. Referrals are down significantly from this time last year. Dr. Burdick will address issues with principals regarding drinks, balloons and food. Rules regarding not allowing certain items on buses are Department of Public Safety Rules. There is no consistency from schools or bus drivers with the use of late passes. Every student going to an after school activity needs a pass to get on bus. Supervision at school pick up times needs attention. We are looking at student badges for next year at secondary level; possibly will be able to put route number on the badge Drivers currently have 5 video tapes – 1 for each day for bus surveillance. Each bus has a camera. Parents cannot watch video tapes due to FERPA rules. If there is a referral, the tape will be pulled and given to principal immediately. Transportation is piloting this year at the middle school level only, having the driver calling the parents on the first incident as long as it isn't a huge issue. Ms. Erwin feels this is adding ownership to drivers and the parents can assist earlier. Board wants consistency with how parents are notified of referrals. Mr. Ledesma thanked bus drivers for their willingness to be a part of the discipline area. Water is allowed on bus. Bus riding is a privilege, not a right.
- D. Separation of Middle School and High School Students on Bus - Dr. Frison responded to the feasibility of separating the middle school and high school students riding the bus. After all routes were reviewed, it was found that an additional 18 buses and drivers would be needed to accomplish this task leaving start times as they are currently. Air conditioned buses are about \$110K each or approximately \$2M to handle this request. A packet explaining the entire process was provided. Changing to three staggered and separate start times would require 7 buses and 7 drivers. District is 144 square miles; need 1 hour separation time due to size of district and low density of housing. With the 7 bus/7drivers situation, no late runs would be available at elementary and middle school. The high school would still have late runs. Elementary late run is for tutorial; middle and high are also for athletics. Late runs also provide skeleton bus stops. Due to cost of gas, the transportation budget had to be augmented by \$100K this year. Transportation generates \$1.7M per year but costs \$2M to run. Currently we don't have the money to buy the buses or space to park them. Board wants the numbers run to see if we can get this a cost neutral item. Mr. Ledesma would like Administration to look at late starts versus early starts and bring back to board as it relates to instructional and safety levels.

- E. Secondary Handbook/Code of Conduct/AIA Guidelines – This task has not been completed yet. The committee is going through these documents page by page. They are approximately half way through with checking references and correcting or updating where the documents differ. Their goal is to come up with one general handbook; then a code of conduct and a one page sheet on athletics; basic expectations. A finished copy will be provided for approval once completed. Since this project was started, the committee has found it necessary to look at athletic guidelines. A character program needs to be in place as a baseline for this process. Once this review is completed, a mandatory meeting will be scheduled with all head coaches, all club sponsors and administrative staff to discuss expectations for CSHS students. Once consensus is achieved with the first group, a small group of parents will sit down with coaches and club sponsors for feedback. Eventually, this procedure will be opened to all parents. Having a clear understanding of what the board wants Mr. Bailey will guide coaches and sponsors to come to his consensus. A suggested was made to have orientation parent meetings for athletic participation where the parent would sign off on the value statement. Need consistency in our handbooks and need to have parents sign off on receipt and understanding of handbooks at all schools. The Board wants this procedure to cover all organizations, marching band, drama, not just athletics.
- F. Review and Preview of Safety Forums - Dr. Burdick presented the flyer on Beyond Denial II. The forum is being broken into two groups. Discussion occurred as to the content of the next forum which is tentatively scheduled for April. Ms. Durbin is trying to schedule speakers for the next session. Board members want to revitalize prevention programs to educate our community. In opening comments, general mention will be made about introduction to health and wellbeing issues in curriculum and issues with sex. Ms. Durbin did find a speaker who is willing to speak to these concerns at Forum III. Mr. Ledesma would like this on a future agenda item to discuss Forum III. Board asked for suicide to be added to Forum III. Lisa's understanding was the wellness committee was going to be a standing committee and the additional counselors would be involved. Lisa would like to see nutrition or eating disorders added to the forum. Ms. Durbin said Forums may be held once a month next year. Counselors, nurses and cybrarians need to be a part of presenting this information. Board would like this committee on-going and called Student Welfare.

Took break at 7:58 reconvened at 8:08

2.1 Educational Summit and Strategic Planning

- A. Preparation for Education Forum – The Forum is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2006 at Lone Mountain Elementary from 8:00 to 12:30 p.m. Dr. Christensen put together a proposal that reflects the needs in the 10 categories which were discussed at a previous retreat. The Forum will provide information for planning over next 2-3 years. Hopefully, the Forum will generate a set of people to help with issues. Structured braining storming activities will be done with groups of 10-12 people and one facilitator. Dr. Christensen gave the Board a detailed description of the format of the Forum. Facilitators will be identified and trained. Board Members and Cabinet will move around and listen to groups. After discussing the format, it was decided that the information packets would be provided to the participants ahead of time for their review.

- B. Steps Beyond Forum – Strategic Planning – The *Focus on Education Forum*, will provide a lot of information to go through. Various ideas were discussed as to how to format the group work for Strategic Planning. Need an organizational strategic plan from the community base. The last Strategic Plan was done in 1999 with minor updates from the previous Superintendent. Last January, the Board created a board plan. Board is going to have to let go of the strategic planning process and let Administration and community put together.
- C. Re-branding – CCUSD has had many logos, pictures and identifiers in the past. Dr. Ashby would like the Board to consider re-branding. Mr. Ledesma feels this is appropriate.
- D. Board Members as Point People – Dr. Ashby formally designated each Board member as a “point” person, charged with specific areas when working with staff and community. Lisa Doche will be the point person for the Foundation. Mark Warren will be the point person for Legislative. Stephanie Reese will work with Nedda to establish the Support Our Schools entity and Marv Christensen will be the Technology liaison. Due to his duties as Board President, Javier Ledesma was not given an extra area.

4. OLD BUSINESS – none

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Donations – Dr. Ashby read the donation from Cactus Foothills Little League, South. Mr. Warren move and Ms. Reese seconded to accept the donation as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

6. UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

Flex school recommendation is not on the upcoming calendar until after we have the presentation on EMF. Utilization of the building needs to be addressed. Issue will be resolved around a decision based on data coming from the engineering firm. The engineering firm is only providing a report which will be forwarded to the Board in advance, if possible. We are trying to find someone locally who will take a position on the values that are within the document. Engineering firm will not be giving an opinion.

March 7 is being held for a potential Board Meeting. Dr. Ashby, Dr. Burdick and Dr. Christensen will be attending the NSBA convention in April. Mr. Ledesma asked to remove sweeps from the agenda and let administration handle it without coming to the board.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Reese and seconded by Mr. Warren to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at: 10:00 p.m.

Dated this 16th day of February 2006

By Linda Schaner

Linda Schaner
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Governing Board
Cave Creek Unified School District