

**Special Meeting of the Governing Board**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2006**

**Time: 5:30 p.m.**

**Place: Fine Arts Center, Multi-purpose room 2  
33606 N 60<sup>th</sup> St., Cave Creek, AZ 85331**

**Members of the Board**

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

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**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED AT THE 4/1/06 MEETING**

**1. OPENING**

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 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. Mr. Warren moved and Ms. Doche seconded. Discussion: Board asked to move Items 5.1 and 6.1 forward in the agenda to after 2.1. The motion passed unanimously as amended.

- 1.1 President's Report – Educational forum is scheduled for March 11. The last Safety Forum was well attended and positive feedback was received. Mr. Ledesma thanked Gina Durbin and her staff for their efforts. He also thanked members of community for Tanner's Run which raised over \$20,000. GLO students participated in *Odyssey of the Mind*.
- 1.2 Board Comments – Mr. Warren along with several students participated in a fundraiser for brain tumor research at Pinnacle High School. Over \$250K was raised. Mr. Warren updated the Board on various legislative bills.
- 1.3 Superintendent's Report - Member Warren was thanked for his legislative update. A speaker is scheduled at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting to talk on legislative issues. Tanner's Run was very successful and over 750 people participated. Dr. Ashby thanked those who worked on Beyond Denial II. At the *Odyssey of the Mind* competition, Desert Willow and Lone Mountain took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Black Mountain took 4<sup>th</sup> place. Both Desert Willow and Lone Mountain qualified to go to State. Updated Board Members regarding the posting of the survey for the High School Principal's qualities, skills and characteristics. Position is already posted. CSHS Drama will be performing *To Kill a Mockingbird* on March 3,4,5, 2006

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

2.1 none

**3. PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATION/REPORTS**

- 3.1 Report on Job Embedded Professional Development – Dr. Burdick introduced Pam Sitton and Marie Frantz who gave a formal presentation on the Job Embedded Professional Development committee. Ms. Frantz summarized each meeting held and the articles the group reviewed. After many discussions, the committee came up with two proposals. Proposals are: one hour/per week or one/half day on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Results of the survey were presented in percentages. Due to time constraints, only the negative comments were brought forward.

Proposals were supported at some schools and not at others. A clear message of what parents want wasn't received. Goal when started was to make a recommendation to calendar committee on how to provide time for teachers to meet, talk and confer. Teaching staff felt strongly about time needed and parents were extremely concerned about time issue. Both proposals along with copies of the information will be given to the calendar committee. In both recommendations, the actual calendar won't change – the impact would be in student time. Cave Creek student contact time is above what the state requires for teaching. Board would like to see if adding an hour to the teacher's time could facilitate this need. Unsure of the cost of this suggestion. Both teachers and parents were concerned about the amount of time students would be with substitutes. Using Specials for professional development is not a viable choice since they are the only time for planning of lessons. Cave Creek Education Association raised concerns this year due to some schools using Special's times for professional growth versus planning. Board has asked to see the substitute costs before any of these proposals come forward. Teachers are expected to be on campus 7-3/4 hours which includes lunch and planning time. Dr. Ashby thanked the committee and Dr. Burdick for their work and the Governing Board for their support. To be true to the process originally set up, this information will go to the calendar committee. Ms. Doche asked if the calendar committee will deal with additional compensation for add-on or Member Warren's comment on costs of substitutes. How will the two concerns be handled? Job embedded has no additional cost implications.

- 3.2 High School Fundraising - Dr. Burdick introduced Mr. Bailey and Mr. Gerlach, who met with the PTO, Boosters and Men's Club to develop a process that administratively allows for a common goal of providing support to all students. This group will meet quarterly to determine which fundraiser a particular area will have control over, report on projects and updating Administration. The name of the group is School Support Organization Council. Mr. Gerlach read the bylaws and mission statement of this group. A question was raised regarding how this will affect other sports with their fundraising efforts. Those procedures will go through the Athletic Director's office and won't change. With direction from Student Council and Administration, nothing will change under the guidelines. Mr. Warren thanked the groups for everything they have been doing. Board would like to see the calendar of what is coming up. Student Government controls fund raising efforts that are inter-campus related versus outside community. The parent support organizations are more global and detailed. Board thought with the larger reach of the parent group, they may be able to help soccer, cheer or other areas.

#### 4. **CONSENT AGENDA** - none

#### 5. **OLD BUSINESS**

- 5.1 EMF Information and School Construction Site Timeline – With the large number of presenters on this topic, each was asked to limit their presentation to 5 to 10 minutes. Questions will be asked after each presentation. Dr. Ashby introduced the segment and turned it over to Dr. Frison who introduced the first presenter, Mr. Peter Sierck of ETT. Mr. Sierck's company has 20 years experience with EMF and worked for California Board of Education on some projects. There are two components to EMF – electric and magnetic. Research on potential problem is related to magnetic fields. Magnetic fields are related to the current flow and determine strength of field. Wire configuration also determines strength. Mr. Sierck presented the information from his testing that was taken at the site. (See handout for detailed information). California is one of only a few states with regulations in place for EMF and it requires schools to be 150 feet away. Districts can ask for exemptions in California if the footage is not there. The scientific community is divided by the effects of the magnetic fields. Dr. Christensen asked since California allows exemptions, what can be done besides wiring changes. Mr. Sierck responded that exemptions are done during the planning stage versus construction stage. Once the school is constructed, options include shielding which is not

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practical here. There couldn't be any windows. Addressing the conductor configuration of the 230 line between 2-3 towers would require the utility provider to be willing to do it. They are not required. The scientific community is not concerned about parking lots near wires, just playgrounds. They are more concerned about long term exposure versus short term exposure. Long term is 8 hours in general. Sixty minutes in the classroom is considered short term. Northeast corner of the multi-purpose room had highest readings. The room closest is a dance/cheer room and numbers are not static. End of multipurpose room is 220 feet away. Front of administration building is 110 feet and measured 1.5 mG. Model or age of car can give you 5 mG. Once out of field you are out of field. Heath questions, he can't answer. Magnetic field is present in surrounding area of electrical conductor. Measurements are from the 69 kilovolt line. The 230 kilovolt line is 87 feet back.

Second presenter is Mike Pearson of DOR group – architects and engineers. He has been involved in this field for a number of years. Literature and research in EMF field is marked by inconsistencies and inconclusive information. Statutory requirements are non-existent in Arizona. Utilities are not regulated in this particular field. Many times California is different from rest of country. When designing a building, there are no guidelines in this regard. Shielding is quite expensive and he has never seen it done on an entire building. Initial research which caused concern has recently been found in error. EMF threats or damage to people is a point that is still in limbo, no conclusive information. He would be one of the first people to know of data coming forward. Questions: Impact on wireless communication networks from EMF would be a concern due to extra load frequency.

Mr. Don Brubaker, Architect for District. Architects are bound by regulatory agencies when designing a facility. All regulatory agencies are consulted prior to design of a project. There was nothing that came to their attention of issue when designing the flex school. The architects go through local, city, county, state and regional agencies. All of these agencies gave approval. Set back requirements and easements were defined and were required to be a part of the design. Questions: Board asked if the architects when putting building on the property were satisfied that all factors were taken into account that are known and in writing. Yes, that is why the drop off area was kept outside of the easement. Did question ever come up with respect to the power lines? No.

Mr. Dennis Roehler, Director of Facilities, presented pictures of other schools within various districts that have power lines closer than the flex school. This problem is not unique to Cave Creek. Many other school districts have the same problem.

Mr. Rees Candee, community member. He is a documentary filmmaker. SAGE Associates is the environmental group he dealt with to arrive at his slide presentation. Mr. Candee handed out literature for review and showed a small measuring device. EMF levels within homes and schools can be managed by moving the buildings. Mr. Candee quoted the District's Mission Statement and asked the Board to live up to it. He asked the Board to provide for the safety of its students. He gave indicators for understanding the impact of EMF. Mr. Candee wants postponement of the move to the flex school; establish a testing protocol for all our schools and audit all schools for EMF. He asked the Board to set a planning target for 1 mG of occupied space. He suggested either redesigning the building envelope, increase distance from power lines, bury lines or shield lines. Questions: These are Mr. Candee's recommendations as to due diligence. Board asked Mr. Candee to provide them information in writing. Board asked Mr. Candee if the District were to do all 5 things would he feel safe putting children in schools and he responded yes.

Mr. Sierck reported that use of wood or block structures do not block EMF. Shielding the multipurpose room would be cost prohibitive and there would not be any openings. It would take a substantial amount of time and money to redesign and set the MPR back further on the land because a substantial amount of the building is already in place. Are there any litigation cases in the state of Arizona on EMF? Mr. Pearson/Mr. Stierck what can be done to adjust the power lines. Current loads are usually projected at 5% increase per year. The demand for power is unstoppable. Mr. Sierck reported that there are different designs on conductors and what the most efficient configuration is just the opposite of what consists on the 230 line.

Dr. Frison presented information reflecting the completion timelines and moving in timelines for the flex school. Dr. Frison will bring forward an approval for a moving company if the Board votes to move ahead with the flex school utilization, with a summer time move as a real possibility. Dr. Christensen asked for a copy of the schedule that was reflected at meeting.

Closing comments: Dr. Ashby reported that the original intent was to bring forward a recommendation for the flex school in February, allowing the Board opportunity to research. With this new information, Administration is asking for direction. Options include, bringing back further information in regard to presentations tonight or continue to move forward with recommendation of flex school. After discussion, the Board responded that they would like the recommendation to come forward as soon as possible after doing due diligence on checking on the moving or redesigning of concerned buildings; finding out the capacity of the wires in peak usage times and seeing if Western Area Power Association would be willing to update their wires. Recommendation will be brought forward at the March 28 Board meeting.

Recessed at 7:28 reconvened at 7:37

5.2 IBO Recommendation – After many presentations and discussions over the past three years Administration is recommending the Board adopt the IBO program. Motion was made by Mr. Warren and seconded by Ms. Doche. Discussion: Ms. Reese complimented the dedicated teachers and staff at Cactus Shadows and believes no matter what tonight's vote will be students will benefit. CSHS is currently meeting the needs of high achieving students. By funding IBO, we might be taking away from other programs. A full time gifted teacher at each elementary would build a stronger program for the high school. Academic Recovery Center needs to be at both middle schools. We need to add strings and band. Could revamp and reinstate Spanish at elementary for a strong foundation. Not sure IBO is that program right now unless we get outside funding.

Dr. Christensen has listened to the information and has done research on his own. Framed a set of questions and many have been answered but not all to his satisfaction. Previous information gave enrollment patterns in Honors and AP. The data indicates we aren't doing a good job of holding on to honors students for the 4 years. Why is there a decline with the number of honors students not going through AP? We don't have a good handle on the number of students in the program next year and subsequent years. Have concerns about compatibility of AP and IB in same class. The top math courses are not equivalent. Has asked about other courses and hasn't been given that information. False argument to say can teach AP and IBO in same class. Why are half of our students performing below average on AP tests? Likes the IBO concept. Opportunities for raising student expectations should be present whether we have IB or not. Hasn't seen the 4 year course plan from CSHS. He will vote to support with mix feelings and concern. Feels program would be poorly implemented.

At 9:00 a motion was made by Mr. Warren and seconded by Ms. Reese to continue the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Doche reported the original intent was to provide differentiated diplomas. She doesn't look at AP as a barometer for IBO. Administration, high school staff and parents have brought an economical way of doing IBO. This is a model of something we are considering implementing throughout the system. The staff supports IBO and wants the opportunity. Board has taken leaps of faith previously on other items. Implementing IBO doesn't affect Spanish implementation. Everything in the budget has to be looked at on its own merit. Board has to be committed to supporting the program, not as a pilot but as an ongoing program.

Mr. Warren does disagree with information Dr. Christensen and Ms. Reese brought forward. He would rather take the shot and raise the bar.

Community Member: Pete Gerasz – Mr. Gerasz says he agrees with all the Board Member's ideas. Feels we need to raise the bar for the students. Teachers have spent a lot of time training. IBO will make teachers better teachers. While this isn't for all students, he hopes we don't discriminate against these students.

Mr. Ledesma asked Student Body President Steven O'Connor to speak. Mr. O'Connor personally would have loved to have had IBO at school during his tenure. It's a great opportunity for students and District. This would get CSHS on the map. Currently, students think of Chaparral, Horizon and Pinnacle before their own high school. If we have multiple high schools in the District, IBO would keep CSHS as a selection. IBO enhances student's lives and makes the District look better.

Mr. Ledesma agrees with Dr. Christensen and Ms. Reese that the foundation starts at middle school and we don't have a legitimate program. He agrees with Mr. Warren and Ms. Doche as it relates to students. Mr. Ledesma wants Administration to look into why we are not retaining AP students in the program.

Dr. Ashby reported she was initially skeptical, not having total knowledge of IBO. She looked at this with an open mind thinking of what's best for the District fiscally and for needs of students. There are ways to meet same goals and end with different strategies. Three years of dedication, commitment and work went into this and the teachers can and will meet these challenges. This promotes rigor for all students, top students and strugglers. Information has been open as it relates to AP, Honors and Dual Enrollment at middle school. IB training received by these teachers will filter to all teachers at CSHS. IB will tighten up the master schedule. Need to back map our curriculum to become a 12-K district. This gives us opportunity to become a lighthouse district. There is amazing potential with becoming an IBO district and adopting IBO now would be the foundation for this. There are challenges that we all agree to, but Cabinet felt it was indeed a recommendation we couldn't back down from. All in favor of IBO motion passed 4 ayes 1 nay.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Phone Messaging System - Dr. Frison introduced Janice Esponiza from NetCom who presented the community messaging system. We currently have a one year contract, costing \$2.90 per student first year. Outbound calls can be launched via web, phone or email. A text box is available for typing a message to be read. You can re-record the message if a mistake is made. Calls can be scheduled to go out now or later and time can be determined. Recipients must say hello to activate the system. Administration recommends the Governing Board approve the award. Mr. Warren moved and Ms. Doche seconded. Discussion: Simultaneous email and voice messages can be sent. There are options on delivery if an answering machine is involved. The server is housed at NetCom behind 3 fire walls. Passwords and log ins will be controlled on our end. System can be used for any type of

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reminders. Administration will establish protocol and training. This is a flat fee, unlimited calls. Motion passed unanimously.

6.2 2006 Summer School Program – With a presentation of the summer enrichment program brochure, Administration recommends acceptance of this item as presented. Camp will be morning and afternoon. Students will rotate through 3 classes. They are offering enrichment classes up through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Received requests to have Kids Club open in June and July. It will be located at DWES. Child can take enrichment classes and be bused to DWES. Mr. Warren moved and Ms. Doche seconded motion to accept program as presented. Only classes for credit retrieval will be offered, not academic classes for enrichment. Motion passed unanimously

6.3 Sole Source Vendor for ACT Materials - Only one vendor exists for ACT testing materials and this item is being brought to Board for approval. Ms. Reese moved and Mr. Warren seconded to accept the motion as presented. Dr. Christensen said there are multiple vendors for ACT testing, with ETS being one of them. When we ask for sole vendor is it for a brand or product. Purchasing department resourced and felt there were no other vendors. Can we give them sole source? If we are looking for a specific test, they are the vendor for that test. If there are look alike tests, it is a different matter. Dr. Frison felt comfortable supporting. We currently have been using these tests and wanted to have comparative data from year to year. Motion passed unanimously

## 7. UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

Dr. Ashby is recommending that the special meeting on March 7 be held to one item which is personnel related and maintain the March 14 meeting as presented on the Upcoming Calendar. Administration is recommending 3 meetings in March. Board asked for items to be moved so that there would only be two meetings. The recommendation for the flex school will be on March 28. The revisiting of safety related items will be moved to on April 11. Open enrollment revisions have been done but haven't been updated. Open enrollment will be moved to March 7 along with the personnel topic. Legislative update will be changed to the 28<sup>th</sup>. Debriefing on *Focus on Education Forum* will be moved to March 28. Kiwanis Community Science Fair is at FAC instead of CSHS. Javier thanked fellow board members.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Warren moved and Ms. Reese seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 9:51

Dated this 28th day of February 2006

By \_\_\_\_\_

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