

Work-Study and Special Meeting of the Governing Board**Tuesday, March 28, 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 METING MINUTES – APPROVED AT THE 4/25/06 MEETING**1. OPENING**

1.2 Meeting was called to order at 5:31 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. Doche moved and Mr. Warren seconded to adopt the agenda as presented.

1.6 President's Report – Mr. Ledesma turned this over to Mr. Warren. Mr. Warren spoke on SB 1094 (unorganized territory). He met with residents of the unorganized territory. County Superintendent will call for election and provide tax rates for all districts. Citizens were concerned that County Superintendent wasn't working on it. This proposed bill states that areas with 150 or more students must join district or form a district. This group wants to choose CCUSD based on our low tax rate. Mr. Warren further gave a Whispering Hills update and the bill associated with this. He met with Deer Valley to negotiate an IGA to allow students to attend our District from their district on a tuition basis. A few questions are being looked into before the determination is done. Deer Valley wasn't favorable with creating a zone that students would be able to attend our district. It goes to the House tomorrow.

A. Wellness Committee – Mr. Warren missed first couple of meetings. This committee is doing great work regarding curriculum and nutrition. Looking at nutrition education and encompassing wellness for students and staff. Dates of meetings are on the web

1.7 Superintendent's Report - Dr. Ashby thanked those who attended the *Focus on Education Forum*. Since only 3 students attended, we are now organizing a student forum scheduled for Monday, April 3. Dr. Ashby attended Student Council meeting and some ideas are coming forward such as luncheons with students and Administration for informal dialogue. Administrative Council meeting will be a mini focus on education forum to allow input from the Administrative Council. All information will be compiled and brought to Board for short and long range planning. We are starting Calendar Review Committee next week. Updated the Board on principal selection time line. Position closes April 11, screening will be April 13 and contacting of applicants, with interviews being conducted the week of April 24. Hopefully a recommendation will be made at the Board meeting in May.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS – none came forward

3. PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATION/REPORTS

3.1 Career Ladder – Dr. Burdick introduced Lorraine Burke, Debby Horton and Johna Jacobson, teachers presenting on career ladder. Career ladder is a taxpayer supported program guided by state law. Twenty eight districts participant and it is a performance based program. See copy of handout. This program was established to retain teachers in classrooms versus going into administration. Questions: Ninety-three percent of our teachers participate in the program. Everyone is automatically in the program their first year and can choose to opt out the second year. For the Larger Learning Community portion of the program, teachers apply each year. This information goes to a steering committee and the teacher explains by presenting a plan on how it will help the larger learning community. Career Ladder is primarily individual teachers, however in some schools they work in groups. One hundred and sixteen teachers are on Larger Learning Community level. This program is closely aligned with professional development because a good portion of the funding for career ladder comes from professional growth. There is a requirement that teachers spend a certain amount of time throughout the year in outside learning arenas. The decision on the program for professional growth is shared by both principal focus and teacher decision. Much of this program is teacher controlled versus prescriptive. Total expense to taxpayer is \$1.1M. Career Ladder is an addendum contract. If it is tied to student achievement, it would be interesting to see how the students do with a Career Leader teacher versus a non-Career Ladder teacher.

3.2 Legislation Update – Dr. Frison introduced Mr. Jim DiCello, a lobbyist who works for us and other districts. HB 2830 provides for two choices of funding schools. If it passes, the Board will have to decide which option to use: keeping current funding source or go to an 8.5% increase with give backs (career ladder and excess utilities). The goal of this bill is to give everyone a 1.3% increase over the current 2% funding. SB 1040 deals with boundary adjustments. If the Governing Board of a district of initial petition denies annexation, the community can come to the receiving district with a 90% (or 75 electors) to petition the receiving board for annexation. SB 1094 is the unorganized territory. SB 1336 is full day Kindergarten and is expected to be implemented by FY 2008. SB 1419 is a teacher compensation bill. Two percent new money will go to all districts, for retirement increases for teachers (only) and \$40M for base increases for teachers. Questions: 1040 and 1094 how do they work together. If both pass, Mr. DiCello doesn't think they will conflict. If we opt for the 2830 with 8.5% and 1419 passes, would we get both? No. Mr. DiCello doesn't think both 2830 and 1419 will pass. If we stay with current funding, we would not be able to get the additional 1.3%.

Johna Jacobson – P. O. Box 426 Cave Creek 85327 – Loves Career Ladder program and wants it to stay here. If we go the new way, they will lose control of program. Want to keep their money

Linda Garvin – P. O. Box 4654 – She has concerns over losing the Career Ladder program. If money goes away at the State level, it would only become a District program. Current Board Members can say it will stay but a new board could change it. We have a successful program here. Paradise Valley has made adjustments to their salary to make it as lucrative as ours. Paradise Valley will get an additional 5% because they don't have Career Ladder.

Mr. DiCello commented that the bill will be revised to add an amount that is in the base contract of a teacher for career ladder cost and that would be guaranteed for 7 years. Pay won't be able to go below that number. Dr. Frison asked about doing away with 2665 which eliminates elections other than November. Mr. DiCello doesn't support this bill and reports that the Senate education chair was told it was a bad bill and hopefully won't be hearing the bill. If heard, hopefully it would have a delayed start.

3.3 Counseling Programs and Programs for At Risk Students – Dr. Burdick introduced a large group who will be presenting information regarding students who don't necessarily meet the norms. Ms. Durbin presented programs for academic recovery. Base of this is the SST process. This is where they would decide which programs would benefit students.

Dr. Miller represented the Elementary principals. She outlined what they do at the elementary level to help all students. Elementary Schools are typically slow to refer young children because they develop at different levels but are quick to discuss with parents. (see her handout) Mr. Ledesma asked what is needed to increase the assessment process. Dr. Miller thinks they need assistance in counseling, literacy coaches and GLO teachers.

Ms. Gofonia, Mr. Wolf and Ms. Orlando presented for the middle schools. Ms. Gofonia said a common theme was great teachers and good communication is at center to identify students with needs. Counselors and teachers come up with a variety of ideas for the students. Both schools have added opportunities for enriched math, 10th hour program, and teachers available after hours. ARC is academic recovery center. Mr. Wolf presented a slide show on ARC, a self contained academic classroom. Kids don't move from class to class, they stay with him all day. He has a fewer number of students and also does the in-school suspension. His class usually has 10 students and they can go back into the regular classroom when ready. Placement is determined by a team. Typically his students are low academic achievers even though they are high ability learners. Mr. Wolf went through the objectives for his classroom and DAMS. Ms. Orlando stated that these same items are offered at STMS but not in a separate environment as it is at DAMS. Program has been around for 9 years. Prior to that, students were placed at outside facilities and came back even angrier. Member Doche inquired if the classroom is limited to 10, how many are on waiting list? There is not a hard line number on how many kids in the class. One classroom meets the need of DAMS in this area. To enable DAMS to offer a separate ARC placement, the class size for other teachers is increased; teachers agree to do this on a yearly basis (larger class size). Originally only 5-6 students were there. Should this program be something we should consider as a Board as a potential academy and add to all sites. Mr. Wolf said yes so that his students would then have something to go on to at the high school. Reservations were expressed by Ms. Orlando about separating these students at a separate school (alternative). Strength of program is that students can go back and forth in the regular classroom. Program is valid to do at other sites but not as a separate entity. Mr. Wolf taught close to 20 students last year.

Mr. Bailey and Ms. Durbin reported for high school. High School offers a repeat class for algebra and has a NHS tutorial program in place. Credit retrieval classes are also available. (See Academic Recovery Opportunities sheet) Falcon 101 class is a program option that is taught by a teacher and a counselor. Recovery programs that are outside the normal day cannot be funded through tax credit (if student receives credit). Expanded Opportunity class is being initiated whereby those students who fail Freshmen English with 45% or more will be offered this class to complete the requirements. Plan is to get sophisticated enough to identify by objective and teach to the need of the student. A student will receive an incomplete and will be allowed to go into 2nd Semester English but will have to attend the after school class once the area of deficiency is taught. The student will then be given the proper credit after the deficiency is made up. As sophomores they will be caught up. These classes are funded through the AIMS drop out grant.

Kay Abram and Janet Holt presented next and referred to the handbook that was presented from the Special Education presentation in October. Once the Student Study Team has exhausted efforts, the student is sent to Special Education for evaluation. If a student qualifies, an IEP is written if the reason the student is not successful is due to a disability. Our District runs about 8% Special Education versus 12% at the State level. Ms. Abram feels this is due to academic recovery programs we have in our District.

Kay Schreiber talked about gifted students. Ms. Schreiber passed out a GLO brochure. CCUSD tests 3 times a year for gifted students. Once students are identified, the GLO teacher will facilitate their learning program. New student's records are reviewed upon registration. In May lists of gifted students are given to the next grade levels.

3.4 Presentation of Cactus Foothills Little League, South – Mr. Roehler and Mr. Toomey formally presented the CFLL South donation and what improvements and estimated costs associated with improvements are scheduled at the various sites (DWES, LMES, DSES, STES and STMS) Mr. Roehler is initiating an after school forum with all user groups so that these groups will take ownership of the fields by contracting maintenance. We have resources but not manpower. Ms. Doche wants to make sure that these fields are taken care of. Little League pays the light bills and soccer is willing to pay the water bill. Mr. Roehler informed the Board that we are governed by the State to only use so much water or will be fined. Fields will get better. April 22 will be “opening day” for CFLL South. Lights are on a timer and will go off at 10:00 p.m. unless turned off earlier by the user. Flex school has a baseball and softball in its contract – backstops will be there – no lights.

3.5 Construction Update – Mr. Roehler presented the construction update summary. No additional billing has occurred since last report (see Dennis’ sheet). DL Withers has not finished the punch list for Horseshoe Trails and a letter has been sent. The original budget for the Flex school was \$17.338M and to date, \$6.06M has been spent. Administration building walls are up. Construction pictures were presented and are on the web. \$15.75M is coming out of bond money for this school. We have only sold half the bonds from the 2002 election. We do not have sufficient funds on file to pay the rest of the flex school without selling additional bonds. We will need to bring a resolution forward to sell more bonds. Bonds have to be issued by November 2006 as the authority to schedule bonds runs out in November. It takes approximately 6 weeks to have bonds sold and proceeds available. Resolution will be brought to Board on April 11. Should the 10% extra be considered in issuing these bonds? Yes. Governing Board will have to make a determination regarding the \$20.1M and how much we want to utilize for an additional high school or elementary school. If we only issue \$30M we will only have \$3M in flex money. School Facilities Board announced March 9, that we have been authorized for a 650 student high school (\$12.5M) and we would have to supplement the rest. Recessed at 8:05 p.m. – reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA** - Motion to approve consent agenda as presented was made. Mr. Warren moved and Ms. Reese seconded. Motion passed unanimously

5. **OLD BUSINESS** - none

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 AD) Donations – Dr. Ashby read a short list of donations. Ms. Reese motioned and Ms. Doche seconded to accept donations as presented. Motion passed unanimously

6.2 AD) Construction Take Over Agreements – Dr. Frison and Mr. Roehler presented this item. The road in front of Horseshoe Trails and the flex school was procured through Arcon who declared bankruptcy. Project wasn’t complete so we are calling in on the performance bond. It transfers the liability and project to the bonding company. We don’t anticipate any additional costs to the District. Mr. Warren moved and Ms. Reese seconded to accept this item as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

6.3 AD) 1st and Final Reading of Revision of Grading/Assessment Systems Policy IKA – Dr. Burdick pointed out that when reviewing policy there was a line that is no longer allowed by law and we are removing it. Ms. Reese moved and Ms. Doche seconded to accepted item as presented with a revised date changed to 3/28. Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.4 AD) Amendment to the Summer Enrichment/Academic Program – Dr. Burdick introduced Evelyn Holbrook who is bringing forward a couple more classes that came to Community Education after the last adoption. Spanish immersion teachers want to offer further classes and adult classes. Professional artists want to offer classes to raise money for their own building. Mr. Warren moved and Ms. Doche seconded to accepted additional classes. Discussion: Are the Sonoran Arts League classes restricted to grades 8 through 12 – yes. Motion passed unanimously.
- 6.5 AD) Flex School Recommendation – Dr. Ashby brought forward the recommendation on the flex school, first providing a short synopsis of the background information and due diligence used to come to the recommendations. We are presenting 3 proposals – all three affirming the work of the committee. It also brings variations on the theme relative to community concerns that provides Governing Board options. Dr. Frison and Mr. Roehler updated the Board on the EMF issues and the areas of concern. Numbers from the EMF tests have been documented on the site plan. There are no State or Federal regulations so we can only show the numbers. There is feasibility to build other buildings on site. None of these options being proposed are free and would fall back on the 10% flex money to cover costs. Moving or burying lines was another option. WAPA is willing to look at the feasibility of moving, burying, etc. at a cost. We will have to pay their engineers to make a study. Architect is here to address questions. Dr. Frison presented the three proposals as outlined, then covered pros and cons of each proposal. With all three proposals, Sonoran Trails moves to Flex School; Black Mountain moves to STMS and Cactus Shadows expands into 7 classrooms at BMES. The first two proposals has District Office moving to Black Mountain. Proposal 1 – move forward - no modification. Pros: Least additional cost and least disruption to various programs and campus. Cons: On-going stakeholder concerns regarding EMF. Proposal 2: Move forward with move, moving the self-contained classrooms and not using the dance room or a couple other rooms. Pros: Listening to concerns of stakeholders and making some compromises. Con: Additional money to move some of the self-contained classrooms and modify another part of the campus. Proposal 3: Building new administration building and use existing as new District Office. Pros: Listening to stakeholders concerns and leveraging the advantage of having a new District Office to better serve needs of staff, Governing Board and stakeholders. Con: Cost of new administration building is approximately \$2M. With the advent of WAPA's willingness to come forward and work with us, Administration is recommending proposal 1 and modify after feasibility study with WAPA. If the cost is equal to or less than the administration building, everything will be okay. Depending on results of feasibility study we will come back and give details at a later date.

At 8:57p.m. Mr. Ledesma called for a motion to continue the meeting. Mr. Warren moved and Ms. Doche second. Motion passed unanimously.

Board asked to speak to the WAPA representative. Mr. David Rosdovich is an engineer for WAPA (Western). Western has moved lines for highway construction but not for a school. The cost associated with moving lines in his opinion is more money then we have in our 10% flex money. To move the transmission line, a house would have to be condemned and we would get resistance from the community. Peak times on WAPA lines will be at 9:00 a.m and 6:00 p.m. Mr. Rosdovich responded that Western will argue that the 69 volt line is producing more EMF then their line. This transmission line is important to all of Phoenix and could cause outages. Probably would take a year or year and half if we decide to do this. Western will look into shielding as a part of the feasibility study. The 10% flex money can be used to work with WAPA, since it would be improving school grounds. Have to investigate usage of adjacent ways money. At 150 feet would have 1.9 mG at peak times. Board inquired if there were other states, besides California with regulations. Only one has it pointed out in mG. Montana has adopted 150 mG and California has a setback with design criteria of 1.5. Other states regulations are in

reference to current flow through lines versus milligauss. Funds would be available if the Board chooses Proposal 3 and built a new administration building and we would use unrestricted capital money for renovations. Steven questioned if we went ahead and moved some classes to BMES what classes would move and would that alleviate parking. Original plan was to capture 3 classrooms on site and 7 at BMES. CSHS could continue to expand at BMES. Which programs will be moved to BMES is to be determined. Does EMF only affect students? Research says there is a higher amount of charge on younger people than on older people. Dr. Beazley updated the Board on how he would fill the facility without using the administration building and some affected classrooms. He is able to do this for a period of time. New equipment would have to be purchased for BMES kindergarten if they move to STMS. There will be minimal retrofitting of STMS for elementary purposes. Adding the 10 classrooms for CSHS is a short term fix and doesn't stop the building of a second high school. Need to address having a district office. Dr. Christensen did his own research on EMF and found that the low power EMF from power lines are of less concern than those coming from everyday items we use. He couldn't find a single research study that connected cancers to low power EMF. There were other factors involved. Doesn't think we can move lines enough to settle all concerns. Dr. Christensen wants to proceed with proposal 1 with looking at options of shielding or moving. Motion passed unanimously. Stephanie left at 9:50

6.6 AD) Resolution to SB 1094 (Unorganized Territory) – Mr. Warren read the resolution verbatim. Dr. Christensen moved and Ms. Doche seconded to support SB 1094. Discussion: Dr. Christensen is still concerned about the timeline of the election. Election has been called for this November. Concerned that County will not follow through because of current turmoil in that office. Motion passed unanimously

7. UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS - School Facilities Board planning money for high school will be on the April 25 work study meeting. The Governing Board Work Study Retreat is scheduled for April 28 and 29 and will encompass debriefing on *Focus On Education Forum*; Self Assessment on Governing Board and Semester 1 Update – Where We Have Come From. April 28 will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and April 29 will be from 8:00 – 4:00 p.m. We will bring the issuance of bonds to the April 11th meeting. Board asked for an agenda item on the overview and cost of domino effect of their decision tonight. Dr. Christensen asked for an agenda item regarding evaluation for superintendent which was to be done quarterly.

8. ADJOURNMENT – Dr. Christensen moved and Ms. Doche seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.

Dated this 28th day of March 2006

By Linda Schaner

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