

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
GOVERNING BOARD OF
HIGLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 60**

**REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015**

District Office Governing Board Room
2935 S. Recker Road, Gilbert, Arizona 85295

WORK STUDY

Venessa Whitener called the work study to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were: Venessa Whitener, President; Kristina Reese, Vice President; Russell Little, Member; Greg Wojtovich, Member; Mike Thomason, Ed.D, Superintendent; Steve Nance, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent; Sheila Sorenson, Executive Director of Human Resources; Shannon Duus, Director of Finance; and Cindy Walker, Board Secretary.

FY2016 Budget Discussion

Dr. Thomason explained the board will have the opportunity for budget discussions at every work study until the FY17 is approved. He reviewed the M&O Override Menu of Options presentation that he introduced at the last work study. Teacher compensation and lowering class size remain the number one priorities. He reviewed an update of the potential use of the M&O Override should it be pass which would provide \$8.1M. M&O funds would increase by an estimated \$1M due to growth in the district. Budget reductions for 2016-17 include the 2008 override final phase out, one-time money from Funds 515 and 520, litigation recovery and impact fees, an estimated health insurance premium increase for 2016-17, for a total FY17 budget reduction of \$2,930,000. That would leave available \$6,191,679, if the override passes. Dr. Thomason reviewed the potential new expenditures for this money – teacher and staff salary increase, class size reduction, open the new elementary school, remove furlough days, Gifted and Special Education Programs, HS Athletic Directors and Guidance Clerks, as well as Arts and Athletic stipends, maintain CTE programs, Maintenance and Facilities Manager, Lunch Monitors, MS/HS Substitute Teachers, and 2 new HS Guidance Counselors. He is also considering the board’s priorities in considering where cuts would come from if the override does not pass. Potential cuts if the override fails could include ADK, Arts and Athletic stipends, elementary specials, and furlough days.

The board discussed the Schools Facility Board’s standards. They would like the next budget discussion in October to include capacity, enrollment, class size, curriculum relating to growth.

The work study adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

On the date and at the place above written, the Governing Board, Higley Unified School District No. 60, met in a Regular Board Meeting. Present were: Venessa Whitener, President; Kristina Reese, Vice President; Russell Little, Member; Greg Wojtovich, Member; Dr. Mike Thomason, Superintendent; Dr. Steve Nance, Assistant Superintendent; Sheila Sorenson, Executive Director of Human Resources; Shannon Duus, Director of Finance; and Cindy Walker, Board Secretary

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Whitener called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Mr. Little, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Whitener and Mr. Wojtovich were present.

3.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Whitener made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Reese seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

5.0 REQUEST TO SPEAK TO THE GOVERNING BOARD

Phil Alibrandi shared information regarding the Higley voter information pamphlets that distributed by MECSA (Maricopa County Education Service Agency). With a ballot measure for an override, you can have ten positive and ten con statements in the pamphlets. In August, the county and district learned that, of the ten HUSD pro statements, four of them were fraudulent. This has been in the press and it was discovered that there is a connection with three of the four. Based on the way the statute is written, HUSD was unable to get those fraudulent statements removed from the voter pamphlet, even though the writer misidentified themselves and used improper addresses. Two of the people who submitted the fraudulent statements also submitted statements that appeared in the Gilbert School District ballot pamphlet. Mr. Alibrandi said he is working with the legislature to draft legislation on this type of misrepresentation. The current statute doesn't allow MECSA to remove pamphlet statements for any reason. County Attorney Bill Montgomery was helpful and held a press conference where he included a lengthy explanation of what occurred in HUSD pamphlets.

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

• Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

Update on Bridges Elementary School

Dr. Steve Nance shared a slide representing the newly selected mascot and school colors for Bridges Elementary School. The students chose maroon and gold as their colors and the mascot will be the Bridges Bobcats.

Points of Pride Monthly Awards

o Williams Field High School – Dr. Terri Wattawa, Principal, introduced each winner

- Student: Stephen Marqueling, Senior
- Teacher: Beverly Peden, AP World History and Dept. Chair
- Classified Employee: Paul Leimback, Equipment Manager
- Volunteer: Michelle Custer, Ambassadors Booster Club

o Transportation: (Josh Crosby, Director) Dr. Michael Fowler recognized

- Esteban Fierro, Mechanic Assistant, who also supports the district as bus driver when needed.

o Advanced Placement Update

Dr. Anna McCauley, Director of Research and Assessment, provided an update presentation on Advanced Placement Scores. The Educational Services Department has been working hard to build the Advanced Placement Programs. She reviewed the five-year trends showing growth. HHS has showed continual growth. This is significant because statewide and

globally, those scores went down. WFHS had a significant jump in students and test-takers. When you expand access to a program like this, typically you see a dip in scores. In a few years, that will stabilize and show growth starting to occur. WFHS had growth beyond state and national scores. Each year, the College Board provides a report score showing how many students qualify as AP Scholars, AP Scholars with Honor, AP Scholars with Distinction, and National AP scholars. Two years ago HUSD had our first AP Scholars. Last year, we had four and one was a junior at HHS.

HUSD demonstrates equity and excellence in broadening and providing access to AP. Both HHS and WFHS had almost a quarter of their students in AP who scored 3 or higher which is extremely rare. Mr. Wojtovich said the line between high school and college is fading. Students are entering college with up to a year of credits, due to AP and Dual Enrollment.

Upcoming Events

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| ○ September 28–October 9 | Fall Break |
| ○ Monday, October 12, 2015 | No School – Teacher Professional Development |
| ○ Tuesday, October 20, 2015 | Gilbert Chamber of Commerce Good Government Series Roundtable, District Office Board Room, 7:15am |
| ○ Wednesday, October 21, 2015 | Governing Board Work Study, District Office Board Room, 5:30pm |
| ○ Wednesday, October 21, 2015 | Governing Board Meeting, District Office Board Room, 6:30pm |
| ○ Thursday, October 22, 2015 | Mayor’s Ambassador Forum, Gilbert Council Chambers, 50 E. Civic Center Drive, Gilbert, 7:00 a.m. |
| ○ Thursday, November 5, 2015 | Veterans Day Celebration, Town of Gilbert Civic Center Campus, Gilbert Road just south of Warner, 11:00am |

Board Comments

- Mr. Wojtovich shared that board members attended the WFHS and HHS Homecoming. Mrs. Reese joined him on a classroom visit to HHS and had lunch with the students. He thanked them all. He also acknowledged the KV Golf Tournament held last Saturday to raise scholarship funds for HUSD seniors.
- Mrs. Reese shared that, while visiting the HHS campus, she learned students were very pleased and grateful to find out that Governing Board Members attend their events. She also attended the Sossaman Middle School championship flag football game.

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Whitener made a motion to approve the consent agenda for Items 7.0 to 7.9. Mrs. Reese seconded.

The motion carried 4 to 0.

8.0 OLD BUSINESS

9.0 ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Presentation: High School Career & Technical Education Video Production Programs

Annette Schmidt, Career and Technical Education Coordinator, introduced Higley High School Senior Mazhar Bilgrami, who presented a video to showcase the Higley High School and Williams Field High School Video Production Programs which prepare students for further education and employment in the Communication Media Technology Industry under the instruction of Jason Karcher and Dave Nuttall. The Video Production Program is a three-year course with introduction,

intermediate, and advanced classes which are each a two-semester class. Visual production is storytelling through a lens using communication skills. He shared that HHS has the second best TV and news broadcasting program in the country. HHS is working with WFHS to share and trade skills for continuous growth. These students are becoming professional in their skills and the quality of work that compare with what the news networks are producing.

Mrs. Whitener said over the last nine years, Mr. Nuttall's program has added to district efforts to educate the whole child and help them find their passion. Mr. Wojtovich shared that on his recent school tour of HHS, it was exciting to see what was taking place in those classrooms.

Ms. Schmidt provided information folders to the board and presented a slideshow on FY17 CTE budget cuts. JTED funding (Joint Technical Education Districts) will be cut if the governor's budget goes through as is. East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) is a JTED and offers CTE courses either on their central or satellite campuses. Through an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), East Valley school districts satellite CTE programs on behalf of EVIT. Each satellite student on our campus generates an additional .25 ADM to EVIT. Through the IGA, EVIT then pays the East Valley school districts 80% of the generated funding. The grants and funds that HUSD receives for CTE are used to purchase equipment and supplies. These funds are derived from the Federal Perkins Grant (12%), Priority State Grant (6%), and the majority from JTED funding (82%). JTED funding is spent on people support (salaries) at 97% along with remainder for equipment, supplies, and professional development. In the last legislative session, the governor and legislature cut large JTED's funding by 7.5% and that includes EVIT. They cut school district M&O funding by 7.5% for JTED satellite students. For some school districts this will equate to a 50% reduction in JTED funding. This funding is paid to the district through IGAs. Not all JTEDs pay out the same amount. For FY17, HUSD should have a \$54K district/satellite funding loss due to state budget cuts, as well as a \$284.8M district M&O funding cut, which totals a 46.77% reduction. Ms. Schmidt explained that with the loss of the M&O cuts and the cost of CTE salaries, the district would have \$215.4K cut and no JTED funding to support the programs.

Discussion followed. Mrs. Whitener pointed out that the CTE graduation rate is very high. Arizona's average HS graduation rate is 76%. CTE classes give more opportunities in which students are interested that keep them in school and gives them a path to follow post high school studies/careers. She explained what the vast difference would be to the community and state if the graduation rate was 90% instead of 72%. She encouraged people to understand the dozens of classes that are available to our student through CTE. It has a direct financial impact our communities and our state. In 2011, the state funded \$92M in CTE courses and in 2017 those funds will have been reduced to \$43M, which is a reduction of over 50%. She was at a loss as to why CTE being cut so much more than other areas. Mr. Wojtovich talked to board members around the country about our state cuts to CTE and they were appalled because CTE is a priority nationwide. Mrs. Reese pointed out that the state graduation requirements include one fine arts or CTE class.

9.2 Accept the Annual Financial Report and Authorize Its Publication

Shannon Duus, Director of Finance, reviewed the FY2015 Annual Financial Report in a slideshow. Which showed the budget, expense and carry forward balances in Funds 001 (M&O) and 610 (Capital). She reviewed the M&O expenditures. Mrs. Whitener asked if the Financial Report will also show what the District Additional Assistance amount should be from the state as compared to the actual 90% reduced amount the state does provide. Ms. Duus explained it will not as that amount has already been included in the balance. Mrs. Whitener asked that the district brochure show that the \$800K amount is only 10% of what the district should receive from the state in

additional assistance. Fund 001(M&O) expenditures were reviewed by object. She also showed the budget versus expense, cash inflows and outflows for classroom site funds (Prop 301). The K-3 Reading Program funds were spent in salaries not benefits. Cash balances for cash-controlled funds were outlined. The estimated Auditor General's classroom spending report (M&O) showed the funding areas separately. The FY15 Food Services AFR showed meals served and the balance of the carry forward.

Mrs. Whitener moved that the Governing Board accepts the Annual Financial Report and authorizes its publication. Mr. Wojtovich seconded.
The motion carried 4 to 0.

9.3 Discuss and Approve Expect More Arizona Partnership Agreement

Mrs. Whitener moved to approve the partnership agreement between HUSD and Expect More Arizona. Mrs. Reese seconded. There is no cost involved just a shared vision of expectations for students.

The motion carried 3 to 0 to 1. Mr. Little abstained.

10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Mrs. Whitener would like to add a calendar update on the calendar format for this year, with input from the teachers and parents.
- Mrs. Reese will be out of town for the November 18 board meeting, and so will Mrs. Whitener. The board will consider an alternate meeting date as there would not be a quorum for the November 18 meeting. The change of November meeting date will be added to the next meeting agenda.
- Plan a mini-tour of the district for the board members to see the various locations/operations of the different departments like the warehouse, etc. (8/12/15 – VW)

11.0 ADJOURN

Mrs. Whitener moved to adjourn at 7:47p.m. Mrs. Reese seconded the motion.

The motion carried 4 to 0.

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2015
Higley Unified School District #60

By: _____
Kristina Reese, Board Vice President