

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

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015**

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

**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 6:41 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**

**6.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

• **Awards/Recognitions/Presentations**

**Quarterly Classified Employees of the Month**

Sheila Sorenson, Executive Director of Human Resources, and Patricia Rodrigues, Horace Mann Representative, recognized classified employees of the month for July, August and September.

- July – David Secuya – Custodian at Cortina
- August – Angie Goemans – WFHS Department Registrar
- September – Gabriela Marquez – Special Education Aide at San Tan

**Points of Pride Monthly Awards**

Special Education Department – Dr. Diane Bruening, Director

- Jessica Daniels, Special Education Team Lead at Williams Field High School

San Tan Elementary School – Ray Mercado, Principal

- Student: Caroline Simpson, 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Student Body President, Override Student Committee, Peer Tutor

- Teacher: Brittany Johnston, Third Grade Teacher, IPT Coordinator (Intervention Planning Team) for Grades 3-6 and Grade Level Chair
- Classified Employee: Karen Smith, Facility Maintenance Worker
- Volunteer: Mrs. Melodie Coons, Art Masterpiece Program Leader and classroom volunteer

**Upcoming Events:**

- Thursday, October 22, 2015 Mayor’s Ambassador Forum Breakfast, City Council Chambers, 7:00am
- Thursday, November 5, 2015 Veterans Day Celebration, Town of Gilbert Civic Center Campus, Gilbert Road just south of Warner, 11:00am
- Thursday, November 5, 2015 Governing Board/Student Dinner, District Office Board Room, 6:00pm
- Tuesday, November 10, 2015 Governing Board Work Study, District Office Board Room, 5:30pm
- Tuesday, November 10, 2015 Governing Board Meeting, District Office Board Room, 6:30pm
- Wednesday, November 11, 2015 Holiday – Veterans Day
- Friday, November 13, 2015 Gilbert Community Excellence Awards, Elegante Conference Center, 1800 S. San Tan Village Parkway, Gilbert, 6:00pm
- November 26–27, 2015 Holiday – Thanksgiving
- Wednesday, December 9, 2015 Governing Board Work Study, District Office Board Room, 5:30pm
- Wednesday, December 9, 2015 Governing Board Meeting, District Office Board Room, 6:30pm

**Board Comments**

- Mrs. Reese said she attended the WFHS Band Invitational Competition last weekend and participated in handing out their awards.
- Mrs. Whitener shared the Governing Board hosted the Gilbert Chamber of Commerce Good Government Breakfast Meeting to partner with business owners in discussions on how to give students the chance to expand business and leadership opportunities, as well as mentorships. She expressed appreciation to all the board, principals and staff who attended. She also shared that the board is trying to attend the Fall Festivals at the schools and thanked the PTOs for their efforts.

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At 7:07pm, Mrs. Whitener recessed the meeting for the purpose of holding a public hearing, pursuant to A.R.S. §15-491.K and A.R.S. §15-481.Y, for report of expenditures in FY2015 of proceeds of Capital Improvement Bonds, Capital Override, and Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Override. Members of the audience were invited to make comments and ask questions during this public hearing. At the last board meeting, the board reviewed the numbers.

Shannon Duus, Director of Finance, presented a slide show update of the programs or capital improvements financed through the override. The renewal of the 10% M&O budget override provided funding for programs currently serving District students. The 2008 override supported District efforts to help maintain present levels of service in all M&O programs. During the full 10% override this included maintaining current programs and reasonable class sizes; addressing competitive salary schedules; and maintaining current level of classroom supplies. In FY15, the M&O Override amount was \$3.3M and in FY16 the amount decreased to \$1.8M. The funds were used to maintain reasonable class sizes and address competitive salary schedules. Dr. Thomason clarified the money was spent in areas of teacher salaries and classroom size.

The 2013 approved Bond Funds estimated costs for proposed capital improvements were \$70.5M. They included new school construction; a new building for existing school site; land for new schools; technology upgrades and improvements; maintenance, repair and improvements at existing schools; pupil transportation; cost of bond issuance; and transportation support facility. Expenditures as of the end of FY15 totaled \$22.8M in new construction and improvement to the existing schools. Encumbered expenses for FY16 are at \$13.2M.

In review, the voter amount approved was \$70.5M 2013 Bond. The total bonds sold as of FY15 was \$41.8M. The sold amount does not mean the spent amount. The balance of the bond issuance is \$28.8M (bonds not sold yet). Discussion followed for clarification

At 7:13pm the board reconvened into the regular meeting.

## **7.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

Mrs. Whitener made a motion to approve the consent agenda for Items 7.1 to 7.11. Mr. Wojtovich seconded. The board had been provided an updated personnel action agenda item. The motion carried 4 to 0.

## **8.0 OLD BUSINESS**

### **9.0 ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **9.1 Information: Monthly Governing Board Financial Report for September 2015**

Shannon Duus, Director of Finance, presented the monthly financial reports for September FY2015 and FY2016. There were no board comments.

#### **9.2 Information: Change in Middle School Lunch Schedules for Second Semester**

Dr. Randy Mahlerwein, Principal of Cooley Middle School, in collaboration with Mrs. Nancy Diab-Scott, Principal of Sossaman Middle School, gave a presentation on the need to expand the middle school lunch schedule to reduce the overcrowding. The current lunch schedule has two periods at each middle school with between 465 and 491 students per lunch period. There is currently only one lunch aide at each school. The projected lunch schedule will provide for three lunch periods to provide a safer environment and make it easier to supervise, while providing more space and time for the students to eat. Elective classes and Grade 7 Science will be split classes with 30 minutes, then lunch, then 30 minutes. The times for each period will remain the same. This proposed change in the lunch schedule will begin immediately. The board thanked the principals for being proactive.

#### **9.3 Approve Change of Date for November Governing Board Meeting to Tuesday, November 10, 2015**

Mrs. Whitener moved that the Governing Board approve a date change for the next board meeting from Wednesday, November 18, to Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm. Mrs. Reese seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

#### **9.4 Waive Second Reading and Adopt Policy JL - Student Wellness**

Mr. Little moved that the Governing Board waive a second reading and approve the proposed Policy JL–Student Wellness. Mr. Wojtovich seconded. The District is required by statute to have a Wellness Policy, and it needs to be in place prior to the administrative review by Arizona Department of Education in November; this is the policy provided by the Arizona School Board Association. Due to the timing, it is recommended that the policy be adopted without requiring a second reading. The motion carried 4 to 0.

9.5 Consideration for Approval of Recommendation for Dismissal of a Health Assistant

Mrs. Reese moved to table this item until the November 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting to allow the board more time to review information they received the previous day. Mr. Wojtovich seconded.

The motion carried 4 to 0.

**10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Mrs. Whitener asked to dedicate time for the board self-evaluation and solidify the remaining board goals at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 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 7:29p.m. Mr. Little seconded the motion.

The motion carried 4 to 0.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2015  
Higley Unified School District #60

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kristina Reese, Board Vice President