

CATALINA FOOTHILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tucson, Arizona

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
Catalina Foothills High School
Building 4, Room 712
October 13, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting Minutes

NOTICE OF MEETING

Announcement of the meeting was posted at the J.W. Murphey Administration Center, Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS), Esperero Canyon Middle School, Orange Grove Middle School, Ventana Vista School, Canyon View School, Manzanita School, Sunrise Drive School, and CFSD Web site (www.cfsd16.org) on October 6, 2009.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Mary Lou Richerson, President
Carole Siegler, Vice President
Janell Jellison, Board Member
Sherri Silverberg, Board Member

District Administration

Mary Kamerzell, Superintendent
Terry Downey, Associate Superintendent
Mary Jo Conery, Assistant Superintendent for
21st Century Learning

Absent

Todd Camenisch, Board Member

District Personnel

Ilona Lund, Administrative Assistant

Visitors and Constituents

Kimberly Ferreira, Janice Auerbach, Richard Hintze

1. **OPENING**

1.1 **Call to order**

Ms. Richerson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.2 **Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Richerson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 **Rules of Order for Governing Board Meetings**

Ms. Richerson read the Rules of Order for Governing Board Meetings.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Kimberly Ferreira, Canyon View parent, presented her concerns regarding the class sizes of Canyon View Elementary School's third grade. She stated that each third grade class now had 29 students. Ms. Ferreira shared that it was her understanding that although the class sizes were still large, there was no longer an option for hiring another teacher. She said that at her child's parent/teacher conference the teacher informed Ms. Ferreira that there were 33 students in her daughter's reading group. She informed the board that she recently heard an NPR (National Public Radio) broadcast regarding the detrimental aspects of larger class sizes at the elementary level. She said she would be forwarding the transcript of the broadcast to the governing board members. Ms. Ferreira also shared that Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) had a policy that when a class size reached 28 students, an educational assistant was provided for the class. She recommended that it would be beneficial for CFSD to adopt this same policy. Ms. Ferreira recommended that

funding for additional third grade teachers be found through the monies the district received for additional growth or a request to the Foundation. She reiterated that CFSD staffing should be brought into line with TUSD's policy.

Ms. Janice Auerbach, Canyon View parent, shared her dissatisfaction with the third grade class size at Canyon View Elementary School. She also shared that at her child's parent/teacher conference she learned that her student was in a 2-hour reading class with 32 other students. Ms. Auerbach stated that parents were not aware that this was happening. She said that she had spoken with other parents who were willing to sign a petition to the board to address Canyon View School's third grade class size. Ms. Auerbach questioned why the open enrollment applications were cut off and not continued in order to make another classroom with fewer students per class. In addition, she recommended that the district now re-open open enrollment and advertise that applications were being accepted for this grade in order to open another classroom.

Ms. Richerson thanked both individuals for their comments.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Ms. Siegler and a second by Ms. Jellison, the governing board approved the following consent agenda items: 3.1 the September 22, 2009, regular governing board meeting minutes, as presented; 3.2 the October 5, 2009, special governing board meeting minutes as presented; 3.3 the expense voucher memorandum, as presented; 3.4 the field trip request memorandum, as presented; 3.5 the fund raising request memorandum, as presented; 3.6 the acceptance, with gratitude, of the gifts and donations memorandum, as presented; and 3.7 the personnel memorandum, as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

3.1 September 22, 2009, Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the September 22, 2009, regular governing board meeting minutes, as presented.

3.2 October 5, 2009, Special Governing Board Meeting Minutes

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the October 5, 2009, special governing board meeting minutes, as presented.

3.3 Expense Vouchers

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the following expense vouchers.

Expense Voucher	1035	\$	80,033.74
Expense Voucher	1036		220,073.79
Expense Voucher	1037		1,052,870.63
Expense Voucher	1038		137,079.51
Expense Voucher	1039		28,235.12
Expense Voucher	1040		86,128.12
Expense Voucher	1041		1,829.79

3.4 Field Trip Requests

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the following field trip requests.

- CFHS SkillsUSA/Photo (4 students), fall leadership conference, Phoenix, AZ, 10/19/09
- CFHS Drama/Falcon Players (30 students), state thespian conference, Phoenix, AZ, 11/20-11/21/09 fee: \$70

3.5 Fund Raising Requests

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the following fund raising requests.

- CFHS Student Council, sale of winter dance tickets, to raise funds for Student Council, on campus, 2/1-2/16/10
- CFHS Student Council Sophomore Class, pre-order sophomore class shirts, to raise money for the sophomore class, on campus, 10/28-11/5/09
- CFHS Student Council Junior Class, spaghetti/pasta dinner, to raise money for junior class prom, on campus 11/4/09
- Falcon Voice (student newspaper), year-long advertising campaign, to fund the printing of the student newspaper, on/off campus, following board approval throughout the school year
- Touchdown Club (football boosters), supper at Risky Business restaurant, to supplement funds for the varsity banquet, off campus, every Tuesday 10/29-11/29/09
- Esperero Canyon Middle School Family Faculty Organization (FFO), box tops for education, to raise funds to support teachers' grant requests, on/off campus, following board approval throughout the school year
- Orange Grove Middle School Student Council, student social (carnival games and food drive), for social interaction and community service, on campus, 11/13/09

3.6 Gifts and Donations

On the consent agenda, the governing board accepted, with gratitude, the following gifts and donations. Ms. Siegler made special recognition of the Waters Foundation grant.

- CFHS FFO, \$100 to CFHS for student financial aid
- Sarah Marold, \$500 to Manzanita School
- Karen Lane, \$20 to Orange Grove Middle School for after school athletics in memory of Miguel Moreno
- Veronica Dodier, \$50 to Orange Grove Middle School for after school athletics in memory of Miguel Moreno
- Graciela Prado, \$100 to Orange Grove Middle School for after school athletics in memory of Miguel Moreno
- Canyon View FFO, \$377.82 to Canyon View School for field trip transportation
- Canyon View FFO, \$2,256.32 to Canyon View School for purchase of Junior Great Books
- Canyon View FFO, \$488 to Canyon View School for field trip transportation
- Esperero Canyon FFO, \$1,715.26 to Esperero Canyon School for purchase of padlocks for book lockers
- Ventana Vista FFO, \$586.70 to Ventana Vista School for the purchase of headphones
- Kathy Anderson, \$41 to Orange Grove School for after school sports/track meet
- Linda Hallett, \$40 to Orange Grove Middle School for after school athletics in memory of Miguel Moreno
- James Waters, \$46,000 to CFSD for the first half of the Waters Foundation grant
- Woodbury family, a computer for the CFHS athletic department
- Christina Woolf, a piano for the Orange Grove School music department

3.7 Personnel

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the following personnel actions.

- CLASSIFIED
(Employment – approval for hire is contingent upon receipt of DPS fingerprint clearance.)
New Hire
Changes in Status
Resignation
- COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

(Employment – approval for hire is contingent upon receipt of DPS fingerprint clearance.)
New Hire
Changes in Status
Resignation
Correction

- VOLUNTEER
- COACHES
- SUBSTITUTES
Suzanne Kirby
Melissa Schantz
Alissa Gessner
Denise Waddell
Megan Guthrie

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 ASBA Legislative Priorities

The governing board members discussed their respective recommendations to Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) for its top ten legislative priorities for 2010. (Dr. Camenisch submitted his recommendations to the board in writing.) The governing board members agreed on the following ten legislative priorities.

I. **ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN AND STUDENT NEEDS**

1. Seek and support legislation that adequately encourages, assists and financially supports the curriculum and instructional needs of Arizona's public schools to ensure college and career readiness of all students.

II. **LOCAL CONTROL/GOVERNANCE**

1. Advocate for preservation of community governance of school districts through elected representation and oppose efforts to erode the authority of governing boards.

IV. **TAXATION/REVENUES**

1. Advocate structural change to Arizona's tax system through legislation or initiative to support a competitive business climate and funding for public education and other child support services and oppose any change to the existing property tax structure unless a comprehensive tax reform proposal is implemented to adequately address the needs of public education.
3. Oppose any legislation that results in the direct or indirect use of public funds to support private schools, including school vouchers and tax credits.
8. Oppose any measure that would require a two-thirds vote or supermajority to increase state or local revenues.

V. **FUNDING**

1. Advocate a complete revision of the school finance formula.
6. Continue to work with the legislature to ensure full funding for inflation, especially in years in which the rate of inflation is greater than 2 percent and vigorously oppose at the legislature and in the courts any attempts to not fully

fund at least the 2 percent inflation factor as approved by the voters in Proposition 301 (2000).

8. Seek and support legislation to fully fund excess utility costs inside the Revenue Control Limit (RCL).
11. Oppose any measure that would require a certain percentage of district budgets be allocated to classroom expenditures, as defined by the State Auditor General, with the recognition that some “outside the classroom” expenditures directly benefit classroom learning of students.
16. Advocate for full state funding of Arizona State Retirement System employer contribution increases.

Upon a motion by Ms. Silverberg and a second by Ms. Jellison, the governing board approved to forward to ASBA the ten priorities listed above. Motion carried 4-0.

5. **DISCUSSION AND REPORTS**

5.1 **AIMS Testing Results and AZ LEARNS School Labels**

Ms. Conery reviewed the background and history of the implementation of the AZ LEARNS (Arizona’s accountability system to measure each Arizona public school’s performance), the NCLB (No Child Left Behind) federal mandate, and the state’s AIMS testing program. She presented the 2009 spring AIMS test results for CFSD students. Ms. Conery reported that CFSD results were above the state average in all areas. Although the overall district math scores declined slightly, she believed that this was due to an “implementation dip” of the new math curriculum. She noted that in writing the district mean scale scores improved, and in reading the district scores declined slightly but were still in the middle to upper range of “meets standards.” For the 7th consecutive year, all CFSD schools were labeled as “excelling” (the highest label) by AZ LEARNS.

Ms. Conery also shared anticipated changes to AIMS testing and discussions at the state level related to a possible redesign of the AZ LEARNS school label formula. She informed the board that there was a movement to place more emphasis on individual student annual progress rather than school-wide annual progress. Discussion ensued about how this change might impact the CFSD school labels. Ms. Silverberg emphasized that if this change occurred, it would be important to share it with the community. Ms. Conery agreed.

Ms. Conery also informed the governing board that the state would be changing back to the use of the Stanford 10 norm referenced test rather than the Terra Nova test. She explained this was a result of an RFP (Request for Proposal) process through the Arizona Department of Education.

Ms. Conery reviewed aspects of the education accountability process including determinations for annual yearly progress, annual measurable objectives, student growth, school growth, school labels, and district performance evaluations.

Ms. Conery informed the governing board of a correction in one of her slides related to math scores and stated she would send each board member the corrected slide. In addition, Ms. Silverberg requested a copy of the slide that compared NCLB and AZ LEARNS criteria.

Governing board members asked about follow-up activities on the testing results. Ms. Conery shared that each site would review their findings and would address areas for improvements. She verified that sites would share with her the corrective actions taken.

Ms. Richerson thanked Ms. Conery for her report.

5.2 Bond and Capital Override Update

Ms. Downey reminded the governing board that by law a report of all capital improvements financed through overrides and bonds must be reported in a public meeting each year. She reported that the 2004 Bond had funded 120 projects to date. It currently had a balance of approximately \$2.4 million that would fund projects for this year. A complete listing of these projects was presented in Ms. Downey's report.

Ms. Downey informed the governing board that the \$600,000/annual capital outlay override (approved in 2004) had funded voice/data infrastructure upgrades and supported curriculum/technology purchases. She reported that the November 2008 \$2 million/annual capital outlay override funded technology hardware that allowed for a current 1:3 laptop to student ratio. These funds also funded other technology purchases for district classrooms.

Ms. Downey referred the board members to the list of long range capital projects in the areas of additional, expanded, and renovated school facilities; energy savings projects; and improvement to grounds and sports facilities to be funded by the \$22,825,000 capital bond to be presented to the voters on November 3, 2009.

Ms. Silverberg commended the district on the implementation of the parent portal on the CFSD Web site.

Ms. Richerson asked if the \$600,000/annual capital outlay override was in the final year. Ms. Downey clarified it was in its final two years.

Ms. Richerson thanked Ms. Downey for her report.

5.3 Legislative, ASBA, and/or JTED Reports

Dr. Camenisch made available to the governing board members a written summary of the ASBA Pima County Workshop (attached to the original minutes only) that he recently attended.

6. **FUTURE AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS**

There were no requests for future agenda considerations.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Ms. Siegler and a second by Ms. Silverberg, the governing board adjourned its meeting at 8:27 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Approved: October 27, 2009