



# MINUTES

<b>Attending Board</b>	Leticia Yopez	Martha Camacho	Luis Heredia
<b>Absent Board</b>	Dale Phillips	J. Scott Omer	
<b>Attending Public</b>	Paul Filby Jeanie Volpe William Rhodes maria P. Vasquez Celine Fernández Merton L. Glass Zoilá M. Cañez Judith Bobbitt	Duane Sheppard Maureen Irr Shelly Mezei Maria E. DeLaFuente Veronica Lopez Russ Garlit Cathy Witmer Rose Arévalo	Bob Cassidy Elizabeth Merino Yvonne Llanes Jody Attaway George Brick Rebeca Yanez Bob Klein

## Public Hearing -- 6:00 p.m. Thursday, October 14, 2003

**Orange Grove Elementary**  
3525 West County 16 1/2, Somerton, Arizona

### Update of the Progress of Capital Improvements Financed With Bond Funds

Mr. Heredia called the Public Hearing to Order at 6:06 p.m.

Mr. Klein gave an update on the Capital Improvements Financed with Bond Funds. He anticipates the next bonds to be sold in May or June, 2005. Those funds will primarily be used for the Transportation/Administrative Center and Phase II of the Adult Education Center.

There was no further discussion.

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes Immediately Following Public Hearing

### 1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1.a. Call to Order**

**Mr. Heredia**

In Mr. Phillips and Mr. Omer's absences, Mr. Heredia called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**1.b. Pledge of Allegiance**

**Mr. Heredia**

Mrs. Yopez led the Pledge.

**1.c. Audience with Individuals**

**Mr. Heredia**

**Information**

Mr. Rhodes, Regional AEA Representative, was happy to inform the Board that the local SEA has reactivated their support staff affiliate Somerton's ESPA, for classified employees.

Ms. Merino, SEA President, was very happy that they submitted enough signatures to act as Meet and Confer bargaining agent for the 2004-05 school year.

Ms. Merino, also spoke on her own behalf, requesting the day before Thanksgiving off to have dental work completed. Mrs. Bobbitt reminded Ms. Merino that her request could have been approved by her school administrator and no Board action was needed.

**1.d. Approval of Board Minutes** **Mr. Heredia** **Action**

- **September 02, 2004 Regular and Executive Sessions**
- **September 15, 2004 Special and Executive Sessions**
- **September 28, 2004 Work Study Session**

Mr. Heredia asked for revisions to Minutes presented. There were none. Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho moved to approve all Minutes as submitted, Mrs. Yepez seconded, motion carried.

**2. REPORTS**

**2.a. Superintendent's Report** **Mrs. Bobbitt** **Information**

- **ASBA Award Presentation**

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that Mr. Phillips earned a Certificate of Boardsmanship from Arizona School Boards Association at their Yuma County Workshop. The plaque will be presented at another Board Meeting.

**2.b. Administrator's/Director's Report** **Information**

Mrs. Lopez explained the results of ADE's Solution Team's visit to TDS September 20-22. Overall the team was very complimentary on the administration's leadership and how well staff works as a team. Mrs. Lopez, Mrs. Vasquez, and Mrs. Llanes were commended on their efforts to align curriculum. TDS submitted their AzIEP plan January 15, 2003, which the team followed to verify implementation. After classroom visits, the team met individually with teachers, spoke to the principals, Mrs. Bobbitt, Mr. Sheppard, addressed the Parent League and TDS's Leadership Team. A focus on mentoring was recommended.

Marcia Meyers, Team Member, agreed to return to give staff information on the BEST Program, which she implemented in her District to align curriculum with ADE's requirements. Mr. Sheppard understood that teachers need to talk more about standards and not curriculum. Vale School District has a measure used online that tests each site to see how students/staff are doing.

Mrs. Lopez publicly thanked her staff for all their hard work and said it's a privilege to see the vision of everything that's being done for children come to life. She added that she appreciated her staff working Saturdays and Sundays, too. Mrs. Bobbitt said the ADE Team was amazed with Mrs. Lopez and Mrs. Vasquez's leadership.

Mrs. Bobbitt said that Mr. Omer asked her to inform the Board that ADOT has adopted two middle school math classes in the Yuma area, one of which is Somerton Middle School. Students will have an opportunity to do experiments and use math in real life situations in their lab. The team that met with SMS teachers were very happy with the level of knowledge the teacher's exhibited.

Mrs. Bobbitt commended Jody Attaway and the Special Services staff for facilitation of eleven sessions at the workshops on Monday, October 11. Teachers were happy to have the choice of workshops and enjoyed interacting with other District staff. The afternoon was used to work on Title I planning at each site. The day was a very productive.

Mr. Sheppard announced the October 15, ADE will release performance status of schools to the public. All Somerton schools will be released as "Performing". This information is not to be announced until the state officially makes their release. Mrs. Bobbitt quoted Dr. Elaine Monroe who said that you have to do what you love and if you're not moving toward transforming lives of children, you should get out. Mr. Heredia said he believes that everyone needs time to celebrate and to use that energy to lift them up when they feel drained.

**2.c. Board Member Report** **Information**

Mr. Heredia mentioned that the statement of findings report for Tierra Del Sol suggested a weekly update or progress report to parents. Crane School District has done this for the last couple years. He thought staff could think about whether it's feasible.

### **3. PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mrs. Bobbitt**

**Action**

The following items may be approved in one motion under the Consent Agenda. If a particular item is to be discussed, it may be pulled from the Consent Agenda and taken as a separate Agenda item. The Board may take action on the following items or defer them to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

#### **3.1. HIRING**

- Afable, Cecilia Cafeteria Monitor, Desert Sonora Elementary
- Lamar, Margarita Cafeteria Monitor, Desert Sonora Elementary
- Carrazco, Frank Instructional Assistant, Adult Education
- Castro, Daisy Business Office, District
- Conwill, Terry Community-School Liaison, Somerton Middle School
- Garcia, M. Consuelo Crossing Guard, Transportation
- Hernandez, Abigail Bus Driver, Transportation
- Holman, Logan Teacher, Adult Education, Arizona Western College
- Lopez, Dianna COE Student Worker, Somerton Middle School
- Mendez, Yomaira COE Student Worker, Somerton Middle School
- Reyes, Elyzia COE Student Worker, Special Programs Office

#### **3.2 REASSIGNMENTS**

- Magaña, D. Jeanne Instructional Assistant, Desert Sonora Elementary
- Porchas, Maria C. "Maruka" Food Service Manager, Somerton Middle School

#### **3.3 ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS**

- Chávez, J. Matthew Teacher, Tierra Del Sol Elementary
- Hinthner, Amber Psychologist, District

##### **3.3a. IEP Mentoring**

- Garza, Elizabeth
- Joanicot, Eduvigis
- Martinez, Maria D.

##### **3.3b. Pure-Tone Hearing Training**

- Carbajal, Ruby
- Gonzalez, Irene
- Rubio, Emma
- Carlos, Flor
- Luna, Rosa
- Sanchez, Annabel
- De La Cruz, Rosa

##### **3.3c. Special Education Dept.**

- Cale, Donna
- Martinez, Maria
- Reeves, Cathy
- Gilchrist, Olga
- Muñoz, Dina
- Ullery, Guadalupe
- Joanicot, Eduvigis

##### **3.3d. Special Programs Office**

- Del Cid, Alicia
- Diaz, Maria
- Vasquez, Mary

##### **3.3e. Technology Coaches**

- Garlit, Russ Somerton Middle School
- McCall, LeAnne Tierra Del Sol Elementary
- Touchet, Jean Orange Grove Elementary
- Volpe, Tom Desert Sonora Elementary

##### **3.3f. Counseling Services Stipends**

- LaMarque, Marina
- Olin, Ruth
- Weissenberg, Patty

##### **3.3g. Title I Stipends**

##### **3.3h. After School Tutorial Stipends**

##### **3.3i. Title III Stipends**

Somerton Middle, Orange Grove, Desert Sonora, and Tierra Del Sol Elementary Schools

### 3.4 RESIGNATIONS / RETIREMENTS

- Carrillo, Antonio Adult Education Teacher, District
- Cervantes, Enrique Maintenance Technician, District
- Favela, Veronica Accounting Specialist, District
- Lopez, Trinidad Crossing Guard, Transportation
- Magaña, D. Jeanne Instructional Assistant, Desert Sonora Elementary
- Seale, Norma Instructional Assistant, Desert Sonora Elementary

### 3.5 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- Lopez-Gomez Dolores Teacher, Somerton Middle School
- Reynoso, Shantal Teacher, Orange Grove Elementary
- Zarate, Ana Teacher, Orange Grove Elementary

### 3.6 GROWTH RIDERS

- Belcher, John
- Duran, Juan
- Havran, Martin
- Martinez, Jessica
- Medina, Petra
- Piché, Shannon
- Rubio, Emma
- Schifano, Linda

### 3.7 SUBSTITUTES

- Dominguez, Sandra
- Lopez, Cristina
- Martinez, Angelica
- Payne, Ashley

Mrs. Bobbitt recommended Consent Agenda Items 3.1 to 3.7 for approval as submitted unless the Board requests pulling an item separately.

Mr. Heredia had a question regarding the Title I stipends. Mrs. Bobbitt said Mrs. Reed-Mezei allocates monies to each school and then it's separated per individual. Mrs. Reed-Mezei, explained that in the past, individualized designation of funds was made at the beginning of the year and then when it was time to pay, it was difficult if changes were made in the meantime. This is a cleaner way of working with the funding, and as funds are needed, they will be allocated appropriately.

Mrs. Camacho asked why Title 1 funding was less at TDS when they have more students. Mrs. Mezei explained that TDS has high paying Title I teachers and IAs in some cases, and funding for those positions and their benefits. In addition, they have a computer lab and reading teacher funded through Title funds, which would make the amount left for operating costs. Mrs. Bobbitt mentioned that other districts are using temporary or part-time staff that do not receive benefits, which would leave additional funds.

There were no more comments. Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho moved to approve Items 3.1 - 3.7 , Mrs. Yepez seconded, Motion carried.

## 4. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

### INFORMATION ONLY

- Accounts Payable and Payroll Voucher Actual Amounts
- Student Activity Report

#### 4.01. Approval of 2003-04 Annual Financial Report

Ms. Witmer explained that the front page of her packet is a summary of the 2003-04 Budget Balances. The final revised budget is \$153,723. Transportation has a deficit of \$48,703. Transportation was under budget when first figured, but with increased gasoline costs and service to busses, contingency budgets will be used. Mrs. Witmer will have a better breakdown for the Board at the October 28 Budget Session regarding the Transportation deficit and the completed budgets. There were no further questions.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion to approve.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho moved to approve 2003-04 Budget as submitted, Mrs. Yepez seconded, motion carried.

**4.02. Ratification of Accounts Payable Vouchers for September, 2004**

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Yepez moved to approve ratification of Accounts Payable Vouchers for September, 2004, as submitted, Mrs. Camacho seconded, motion carried.

**4.03. Approval of Yuma County Interscholastic Association Intergovernmental Agreement with Somerton District**

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that John McDonald reviewed and approved the IGA as submitted.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho moved to approve Item 4.04, Mrs. Yepez seconded, motion carried.

**4.04. Discussion and Possible Approval to Submit the Declaration Statement of Curricular and Instructional Alignment to the Arizona Academic Standards to the State Dept.**

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that annually ADE asks for submission of this declaration. The Principals will sign a similar one in the spring.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho move to approve Item 4.5 , Mrs. Yepez seconded, motion carried.

**4.05. Approval to Assume Additional Costs for Construction of the New K-5/Early Childhood and Adult Education Center**

Mr. Klein explained that SFB funds have come up short and the District will have to use \$300,000 of unrestricted budget funds to assist with building the new early childhood center. SFB requires budgets to assign specific amounts for project items. Unused funds can be used within the project. For instance, this project may have about \$120,000 available after cafeteria equipment is purchased. Mr. Klein said he felt comfortable recommending authorization of additional resources because with the rising cost of construction material, it's important to start as soon as possible with the project.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Yepez moved to approve the resolution committing additional funds to the construction of the New K-5/Early Childhood and Adult Education Center, Mr. Camacho seconded, motion carried.

**4.06. Authorization to Sign Construction Manager At-Risk with FCI Constructors, Inc. for new K-5/Early Childhood and Adult Education Center**

Mr. Klein explained that approval of this item would guarantee the contractor absorb any additional cost. This way the contractor will find ways to keep project costs down.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho moved to approve Item 4.06, Mr s. Yepez seconded, motion carried.

**4.07. Approval to Award Contract for Architectural Services for Transportation and Administration Center to EMC2 Architects**

Mr. Klein recommended Item 4.07 for approval. Mr. Heredia asked if bids were sent. Mr. Klein reminded the Board that the five year architectural bid was approved for the next five years and assured the Board that having EMC2 design the building will benefit the District because they have blueprints from the other projects and experience working in this area and will tie projects together well.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Yepez moved to approve Item 4.07, Mrs. Camacho seconded, motion carried.

**4.08. Approval of Resolution to Support Passage of the Ballot Measure at the November Election Authorizing Arizona Western College to Place General Obligation Bonds in Excess of Seventy Three Million Dollars**

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that Somerton District is not a direct recipient of these funds, but Dr. Schoening spoke about partnering with the District to use the Early Childhood Center as an exemplary site for the area. Mrs. Bobbitt recommended Item 4.08 for approval. Mr. Heredia agreed that it's important for the Board to support this item.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Yepez so moved, Mrs. Camacho seconded, motion carried.

**4.09. Approval of SEA to be Bargaining Agents for District Meet and Confer**

Mrs. Bobbitt commended SEA for their professionalism when completing the process to obtain signatures. She recommended approval of Item 4.09.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho moved to approve Item 4.09, Mrs. Yepez seconded, motion carried.

**4.10. Discussion and Approval of Student Placement Regulations at La Esperanza Accommodation School**

Mrs. Bobbitt said that the Regulation before the Board was revised to have the information suggested at the last meeting. The District will continue to utilize a Hearing Officer and parents will be advised they have the right to appeal the decision rendered. An interpreter is available when needed and Mr. Tyree is very good about making sure parents understand their rights before going in to the meeting. Only the Board or the Superintendent are able to place students. The placement is strictly for students that have gone through all alternatives and it is considered the last step for those students.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Yepez so moved, Mrs. Camacho seconded, motion carried.

**4.11. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mr. Heredia      Action**

**A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A.3) Executive Sessions**

- A. Upon a public majority vote of the members constituting a quorum, a public body may hold an executive session but only for the following purposes:
  - 1. Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body, except that, with the exception of salary discussions, an officer, appointee or employee may demand that the discussion or consideration occur at a public meeting. The public body shall provide the officer, appointee or employee with written notice of the executive session as is appropriate but not less than twenty-four hours for the officer, appointee or employee to determine whether the discussion or consideration should occur at the public meeting.
  - 3. Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body.
  - 4. Discussion or consultation with the attorneys of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding the public body's position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation.

**A.R.S. §15-843 (F.1.2) Pupil Disciplinary Proceedings**

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that the Board needed to enter into Executive Session to ratify a student's placement determined by the Hearing Officer at a long term suspension hearing. The Board went in to Executive Session at 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion to enter in to Executive Session.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho so moved, Mrs. Yepez seconded, motion carried.

**4.11a. Ratification of Student Placed at La Esperanza Accommodation School**

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho so moved, Mrs. Yepez seconded, motion carried.

**4.11b. Approval of Hearing Officer’s Recommendation for Long-Term Suspension**

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho so moved, Mrs. Yepez seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion to return to Regular Session.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Yepez so moved, Mrs. Camacho seconded, motion carried. The Board returned to Regular Session at 7:35 p.m.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion to adjourn.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho so moved, Mrs. Yepez seconded, motion carried. The Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Signature of Board President/Clerk

Date