



MINUTES

Work/Study Session

Tuesday, January 25, 2005 -- 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent's Office

215 North Carlisle Avenue, Somerton, Arizona

Attending Board	Luis Heredia	Martha Camacho	
Absent Board	Dale Phillips	Scott Omer	Leticia Yopez
Attending Public	Bill Rhodes	Maria De La Fuente	Veronica Lopez
	Bob Klein	Judith Bobbitt	Cathy Witmer
	Frank Reed	Elizabeth Merino	George Brick
	Bill Rhodes	Celine Fernández	Jody Attaway
	Shelly Reed-Mezei	Maria P. Vasquez	Maureen Irr

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.a. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Heredia

Mr. Heredia called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Mr. Heredia announced the death of Board Member Phillips' brother and asked that everyone keep the family in their thoughts and prayers.

1.b. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Heredia

Mr. Heredia led the Pledge.

1.c. BUDGET INFORMATION

Ms. Witmer

1.d. ADMINISTRATIVE RE-ORGANIZATION

Mrs. Bobbitt

Mr. Heredia commented that the purpose of the meeting was to look for flexibility and tools in planning the budget for next year. Mr. Heredia indicated that the budget is very tight from year to year, but it is important to be creative when planning. Ms. Witmer presented a worksheet on a portion of the budget, and asked if that was the type of information that the Board was looking for.

Dr. Frank Reed presented information from the Principals. Dr. Reed indicated that he was not an "official representative" of any group, but was only presenting information regarding administrative/principal positions. He presented three contracts for Crane Principals indicating their salaries, noted that on average, Somerton principals salaries are \$10,000 lower than their colleagues from neighboring districts.

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that now is the time to look at what new positions will be required in the near future. Directors have looked at similar issues to those of principals and possible solutions. One of the issues that has been raised is the possible need for an Assistant Superintendent, which would be funded by M&O budget. Staff will need to look at resources to determine whether the position would be full or part time.

Ms. Reed-Mezei has also looked at funding a Professional Staff Development position out of the Federal Title IIA program. This person would facilitate work between the building and District levels. There will be an increasing demand for professional development in English language and Sheltered English Immersion. Migrant staffing is fine, but there is uncertainty as to the continuity of funding. The Federal Program Office currently has one secretary that deals with all of the demands of travel and purchase orders. Because this is a large responsibility, an additional school will only increase her duties.

Ms. Attaway spoke to Special Education, with the reminder that special ed dollars are supplemental and it is a continuous juggling act to meet all of the needs. The MIPS dollars are gradually increasing. Grant dollars are added as additional funds, but generally end up placing a burden on existing staff to provide more services. The District's Preschool program is currently at capacity. We do not receive funding for typical preschool students, and must admit any special education preschool students that enroll. Mr. Heredia mentioned that some students are admitted that are related to staff, and charging them a nominal fee, may be a possibility.

Mrs. Bobbitt felt that the Assistant Superintendent's position would be for direct contact with building principals. In cooperation with Yuma Union High School District, Yuma Elementary and Crane Districts, we are working on a CD that would provide information to prospective teachers on the four districts. One of our concerns is how do we keep from losing people and how to attract new staff.

Mr. Brick mentioned it has been helpful to have a couple Middle School teachers work on the Arizona School Improvement Plan. Enrollment has dramatically increased. Funding was not available to fund two additional teaching positions, he had hoped to have. He is looking for teachers who teach cross-categorically.

The New School will have some new staff positions that directly impact the M&O Budget.

Several additional comments were offered:

- Reading First: Can principals receive any stipends from this grant?
- Mr. Omer communicated to Mrs. Bobbitt that he liked the previous format of the budget.
- We need to develop a wish list and then determine where the funds might come from.
- Look at current contracted services to determine whether salary increase would attract needed staff and ultimately save dollars.
- Part-Time paraprofessional with no benefits?
- Encourage paraprofessionals to become teachers. Work part-time and go to school.
- Present budget requests with short summaries, prioritize and see how it would fit in the budget.
- Review all new requests and across-the-board salary increases at the same time.
- Several years ago the salary-study suggested Market Adjustments for some positions. Can any of these needed-adjustments be funded?

Mr. Heredia requested distribution of a "What Counts" survey to the Board, Administrators, Teachers, other staff to solicit feedback on what the priorities of the District should be. He suggested that A's and B's be limited to two in each category.

1.e. DISCUSSION AND ACTION SETTING DATE FOR FEBRUARY, 2005, MEETING

Mr. Heredia asked Administration to contact the Board with a convenient February meeting date.

1.f. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mrs. Camacho so moved, Mrs. Yepez seconded, Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Signature of Board President/Clerk

Date