



# MINUTES

<b>Attending Board</b>	J. Scott Omer Luis Heredia	Dale Phillips Martha Camacho (5:25 p.m. arrived)	Leticia Yopez
<b>Attending Public</b>	Nohemi Ortega Elizabeth Merino Bob Cassidy Shelly Reed-Mezei Paul Filby Bill Rhodes Kristina Ramirez Cathy Witmer Rose Arévalo Filyberta Becerra	Vickie Steinfeld Maria E. De La Fuente Jody Attaway Gerald Streit Veronica Lopez George Brick Elizabeth McGrew Bob Klein Merton Glass Maria Villarreal	Maureen Irr Frank Reed Cookie Mitchell Celine Fernandez Maria P. Vasquez Annette Chávez Jerry Cabrera Judith Bobbitt Claudia Luera

## Regular Board Meeting Thursday, March 10, 2005 -- 5:00 p.m.

**Desert Sonora Elementary**  
301 North Carlisle Avenue, Somerton, Arizona

### 1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1.a. Call to Order** Mr. Heredia

Mr. Heredia called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

**1.b. Pledge of Allegiance** Mr. Heredia

Mrs. Yopez led the Pledge.

**1.c. Audience with Individuals** Mr. Heredia **Information**

Mrs. Kristina Ramirez spoke to the safety of District students who cross Main Street going to Somerton Middle School in the early morning. She asked the Board to research the possibility of having these students receive bus privileges even if they live beyond the mile radius as mandated by the state. She added that a lady was hit on Main Street and flown to Phoenix the night before the Board Meeting.

Since this is an Agenda Item, Mr. Heredia said the public can speak when it is called.

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

- **Executive Sessions: 12/09/2004; 01/11/2005; and, 02/24/2005**
- **Regular Session: 02/24/2005**

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion to revise and/or approve Minutes as submitted and noted that the December 9 meeting had two Executive Sessions. The first addressed Student Discipline and the second Personnel matters. He recommended the Motion include both sessions for the December 9 meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer moved to approve, the Executives Session Minutes for Session I and II of December 9, 2005 Meeting, the Executive Sessions of January 11 and February 24, 2005 and the Regular Session Minutes, as submitted. Mrs. Yopez seconded, Motion carried.

## **2. REPORTS**

### **2.a. Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Bobbitt

**Information**

Mrs. Bobbitt congratulated Desert Sonora's Soaring Hawks Choir who received First Place at the County Competition earlier in the day.

Mrs. Bobbitt has been in discussion with administrators regarding public relations and future hiring of teaching staff. Recently, 34 schools in Detroit closed and District administrators will be attending a recruitment fair in Detroit, hoping to find staff for the upcoming year.

Yuma Education Foundation's Teacher of the Year Celebration Kick-Off was held recently and two Desert Sonora nominees attended, Jennifer Portz-Adair, their First Year Teacher, and Lupe Ullery for Special Education. Also in attendance were Mrs. Bobbitt, Ms. Fernandez, Ms. Merino, and Mr. Heredia attended.

Mrs. Bobbitt received an email update from ASA that explained a survey of 470 graduated teachers to see what attracted them to certain places of employment. 116 of those surveyed accepted offers in April. The District will try to get creative to entice people to our warm climate.

In anticipation of opening Valle Del Encanto Learning Center, Mrs. De La Fuente and Ms. Fernández began working with all kindergarten students at Desert Sonora on Wednesdays. Elective/Specials Teachers and librarians have been working with them. Desert Sonora is the only school that did not qualify for a Full-Day Kindergarten program, so this additional time will prepare children for next year. (Mrs. Camacho arrived at 5:25 p.m.)

Mr. Heredia asked about recruitment efforts and strategies appearing to be focused in the mid-west and feels it's important to hire local applicants, because they tend to stay longer. Mrs. Bobbitt explained that the District has been promoting paraprofessionals enrolling in programs like RISE or intern certification. Currently we have four such staff that soon will be receiving their degrees.

Mrs. Bobbitt mentioned that she has an opportunity for Aracely Rodriguez and her sister to attend a meeting with Senator Kennedy and key government education officials in Washington, D.C. as the District's guests. She will keep everyone posted.

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

**Information**

Mr. Heredia thanked Mr. Brick for the additional information he submitted regarding future staff needs. Mrs. Bobbitt mentioned that Ms. Witmer will have budget projections at the March Study Session. Mr. Heredia recommended 'pushing the envelope' within legal limits to budget for next year. Utilization of grants and other funding is an important piece to research.

Mr. Omer noted that full day kindergarten has made a difference in his daughter's case. He noted that his first two daughters attended regular half-day sessions and currently his five year old is reading entire books on her own, because she likes it. This is a feat that he attributes to the full day kindergarten. He congratulated Ms. Fernandez and Mrs. De La Fuente for thinking outside the box and preparing these students for their first grade year.

### **2.c. Board Member Report**

**Information**

Mrs. Camacho thanked Mrs. Bobbitt for approving distribution of Somerton Little League fliers.

**2.d. Construction Update**

Mr. Klein

**Information**

Mr. Klein explained that financial construction information will be ready for the next meeting. The contractor’s completion date is still September 2. It is their hope that classroom and kitchen equipment can be moved in prior to that date. Food service can provide meals from another school, as needed.

**2.e. Open Airways Program Presentation**

U of A Cooperative Extension

**Information**

Mrs. Nohemi Ortega and Vicky Steinfeldt presented their Open Airways Program presentation. Their program is successful in other Yuma County School Districts and they look forward to working with Somerton District’s administration in the future.

**4.04. Approval of Open Airways Program Sponsored by U of A Cooperative Extension**

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion to approve Item 4.04.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer so moved, Mrs. Camacho seconded, Mr. Omer noted that his daughter has asthma has missed school in the past. The Board agreed to approve the program now so schedules can be worked out prior to next year. Motion carried.

**2.f. Discussion of School Calendar and Impact of Construction on Opening New School**

Mrs. Bobbitt

**Information**

Mrs. Bobbitt noted that Yuma County School district’s have approved a variety of calendars. Desert Sonora and Tierra Del Sol schools will be most effected by a start date change. The District is trying to avoid double sessions. Ms. Witmer noted that if school starts after Labor Day, the District would see an estimated savings of \$113,000. The Board asked for a survey that may indicate impact on families. Mr. Rhodes, SEA Representative, noted that consistently staff prefer an earlier start with the three week winter break. Surveys will be disseminated and tallied next week.

**4.09. Possible Action on 2005-06 School Year Start Date and Calendar**

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer moved to Table this item in order to receive survey information, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded, Motion carried.

**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**

- Barnekow, Tabitha                                      Teacher, Desert Sonora Elementary
- Diaz, Celia    Instructional Assistant, Tierra Del Sol Elementary
- Lopez, Hilda    Instructional Assistant, Somerton Middle School
- Valenzuela, Jose    Teacher, Adult Education
- Zamora, Bernice    Instructional Assistant, Desert Sonora Elementary

**3.2 ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS**

- Arreola, Norma    Teacher, Adult Education
- Kostin, Christopher    Teacher, Adult Education

**3.3 REASSIGNMENT**

- Gonzalez, Marta    Long Term Substitute, Orange Grove Elementary School
- Johnson, Clara    Long Term Substitute, Somerton Middle School
- Moreno, Natalia    Teacher, Somerton Middle School
- Nava, Luz    Long Term Substitute, Somerton Middle School
- Quintana, Robert    Instructional Assistant, Orange Grove Elementary School
- Singer, Dale    Teacher, Somerton Middle School

### 3.4 RESIGNATION

- Holman, Logan Teacher, Adult Education

### 3.5 AUTHORIZATION TO POST POSITION

- Assistant Principal Tierra Del Sol Elementary

## ***CONSENT AGENDA ENDS***

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that Item 3.5 will authorize posting of the Tierra Del Sol Assistant Principal's position.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer as presented so moved, Mrs. Camacho seconded, Motion carried.

## **4. BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

- INFORMATION ONLY*
- Accounts Payable and Payroll Voucher Actual Amounts
  - Student Activity Report

### **4.01. Approval of IGA Between:**

- a. The Cooperative Purchasing Network**
- b. Arizona Western College**
- c. WACOG Head Start**

### **4.02. Approval of Sole Source Vendors:**

- a. Santillana USA Publishing Company**
- b. Ellison Education Equipment, Inc.**
- c. CTB/McGraw Hill School Publishing**
- d. Windsor Management Group**

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Camacho so moved, Mrs. Yopez seconded, to approve Items 4.01 and 4.02, Motion carried.

### **4.03. Ratification of February, 2005, Accounts Payable Voucher**

Mrs. Bobbitt recommended Item 4.03 for approval.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer so moved, Mrs. Camacho seconded, Motion carried.

### **4.05. Discussion, Information, and Possible Action on Joint Facilities Use Agreement with the City of Somerton**

### **4.07. Update and Possible Action on Reynoso Field and City of Somerton**

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion for Items 4.05 and 4.07.

Mr. Klein reported that he and Mr. O'Neill are working on procedure and possible policy changes.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer moved to Table these items to receive more information, Mrs. Yopez seconded, Motion carried.

### **4.06. Information, Discussion, and Possible Action on Policy #EEB: Business and Personnel Transportation Services**

Mr. Klein submitted a draft of Policy for the Board's review. Mr. Omer asked that prohibited practices such as smoking and drug/alcohol use and use of seat belts also be noted on the next draft.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion to Table Item 4.06 until the next meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer so moved, Mrs. Camacho seconded, Motion carried.

**4.08. Discussion, Information, and Possible Action on Submission of Letter of Withdrawal to North Central Association on Behalf of Orange Grove Elementary**

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer moved to approve Dr. Reed's request, Mrs. Camacho seconded, Motion carried.

**4.10. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Transportation and Safety Issue for Students Residing South of Main Street**

Mr. Klein noted that approximately 175 Middle School students live south of Main Street. Many of these students do not currently receive transportation. Three additional bus runs would be needed to improve the situation. Currently, the District does not have the vehicles nor the staff to do this.

The suggestion was made to research using a crossing attendant on Main Street. Mr. Phillips asked for dialogue with the City to see what alternatives they have or possibly additional police patrol, something do slow Main Street traffic. The Board agreed that children's safety is the priority.

A radius of one mile from schools is in question, this means that in some cases, homes could be outside the mile area. Mr. Klein will remeasure the area, but thought the area ended at the north side of Garvin Street.

The District recently issued SMS student ID for those eligible for transportation residing south of Main Street. It was noted that addresses may be incorrect allowing transportation for students outside the designated area, while others may live within the area and not receive transportation. Mr. Heredia mentioned that a light at Avenue F and Main Street may be installed. There was no action on this item.

**4.11. Discussion and Possible Action of WACOG Head Start Use of District Facility**

Mrs. Bobbitt recommended approval for WACOG Head Start to occupy the current preschool buildings located next to their current WACOG Carlisle Center.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer asked that liability, maintenance, utilities and other issues be discussed and added to a drafted agreement prior to possible occupancy. Mr. Omer moved to approve Item 4.11, Mrs. Yepez seconded, Mr. Heredia noted to add to the Motion that the agreement must be approved prior to facility use, Motion carried.

**4.12. Acceptance of \$100 Donation from Target to Desert Sonora's Walking Program**

Mrs. Bobbitt recommended approval.

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion.

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

## CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Heredia

**Action**

### **4.13. Robert Klein**

### **Director of Operations and Personnel**

#### **A.R.S. §38-431.03 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.

The Governing Board will enter in to Executive Session to consult with Somerton Elementary School District's attorney.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer moved to go in to Executive Session, Mrs. Camacho seconded, the Board entered in to Executive Session at 6:51 p.m.

- 7:35 p.m. Mr. Klein and Mrs. Bobbitt were asked to enter Executive Session.
- 7:55 p.m. Mr. Klein came out of Executive Session
- 8:04 p.m. Mrs. Bobbitt came out of Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer moved to return to Regular Session, Mrs. Camacho seconded, Motion carried. The Board resumed Regular Session at 8:26 p.m.

#### **4.13.a. Possible Action on Item 4.13**

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer moved not to renew Mr. Klein's contract as Director of Operation and Personnel for the 2005-06, Mrs. Camacho, Motion carried.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Heredia entertained a Motion to adjourn.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Yopez so moved, Mrs. Camacho seconded, Motion carried. The Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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Signature of Board President/Clerk

Date