



MINUTES

Monday, March 10, 2003

**SOMERTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
1011 South Somerton Avenue**

Attending Board Luis Heredia
Dale Phillips (6 p.m.)

Leticia Yopez

Martha Camacho

Absent Board J. Scott Omer

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Attending Public Ken Huffman
Celine Fernández
Frank Reed
Jeanie Volpe
Rose Arévalo
Daniel Garcia
Jeanne L.Glover

Blanche Odom
George Blek
Maureen Irr
Cathy Witmer
Jody Attaway
Elva Juarez
Kurt Karwoski

Duane Sheppard
George Brick
Shelly Reed
Bob Klein
Jerry Cabrera
Merton L. Glass
Judith Bobbitt

STUDY SESSION -- 4:00 pm.

• Review of the Board's Vision, Mission, and Goal Setting

1.a. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Heredia

In Mr. Phillips' absence, Mr. Heredia called the Study Session to order at 4:20 p.m.

2.a. STUDY SESSION

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that Administrators would update the Board and explain goals that may be similar to the Board's. Yuma District One, Crane and Somerton Districts have been working together with goals for student achievement and professional development. The Districts were able to bring Dr. Lorraine Monroe, a renowned educator and speaker to Yuma at the beginning of the 2001-02 school year.

The Somerton, Crane, and Yuma #1 School Boards met to work on aligning curriculum between districts. Student education can be hindered when curriculum is not aligned, should a student move within the county. Mr. Heredia mentioned the impressive way the Crane Board displays their achievement goals on their walls for public review. Additionally Board Meetings will be scheduled at District 1 and Somerton. Administrators and Superintendents attended the day long Data In The Day Training.

Dr. Reed was commended for receiving a personal invitation from Ron Paige, the National Education Secretary, to submit Orange Grove as a National Blue Ribbon School for being the first accredited elementary school in Yuma County.

Dr. Reed presented information on Data In The Day Training. Trained administrators and superintendents teams will evaluate schools throughout Yuma County, compile the information, and submit a report for WestEd to review. He emphasized that the evaluation will not be done on individual teachers.

Out of the six areas being evaluated, the three most prevalent are: Student Engagement, On-Task Behavior, and Instructional Practices. Teams will evaluate in districts other than their own. As areas of concern are targeted, the District could utilize staff from other districts as resources for professional development in areas of need.

In August, Ms. Fernández will receive official notice that Desert Sonora is chosen for accreditation. Ms. Fernández explained that she and staff attended months of State Department training related to self-improvement, although they did not need improvement. She felt that strategies learned correlate with the Eight Step Process. Students are learning test taking strategies for the Stanford 9 and AIMS. Parents can choose to have their children attend an after school program for assistance. Ms. Fernández was commended for continued follow up on staff's updating their Bridge The Gap and 301 notebooks.

As one of his first tasks to his new position, Mr. Cabrera successfully completed relicensure of the preschool program. Mrs. Howerton helped make a smooth transition with the GED, Family Literacy and Preschool programs. Because state level budget is unpredictable, he knows it is difficult for the District to foresee or adjust for possible changes.

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Ms. Reed feels fortunate to have Mrs. Irr as her mentor while working on grants and the Title Programs. After meeting with preschool Directors, she found out that if children are not enrolled in an existing preschool program, parents must be offered an afternoon or evening program. This is being looked at.

Mrs. Irr enjoys mentoring Ms. Reed and Mrs. Volpe, who are responsible for budgets from \$1,303 to over \$900,000. Funding procedures have been reviewed to obtain optimum funding when applied for. As an educator and school board member, she is frustrated with the difficulty ELL programs are faced with and the lack of support the state is giving to adult education. She feels that children's educations can be gauged by the parents' level of education.

Ms. Attaway, Special Programs Director, continues working as School Psychologist and provides staff development for Special Education Staff. She also mentioned that after this round of testing, special education students will not test out of level.

Dr. Blek and Ms. Odom were commended on the significant turn around at the Middle School. Dr. Blek's goals are to get the HVAC units and roofing repaired and construction completed by the time Mr. Brick begins. Dr. Blek noted that SMSs theme for this semester is 'Aspire Higher'. Mr. Havran is assisting teams with creating webpages, the Gifted Program begins soon, students are going to a Phoenix Suns game, the May 29 Promotion Ceremony at Somerton's Community Center is funded by their Parent League, a Talent Show will be held April 8, and a Career Fair on May 8. Mrs. Melany Klotz is a Teacher of the Year finalist. Teams are adopting Marine Units in the Middle East and corresponding with them. He was happy to report that the Dean of Students and Athletic Director positions have proved to be valuable to the Middle School. He hopes funds will allow for these positions next year. Discipline has dramatically improved.

Mr. Brick feels that he will not reinvent or change current Middle School practices because they are working well. He will be attending PowerSchool Training which will be a useful tool.

At 5:46 p.m. the Board recessed for dinner. Mr. Phillips reconvened the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Mr. Klein explained that contractors are monitoring the HVAC system, roofing concerns are not being addressed as the District would like. The state may begin charging the contractor liquidated damages if they don't resolve the problems soon. Classes will be moved in order for rooms to be built at the Middle School. The District is in search of a new school site.

Mr. Heredia explained that the joint-use of facilities by Somerton District and AWC is recognized throughout the state. Their continued growth has kept the center thriving. Mrs. Bobbitt and Mr. Heredia attended a City Council Meeting to request that Jefferson Street be opened to flow through to Carlisle Avenue. This will allow easier traffic flow from SMS.

Mrs. Witmer reported that deadlines have been pushed up in anticipation of two Business Office staff leaving on maternity leave. This is the first year **the District will be in compliance at year's end. The Asset Report will be ready to review in April.

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that Mrs. Lopez's husband was deployed two months ago and she is functioning as a single-parent, so will not be able to attend evening meetings. Mrs. Vasquez has been chosen for Grand Jury Duty and has served once a week for the past few months. About 25 TDS staff did a neighborhood walk within Tierra Del Sol boundaries, to encourage parental involvement. Their walk included yellow camp and the West Reservation families. Mr. Phillips was very happy to hear that West Reservation families were included. The Board was invited to TDSs Parent Meeting on Wednesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m.

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3.a. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion to adjourn the Study Session.

MOTION: Mr. Heredia so moved, Mrs. Camacho seconded, Motion carried. The Study Session adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

Monday, March 10, 2003 -- 6:00 p.m.

Attending Board	Luis Heredia Dale Phillips	Leticia Yopez	Martha Camacho
Absent Board	J. Scott Omer		
Attending Public	Ken Huffman Celine Fernández Frank Reed Jeanie Volpe Rose Arévalo Bill Rhodes Bob Cassidy	Blanche Odom George Blek Maureen Irr Cathy Witmer Jody Attaway Kurt Karwoski Maria P. Vasquez	Duane Sheppard George Brick Shelly Reed Bob Klein Jerry Cabrera Merton Glass, Paul Filby

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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1.a. Call to Order

Mr. Phillips

Mr. Phillips called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

1.b. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Phillips

Student Council President Danny Garcia and Vice-President Elva Juarez led the Pledge.

1.c. Audience with Individuals

Mr. Phillips

Information

None were submitted.

1.d. Approval of Board Minutes

Mr. Phillips

Action

Regular Session -- February 10, 2003

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion to approve Minutes as submitted.

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

1.e. Call for Executive Session

Mr. Phillips

Action

A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A.1) Executive Sessions

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 a public meeting.

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

Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body.

A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A.4) Executive Sessions

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.

Executive Session was not called.

2. REPORTS

2.a. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Bobbitt

Information

• Data-In-the-Day

• Meet and Confer Update

Mrs. Bobbitt reminded the Board Data in the Day evaluations will be done as a general school report. She introduced Mr. Rhodes, Certified Staff's spokesperson for Meet and Confer and mentioned that Mrs. Glover has been taking Minutes at those meetings. Mr. Rhodes reported that they reviewed calendars and will be working on budget and 301 expenditures.

AWC will forward information on the April 10-11 Math Conference they're sponsoring. It was also suggested that staff look at recruiting strategies and efforts used to retain qualified staff. A site counsel could submit a written report compiling the year in review with goals listed and achievement of District programs to be used as a self-marketing tool. The one-page document could explain 301 requirements and benefits available to prospective staff.

Staff was thanked for their hard work by Board Members. Mr. Phillips thanked Tierra Del Sol for including the West Reservation families in the neighborhood walk, he knows it was an uplifting experience for the families that were visited.

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

There were no additional questions of administrators.

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

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Board Members had no additional reports.

2.d. Family Literacy Outcomes **Mr. Cabrera** **Information**

Mr. Cabrera's update of the Family Literacy program included a PowerPoint presentation. Parents have learned they are their children's first teachers. The Program stresses that children are the driving force behind parents bettering themselves, through obtaining their GED and possibly continuing their education. Unfortunately, statistics show that 22 percent of the nation's population do not have the minimum of a high diploma or GED. Poverty cycles are broken by higher education. He is hoping to move parents toward the Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC), where job skill training will afford them better job opportunities. Legislative budget cuts may mean little or no funding, which may lead to less prepared adults.

2.e. Summary Report on Reading Adoption **Mr. Sheppard** **Information**

Mr. Sheppard explained that after careful review, teachers recommend the Harcourt Core Reading Program. It successfully covers the five critical elements of successful readers. It contains the English Language Learner (ELL) component, which is important to Somerton District. With this supplemental component, an ELL reader could move from a 2.5 to a 4.0 reading level. The theme remains the same throughout levels, so that all students are working on the same theme. The Program was on display for the Board to review. This program replaces the Houghton Mifflin program.

Because Crane, District 1 and Somerton districts are ordering together, they hope to receive more free products. Another incentive is that the company provides free year to year Staff Development. The Board reported favorable staff review on the selection process and outcome.

3. CONSENT AGENDA 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.

• PERSONNEL

Mrs. Bobbitt **Action**

3.1 HIRING

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|--|
| 3.1.a. | LaMarque, Marina | Counselor, Somerton Middle School |
| 3.1.b. | Montaño, Maria | Adult Education Teacher, Arizona Western College |
| 3.1.c. | Valentín, Gloria | Teacher, Adult Education |

3.2 REQUEST FOR RELEASE FROM CONTRACT / RESIGNATIONS

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3.2.a. | Andersen, Kristi | Teacher, Tierra Del Sol Elementary |
| 3.2.b. | Barrion, Loleta | Teacher, Tierra Del Sol Elementary |
| 3.2.c. | Robles, Beatriz | Teacher, Tierra Del Sol Elementary |
| 3.2.d. | Salinas, Enrique | Teacher, Adult Education, District |

- 3.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
3.3.a. Payan, Irma Special Programs Parent Liaison, Special Services
- 3.4 REASSIGNMENT**
3.4.a. Quintana, Olivia Teacher -Tierra Del Sol Elementary
- 3.5 ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS**
3.5.a. Attaway, Jody Special Services Director, District
3.5.b. Brick, George Principal, Somerton Middle School
3.5.c. Rodriguez, Irene ELL Data Cleanup and Input, Migrant/Title 1
3.5.d. Senf, Victoria ELL Data Cleanup and Reporting, Migrant/Title 1
- 3.6 SUBSTITUTES**
3.6.a. Alvarez, Mariano
3.6.b. Bobbitt, M. Douglas
3.6.c. Bridgestock, Barry
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3.6.d. Porchas, Krystal
3.6.e. Ramirez, Adriana

Mrs. Bobbitt mentioned that Mr. Bridgestock, a retired SMS Teacher, has returned to substitute and Mr. Brick will begin at SMS in April. She submitted Consent Agenda Items for approval.

MOTION: Mr.Heredia moved to approve Items 3.1-3.6, Mrs. Yopez seconded, Motion carried.

4. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Mrs. Bobbitt Action

- 4.1. Signing of Vouchers**
4.2. Ratification of February Accounts Payable Vouchers

Mrs. Bobbitt presented the following for approval:

Accounts Payable Vouchers

<i>Voucher Number</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Date Processed</i>
#1029	\$162,876.69	02/04/2003
#1030	\$185,280.65	02/12/2003
#1031	<u>\$280,593.33</u>	02/25/2003
	\$428,750.67	

Payroll Vouchers

<i>Voucher Number</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Pay Period</i>	<i>Date Processed</i>
45	\$331,773.61	01/25-02/07	02/24/2003
46	<u>\$ 47,763.29</u>	01/25-02/07	02/14/2003
	\$379,536.90		
<i>Voucher Number</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Pay Period</i>	<i>Date Processed</i>
47	\$334,417.07	02/08-02/21	02/28/2003
48	<u>\$ 31,439.44</u>	02/08-02/21	02/28/2003
	\$365,856.51		

Mrs. Bobbitt submitted Items 4.1 and 4.2 for approval as submitted.

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion to approve.

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

4.3. Review of Student Activity Information

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that auditors require Student Activity to be presented monthly to the Board. Listing it on the Agenda allows for discussion as needed.

4.4. Approval to Award Contracts for Construction Manager at Risk (CM@Risk) Services for Early Childhood and Adult Education Center and New K-5 Elementary School to FCI Constructors, Inc.

Mr. Klein explained that a committee reviewed the proposals and ranked FCI Constructors highest. They worked with the District on Desert Sonora and got the best facility for the money we had available.

Mr. Phillips entertained a motion to approve as submitted.

MOTION: Mr. Heredia moved to approve to Award Contracts for Construction Manager at Risk (CM@Risk) Services for Early Childhood and Adult Education Center and New K-5 Elementary School to FCI Constructors, Inc., Mrs. Camacho seconded, Motion carried.

4.5. Acceptance of Facsimile Machine Donation to District Office

Mr. Phillips entertained a motion to approve as submitted.

MOTION: Mr. Heredia so moved, Mr. s. Camacho seconded, Motion carried.

4.6. Review and Approval to Adopt of Harcourt *Trophies Reading Program*

Mr. Phillips entertained a motion to approve as submitted.

MOTION: Mrs. Camacho so moved, Mrs. Yopez seconded, Motion carried.

4.7. Second Reading and Adoption of Policy Advisories:

- 218 -- BBBB: Board Member Oath of Office
- 219 -- DID-R: Inventories
- 220 -- IHBD: Compensatory Education
IHBD-R: Compensatory Education
IHBD-EA: Compensatory Education
- 220 -- IHBD-EB: Compensatory Education
- 221 -- IHBE-EA: Bilingual Instruction/Native Language Instruction
IHBE-EB: Bilingual Instruction/Native Language Instruction
- 222 -- KB: Parental Involvement in Education
KB-E: Parental Involvement in Education

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4.8. First Reading of Policy Advisories:

- 223 -- JR: Student Records
JR-R: Student Records
JR-EA through EG: Student Records

Mrs. Bobbitt recommended approval of Items 4.7 and 4.8 as submitted.

Mr. Phillips entertained a motion to approve.

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

Mr. Heredia noted that the District needs to develop ways to involve parents. He feels that some parents do not challenge the system, but are not satisfied with the way things are being handled by the District. He feels the District should do more, like the neighborhood walks, so that parents know they have a voice in decisions that involve their children and their educations.

Mr. Heredia asked for clarification on the item regarding access to student records. Mrs. Bobbitt explained that it meant records are accessed by Juvenile Detention Officers in order to exchange information without obtaining a Court Order. She will get more specific information on the U. S. A. Patriot Act.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Heredia so moved, Mrs. Camacho seconded, Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Board President or Clerk's Signature

Date