



# MINUTES

**Monday, June 30, 2003**

**Public Hearing -- 4:00 p.m.**

**2003-04 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Regular Meeting Immediately Following The Public Hearing

**Attending Board** Leticia Yepez  
Martha Camacho

Luis Heredia

Dale Phillips

**Absent Board** Scott Omer

**Attending Public** Beth Cook  
Ken Huffman  
Cathy Witmer  
Rose Arévalo

Bill Spearman  
Duane Sheppard  
Bob Klein

Paula Glass  
Leah Hamilton  
Judith Bobbitt

Mr. Phillips called the Public Hearing to order at 4:17 p.m.

Ms. Witmer presented the 2003-04 Proposed Budget for review. Budget figures are written to maximum limit. Mr. Klein mentioned that projected bond sales could have increased the tax rate, but because interest was low, the tax rate did not increase as much as it could have. Ms. Witmer explained that unrestrictive capital has no limit or restriction for usage. Soft capital can only be used on instructional materials. Although school busses are included as an item that can be purchased with soft capital, the State Facilities Board has funded those purchases for the District.

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that roll over soft capital funds for the coming year will be used on textbooks. Somerton Middle School (SMS) has been studying intervention programs and companies in order to find a suitable reading program for seventh and eighth graders. New textbooks have been purchased and the textbooks that are not aligned with the new curriculum will be sold to a company for recycling or resale.

Mr. Phillips asked about the condition of District busses. Mr. Klein explained that they are in fair condition and that a new bus will be delivered the end of July. He had be alerted by Arizona School Furnishing's representative to order student desks before the steel industry was going to increase their prices 16 percent. Unfortunately, this increase raised bus prices.

Ms. Witmer explained that the the budget can be amended in December because it is written to maximum limit. She added that a few correction will be made to the draft that was presented to the Board, so that a revised copy would be available at the July meeting.

Mr. Spearman asked what the current budget increase was. Ms. Witmer said that the total budget increase was two percent. Ms. Glass said that the contract wording set a precedent that the District was to pay 3.5% and because the money is available it is the District's ethical duty to give teachers that amount. She added that staff turn over is due to salaries that are not competitive. Mr. Spearman mentioned that turn over in staff is difficult because teams cannot be consistent with programs. Mrs. Bobbitt explained 'may receive up to 3.5% increase' was used in contracts. It was not stated that the increase was promised.

**MOTION:** Mr. Heredia moved to adjourn the Public Hearing, Mrs. Yepez seconded. The Public Hearing adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

**MINUTES**  
**Special Governing Board Meeting**  
**and Work Study Session**  
**Immediately Followed Public Hearing**  
**Monday, June 30, 2003**

Governing Board Room  
215 North Carlisle Avenue  
Somerton, Arizona

**I. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Mr. Phillips called the Special Meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

**1.b. 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**

Mrs. Bobbitt mentioned that a Mediation Meeting regarding Tierra Del Sol's Mold Case is tentatively scheduled for July 25. Mrs. Bobbitt and Arizona Superintendents met with Tim Hogan in regard his possibly filing a case addressing building renewal. He will also ask to intervene on the side of the Governor if the Republican leadership denies the constitutional authority for the Governor to ine item veto on the Education ORB Bill. He also would like the square footage allowed with Student's First to be reviewed and hopes that the Governor's Task Force for SFB funding is moving forward.

Mrs. Bobbitt asked the Board to inform the District if they are interested in attending Arizona School Boards Association's (ASBA) Summer Institute (July 31-August 2) or the Law Conference scheduled in September.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA -- PERSONNEL 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**

**3.1.a.** Soliman, Chris Teacher, Tierra Del Sol Elementary School

**3.2 ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS**

**3.2.a. Reading First Academy**

Irr, Maureen	Reed, Shelly	Sheppard, Duane
Avery, Leah	Chávez, Annette	Weissenberg, Patty
Lopez, Veronica	Vasquez, Maria	Llanes, Yvonne
Slawinski, Michael	Phillips, Cheryl	Dinwiddie, Lisa
Martinez, Maria	Alonzo, Magnolia	Finkbeiner, Pam
Cordova, Claudia	Juarez, Gladys	Sanchez, Rosa
Sharp, Marichu	Medina, Petra	Sanchez, Suzanne
Kostin, Christopher	Johnson, Linda	McCall (Parker), Leanne
Nuñez, Maria	Lopez, Maria	Martinez-Lopez, Graciela
Arvizo, Paz	Salas, Adriana	Cavanaugh, Barbara
Hunt, Patricia	McBride, Ann	Robles, Betty
Joanicot, Eduvigis	Eckstein, Barbara	Maxwell, Irasema
Cortez, Nilda	Payan, Beatrice	Bohón, Laura
García, Gilbert	Herrera, Lynn	Lomeli, Elizabeth
Brienza, Patty	Ullery, Guadalupe	Ellsworth, Dorothy
Fernández, Celine	Colvin, Roxanna	Volpe, Tom
Pacheco, Edna	Camarillo, Adriana	Bravo, Ana
Steinfelt, Jane	Gentry, Jahan	Linares, Patricia
Zarate, Ana	Cooper, Samantha	Neblina, Karla
Hernandez, Gloria	Caiazzo, Maria	Cale, Donna
Reed, Frank	Wilson, Madeleine	Touchet, Jean
Open Positions (4)		

**3.2.a. Test Score Disaggregation - Focus Calendar**

Lutich, Mariah Spadafino, Christina

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that as staff is hired, they will be added to Agenda. In order for contracts to be issued to new certified staff, their names will be added to future Agenda for ratification, as appropriate. This would help us get new staff under contract as soon as possible. The State has scheduled an additional administration of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments (AEPA) July 12, so new staff are encouraged to register, when possible. Mrs. Bobbitt submitted Consent Agenda Items for approval.

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion to approve.

**MOTION:** Mr. Heredia so moved. Seconded by Mrs. Yepez . Motion carried.

#### **4. BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

**Mrs. Bobbitt**

**Action**

##### **4.1. Approval of July Payroll Voucher**

Mrs. Bobbitt submitted July's Payroll Voucher, Not To Exceed \$250,000, for approval.

**MOTION:** Mr. Heredia so moved. Seconded by Mrs. Camacho. Motion carried.

##### **4.2. Approval of Salary Increase for Superintendent**

Mrs. Bobbitt recommended her salary increase be the same as staff receives.

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mr. Heredia asked to wait for 4.3 and 4.4 before making the Motion.

##### **4.3. Approval of Salary Increase for Certified and Classified**

Ms. Witmer explained the proposed salary increase. The increase is based on next year's growth. This year's money is paying for next year's bills. Because the District has shown and continues to show future growth, it believes it's safe. Mrs. Camacho questioned how tight staff will have to be in order to keep additional cost down. Increases in health insurance and Arizona Retirement took a large amount out of funding. Mr. Heredia commented that the year will allow the District to look at costs and 301 menu options.

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that by going with the higher 3.5%, growth would mean using existing staff and not hiring additional staff because money would not be available. Electives may have to be cut to bring the teacher:pupil ratio to a more moderate number. Mr. Heredia agreed that classroom reduction is crucial. He said federal funding and better use of Title I funding may be a solution to relieving stress of the budget that the new school may feel.

This year, the District had many long term subs, who did not receive 301 monies. Next year, if this is not the case, the 301 funds will be distributed to a higher number of qualified teachers. Mrs. Bobbitt commended the Board and teachers, for their consistency in District incentives.

Ms. Witmer ended by saying that creativity is important when working with a tight budget. Everyone will need to use innovative ways to use what is available to them in order for them to stay within budget. Monthly budget studies will be crucial tools to inform staff of areas that need attention.

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion to this item.

**MOTION:** Mr. Heredia moved to allow the 3.5 percent increase as noted. Mrs. Yopez seconded. Mrs. Camacho voted against. Motion carried three to one.

Mr. Heredia reminded the Board that last year they agreed to give the Superintendent the same salary increase as staff with the performance item. He asked a more formal site councils that includes principals, certified and classified staff, and parents be formed. They would update the Board on issue they are dealing with and hopes they will be able to set goals for at least one year's growth in student achievement.

**4.2. Approval of Salary Increase for Superintendent**

Mrs. Bobbitt recommended the same increase for her salary that staff will receive.

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion to adjourn.

**MOTION:** Mr. Heredia moved to approve the 3.5 percent increase plus performance. Mrs. Yopez seconded, Motion carried.

**4.4. Approval of Proposed Budget for 2003-04**

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Yopez moved to approve the Proposed Budget for 2003-04, Mr. Heredia Seconded.

Mr. Heredia said that better management of schools is needed. Mrs. Bobbitt took full responsibility for not considering the new school when preparing the budget. Ms. Witmer added that the information sent to staff was not intended to take the highest possible amount, but should have gone with a 2 percent. Mrs. Camacho said that the wording said “up to 3.5%” not that it was “3.5%” and that next year, with this budget, we may have overcrowding without enough teachers. Motion carried.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion to adjourn.

**MOTION:** Mr. Heredia so moved, Mrs. Yopez seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

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Signature of Board President/Clerk

Date