

**MINUTES -- 6:00 p.m.**  
**Monday, March 11, 2002**  
**Regular Governing Board Meeting**  
Governing Board Room  
215 North Carlisle Avenue  
Somerton, Arizona

<b>Attending Board</b>	Scott Omer Luis Heredia	Dale Phillips		
<b>Absent Board</b>	Leticia Yepez	Martha J. Camacho		
<b>Attending Public</b>	Judith Bobbitt Mariah Lutich Miriam Thornton Joan Murray Elizabeth Merino Tom Volpe	Cathy Witmer Maureen Irr Bill Rhodes Duane Sheppard Shelly Reed Veronica Lopez	Bob Klein Mark Bastin Ken Huffman Bob Cassidy Mike Slawinski Kurt Karwoski	Rose Arévalo Celine Fernández Brad Bowman Siobhan Phar Patsy Howerton

**1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Mr. Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:03p.m.

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

Mr. Heredia led the pledge.

**1.c. Approval of Board Minutes** **Mr. Phillips** **Action**  
• **Regular Session -- February 11, 2002**  
• **Special Session -- February 19, 2002**

Mr. Phillips asked for revisions of the Board Minutes as submitted. There were no none.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer moved to approve both Minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Heredia. Motion carried.

**1.d. Audience with Individuals** **Information**

Ms. Mariah Lutich, SMS Teacher, said she was addressing the Board as an individual speaking on her own behalf. She said the Fire Marshall said that special lines and vents need to be installed for microwaves and refrigerators to be in pods. She added that the one refrigerator that is supposed to be used by SMS staff is too small to accommodate everyone and it's located at the front of the campus. Administration is not addressing this issue to her satisfaction. Her request is to allow one appliance per pod.

**4.c. Audience with Individuals** **Information**

Ms. Joan Murray, Yuma County Library Director was introduced by Mrs. Bobbitt. Ms. Murray explained that the Mayor of Yuma Proclaimed the Week of March 18 to be "Reading is Freedom" Week. This program promotes literacy and will increase awareness to improve literacy. Ms. Murphy said that they are very appreciative of Mrs. Bobbitt and Vivian Egbert, District One, for proclaiming "Reading Is Freedom" Week in their Districts. She handed out information regarding other programs the library offers. Mrs. Bobbitt mentioned that pamphlets were ordered for distribution to employees, families and the community. Ms. Murphy reminded all present that the old Somerton branch library will remain open during July and August while construction continues. The Library and County Foundations have set a goal of one new book for every Somerton citizen. They are planning fundraisers, have received monies from the Board of Supervisors and are very happy with Somerton's City Council and Mayor for their input. She said the community will be very proud of the library when it is completed. Mr. Phillips thanked Ms. Murphy and said



## **2.e. Presentation of AIMS**

## **Duane Sheppard Information**

Mrs. Bobbitt commended Mr. Sheppard for preparing information received by the State Department only to find out that the information was incorrect and he had to re-do everything he had prepared with the correct information.

Mr. Sheppard presented the AIMS 2001 scores for District students compared to other area students. The AIMS 2000 scores are the ones that need to be reissued and those haven't been received yet. His presentation explained that reading and math are tested by third, fifth and eighth grade students. In the year 2006 science will be added as advised by the federal government. The 2006 AIMS test will be mandated for graduating seniors.

Mr. Sheppard asked for the Board to use data cautiously because numbers change from year to year and trends need to be carefully watched. Stanford and Aims scores should not be compared. Information will show what is shared with public and what is released to students. Charts are identified as follows: pink and blue on charts reflects meeting or exceeding grade level scores.

Mr. Sheppard explained that District schools improved overwhelmingly over last year. More students were included last year than previous years and scores show improvement. He was happy to announce that non-LEP and Migrant students are strong in improving scores. They did well in reading and writing and Cocopah students writing skills did not decrease over third, fifth and eighth grades. They consistently showed improvement in those areas as did girls for those grade levels.

Mr. Sheppard explained that the first three pages are overall results in reading, math and writing. Grade three scores are close to those of the state average; fifth and eighth graders' scores slipped a little. The scores represented with the 'bar' should climb, teal color information should be smallest, pink and dark blue should be largest. If the opposite is shown, then opposite effect is shown at each school.

Mr. Sheppard showed public data which included Crane, Gadsden and Yuma District 1. Crane District is usually stronger than Somerton and Gadsden's situation is different than Somerton's. When scores are reviewed, the red and blue column shows what percentages are doing well on the AIMS. If they say 'pass' or 'fail', pink represents those that are not passing and blue are those that pass. Somerton is not far off when compared to these District's and the state averages, grade three is leading.

The focus on math for fifth graders must be focused on to improve scores in the future. Reading must be targeted because it is prevalent in any type of assignment. The Eight Step Process will hopefully work in reading scores. Percentages are incorrect, but trends are correct. Tierra Del Sol's (TDS) information is correct on this form. The demographic sheet shows each grade. If you flip through the three pages, you will see a variety of color. There is more yellow and teal. Math begins to slip in both genders in the fifth grade. Mr. Sheppard reminded the Board that 90% is the goal we have and what the state asks of us. The threshold that needs to be crossed occurs at the fourth grade level, if this can be acquired, then students will climb 5, 6, and 7 grade levels easily. The other threshold is at the eighth grade. Once they master that, they do well in high school and college. Third graders are still acquiring language skills and not growing.

Mr. Heredia was surprised that LEP eighth grade students do well in Math, because there is heavy language required by the AIMS tests in Math. In addition, he noted that reading is imbedded in all components of the AIMS test. Mr. Sheppard said that there is a difference in higher level of thinking skills and language. Computation is lower level and language is high level. That is where District students tend to have most problems. Mr. Heredia said that he, personally, used pattern as a way to find answers and he feels that AIMS relies more on structural patterns. Mr. Sheppard mentioned that the District did well in algebra. Patterns are understood, but when it comes to reading, that is where the District lacks skills. Mr. Heredia feels that if word problems were given to each person present, it would create stress. He added that it's harder to write the word 'addition' rather than just putting the plus sign.

The District is happy that students are moving toward their improvement goals. Mr. Sheppard reminded the Board that they are looking at last year's information and would receive current information when it becomes available. Mr. Omer said that he knows that the reading aspect is very important and glad to see the response by children to the TDS Reading Competition. It showed the children that reading for pleasure will help them improve their skills.

Mrs. Bobbitt said that Dr. Geyer purchased dictionaries on behalf of Somerton Rotary to District third graders to encourage vocabulary improvement and hopes to continue every year. A presentation with media coverage was held at Desert Sonora Elementary.

### **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.	Afable, Cecilia	Substitute Cafeteria Monitor, Tierra Del Sol Elementary
3.1.b.	Campos, Guadalupe	Cafeteria Monitor, Tierra Del Sol Elementary
3.1.c.	Gutierrez, Maria	Cafeteria Monitor, Tierra Del Sol Elementary
3.1.d.	Lopez, Maria de Lourdes	Cafeteria Monitor, Tierra Del Sol Elementary
3.1.e.	Quiñones, Lorena	Substitute Cafeteria Monitor
3.1.f.	Duarte, Alejandra	Speech Assistant, Special Programs
3.1.g.	Howard, Jim	School Psychologist, District
3.1.h.	McGrew, Susana	Substitute Worker, Food Service
3.1.i.	Quintana, Olivia	Parent/Community Liaison, Tierra Del Sol Elementary
3.1.j.	Rodriguez, Lydia	Newcomer Teacher, Tierra Del Sol Elementary

##### **3.2 RESIGNATION**

3.2.a.	Figueroa, Thebon	Teacher, Desert Sonora Elementary
3.2.b.	Stapleton, Pat	Custodian, Somerton Middle School

##### **3.3 RETIREMENT**

3.3.a.	Clark-Tuttle, Judith	Teacher, Somerton Middle School
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##### **3.4 FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE**

3.4.a.	Millhouse, Dennis	Teacher, Somerton Middle School
3.4.b.	Woolfolk, Alma	Instructional Assistant, Tierra Del Sol Elementary
3.4.c.	Zavala, Leticia	Instructional Assistant, Somerton Middle School

##### **3.5 ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS**

3.5.a.	Almanza, Olga	Tutor, PLEASES Program, Special Programs
3.5.b.	Attaway, Jody	School Psychologist, District

##### **3.6 STIPENDS**

3.6.a.	Garcia, Gustavo	Student Supervisor, Somerton Middle School
3.6.b.	Phar, Siobhan	Orchestra Instructor, Somerton Middle School
3.6.c.	Pottinger, David	Coach, Somerton Middle School

##### **MOVE Training, Special Programs Staff**

3.6.d.	Amador, Maritza	3.6.h.	DeLaCruz, Ruben	3.6.l.	Gonzalez, Maria
3.6.e.	Arriola, Maricela	3.6.i.	DeLa Fuente, Alberto	3.6.m.	Peralta, Miriam
3.6.f.	Bonilla, Nora	3.6.j.	Duarte, Connie	3.6.n.	Villarreal, Claudia
3.6.g.	Carlos, Flor	3.6.k.	Felix, Alicia	3.6.o.	Villarreal, Maria

##### **Counseling Curriculum Committee, Special Programs Staff**

3.6.p.	Bastin, Candice	3.6.r.	Martinez, Maria	3.6.t.	Weissenberg, Patty
3.6.q.	Joanicot, Eduviges	3.6.s.	McDonald, Heidi		

Mrs. Bobbitt presented the Consent Agenda Items for consideration and approval by the Board. Mr . Phillips entertained a Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items as submitted.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer moved to approve Items 3.1 through 3.6., Mr . Heredia seconded, Motion carried.

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

**Mrs. Bobbitt**

**Action**

##### **4.01. Approval and Signing of Vouchers**

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that these are exact amounts as information to Board to recognize their signature of approved prior to this meeting.

Accounts Payable #1036	Actual Amount	\$37,508.34	
Accounts Payable #1037	Actual Amount	\$31,445.45	
Accounts Payable #1038	Actual Amount	\$183,247.34	
Pay Period 17 - Voucher#14	Actual Amount	\$318,279.02	01/26/02 to 02/08/02
Pay Period 17 - Voucher #15	Actual Amount	\$30,588.17	
Pay Period 18 - Voucher #16	Actual Amount	\$317,576.78	02/09/02 to 02/22/02
Pay Period 17 - Voucher #17	Actual Amount	\$29,053.69	

##### **4.02. Acceptance of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

##### **4.03. Acceptance of Single Audit Report Package**

##### **4.04. Acceptance of Uniform System of Financial Record (USFR) Compliance Report**

##### **4.05. Acceptance of Audit Committee Letter**

Mrs. Bobbitt introduced Ms. Witmer. Ms. Witmer presented Items 4.02-4.05 for the Board's Acceptance. Ms. Witmer mentioned that Page 9 shows findings of the Annual Financial Report with each item listed specifically. Page 22 shows the Corrected Action Plan for each finding. Some are corrected and some are not. This is because years are overlapping. If there were a finding on Student Activity, then it would show no correction. The Financial Comprehensive Annual Financial Report complies with all information and shows ten years of tax history. The data shows enrollment for past years, principal tax payers in Someroton, as well as bonded indebtedness. These reports are compiled and submitted to ASBA and the Federal government to determine whether we receive capital monies yearly. Ms. Witmer mentioned that the plaques behind the Board note that we've met those goals for quite a few years in a row.

Mr. Heredia asked who compiled information. Ms. Witmer said the auditors do. Mrs. Bobbitt mentioned that Ms. Witmer has been modest in her version, because the award has been received every year Ms. Witmer has been in charge of these reports. Mrs. Bobbitt said she is very happy with Ms. Witmer's cross training of Business Office staff. There had been problems in the past, when the responsible staff person was absent, and the only person that knew those procedures to meet critical timelines, such as payroll. Now all Business Office staff are able to take over, should the need arise. This year's audit was excellent. Mrs. Bobbitt commended Ms. Witmer's staff for a great job.

Mrs. Bobbitt said that Items 4.02-4.05 only need acceptance and could be moved on as one item.

**MOTION:** Mr?? moved to accept 4.02 to 4.05 as submitted, Mr?? seconded, Motion carried.

##### **4.06. Acceptance of Maryland Book Donation to Somerton Middle School**

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that a teacher at SMS received books from a former principal in Maryland.

**MOTION:** Mr. Heredia moved to accept the Maryland Book Donation to Somerton Middle School, Mr. Omer seconded, Motion carried.

#### **4.07. *Approval of Somerton Middle School Concert Band Field Trip to Disneyland***

Mrs. Bobbitt introduced Mrs. Phar, who explained that the students will have to have many fundraisers to earn enough money for their trip to Disneyland. She said that she told students that she doubted their being able to raise that much money, but wanted to give them the chance to try. The students would take part of a festival at Disneyland with other junior highs and middle school bands from around the country. The company is used as the school's advisor for the first tour and they are able to use the company's bus.

Mr. Phillips asked for the amount. Mrs. Phar said \$10,000 for 30 people for four days, which is included in the paperwork the Board received. Students have raised about \$3,000. Mrs. Phar has alternative use for the money, if the students aren't able to raise the full amount. The students are currently performing music that is high school level.

Mrs. Bobbitt asked the Board for approval.

**MOTION:** Mr. Heredia moved to approve Somerton Middle School's Concert Band's Field Trip to Disneyland as submitted, Mr. Omer seconded, Motion carried.

#### **4.08. *Approval of School Starting and Ending Times/Professional Day***

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that this item came about from Meet/Confer discussions. Starting time for all teachers is different for Middle School staff. Direct instructional time and professional days had to be considered. Calculations show 178 days, which is one day more than required. In the past, we have closed Orange Grove Elementary when their well was out of service, and other days at other locations during a situation when a hurricane came through the area. The day was needed to clean up after the storm.

The information the Board received shows the number of minutes that are instructional time and that there is an hour of turn around time in the morning and thirty minutes in the afternoon for busses. SEA representatives said they wanted to keep the 7:25 a.m. time for the Middle School because parents and the community are used to it. They thought that maybe a little later time, such as 7:35 would be better. This may help with picking up elementary students. The preference for a start time for elementary students is 8:15 a.m., but they would not be picked up on time in the afternoon.

The other factors that was looked at, is staff's commute time from Yuma. Many teachers have their own children to drop off at sitters or schools. In addition, Desert Sonora has music programs before school and Tierra Del Sol is working before and after school for student tutoring. Dr. Reed also had a program for sponsoring students to read. After considering all these issues, the Meet and Confer Team thought 7:25 to 2:35 would allow more time for afterschool programs, tutoring and sports as needed. They examined all options so it would be equitable for all.

**MOTION:** Mr. Omer moved to approve the School Starting and Ending Times/Professional Day as stated by Mrs. Bobbitt, Mr. Heredia seconded, Motion carried.

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that she will have a meeting with the Meet and Confer Team to explain what was discussed in order to have information for staff and the Board.

#### **4.09. Approval to Issue RFP for Facility Maintenance Service**

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that in 2000 the District looked at long range capital plan for future needs. She turned the floor over to Mr. Klein to explain advantages and disadvantages found.

Mr. Klein explained that past custodial, maintenance, groundskeepers had work time changed because supervision became a problem. Staff was changed to days and principals are responsible, which may take too much time for principals. Now with new facilities, he said there is a concern that facilities are not being maintained in the condition we would like.

Mr. Klein suggested issuing an RFP for vendors to show what they could do to alleviate some of the concerns the District has in this regard. He added that this is the same type of arrangement the District has with Sodexho for food services. This would prove interesting because the information received from these companies would be beneficial for the District, whether they choose to use one of these services or not.

**MOTION:** Mr. Heredia moved to deny Approval to Issue RFP for Facility Maintenance Service, Mr. Omer seconded. Discussion followed.

Mr. Heredia said that he feels that Sodexho has done a good job and that staff's first loyalty should be to school and community. This District has made a commitment to staff because they remain District staff. He wondered if this would be the case if another company were to come to address this area. Mr. Omer said he feels this is would be the same as privatization. He said that if another company were to hire, he would worry about the current staff not being re-hired.

Mrs. Bobbitt assured the Board that, as with Sodexho, we would emphasize District staff continueing as District staff. The RFP would give the Board and District an idea of where current services are and would analyze options to be considered. It wouldn't mean we would do away with current staff.

Mr. Heredia said that he didn't believe it was the direction the District should go nor the message they want to send at this point. He added that it is his personal opinion that this type of step erodes commitment to staff, staff loses identity and loyalty. He used Mr. Anaya, a long-time custodian with the District as an example, he said that people like Mr. Anaya, a long-time custodian with the District, works and earns a wage to support his family and they continue here because they are loyal to the community and District. Mr. Omer said that if there is a problem with cost, savings or if staff are not performing their duties as assigned, then that may need to be addressed or maybe they need to be given different ways to perform their duties so they can do their job better. He added that if a consultant is brought in, it would mean their working for their company and not being as loyal to the District or have the same pride of ownership to Somerton District.

Mr. Phillips said he wasn't sure what led to this recommendation and agreed with the others. Mrs. Bobbitt said it was to get information and that the intent was not to let any employees go.

Mr. Phillips moved to deny Approval to Issue RFP for Facility Maintenance Service.

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

#### **4.10. Approval to Appoint Community Capital Committee**

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that the Capital Facility Plan improvements are not paid for the State Facilities Board (SFB). Specifically she mentioned the Title I/Migrant, Special Services/Psychologist's offices which were the boys/girls locker rooms. They have had invasion of mice and other pests. The GED/Family Literacy program are conducting three classes while GED testing is being administered, which is not the optimal testing environment. Transportation is in an older modular building, their floors are shored up to keep staff from falling through. Mrs. Bobbitt spoke to Brian Lundberg in regard to bond structures and options for the District. A public override is needed in order to build a complex that could hold the offices previously mentioned as well as a bus maintenance area and maintenance shop for the District.

Mrs. Bobbitt recommended the Board to appoint a committee from the community that would represent groups and entities

Would like Board to officially appoint a committee from community to represent groups, entities to look at situations possibly get tours and look at options steady to recommend something to board. What financial implications do we have. Two preschool classes are located next to WACOG, which was kinder classes for Somerton Primary, SFB will not build those buildings for us. They are considered invisible space and they will not maintain them. Asking for approval to establish that committee and have discussion of broader range of community members and if feasible to bring recommendation to board. We would like two members of Board to have ongoing discussion. We would have to post members meeting, etc. It is like Focus groups that the city had. This will give idea of whether this is priority or not from the community's standpoint. If we don't do something like this we are. District Office is in good shape, Title one and special services, are worse buildings. These buildings would be torn down to use as DSS playground space.

Mr. Phillips asked for questions or comments of Board. Mr. Heredia asked if a November election would have to be called June or July so that the language would be ready for the ballot.

Mr. Omer is surprised with the condition of the buildings. Mrs. Bobbitt said Brian has done extensive research. If there was an override, we would want to do it so it didn't impact our tax rate. They wanted to know if this would be something that there would be options to structure so that it wouldn't be a negative impact on the public or not. Mrs. Howerton's concerns, have GED testing going on, Family Literacy in adjoining room. One bathroom/sink and group has to go in to that room, which is a distraction to test takers. Holding group classes later, because the GED room is locked but makes it difficult for people to use restroom, etc. Small children come across through grass, they have to come across and there are potholes, sometimes there are ants, coming that distance, is not very suitable for little children. Phone system is now a cell phone that teachers can't hear calls. Needs serious attention.

Mr. Omer said how dare they say PS schools/adults are not on SFB important. Mr. Phillips said that they need to put a good look at this. So that they'll know what direction to take in the future. Mr. Heredia said you will encounter the vocal tax payers, it's good to know that the school will be looking at these other revenues, because it will be a p/r, because there is a great support from the community of voters. In Prop 301 and 203, there are those vocal voters that will bring forward their ideas.

Mrs. Bobbitt said that we need to be cognizant of those who will be able to give their Mr. Omer



wanted to know if there was a ball park amount. So, one of the committees goals is to see what they're going for. Mrs. Bobbitt said that if it's approved to appoint a committee, you would look at all the issues that the SFB won't look at. They would have to prioritize what they want and then have the physical impact to translate out of our taxpayers. If we contact the city, they have been looking at additional revenue sources. They may have information that would be important. Mrs. Bobbitt knows that it is not appropriate to isolate to school issue but we must take each part. Mr. Heredia said he would be happy to serve on the committee. Mr. Omer also, Mr. Phillips, also. Mr. Omer asked if the list is all inclusive. Just an idea for the Board. There would be more brainstorming.

Mr. Phillips have consensus for approval and Mr. Heredia and Mr. Omer were in agreement to serve on the committee. Executive Session to deal with regular session, Rep Carruthers on Saturday briefly, they would come out of regular session and dealing with more issues on Flores case and gaming issues that the gov wants to move forward on. It was such a blood bath to lift cap off on teachers' 301 comes. If her are suggestions from the Board would be .

MR. Phillips thanked for coming. 7:57 p.m.

**MOTION:** Mr moved to approve to Appoint Community Capital Committee as submitted, Mr seconded, Motion carried.

#### **4.11. Adoption of "Reading is Freedom" Literacy Week Proclamation**

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that MOVED TO FRONT

**MOTION:** Mr moved to adopt "Reading is Freedom" Literacy Week Proclamation as submitted, Mr seconded, Motion carried.

### **5. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mr. Phillips**

**Action**

#### **A.R.S. §38-431.03 A.5 Executive Session**

Discussion or consultations with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations with employee organizations regarding the salaries, salary schedules or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of employees of the public body.

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion to go in to Executive Session.

**MOTION:** Mr moved to go in to Executive Session , Mr seconded, Motion carried. The Board went in to Executive Session at p.m.

Mr. Phillips entertained a Motion to move back in to Regular Session.

**MOTION:** Mr moved to move back in to Regular Session, Mr seconded, Motion carried. The Board returned to Regular Session at p.m.

### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Phillips entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr so moved, Mr seconded, Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Board President or Clerk's Signature

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Date