MINUTES

Governing Board Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2003
6:00 p.m.
Regular Governing Board Meeting

Governing Board Room
215 North Carlisle Avenue
Somerton, Arizona

Attending Board	Leticia Yepez	Martha Camacho	J. Scott Omer
Absent Board	Dale Phillips	Luis Heredia	
Attending Public	Jeanie Volpe	Celine Fernández	Mike Slawinski
	Gerald Streit	Jerry Cabrera	Bob Cassidy
	Cathy Witmer	Duane Sheppard	Bob Klein
	Veronica Lopez	Maureen Irr	Elizabeth Merino
	George Brick	Bill Rhodes	Maria P.Vasquez
	Merton Glass (7:05 p.m.)	Judith Bobbitt	Rose Arévalo

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Mr. Omer called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

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

Mr. Omer led the Pledge.

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

None submitted

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

Regular and Executive Session -- August 14, 2003

Mr. Omer explained that Executive Session Minutes are given to the Board separate from the Board Packet and is shred after review. Mr. Omer entertained a Motion to approve Minutes as submitted.

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

1.e. Call for Executive Session **Mr. Omer** **Action**

Mr. Omer explained that Executive Session will be held at the end of the meeting.

2. REPORTS

2.a. Superintendent's Report **Mrs. Bobbitt** **Information**

- Board Key Works -- Student Achievement
- Law Conference

Mrs. Bobbitt referred to the ELL Handbook Jeanie Volpe prepared and the PDLA pamphlet for the Board to review. The ELL Handbook is a guide for teachers of the criteria and objectives to be written. Mrs. Bobbitt serves on a PDLA committee that works on getting Professional Development opportunities to state personnel.

Mrs. Bobbitt and Mrs. Yepez attended Arizona School Boards Association's Law Conference. They agreed that the new law on reporting child abuse was most prevalent. In the past, reports were made to a supervisor or school nurse. At that point, it was never clear whether follow up was made to proper authorities.

The new law requires a person to report the slightest inappropriate behavior or even rumors of inappropriate behavior by staff. If no report is made, the person could be liable. In the past, the District could investigate, now the Police investigates.

Mr. Omer has a relative who is a Police Detective and has done Child Abuse presentations to Yuma schools. Mr. Omer will see if he is willing to present here. Mrs. Bobbitt will follow up to make sure Somerton Police has procedure in place.

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

Mrs. Camacho said that staff reports mentioned preparation for executing the reading grant. She wanted to know when staff would be delivering what is stated in the reading grant. Mrs. Lopez and Mrs. Vasquez explained that their staff implemented reading incentives, flexible grouping according to levels, and specific centers. Teachers are excited about implementation and using their instructional assistants to work with groups. Teachers are also willing to learn more to improve existing procedures.

Miss Fernández explained that she and the DSS Reading Coach review and observe classes to make sure lessons are focused on the Eight Step Process. Teachers receive an observation sheet with suggestions. Miss Fernández said that the reading text is so thorough that they have to sort through in order to plan for what lessons will be taught. Even veteran teachers are excited about the text being used.

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

Mrs. Yepez commended Mrs. Lopez for the presentation made at TDS that was attended by about 200 people. Mr. Omer commended staff for the challenges met over the past few years with implementation of new programs and the marked improvement students are showing. Mrs. Bobbitt also commended staff and principals for the information gathered showing student gains.

2.d. AIMS Results Presentation **Mr. Sheppard/Mrs. Bobbitt** **Information**

Mrs. Bobbitt began her presentation regarding No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Classifications or the labels used by the state are more comprehensive due to Arizona Learns Initiative. "Under Improvement" is now "Under Performing". The list of new terms will be distributed in October.

The time line for submission of improvement plans and implementation has changed to a full year. Within a two year period the classification must move to the next level. At the third consecutive year, a state team reviews and confirms accuracy of information. The team reviews the implementation plan to see if the classification should change. A fourth year could be allowed with compelling evidence that out of compliance issues needed to be worked on. Mrs. Bobbitt and other Arizona superintendents have had problems accessing the state's web site. Despite this problem, she was happy to report that Somerton District is a district of choice and complying with requirements.

The District has emphasized Language, Reading and Math with Stanford 9 testing because of the Eight Step Process. Grades have shown marked improvement throughout the District, however, not as rapidly as the District hoped. NCLB has

shifted the emphasis from Stanford 9 to AIMS results. Mrs. Bobbitt would like each principal to highlight their school's achievement.

The Board Meetings will be held at each school, enabling principals to present their information on their campus. Principals are encouraged to share strategies with their peers to assist with faster improvement at other sites. The Board agreed they want to know what strategies are being used for specific subjects or to bring up scores. The District has been consistent in making improvement. Mrs. Lopez volunteered to host October's Board Meeting at TDS, he will present their progress.

Mr. Sheppard presented District scores. He mentioned that he and his family played parts in a reenactment of the Boston Tea Party this summer. The term 'hazah' was used as a celebration. The District had many hazah's in student achievement. District scores were compared to other schools in Yuma County and throughout the state of Arizona

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.	Arriola, Maricela	Instructional Assistant, Tierra del Sol Elementary
3.1.b.	Macedo, Alan	Instructional Assistant, Somerton Middle School
3.1.c.	Mitchell, Virginia	Office Specialist, District Office
3.1.d.	Solis, Ruby	Instructional Assistant, Tierra Del Sol Elementary
3.1.e.	Valenzuela, Elizabeth	Office Assistant, Special Programs Office

- **COE Student Workers**

3.1.f.	Bejarano, Sylvia	Special Programs Office
3.1.g.	Celaya, Francisca	Desert Sonora Elementary
3.1.h.	Miranda, Celeste	Tierra del Sol Elementary
3.1.i.	Saenz, Maribel	Somerton Middle School
3.1.j.	Sandoval, Princessa	Somerton Middle School

- **Cafeteria Monitors, District**

3.1.k.	Covarrubias, Yolanda	**3.1.n**.	Pichardo, Maria
3.1.l.	Granados, Claudia	**3.1.o**.	Rubio, Maria
~~**3.1.m**.~~	~~Lastra, Cecilia~~		

- **Adult Education Program Consortium**

3.1.p.	Klotz, Melany	**3.1.r**.	Montaño, Jose Luis
3.1.q.	LaMarque, Marina	**3.1.s**.	Montaño, Maria

3.2 RESIGNATIONS / RETIREMENTS

3.2.a.	Brown, Carol	Office Specialist, District
3.2.b.	Gonzalez, Alejandrina	Office Assistant, Special Programs Office
3.2.c.	Pierson, Claudine	Accounting Specialist, Business Office

3.3 SUBSTITUTES

- **Classroom**

3.3.a.	Caro, Alfredo	**3.3.c**.	Gonzalez, Marta
3.3.b.	Lupercio, Araceli	**3.3.d**.	Sanchez, Anabel

3.3.e.	Castro, Guadalupe	Food Service
3.3.f.	Salas, Adriana	Long Term Classroom, Tierra del Sol Elementary
3.3.g.	McDonald, Stephanie	Nurse, District

3.4 CREDIT FOR EDUCATIONAL COURSE WORK AND INCREASE IN SALARY

3.4.a. Chávez, Matt
3.4.b. Dinwiddie, Lisa
3.4.c. Fermanis, Chris
3.4.d. Gue, Raffaella
3.4.e. Herrera, Margarita
3.4.f. Llanes, Yvonne
3.4.g. Macedo, Alan
3.4.h. Magaña, Sandra
3.4.i. Moreno, Natalia
3.4.j. Piché, Shannon
3.4.k. Robles, Beatriz
3.4.l. Rodriguez, Lydia
3.4.m. Villarreal, Claudia

3.5 ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENT

3.5.a.	Diaz, Maria	Office Assistant, Special Programs
3.5.a.	Vasquez, Mary	Office Specialist, Special Programs
3.5.a.	Villegas, Maria	Office Assistant, Special Programs
3.5.a.	Rubio, Emma	Health Assistant, Tierra del Sol Elementary
3.5.a.	Phillips, Cheryl	Music Instructor, Tierra del Sol Elementary

3.6 REQUEST FOR FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE (FMLA)

3.6.a.	Lugo, Amelia	Instructional Assistant, Desert Sonora Elementary
3.6.b.	Reynoso, Bertha	Bus Driver, Transportation Department

3.7 CHANGE IN ASSIGNMENT

3.7.a.	Chavira, Mary	Office Assistant, Federal Programs Department

3.8 RECOGNITION OF EXPERIENCE

3.8.a.	Ashmore, William	Teacher, Somerton Middle School

Mrs. Bobbitt asked to withdraw Item 3.1.m., that name was submitted incorrectly. Mrs. Lopez noted that Item 3.1.b. works at OGS not TDS.

Mr. Omer entertained a Motion to approve with noted changes.

MOTION: Mrs. Yepez so moved, Mrs. Camacho seconded. Mrs. Camacho asked about the Additional Assignment for Health Assistant and Nurse. Mr. Klein explained that the Health Aide is used when nurses are absent and because we have not found a new nurse for Tierra Del Sol. Mrs. Stephanie McDonald, a Registered Nurse, covers on a part time basis, when she has time. Motion carried.

4. BUSINESS AND FINANCE — Mrs. Bobbitt — Action

4.01. Signing of Vouchers
4.02. Acceptance of Student Activity Information

Mrs. Bobbitt recommended 4.01 and 4.02 for approval.

Mr. Omer entertained a Motion to approve.

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

4.03. Approval of 2003-04 Revenue Budget

Mrs. Bobbitt recommended 2003-04 Revenue Budget as submitted. Mrs. Witmer went over the worksheet and noted that the primary tax rate did not increase. The secondary tax rate only increased by eighty cents, when they had predicted it would go up to one dollar. The total tax rate is 5.3984.

Mr. Omer entertained a Motion to approve the 2003-2004 Revenue Budget as submitted.

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

4.04. Approval of Agreement with Secretaria de Educación Pública

Mrs. Bobbitt withdrew this Item because the Secretaria de Educación Pública did not submit their proposal as expected. This item may be on a future agenda.

4.05. First Reading of Policy Advisories:

- #224: CFD -- School-Based Management
- #225: DIE-R -- Audits/Financial Monitoring
- #226: GBI -- Staff Participation in Political Activities
- #227: GCF -- Professional Staff Hiring
  GCFC -- Professional Staff Certification and Credentialing
- #228: GCO -- Evaluation of Professional Staff Members
  GCO-R -- Evaluation of Professional Staff Members
- #229: JQ -- Student Fees, Fines, and Charges
  JQ-R -- Student Fees, Fines, and Charges
- #230: IHAMB -- Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

Mrs. Bobbitt submitted the Policy Advisories for review and noted that they would be posted at schools for review and revision as appropriate.

Mr. Omer entertained a Motion to approve the First Reading.

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

4.06. Adoption of 2004 Capital Plan and Authorization for the Superintendent to Transmit Same to School Facilities Board

Mrs. Bobbitt submitted Item 4.06 for approval. Mr. Klein added that the District continues to submit requests to the SFB and they approve request as they see fit. The District will complete deficiency projects in November or December. District projections have been within two or three numbers. Projections show enrollment increasing by fifty percent in seven years.

Mr. Omer entertained a Motion to approve the 2004 Capital Plan and to Authorize the Superintendent to Transmit Same to School Facilities Board.

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

4.07. Approval of Somerton Education Association to be the Certified Staff Representative for Meet and Confer

4.08. Appoint Judith Bobbitt, Duane Sheppard as Representative for Board Team

Mrs. Bobbitt explained that included in this group are school psychologists, speech pathologists, and counselors. SEA was commended for their professionalism in dissemination of information.

Mr. Omer asked that the Motion include both Items 4.07 and 4.08.

MOTION: Mrs. Camacho so moved, Mrs. Yepez seconded. The Board was happy to hear positive comments from staff in regard to SEA and their involvement in Meet and Confer. Mr. Rhodes added that SEA's involvement in District and state meetings affords SEA with current information. Mr. Rhodes, Mrs. Camacho, Mrs. Witmer and Mrs. Bobbitt will be attending the Governor's Summit in Phoenix. Motion carried.

4.09. Discussion and Possible Action of Request for An Easement on Orange Grove School Property

Mrs. Bobbitt and Mr. Klein attended a Yuma County Board of Supervisor's meeting to discuss an access road near the proposed Orange Grove park. Because the property owners own a large parcel of property adjacent to the school's, they would have several options to access their property. The Board of Supervisors didn't feel more could be done.

Mr. Omer asked whether title searches had been done to change easements. Mrs. Bobbitt said no such document existed. Mr. Omer felt that it would be inconvenient for the District to build a fence to access its property.

Mrs. Bobbitt recommended the Board deny the request for an access road and putting up a fence around the five acres as requested.

Mr. Omer entertained a Motion to approve Mrs. Bobbitt's recommendation.

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

4.10. Authorize Board President to Recommend District's Participation in Attendance Boundary Discussions with YUHS District

Mrs. Bobbitt noted the letter submitted by Mr. Heredia for the Board's review. In past years, it was proposed that Somerton and Gadsden students attend a high school as south Yuma County residents. It was inevitable that an Office of Civil Rights report would be filed. In light of Cibola's overcrowding, the attendance boundary discussions have begun again and the District would like to be included so all alternatives are reviewed.

The Board suggested a few grammatical changes and the use of "we request that . . . in the second paragraph.

Mr. Omer entertained a Motion to approve Item 4.10 after revision.

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

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION **Mr. Omer** **Action**

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.

A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A.7) Executive Sessions
Discussions or consultations with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of real property .

Mr. Omer entertained a Motion to move in to Executive Session.

MOTION: Mrs. Camacho so moved, Mrs. Yepez seconded. Motion carried. The Board went in to Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

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

MOTION: Mrs. Camacho so moved, Mrs. Yepez seconded. Motion carried. The Board returned to Regular Session at 8:37 p.m.

5. ***ADJOURNMENT***

Mr. Omer entertained a Motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mrs. Camacho so moved, Mrs. Yepez seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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Signature of Board President/Clerk Date