

## APACHE JUNCTION UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43

### Governing Board

#### Minutes of Regular Meeting held December 12, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Apache Junction Unified School District #43 was called to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Apache Junction Unified School District Board Room, 1575 W. Southern Avenue, Apache Junction, AZ. President Ehrlich led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members in attendance were Jodi Ehrlich, Dena Kimble, Cami Garcia, Christa Rizzi, and Michael Weaver.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kimble and seconded by Mrs. Rizzi to approve the amended agenda. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rizzi and seconded by Mrs. Kimble to approve the December 12, 2017, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

#### Governing Board Report:

Mrs. Ehrlich and other Board members attended the legislative session a couple weeks ago and tomorrow we have a three-day conference with the ASBA and I am excited about that.

Last week, Mrs. Garcia was out at the crosswalk with Dr. Anderson and they observed a number of safety issues such as the speed limit. We, along with members of the city, will be working on correcting some problems they observed. Mrs. Garcia got to see Coach Henry received an award after 40 years of service to our kids, the football team had a banquet with a lot of our players receiving awards and many of them are being looked at for college scholarships.

Mr. Weaver had a lot of activity with the service club at the high school. We have a pancake breakfast coming up. The money all goes to scholarships for students. They also have a music show at the PAC and all that money will go to handicapped camp in the White Mountains.

Mr. Weaver also had an opportunity to visit our pre-school and was extremely impressed as to the way it was run.

Superintendent Report: A few weeks ago we had a middle school student hit in the crosswalk which was eye opening for all of us. I and Ms. Garcia went out on Monday and crossed about 35 kids and there were about 50 cars speeding through that area. I spent the entire week out there and worked with Bryant, and the City Council, and the Chief of Police and we ended up arranging for the Mountain Rangers to go out there and help out until it gets light again. With the way that shadows are, and the dark clothing, and with the drivers not observing the speed limit, we are concerned with the kids getting to school safely. Even after school we have kids at 4:00 or 4:30 p.m. running across the road to get snacks or slurpies who are not using the crosswalk. I see cars stopping and screeching right outside my window. We are not getting kids to change their behavior concerning safety. Apache Junction was recognized at the City Council last week for the great work Sgt. Harshman is doing with the DARE program. Lastly, is our Strategic Plan is moving forward. We had a focus group meeting last week and we had a number of people who came in to share some of the things they would like us to see within the district over the next several years. We have more of those coming up so if you receive an e-mail with a survey please respond. We need all the input we can get from staff and students. We need to create a three to five year plan that will help Apache Junction to be one of the districts that services kids at all levels.

Administrators Report: Mrs. Ehrlich thanked administrators for their reports.

Staff/Student Recognition:

The District recognized its students and employees-of- the-month for November, commending them for their hard work. Dr. Anderson introduced Mrs. Vicky Drennan, Director of Transportation. Mrs. Drennan recognized Classified Employee-of-the Month, Jean Wohlfield, and presented her with a plaque for doing an outstanding job.

Students-of-the-Month presentations were made by school principals: Pat Smith, Chad Cantrell, NatalieClement, Courtney Castelhana, and Larry LaPrise. Mr. Dennis Mack of the Elks Lodge, and Mr. Strubble from the Kiwanis provided awards. DVES: Aralyn Brennan and Joseph Orrantia; FPES: Evelyn Validvia and Levi Wortman; PTES: Carlos Garcia Gomez and Kaylynn Mohn; CCJH: Elisabeth Mizell and Matthew Anzaldua Peralta; and AJHS: Bryan Meinecke and Cortny Middleton.

**Public Comment:** Andrea Sims – Item 8-3 (2018-19 Calendar)  
1060 W. Tepee St., Apache Junction, AZ

○ Consent Agenda: (*documents are available during office hours*)

A motion was made by Mr. Rizzi and seconded by Mrs. Kimble to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

- Personnel Action – attached
- Gifts and Donations as of November 2017
- Student Activities Accounts and Governing Board Budget Report
- AJHS out-of-state Travel

AJHS Student Council highlighted what they have done this year. The student council have completed the following community projects:

- Paint-a-thon
- Thanksgiving and Christmas adopt-a-family
- Canned food drive
- Food Bank
- Feed my Starving Children
- Blood Drives
- Make-A-Wish
- Hike for Hope

They have also supported some school events as follows:

- Painted the cafeteria, the north gym, the curbs, weight room
- Spirit weeks
- Leadership Lock-ins
- Elementary & Junior High school training
- Assemblies
- Homecoming/Prom/Tailgates
- Student Sections
- Talent Show
- Best Buddy Parties
- Fund fireworks for homecoming and graduation

Their future plan activities for the year are casual dance, prom, Mr. Prospector, and teacher appreciation.

Tax Credit information: Mr. Bryant Powell, AJ City manager said that the Mayor, Mr. Jeff Serdy joined with the mayors of Gilbert, Mesa, and Queen Creek to encourage and announce that December is the Arizona Tax Credit awareness month. Collectively we encourage every citizen to lean about the tax credit for schools. Their contribution will help the children of our community and allow for a dollar-for-dollar reduction of your state tax liability. We would appreciate if you would help us spread the word about this tax credit opportunity. I appreciate that one of your board members brought this to our attention. We

hadn't been included in the in the past and it gave us the opportunity to join with our neighboring cities in their effort.

2018-2019 Calendar Presentation: Ms. Rachel Mangum, Ms. Nichole Smith, and Mr. Jason Digos showed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2018-2019 calendar. The committee consists of 39 people. They met six times from September 24 through December 11, 2017. The committee has three guiding principles which are: good for kids, good for the organization-AJUSD, and good for the community. There are three objectives on the recommendation. It should align with all three guiding principles, present two calendars (a four-day and a five-day calendar) and once the consensus is reached, the calendar recommendation should include:

- ✓ Number of school days and instructional minutes
- ✓ Teacher Professional Development
- ✓ District and community supports
- ✓ Start date preference
- ✓ Start time preference

The committee presented information about understanding our individual interest versus collective interest such as:

- Bell Schedule
  - School start times after 7:15 a.m.
  - School end times before 4:00 p.m.
- Instructional Day
  - Student learning and retention
  - Student achievement results
  - Instructional minutes
  - Special area classes/electives
- Communication
  - Parent Teacher Conferences for elementary, junior high, and high school
- Professional Development/Collaboration Opportunities for teacher should be embedded within the teachers' contract or within the school day
- Before/After School/Extended Breaks
  - Extended learning opportunities
  - Community education classes/activities
  - Child care
  - Family time
- Financial Implications
  - Fiscally responsible
  - Money focused on students and their learning
  - Transportation

The committee was presented different data/information presentations such as five-year financial costs (state and federal); community factors such as inflow/outflow workforce, demographics and housing estimates, economic characteristics/median household income; student achievement; district data such as student attendance, discipline, enrollment, retention, teacher attendance, teacher mobility, neighboring district data, calendars, and juvenile offender data from 2012-2016.

The stakeholder's survey was sent out for former and current AJUSD families regarding the pros and cons between four-day and five-day school. The committee developed two, four-day and two, five-day schedules; and a traditional and modified year round.

Challenges with a four-day schedule:

- High School and Junior High Start Times - After 7:00 am
- Embedded Professional Development within the Teacher Contract
- Extended Learning Opportunities

- Parent / Teacher Conferences for Junior High

Possible solutions:

- add one week to the school calendar (Adds 33.13 hours / 2 wks 66.26 hours)
  - Allows for parent/teacher conferences
  - Allows for a shortened day
    - Start and end times can change (shorten the school day by 20-40 min)
    - Extended learning opportunities
- Friday - Extended learning opportunities

Challenges with a five-day schedule:

- Family Time

Possible Solutions

- Modified year-round schedule
  - 2 weeks Fall Break
  - 2 weeks Winter Break
  - 2 weeks Spring Break

This would require the district to offer an intercession for families.

- Title I intervention for at-risk students
- Enrichment (e.g., Science Camp, Robotics, Coding, Humanities)

The committee evaluated the calendars with the following factors in mind:

Bell Schedule

- School start times after 7:15 am
- School end times before 4:00 pm

Professional Development / Collaboration Opportunities for Teachers

- Embedded within the teachers contract
- Embedded within the school day

Instructional Day

- Student learning and retention
- Student achievement results
- Instructional minutes
- Special area classes / electives

Before / After School / Extended Breaks

- Extended learning opportunities
- Community Education classes / activities
- Child care
- Family time

Communication

- Parent Teacher Conferences
  - Elementary
  - Junior High
  - High School

Financial Implications

- Fiscally responsible
- Money focused on students and their learning
- Transportation

The Calendar Advisory Committee recommended a four-day traditional student academic calendar for the 2018-2019 school year.

- Specific items of District business: (as listed for consideration, may include various categorical areas as the business of the District necessitates Board discussion, deliberation, and action)
  - A. A motion was made by Mrs. Kimble and seconded by Mrs. Rizzi to approve the 2017-2018 Budget Revision #2. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.
  - B. A motion was made by Mrs. Kimble and seconded by Mrs. Rizzi to approve the Proposition 301 Plan. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

- C. A motion was made by Mrs. Kimble and seconded by Mrs. Rizzi to approve the Special Education stipends. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.
- D. A motion was made by Mrs. Kimble and seconded by Mrs. Garcia to approve Results-Based Funding in the amount of \$202,704.40. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Discussion: Mrs. Wallace wants us to narrow our focus for the ELA adoption and ensure that we get solid K-3 materials and then move our way up to the higher level. We want to get a full program for K-3 which we know is the foundation for improved learning so we would like to change our original proposal from K-6 to K-3 with the possibility of including 4<sup>th</sup> grade if the money allows it.

- E. A motion was made by Mrs. Kimble and seconded by Mrs. Garcia to approve Policy DKB-Salary Deduction and Policy KCD-Public Gifts/Donations to School. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.
- F. Per A.R.S.§431.03(A.1)-Personnel - A motion was made by Mrs. Kimble and seconded by Mrs. Rizzi to enter into an executive session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss the requested release from contract by certified employee, Michele Landis and discussion of Superintendent’s annual evaluation. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:05 pm

**G. Action on Recommendations:**

- 1) A motion was made by Mrs. Kimble and seconded by Mrs. Garcia to approve the requested release from contract by certified employee, Michele Landis with liquidated damages in the amount of \$2,500.00. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.
- 2) A motion was made by Mrs. Kimble and seconded by Mrs. Rizzi to approve the 2017-2018 Superintendent’s annual evaluation.

**Request for future agenda:**

- 1) Salary Advisory Committee presentation
- 2) Sale of Gold Canyon discussion
- 3) 2018-2019 Calendar discussion

At 8:30 p.m., Mrs. Kimble moved to adjourn the meeting; Mrs. Rizzi seconded the motion. Motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Edna Goff, Board Secretary  
January 9, 2018

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD:**

\_\_\_\_\_ President  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Vice-President  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Member  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Member  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Member