

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
WINSLOW UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
GOVERNING BOARD**

CALL TO ORDER: The special meeting of the Governing Board of Winslow Unified School District No. 1 was called to order by Mrs. Marilee Ervien, President, at 5:39 p.m., December 7, 2017, in the District Board Room, 800 Apache Avenue, Second Floor, in Winslow.

PRESENT: Mrs. Marilee Ervien
Mrs. Sharon Greenwood
Mr. Joey Hartnett
Mrs. Dodie Montoya

ABSENT: Mr. Allen Leonard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Mrs. Lomeli addressed the Board regarding procurement procedures. A bus was repaired a couple of years ago and recently more problems arose. The bus was taken back to the original vendor as it was believed that the current malfunction would be covered under the warranty for the 2015 repairs. It was determined that the current malfunction was not related to the previous repairs and was therefore not covered under any warranty. The vendor, Freightliner of Arizona, continued to do additional work to the bus and the cost has now exceeded \$12,000.00. It would not be feasible to tow the bus back and get three quotes in order to proceed with the work. She asked the Governing Board to grant an exception to the regular procurement procedures.

Mr. Hartnett made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Greenwood, to grant an exception to the regular procurement procedures for this instance of bus repairs. All members present voted "aye" and the motion carried.

B. Mrs. Mattox requested that the Board change the delayed start schedules for the high school and junior high school. Dr. Justin Hartman, WHS Principal, was called upon to explain the reason for the request. He said the school play is scheduled for this week and with benchmark testing also taking place, the extra time is needed. The request is that the delayed start scheduled for December 13 be cancelled. Mrs. Mattox added that this would apply to the junior high as well in order to facilitate transportation processes.

Mrs. Montoya made a motion to cancel the delayed start on December 13, 2017, for the high school and junior high school. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Ervien and carried with an affirmative vote from all members present.

- C. Mrs. Mattox presented information regarding a request to use school facilities. This request is from Stephen Garnett for the purpose of conducting a basketball clinic. She said the Board has been given the relevant documents and it is important that we follow the policies of the Board.

Mrs. Greenwood made a motion and Mr. Hartnett seconded to approve the request. The Board discussed this matter. The hazing incident was nearly 18 years ago and Mrs. Mattox said that no community concerns have been relayed to her.

Mrs. Montoya read a statement regarding the hazing incident, stating how severe a matter it was. It was a very difficult time for the Board, the District, the community and, of course, the victims and their families.

Mrs. Mattox said Mr. Garnett's clinic was a for profit event and, if approved, he will be required to pay the applicable use fee and provide the required insurance coverage. He has not done this yet. She understands that there are a lot of strong feelings regarding this matter and has given it a lot of consideration, but we must be consistent in our application of policy. She added that the principals are all very supportive of Mr. Garnett. He is a family man and is coaching now and has the necessary credentials to do that.

Mr. Summerville said that while he was not here at the time, he heard about the hazing incident, and said this matter can serve as a reminder that we can never let something like that happen again.

After further discussion, Mrs. Ervien called for a vote. Mrs. Ervien, Mrs. Greenwood and Mr. Hartnett voted "aye" and Mrs. Montoya voted "no" to approve Stephen Garnett's request to use school facilities. The motion carried 3 to 1.

WORK STUDY
SESSION:

Mrs. Mattox addressed the Board regarding budget and staffing plans for next year. She distributed documents regarding enrollment and funding related to staffing categories. In order to reduce costs in response to reduced funding, she asked each of the principals to come up with a plan to reduce their employee budget by 10%. It is hoped that this matter can be solved through regular yearly attrition and restructuring, and that remaining employees can be retained.

Each principal presented information and answered questions regarding the plan for their individual site. They discussed class sizes, attrition, grants, retention, classroom aides, core classes, electives, sharing teachers between two schools, open enrollment, and Beyond Textbooks. Everyone expressed that large class sizes are not good and everything is being considered to avoid this.

Mrs. Mattox said that this was not easy and she complimented the administrators for their thoughtful, hard work. They have been preparing for this for some time. She said the principals need to guide the restructuring at their sites.

Ms. Deb Lopez, Student Advisor, and Principal Darlene McCauley, said programs have already been cut at the junior high and prep periods have been cancelled. Some teachers teach two different subjects.

Dr. Hartman said that certain programs are being considered for cancellation and that two positions were cut last year at the high school. This is also the last year for the GEAR UP program.

Some members of the Board asked what positions can be cut in the District Office. Mrs. Mattox said that with the loss of the Assistant Superintendent position and the secretary to the Business Manager, the staff in her office has already been reduced by 22%. Mrs. Montoya asked if it could be cut further.

Mrs. Shirley Lomeli, Business Manager, said that the District Office handles all the processes for the entire district and with the two positions abolished, everyone else has taken on extra duties and is working hard to keep things running smoothly. She said that we must be realistic when it comes to class sizes and keeping programs and processes that may not be as efficient as they could be. She added that every year when school starts, enrollment and class sizes are scrutinized closely and adjustments are made.

Mrs. Mattox pointed out that the district is overstaffed as we have lost 100 students. It is time to restructure the staff to align with this.

Mrs. Ervien asked if the audience had anything to add and Sharon Vasquez said large class sizes are not the answer. She has 31 students in one of her classes and it is not easy. Sometimes she doesn't even want to come to school. The cuts need to come from somewhere else.

Mrs. Jodie Garner, Principal, said the administrators are not taking this matter lightly. It is not a win/win situation.

Other things were discussed, including neighborhood schools, four day weeks, and limitations due to rules and regulations. Members of the Board asked questions about other positions such as maintenance and custodial workers, counselors and academic coaches. Mrs. Mattox said those positions and departments are being looked at but some of those changes are too specific to be considered and discussed in this work session.

The members of the Board expressed that they want to maintain the quality of our schools, keep students enrolled here, attract more students, and keep as many employees as possible. They also said they do not want teacher positions cut and are not in favor of larger class sizes.

Mrs. Ervien said this was a good meeting and she thanked everyone for their input.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Ervien called for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Greenwood made this motion and Mr. Hartnett seconded it. All members present voted "aye" and the motion carried. The time was 6:55 p.m.

President

Vice-President

Clerk

Member

Member

Cyndie Mattox, Superintendent