

**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 5:30 p.m., October 17, 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
Mr. Allen Leonard

ABSENT:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

WORK STUDY SESSION: Item #1:
Mrs. Shirley Lomeli, Business Manager, addressed the Board regarding the first revision of the 2017-2018 Budget. The law requires that this be done by November 1, 2017, and Mrs. Lomeli added that the main reason for the timing is the 1.06% teacher salary increase. She distributed copies of the budget documentation. Because of the necessity of a revision at this time, Mrs. Lomeli also adjusted the entire budget to comply with recently known funding reductions. She said we have had to reduce the budget by a large amount, mostly due to our reduced student count. She reminded the Board that we are now being funded according to our current year enrollment, so it is not possible to predict with much certainty how much funding we will receive until the enrollment numbers are known. The 40-day enrollment figures were used to determine funding amounts.

Mrs. Lomeli shared information regarding the base level funding, weighted funding, and the different areas that are considered when our funding is determined. She pointed out the decreases in Maintenance and Operations (\$356,032) and Unrestricted Capital (\$79,099). Mrs. Lomeli also explained impact aid and how it is used to offset taxes.

Many other things have also been cut, such as grants, but our costs are always increasing, and the District is now having to spend money saved for emergencies. The situation is serious, Mrs. Lomeli said. We should realize some relief next year when our bond is paid off.

Mrs. Mattox said that 90% of our budget is spent on salaries and benefits, so reductions in staff will be necessary to meet shortfalls; hopefully through attrition.

The Board and administration discussed the matter and discussed ways to increase student enrollment, such as marketing our District, benefits our District offers, creativity, and offering things other Districts don't.

Mrs. Mattox said the newspaper is supportive of the District and the town is as well. She said the Leadership Team understands the seriousness of this matter and is working on creative ideas to deal with the budget reductions.

The override was discussed.

The Board thanked Mrs. Lomeli for all her work and the time she took to prepare the reports and explain everything.

Item II:

Mrs. Mattox distributed copies of the elementary parent surveys and reviewed the results. She said there is a 95% satisfaction rate overall throughout the District. The ease of the electronic survey was discussed. The Board asked questions and made comments. The principals gave their input.

Item III:

Mrs. Betsy Pollard, Academic Coach, distributed folders and addressed the Governing Board regarding AzMERIT scores.

She reviewed the results for ELA and math, comparing grade levels, surrounding similar districts and state scores. She discussed how different it is for the students to take a computer-based test when they used to test on paper. Mrs. Pollard said apathy and other societal factors contribute to low scores. She reviewed plans and procedures the elementary schools are implementing to try to increase scores.

Mrs. Darlene McCauley, Principal, and Ms. Debra Lopez, Student Advisor, reviewed the Winslow Junior High School plans for academic increase. Mrs. Denise Estudillo, Federal Programs Director, talked about sustainability of procedures and programs made possible by grants, even after the grant funding is no longer in place.

Mrs. Pollard reviewed things the high school is doing to try to increase scores, and Dr. Justin Hartman, Principal, discussed attendance issues and shared some other ideas about motivation.

The Board and administration discussed hurdles and challenges, incentives, district-wide actions, and parent/community involvement.

The Board thanked Mrs. Pollard for her presentation.

Item IV:

At this time, Mrs. Mattox presented information to the Board on school letter grades assigned by the State. Two schools improved by one letter since the last time grades were assigned in 2013-14, and two schools remained the same. She also handed out the rubric used for teacher evaluations. The Board asked questions and made comments.

Item V:

Mrs. Mattox distributed to the Board copies of Policy BAA – Evaluation of School Board / Board Self-Evaluation, and the corresponding exhibit. The Board has expressed the desire to conduct a self-evaluation this year. Mrs. Mattox suggested that they each complete their form and return it to Robin by November 1, 2017. She will compile the results and this matter will be on the November 16, 2017, agenda for discussion.

Item VI:

The Governing Board discussed the matter of scheduling future work/study sessions. After consideration, the first Thursday of each month will be reserved for work sessions if needed. There will not be a special meeting (work/study session) if the Board decides they have no items to work on/study.

Mrs. Montoya said that with regard to community involvement, she suggested that Native American elders be invited to the schools to share their culture. She would also like to see the Sheriff's Office and Fire Department make some presentations. One activity she would like to see that would impress the seriousness of drug and alcohol abuse to the students is the mock death of a student. She explained how this works and said it would have a great impact on our students. Mrs. Mattox and Mrs. Ervien said these types of events would be best handled at the school level.

Mr. Leonard said he likes this format for a meeting. It gives the Board an opportunity to discuss items and solicit input. Mrs. Ervien asked the audience if anyone had any suggestions for future work/study sessions. Mr. Hartnett said he thinks administration has done a great job implementing recent changes. He appreciates their efforts and asked them to convey this to the teachers also.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Ervien asked if anyone had anything to add. As there was nothing else, she called for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Montoya made this motion and Mr. Hartnett seconded it. All members voted "aye" and the motion carried. The time was 7:24 p.m.

President

Vice-President

Clerk

Member

Member

Cyndie Mattox, Superintendent