

**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 9:30 a.m., March 6, 2017, in the District Board Room, 800 Apache Avenue, Second Floor, in Winslow.

PRESENT: Mrs. Marilee Ervien
Mrs. Josephine Montoya
Mr. Joey Hartnett
Mrs. Sharon Greenwood
Mr. Allen Leonard

ABSENT:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mrs. Greenwood made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hartnett and carried with an affirmative vote from all members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mrs. Greenwood made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hartnett, to approve the minutes of the four executive sessions held January 19, 2017, and the regular meeting and executive session held February 16, 2017. All members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

CALL TO PUBLIC: Mrs. Ervien invited public comments on any listed items on the agenda at this time. She requested that anyone speaking should state their full name for the record and confine their remarks to three minutes or less. She stated that no action will be taken as a result of public comments. She reminded the public that the Board expects citizens who address the Board to present concerns regarding the activities in question rather than make personal attacks upon board members, staff or others present or absent according to Governing Board Policy BEDH. In addition, questions or comments on matters that are currently under legal review will not be accepted per Board Policy BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings. Anyone wishing to discuss an issue with the Governing Board that is not on the agenda should complete form WPS 511 located on the entrance table. Copies will be distributed to all board members for their consideration.

Mrs. Ervien said that anyone who wished to comment could wait until that particular agenda item comes before the Board if they wanted to.

Mr. Justin Hartman, Assistant Principal at Winslow High School, addressed the Board regarding New Business Item D – possible abolition of one counselor position at the high school. He said that the state will be giving the district the same amount of funding this next year, or possibly more; therefore, cutting the position for fiscal reasons doesn't make sense. Mr. Hartman said the high school needs to get better and they plan to. The one thing that is being done right is the counselling program. Their help is needed. He distributed folders with information about awards and recognitions, programs, statistics, financial matters and other topics. He stated that moving the GEAR UP position into the counseling office would be illegal in terms of funding. Mr. Hartman concluded by saying that abolishing one counselor position will hurt Winslow High School and the students there.

Mrs. Sarah Wilson, Lead Counselor at WHS; Mrs. Connie Gover, Special Education Director; Mrs. Denise Estudillo, Federal Programs Director; and Mrs. Darlene McCauley, Principal at Winslow High School, all addressed the Board in support of retaining the high school counselor position.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Mrs. Mattox recommended that the Governing Board approve the hiring of the following personnel:

- James Anway – Boys 8th Grade Track Coach – WJHS
- Christie Bratt – Girls 8th Grade Track Coach – WJHS
- Taylor Bradley – Boys 7th Grade Track Coach – WJHS
- Tricia Foster – Girls 7th Grade Track Coach – WJHS
- Richard Smith – Assistant Varsity Softball Coach – WHS
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Mrs. Mattox recommended that the Governing Board approve the following volunteer:

- Brent Lymer – Volunteer Varsity Softball Coach – High School

Mrs. Mattox recommended that the Governing Board approve the resignation of the following personnel:

- Chris Gilmore – Principal – High School – Effective 6-30-17
- Whitney Gilmore – GEAR UP Coordinator – High School – Effective 6-9-17
- Karen Rockwell – 6th Grade Teacher – Washington School – Effective 5-25-17

Mrs. Greenwood made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hartnett, to approve the hiring, volunteer and resignation of personnel as recommended. Mr. Leonard asked about replacing the GEAR UP Coordinator, and Mr. Hartman said administration will meet with the GEAR UP personnel in April to work on this. A vote was taken and the motion passed with all members voting "aye".

B. Mrs. Mattox requested that the Governing Board accept the following donation.

- \$86.32 to Bonnie Brennan School from SW Karma for Sonic Night

A motion to accept this donation was made by Mr. Leonard and seconded by Mrs. Montoya. A vote was taken and all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

C. Mrs. Mattox requested that the Governing Board approve the following out-of-state travel.

- Three employees to travel to Laughlin, Nevada April 5 – 7, 2017 for the Arizona Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) conference

Mr. Leonard asked what AASBO is and Mrs. Lomeli and Mrs. Mattox explained what the association does and the value of information and training provided.

Mrs. Greenwood made a motion to approve the out-of-state trip as requested, and Mr. Leonard seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

D. At this time, Mr. Hartnett made a motion to discuss the high school counselor position. Mr. Leonard seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of “aye” from all members.

Mr. Hartnett said he believes the high school will need the current staff because there will be higher academic expectations in the future. The support the counselors provide is valuable. He suggests revisiting the matter in a year.

Mrs. Montoya said that even with the ECAP funds being terminated, the counselors provide services to not only the high school students, but also to approximately 640 junior high students. She said with 67% AI students, Title 1 funding requires certain things and if we chose to not do this, we are looking at a lawsuit. She said the counselors continue to do a job they are not getting paid for because they are there for the students.

Mr. Leonard asked about what the counselors are doing and what they do for freshmen, and Mrs. Wilson answered. Mr. Leonard said he would like to have the counselors make a presentation to the Board.

Mrs. Mattox praised the WHS Counseling Office and said she will arrange to have them make a presentation.

Mrs. Greenwood made a motion to table this matter for one year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hartnett. A vote was taken and four members voted “aye”, with Mrs. Montoya voting “no”. Motion carried. Mrs. Ervien asked Mrs. Montoya why she voted no and she replied that she does not want to see the counseling staff reduced at all. The counselors don’t even make a teacher’s salary and they work very hard. Reducing the staff would hurt the students.

- E. Mrs. Mattox addressed the Board regarding the process for filling the high school principal vacancy for next year. She distributed a handout containing information about advertising, closing date, staff survey, interview team, prioritizing survey results, and development of interview questions.

Mr. Hartnett said he would like to see the posting close earlier as time is short and this needs to be taken care of as soon as possible. He believes we will lose some candidates if we do not act more quickly. After discussion, it was decided that the posting will close March 10, 2017, and interviews will take place next week.

REPORTS:

- A. Superintendent's Reports

Mrs. Mattox recently went to the Helios workshop, which has to with the counseling department. She said it is important for the Board to hear what the counselors are doing so a presentation will be forthcoming. She added that our counselors rank number one with the Helios personnel, and our numbers of college-going students rank higher than Vail, Holbrook, Joseph City, Tuba City, Page and every other district whose AzMERIT scores were higher than ours.

- B. Board President's Reports

Mrs. Ervien asked about filling the GEAR UP Coordinator position and there was some discussion.

No further comments were made at this time.

**BOARD
COMMENTS:**

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Greenwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hartnett seconded it. All members voted "aye" and the motion carried. The time was 10:05 a.m.

President

Vice-President

Clerk

Member

Member

Cyndie Mattox, Acting Superintendent