

# CASA GRANDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

220 West Kortsen Road  
Casa Grande, Arizona

The Governing Board of the Casa Grande Elementary School District No. 4 met Tuesday, August 15, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in the Governing Board Room, Elementary Administration Building, 220 West Kortsen Road, Casa Grande, Arizona.

## 1.01 **Call to Order:**

Mrs. Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

## 1.02 **Roll Call:**

Present:

Barbara Davis  
Rachel Hernandez  
David Snider  
Dolores Underwood  
Judee Jackson, President

JoEtta Gonzales, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Tom Wohlleber, Chief Financial Officer  
Barbara Wright, Asst. Superintendent  
Jennifer McClintic, Director  
Brenda Tijerina, Director  
Bryan Harris, Director  
Andrea Munoz, Director  
Lisa Bradshaw, Director  
Cecilia Montijo, Secretary

Also Present:

See Exhibit 1

Press: Heather Smathers  
Casa Grande Dispatch

Melissa Pieper, Principal  
Robin Rosales, Principal  
Kay Steward, Principal

1.03 Mrs. Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 A moment of silence was observed.

## 2.01 **Agenda Adoption:**

Mr. Snider moved that:

"The agenda be accepted and adopted, as presented."

Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 3.01 Mrs. Jackson called for objections from Board members, staff, and the public regarding consent agenda items.

Ms. Underwood moved that:

"The agenda items marked with an asterisk be approved and/or ratified."

Mr. Snider seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- \*4.01 The minutes of the June 27, 2017 special meeting were approved by the Board.

- \*4.02 The minutes of the July 11, 2017 special meeting were approved by the Board.

## 5. **Audience with Groups or Individuals:**

- 5.01 Germaine Davenport provided a report on the summer food program. She stated that the Food Service Department partnered with the Transportation Department, and five buses and refrigerated trucks went to 25 remote sites throughout the City to deliver nutritious meals and provide enrichment activities for students during the summer. This year, 1,000 meals were served daily.

The program partners with community organizations such as the K-9 unit, the Casa Grande Alliance, Seeds of Hope, and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension program, who provide demonstrations and presentations for the students. Ms. Davenport stated that over 350 prizes were given away to students, and six bicycles were raffled.

In response to a question with regard to participation, Ms. Davenport stated that participation was down by 10,000 meals due to the elimination of the breakfast program.

Board members commended Ms. Davenport on the success of the summer food program.

- 6.01 The Superintendent recommended the Board accept the following donations:

A list of numerous businesses that donated cash, gift cards, office supplies, coupons for services, and other miscellaneous items that were used to prepare gift baskets for new teachers had been included in the Board's information.

R & I Air Conditioning donated eight basketball nets for the playground basketball hoops at Cottonwood School.

Palo Verde received the following donations for a teacher breakfast/luncheon: Two and a half dozen cookies from the Cook-E-Jar; two gallons of juice from Safeway; and one dozen doughnuts from Bosa Donuts.

St. Vincent de Paul donated 14 backpacks for students at Palo Verde School.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Sifley donated \$1,000 towards the purchase of school uniforms and \$250 worth of gift cards for teachers at Palo Verde.

Mesquite teacher, Abigail Meerdink, received a Donors Choose donation in the amount of \$224.84 for a project entitled, "Building Mathematical Minds."

Rick Wilson won the Pepsico Summer Challenge Recycling Contest and received \$1,000 for helping Mesquite School continue recycling during the summer.

The Walmart Distribution Center donated \$250 to Rick Wilson, at Mesquite, in order to purchase prizes for students during the quarterly recycling contest.

The United Methodist Church donated over 150 packages of antibacterial wipes, hand sanitizer, and tissue to Mesquite.

The Rock Church donated ten backpacks and clothing items to support the health office and for families in need at McCartney Ranch School.

Covenant Presbyterian Church donated 350 tote bags/baskets valued at \$350 for Mesquite teachers to use to store materials

Frito-Lay donated a variety of miscellaneous items, including backpacks, notebooks, paper, pencils, markers, personal hygiene items, and boxes of chips for the teachers at Villago Middle School.

The United Kingdom Church donated 20 backpacks filled with school supplies to Villago.

Ms. Underwood moved that:

"The donations be accepted, as read."

Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 6.02 At the annual ASBA Delegate Assembly, scheduled for September 9, 2017, delegates appointed by each school board represent the board's viewpoints as the legislative agenda is considered, and asks the delegates for recommendations regarding the proposed ASBA agenda.

Ms. Underwood volunteered to serve as delegate.

Mr. Snider moved to:

“Appoint Dolores Underwood as delegate, and further moved to instruct the Board’s representative(s) to support legislative action consistent with the District’s Mission, Priorities, Goals, and Governing Board Commitments.”

Mrs. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- \*6.03 As a condition of receiving funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, the District must certify, in writing, that it has no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in constitutionally protected prayer in public schools. The form will be completed and submitted to the Arizona Department of Education.
- \*6.04 A copy of the 2018 capital plan that is due to the School Facilities Board by September 1 of each year, had been included in the Board’s information. Board members approved the District’s 2018 capital plan.
- \*6.05 A resolution designating the District’s qualified evaluators for fiscal year 2017-18 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- \*6.06 Statute requires the annual adoption by the Governing Board of fees for the lease of school facilities. There were no revisions made to the current form.
- \*6.07 A copy of a Food Program Permanent Service Agreement from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting. The ADE Health and Nutrition Services Department requires that school district governing boards approve the agreement whenever there is a change to a district’s designated person or other authorized signers for the program. Tom Wohlleber replaced Kevin Kelty as the designated person and Alysia Morton was added as an authorized signer for the District.
- 7.01 Information regarding student performance on AzMERIT and local assessments had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting.

Dr. Wright provided a report on student performance on the DIBELS Next, the state-mandated AzMERIT (Arizona Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching), and the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) Science assessment.

The DIBELS Next, a state-required diagnostic reading assessment for students in kindergarten through second grade, determines reading levels and ensures that students are on track to be competent readers by the end of third grade. The assessment is focused on fluency and comprehension, and is used as a progress monitoring system for students.

In response to a question regarding how kindergarten students perform on the DIBELS test, Dr. Wright stated that kindergarten students perform well due to the fact that they are tested individually. She added that there has been a decrease in performance on the DIBELS test during the past three years, however, it was difficult to determine the cause.

The AzMERIT assessment is administered to students in third through eighth grade in English Language Arts and tests reading, comprehension, grammar and writing, as well as mathematics. District eighth grade students enrolled in algebra also took the AzMERIT algebra test.

Students at all nine elementary schools and Casa Grande Middle School took the assessment online. Cactus and Villago Middle School students took the test in paper form due to the fact that there were not enough devices for all students.

The AIMS science test is administered to fourth and eighth grade students, and is based on the Arizona State Standards adopted in 2004, updated in 2005.

The District has a newly adopted English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum which has intervention tools and teacher support materials necessary to increase student performance.

Dr. Wright reported that there was an 11-point gain in sixth grade English Language Arts, and attributed the gain to the District's strong sixth grade teachers and the new the curriculum.

There was some progress in math scores in fourth, sixth, and eighth grade, however, not a significant gain.

In response to a question regarding algebra scores, Dr. Wright stated that this was the first time that District students were scored in algebra, and there was a ten percent decrease.

Geometry will be part of the middle school math adoption and materials were purchased for each school to have two sets with the goal of having two geometry classes next year.

In AIMS Science for fourth and eighth grade students, there was a five percent increase in students that are meeting or exceeding the standards.

District-wide, in ELA, there has been a two percent increase each year in the number of students who are proficient and highly proficient.

Dr. Wright stated that it is the District's goal to decrease the number of students in the minimally and partially proficient range and to increase the numbers in the proficient and highly proficient areas

In English Language Arts, there was no change in the number of students in the minimally proficient range, however, there was a decrease in the number of students in the partially proficient range. There was an increase in the number of students in the proficient or highly proficient range.

In math, there was a four percent growth last year and a two percent drop this year. There was an increase of two percent in the number of students in the minimally proficient category, and there was no change in the partially proficient category.

Dr. Wright reported that staff continues to work to ensure that students who are highly performing are making successful gains. There was a one percent increase in the highly proficient category. Staff has also worked on intervention strategies to ensure that at-risk students have the opportunities to improve their skills.

In comparison to state scores, in 2015, the District was 15 percentage points below the state, partly due to the fact that the state continues to improve and the District, as a whole, is not improving. Dr. Wright stated that it is a concern and meetings have been held with principals during the summer.

In English Language Arts, there was an increase in the gap, which indicates that the District is going in the wrong direction and further from the state average. In Math, there was a large decrease in scores compared to the state average. There was no change in sixth grade scores compared to the state average, and there was a decrease in eighth grade.

Future plans include celebrating the successes that have been achieved, to review the data and make plans for teacher training and intervention methods to provide support to students.

\*8.01 The following certified personnel actions were ratified by the Governing Board:

Authorization to Revise Salary Schedule for School Psychologists: In December of 2014, the Governing Board approved the employment of psychologist interns who need to complete internship requirements to be fully certified. The interns perform tasks under the supervision of a licensed psychologist, and are paid 75% of a psychologist's salary. Although, the interns have been paid at that rate, the provision had not been included in the Psychologist Salary Schedule. The salary schedule was revised to include that provision.

Request for Release from Certified Personnel Contract: Rachel Torazzi, Teacher-on-Assignment, Cholla, Effective July 21, 2017. Board members

approved Ms. Torazzi's release from her contract, and waived the payment of liquidated damages.

Certified Personnel Employment, 2017-18: Alice Balkow, Teacher-on-Assignment/Psychologists, District; Alexandra Canavan, Special Education, Desert Willow; Cori Chavez, Special Education, McCartney Ranch; K. Teena Daniels, Math, Villago; Grace Fleenor, Third Grade, McCartney Ranch; Vanessa Garcia, Special Education, McCartney Ranch; Alan Hergott, Social Studies, Casa Grande Middle School; Victoria Jackson, First Grade, Cholla; Laura Lee, First Grade, Evergreen; Crystal Melecio, First Grade, Evergreen; Marie Miller, Language Arts, Casa Grande Middle School; Kathryn Pizzuto-Harding, Behavior Intervention Specialist, Casa Grande Middle School; Jacqueline Ramirez, Special Education, Cactus; Eleanor Sethi, First Grade, Desert Willow; Catrina Sims, Social Studies, Casa Grande Middle School.

\*8.02 The following classified personnel actions were ratified by the Governing Board:

Authorization to Revise Exempt Employees' Salary Schedule: Due to the teacher shortage, and the District's Grow Your Own Program, apprentice teachers have been employed to perform the duties of classroom teachers. The salary schedule was revised to include the Apprentice Teacher category.

Employment of Grant-Funded Personnel: An educational assistant - alternative programming was employed at Cactus Middle School to be funded from Title I funds. The employee will work one day per week to monitor and provide behavioral coaching and academic instruction to students.

Summer Employment: Kimberly Carlton, Substitute Coordinator, District Office; Sharity Montijo, Accounting Assistant/Cashier, District Office.

Classified Personnel Employment: Lydia Adams, Special Education Specialist, Mesquite; Pamela Adams, Delivery Driver, Food Services; Lauren Bradley, Educational Assistant, Cottonwood; Kendra Bray, Attendance Assistant, Casa Grande Middle School; Sydney Campbell, Special Education Specialist, Mesquite; Marisela Cazares, Attendance Assistant, Cactus; Desiree Dean, Special Education Specialist, McCartney Ranch; Destiny Decker, Educational Assistant, ECLC; Flora DeFlores, Custodian, Cactus; Suzette DeLeon-Bernales, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, ECLC/Villago; Yvonne Faulstick, Bus Driver Trainee, Transportation; Patricia Fields, Educational Assistant, Casa Grande Middle School; Amber Filut, Bus Driver Trainee, Transportation; Grace Fleenor, Administrative Assistant, District Office; Roberto Flores, Noon Assistant, Casa Grande Middle School; Debra Gonzales, Health Technician, Ironwood/Saguaro; Jennifer Gonzales, Transportation Assistant, Transportation; Isaac Gonzalez, Custodian Casa Grande Middle School; Steven Greenberg, Bus Driver Trainee, Transportation; Bonnie Gylling, Special Education Specialist, Desert Willow; Karen Hahn, Administrative Assistant, Cactus; Jean Halloran,

Computer Lab Paraprofessional, McCartney Ranch; Sherese Hicks, Bus Driver Trainee, Transportation; Lidia Jaime, Special Education Specialist, McCartney Ranch; Trina Lee, Health Technician, Mesquite; Elodia Mena, Bus Driver, Transportation; Daveen Newman, Educational Assistant, Cottonwood; Janelle Owens, ECEP Lead, ECLC; Amber Pena, Special Education Specialist, Ironwood; Cynthia Robinette, Director of Finance, District Office; Sylvia Rodriguez, Computer Lab Paraprofessional, Ironwood; Jayne Shuder, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, McCartney Ranch; Dallis Steele, Educational Assistant, Saguaro; Sydney Steele, Educational Specialist, Mesquite; Jitsel Tobin, Special Education Specialist, Cactus; Joseph Wise, Bus Driver Trainee, Transportation; Paulina Zapata, School Nurse, Cholla/Desert Willow.

Classified Personnel Resignations: Alma A Manzo, Educational Assistant, Villago, Effective July 27, 2017; Mary Apodaca, Van Driver, Transportation, Effective August 8, 2017; Angela Brehmer, Food Service Worker, Ironwood, Effective August 3, 2017; Vince Burlingame, Transportation Assistant/Van Driver, Transportation, Effective June 29, 2017; Jessica Carlton, Computer Lab Paraprofessional, Mesquite, Effective August 18, 2017; Jeffrey Dichoso, Educational Assistant, Mesquite, Effective August 18, 2017; Christina Flanagan-Polito, Educational Assistant, Palo Verde, Effective August 1, 2017; Kayla Gonzales, Transportation Assistant, Transportation, Effective August 21, 2017; Amanda Hardin, Educational Assistant, Mesquite, Effective May 26, 2017; Barbara Hatcher, Educational Assistant, Mesquite, Effective May 26, 2017; Sherese Hicks, Bus Driver Trainee, Effective July 18, 2017; Stephanie Higgs, Food Production Worker, Ironwood, Effective August 8, 2017; Christopher Rodriguez, Custodian, Facilities, Effective July 5, 2017; Roxanne Rodriguez, Special Education Specialist, Mesquite, Effective August 1, 2017; Karen Ross, Attendance Assistant, Cactus, Effective June 29, 2017; Jacqueline Schade, Administrative Assistant, Cactus, Effective June 7, 2017; Destiny Stewart, Educational Assistant, Saguaro, Effective May 26, 2017; Floyce Wilkerson, Educational Assistant, ECLC, Effective June 9, 2017; Kelly Womble, Nutrition Assistant, Food Services, Effective August 8, 2017.

Classified Staff Professional Growth: Bonnie Basher, Educational Assistant, Palo Verde; and Breana Salazar, Educational Assistant, Palo Verde. The new salary amounts will be added to their 2017-18 contracts.

Reclassification of Classified Personnel: Nancy Bagley, Educational Assistant, Cottonwood; Alana Bayles, Educational Assistant, ECLC; Michelle Deatherage, Special Education Specialist, Cactus; Ramiro De La Cruz, Food Service Worker, Saguaro; Ann Dickenson, Nutrition Assistant, Food Services; Jonathan Dickenson, Delivery Driver, Food Services; Cierra Duran Apprentice Teacher, Desert Willow; Miranda Fitzpatrick, Apprentice Teacher, Cholla; Grace Fleenor, Teacher, McCartney Ranch; Alison Gomez, Special Education Specialist, Desert Willow; Steven Greenberg, Bus Driver, Transportation; Andrea Gregorio-Ramos, Educational Assistant, ECLC; Mikenna Hillman, Special Education Specialist,



Evergreen; Roxanne Jimenez, Administrative Assistant District Office; Tia Joyner, Educational Assistant, ECLC; Marcy Kee, Relief Bus Driver, Transportation; Kimberly Klug, Health Technician, Cottonwood/McCartney Ranch; Inez Lujan Contreras, Administrative Assistant, Food Services; Cheri Nagel, Special Education Specialist, Saguario; Breana Salazar, Educational Assistant, Desert Willow; Natasha Schimmel, Educational Specialist, Ironwood; Simone Simpier-Maxam, Special Education Specialist, Villago; Nina Sosa, Educational Assistant, Cholla; Jill Steiner, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, District; Diana Ullrich, Apprentice Teacher, Saguario; Lissette Williamson, Educational Specialist, Ironwood; Joseph Wise, Bus Driver, Transportation.

9. **Pupil Personnel:**

No items this meeting

10. **Buildings and Grounds:**

No items this meeting

11. **Reports:**

\*11.01 The student activities reports for June and July, 2017, had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

\*11.02 The financial reports had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

\*11.03 The August lunch menu had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

\*11.04 The vehicle status report for June 16 to July 15, 2017 had been provided in the Board's information.

\*11.05 The vehicle maintenance report for June 16 to July 15, 2017 had been provided in the Board's information.

\*12.01 The vouchers presented at the meeting, listed in Exhibit 2, were approved by the Governing Board.

13.01 **Upcoming Meetings**

A study session will be held on August 29, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the new K-8 facility.

Due to a conflict, the September 19 regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

The ASBA Law Conference will be held September 6-8, 2017. Board members wishing to attend should notify the Superintendent's Office.

**14.01 Call for Audience Questions Pertaining to Agenda Items and Items of Interest**

Board members and the Superintendent commended the principals and staff at the schools for a smooth start to the school year.

15.01 Mrs. Jackson adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President