

PARKER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #27
1608 Laguna Avenue
Parker, AZ 85344

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Parker High School Library, 1600 Kofa Avenue
DATE: April 14, 2009
TIME: 7:00 PM

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Mr. Rudy Parker, President
Mrs. Kelly Baldenegro, Member
Mrs. Deanna Beaver, Member
Mrs. Margaret Dewey, Member
Mrs. Dolores Ferris, Member

MEMBERS

ABSENT: None

OTHERS

PRESENT: Kevin Uden, Superintendent
James Lotts, Assistant Superintendent
Denyce Cribbs, Executive Assistant
Lori Bachmann, Blake Primary School Principal
Dan Wolfe, Le Pera Elementary School Principal
Brad Sale, Wallace Elementary School Principal
Amanda Maxwell, Wallace Jr. High School Principal
LeRoy Shontz, Parker High School Principal
Robert Wolf, Special Education Director
Kelly McGuire, Parker High School Teacher
Norma Ray, Le Pera Elementary School Teacher
Deb Bullough, Blake Primary School Teacher (arrived 7:20 PM; left 7:40 PM)
Nancy Collett, Blake Primary School Teacher
Carrie Hennager, Blake Primary School Teacher
Karen Taft, Blake Primary School Teacher (arrived 7:05 PM)
Eileen Wheatley, Blake Primary School Teacher

I. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mr. Parker, President.

B. Adopt Agenda

Mrs. Beaver moved, seconded by Mrs. Ferris, to adopt the agenda of the April 14, 2009, regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Call to Audience

There was no comment under Call to Audience.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Minutes

March 10, 2009 (regular)

March 31, 2009 (special)

Mrs. Ferris moved, seconded by Mrs. Beaver, to approve the minutes as listed. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Ratify Vouchers

Exp. #1020	\$84,020.12	Payroll #19	\$396,093.43
Exp. #1021	\$137,802.77	Stu. #8019	\$2125.72
Payroll #20.1	\$401,944.37	Payroll #20.3	\$9364.23
Exp. #1022	\$328,141.99		

Mrs. Beaver moved, seconded by Mrs. Ferris, to ratify the vouchers as listed. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SCH</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>EFF DATE</u>
1 - CERTIFIED RESIGNATION	PHS	Castelino, Rama	Math Teacher	05/28/09
1 - CERTIFIED RESIGNATION	WES	Mitchell, Mary	SPED Resource Teacher	05/28/09
1 - CERTIFIED RESIGNATION	LP	Swihart, Beverly	Kindergarten Teacher	05/28/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Aiello, Cathy	Summer School Teacher	06/01/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Baldenegro, Lori	Summer School Teacher	06/01/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Bradley, Douglas	Substitute Teacher	03/31/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Gottard, Pam	Summer School Principal	06/01/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Henneman, Sandra	Summer School Teacher	06/01/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Kinney, Bobbie	Summer School Teacher	06/01/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Lucas, Mike	Substitute Teacher	04/07/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	McCabe, Michelle	Summer School Teacher	06/01/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Olague, Chris	Summer School Teacher	06/01/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Paterson, Honey	Summer School Teacher	06/01/09

2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Payne, Virginia	Summer School Teacher	06/01/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Rennau, Sherry	Summer School Teacher	06/01/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Schneider, Cassie	Summer School Teacher	06/01/09
2 - CERTIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Szczepaniak, Kellee	Summer School Teacher	06/01/09
3 - CERTIFIED HIRING	WES	Beneke, Erin	SPED Self-contained Teacher	07/24/09
5 - CLASSIFIED RESIGNATION	DIST	Reid, Judith	Bus Driver	04/06/09
6 - CLASSIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Lee, Sandy	Summer School Secretary	06/01/09
6 - CLASSIFIED HOURLY	BL	Long, Dana	Preschool Aide (Transfer)	04/01/09
6 - CLASSIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Trowbridge, Bob	Summer School Janitor	06/01/09
6 - CLASSIFIED HOURLY	DIST	Zoller, Judy	Cafeteria Substitute	04/07/09

Mrs. Beaver moved, seconded by Mrs. Baldenegro, to ratify and approve the certified resignations, certified hourly, certified hiring, classified resignation, and classified hourly hirings as recommended. Mrs. Ferris abstained from voting on Cathy Aiello, and Ms. Dewey abstained from voting on Dana Long. Motion carried.

D. Reduction in Force (RIF) Notices

Mrs. Baldenegro moved, seconded by Mrs. Beaver, to authorize the Superintendent to issue Notices of Reduction in Force (RIF) to the following eleven certified employees: Tracey Arnold, Nick Bompezzi, Susan Boquet, Margarita Dausin, Rey DeLeon, Reetika Dhawan, Joshua Grenwalt, Jerry McGuire, Karla Phillips, Dennis Sundrup, and Candice Veech, as recommended. Mr. Uden stated that one other counselor would have received a RIF notice, but that person will be transferring to a different position in the District. Teachers are receiving RIF notices due to the downturn in the economy, not being fully certified, or the combination of both situations. Ms. Dewey abstained from voting on Reetika Dhawan. Motion carried.

E. General Statement of Assurance for FY 2010

Mrs. Beaver moved, seconded Mrs. Ferris, to approve the General Statement of Assurances for participation in any ADE administered program, and the Certification Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion; and Drug-Free Workplace; Lower Tier Covered Transactions, and designate Mr. Kevin Uden, Mr. James Lotts, Mrs. Anne Holt, Mr. Robert Wolf, Mrs. Sandy Cooke, Mrs. Denyce Cribbs, Dr. LeRoy Shontz, Ms. Tracy Gappa, Mrs. Elaine Woody, Mr. Armando Heredia, and Mr. Joe Gonzales as authorized representatives. Mr. Uden stated that this is an annual assurance required for the acceptance of federal and state grants. Motion carried unanimously.

F. School Safety Grant for SY09-10

Mrs. Baldenegro moved, seconded by Mrs. Ferris, to approve submission of the School Safety Grant for SY09-10, administered by Flora Spiller, as recommended. Mr. Uden stated that this grant pays for law-related education. Ms. Dewey abstained from voting. Motion carried.

G. Adopt School Calendar for SY09-10

Mrs. Beaver moved, seconded by Mrs. Ferris, to adopt the School Calendar for SY09-10, identified as "Draft A" as presented. Mr. Uden stated that this draft was not the most popular choice but, due to economic conditions, this calendar makes the most sense in terms of utility costs. Another Draft (Draft B) would have had school starting in July. While teachers would have preferred to have two full weeks of vacation in the fall, they will still have ten consecutive days off school in October. Mr. Parker stated that the District Improvement Committee (DIC) discussed the school calendar at length and, in the end, were apprised of the reasons for selecting Draft A. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Attendance Reporting Attestation

Mrs. Beaver moved, seconded by Mrs. Baldenegro, to approve the submission of an Attendance Reporting Attestation for SY08-09, in order to correct high school attendance reporting, as recommended. Mr. Uden stated that this attestation will be submitted to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) regarding the method for reporting absences at Parker High School. The ADE had announced that high school absences would be calculated in a new way for 2008-09, contrary to an opinion given by the Arizona Attorney General. This new method drastically increased the absence rate for high schools, which would result in reduced funding once the absence rate exceeds 5.5%. In order to allow high schools to submit absences according to statute, this attestation must be filed. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Approve Emergency Procurements

Mrs. Baldenegro moved, seconded by Mrs. Ferris, to approve emergency repairs at Le Pera Elementary School, according to Arizona Administrative Codes (A.A.C) R7-2-1056 and R7-2-1057, as recommended. Mr. Uden stated that a water line broke at Le Pera Elementary School on April 8, 2009, impacting student services. The Arizona Risk Retention Trust will cover the damages, but the actual repairs to the water line must be paid by the District. Because repairs needed to be made immediately, in part because of AIMS testing, the District secured the services of the Trust-recommended vendor, in the amount of \$10,000 - \$15,000. Calling a Special Meeting was not feasible in order to address the emergency, so a letter has been prepared, and will be filed, for the auditors to review during their annual financial audit. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Set Next Regular Meeting

Mrs. Beaver moved, seconded by Mrs. Ferris, to set the next regular meeting for Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 7:00 PM in the Parker High School Media Center, and the next special meeting for Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 9:00 AM in the District Office Conference Room. Motion carried unanimously.

III. DISCUSSION

A. School Uniform Shirts for Wallace Jr. High School

Mrs. Maxwell reported that 83% of the teachers, students, and parents surveyed are in favor of school uniform shirts at Wallace Jr. High School. Mrs. Maxwell would like to provide tee-shirts in red, white, and black. Mr. Parker inquired as to whether Mrs. Maxwell had checked on cost yet. Mrs. Maxwell said that she had not. Mr. Uden asked if the bid had been put out to renew the Parker High School uniform shirts, and whether Wallace Jr. High School would require a separate bid. Mr. Lotts replied yes to both issues.

B. English Learner (EL) Block Program Update

Mr. Uden stated that the economic downturn is forcing the District to solve many problems at the same time. One is the reduced enrollment numbers at Le Pera Elementary School. One possibility for solving this particular problem is to set up Le Pera as the magnet school for English Language (EL) education. The idea would be to provide all EL education on the Le Pera campus, and also offer Title I assistance in Math at the same time. By serving all the EL students on one campus, the number of students would be high enough to make a block of older EL students, as well. Mr. Wolfe is working on a possible schedule for making these EL services available. Mr. Uden stated that our staff will continue to work on this idea and will solicit parent feedback. A recommendation may be brought before the Board at a later time. Mrs. Beaver stated that the Board would have additional questions before a final decision was made.

C. National School Boards Conference Report

Mr. Parker stated that he and Mrs. Ferris attended the National School Boards Association (NSBA) conference in San Diego. He attended fourteen sessions and listened to four quality speakers. The sessions he attended included, Closing Schools, Cyber-bullying, Federal Stimulus Package, Improper Relationships between Staff and Students, Interventions for Poor and Minority Students, and Virtual Education for Native American students. Mrs. Ferris reported that she attended sessions on Drug Testing for Athletes, and Closing Schools. She also attended a session on Creating Foundations between industry and education, so that various programs could be funded from the Foundation.

D. Budget Outlook for FY2010

Mr. Uden reported that the State budget news was getting dramatic, with confrontations between Superintendent Horne and the educational groups, ASBA, ASA, and AEA. Mr. Horne has stated that schools are overreacting with the number of RIF notices they have issued. Rich Crandall, a member of the Education Committee with the Arizona House of Representatives, has published a list of possible budget ideas. Mr. Uden has modified some of those ideas for use by PUSD. By his estimation, the following reductions to the school budget are sure to occur: 1) \$301,564 reduction in Prop 301 funds 2) \$35,000 reduction in Prop 301 funds, due to declines in student enrollment 3) \$17,200 reduction in Prop 202 funds 4) \$150,000 reduction in EL funds 5) \$313,000 reductions from the Revenue Control Limit, Capital Outlay, and Soft Capital funds 6) \$42,000 reduction in override funds 7) \$291,000 reduction in Excess Utilities funds. These amounts total to approximately \$1.1 million that the District is almost assured to lose. So far, Mr. Uden has outlined some possible reductions in the District that amount to \$679,000. It may be possible to backfill the remaining balance with Federal Stimulus monies, but the amount of those funds has not been announced. Additionally, the Federal Stimulus package includes a “funding cliff” whereby that funding will disappear in two years. The District is continuing to look for ways to economize in a year that has been the worst in the last thirty years, if not ever.

Mrs. Beaver stated that these times are scary, but it is better to get the information out and let people know what’s going on. Ms. Dewey asked whether Mr. Uden’s draft of ideas includes the maintenance of Full Day Kindergarten. Mr. Uden stated that it does, but that Early Kindergarten will no longer be funded. This means that the District currently has the option of accepting Kindergarten students who turn five-years-old between September and January, but that policy will likely be changed. Ms. Dewey confirmed that there are currently six Kindergarten teachers at Blake, two at Le Pera, and seven aides between both schools. She also inquired whether the current plan keeps the Jr. High open at Le Pera. Mr. Uden replied that it does. Ms. Dewey stated the importance of early childhood education, and that the aides play a valuable role in managing lots of kids with issues in early childhood education. Mr. Uden stated that it might be possible to fund the aides through the Federal Stimulus package, and that those aides would have to be Highly Qualified. He further stated that our current class sizes in Kindergarten are enviable, compared to other grades and other schools. Mrs. Beaver inquired whether other Districts along the Colorado River employ as many Kindergarten aides as our District does. Mr. Uden stated that they do not, as evidenced by the Teacher to Aide ratio that is reported on personnel reports. Mr. Uden stated that the Kindergarten aides are the only aides in the District paid from M&O funds. Other aides are funded through grants or Special Education. Mrs. Beaver asked whether “meth babies” were mixed in with regular education students. Mr. Uden replied that if any were severely handicapped they would be

in the self-contained class. Ms. Dewey stated that many were probably not officially labeled, but still presented problems in the classroom. Mr. Parker stated that it may be possible that the Tribes would want to assist with this situation.

IV. INFORMATION/UPDATES

- A. Enrollment/Attendance Update
- B. Student Activities Accounts Status
- C. Year-to-Date District Expenditures Status

The Board was provided with monthly updates to Enrollment/Attendance, Student Activities Accounts, and Year-to-Date Expenditures.

V. PRINCIPAL/DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Mrs. Maxwell reported that the Elk Teen of the Month is Cesar Gonzalez. AIMS testing is just about finished. The math pilot test is tomorrow. The 8th grade promotion packets were handed out April 10th. The promotion dance is May 15th. The staff is anxiously awaiting to know what will be happening next year. We now have five classrooms with Smart Boards. The kids love the Smart Boards because they are interactive.

Dr. Shontz reported that the Student-of-the-Month is Andrea Begin. Jerrod Flores qualified and competed in a national wrestling tournament and competed very well. AIMS Math and Science testing has been completed, along with the Terra Nova testing. The class schedule for next year has been made. SIC is working on school improvement and collecting information from the faculty. Goldmine is this Friday. Spring sports are in the home-stretch of their seasons. Prom is this Saturday. Youth Day is May 1st. Spring Awards Picnic is May 14th. The Smart Boards are going well, especially in Math.

Mr. Wolf reported that plans are complete for Special Education Extended School Year (ESY). Once all documentation is received, hiring can begin. The same can be said for the English Language Learners Summer School Program. As soon as numbers can be predicted, we can announce hiring for both sections. A Parent Satisfaction Survey regarding Special Education services will be going out this week to all parents of special needs students. This is a survey required by the ADE/ESS which can be completed on-line or returned by mail. The results will provide feedback on a number of levels including parent involvement, support services, positive staff involvement, etc. We hope to have at least a 10% return.

Mr. Wolfe reported that the following students were chosen as the "Students of the Month" for March at Le Pera Elementary School: From the Kindergarten classes: Lyndsey Evanston and Gilberto Aguayo. First grade: Robert Solorio and Rafael Hernandez. Second Grade: Julio Corral. Third grade: Janell Salazar. Second/Third Grade classes: Carolina Rangel and Martin Gonzalez. Fourth grade: Tawnee Barrackman. Fourth/Fifth grade: Joseph Naranjo. Fifth grade: Stephanie Cisneros. Sixth-Eighth grades: Francisco Diarte and Fourth-Eighth ELL: Michael Villasenor, Adrian Pulido, Ulysses Sanchez, Beatriz Cervantes. Our third quarter awards assembly was held on April 2nd. Our state testing has been going well. We have been running over 95% attendance

so far for the four days of AIMS testing. As an incentive we will be having prize drawings for all students who have perfect attendance for the AIMS and Terra Nova testing. The drawings will be for bicycles, a scooter, I-Pods and bags of sports balls. We held an AIMS Pep Rally on March 27th to kick-off the state testing. Our student council put together the activities and the whole school attended in the gym. We had a variety of events and everyone appeared to have a lot of fun. Our music students participated in the district wide music event at the high school on March 31st. The event was very well attended and the students all did a wonderful job. Our 8th grade pictures were taken on April 6th. On April 8th we had a main waterline break at approximately 11:30 a.m. This presented a problem as we were going to be starting our third day of reading/math AIMS testing on Thursday morning. I consulted with the contractors assigned to fix the problem and with Mr. Lotts; I felt we could continue with the testing on Thursday. We were able to turn on the water periodically throughout the day to flush the toilets, even though the water pressure was not normal. We supplied our students with drinking water via large water cans filled with drinking water and ice that were set up outside the cafeteria. As Thursday progressed, we were not sure that we would have water on Friday, so we made the decision to bus the students to Parker High School for Friday's classes. At approximately 5:00 PM I received word that in fact the break had been fixed, so the decision was made to modify the plan for Friday. In fact, we did bus the students to PHS and fed them breakfast there. We then loaded the students on busses and transported them back to Le Pera for the remainder of the school day. The students were back in class by roughly 9:00 AM. Even though we had a fairly hectic morning, I felt like everything ran smoothly, and we were able to continue with classroom instruction once we returned to Le Pera. I would like to thank the Le Pera staff members, the parents, the transportation staff and Mr. Cozby, Caryn Bonds, Dr. Shontz and the PHS staff and Mr. Lotts for all the help they gave during this time of difficulty. I would also like to publicly thank Advance Plumbing from Parker and East Valley Disaster Services for their fast and efficient work to rectify and resolve our problem. On a related note; we had 87% of our students in school on Friday. We normally run on average about 92% attendance on any given Friday. I was the intersession principal at Wallace during spring break and had a great time. The teachers that worked were very creative, and the students really seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks to Mrs. Lee and Mr. Sale for making it an enjoyable experience. Smart Boards will be implemented at Le Pera next year.

Mrs. Bachmann reported that Eileen Wheatley was selected as the Blake Teacher of the Year. Report cards went home March 25th, and Blake also had the Lifetouch Spring Portraits on March 25th. Second grade students went on a field trip to the Wild Live Zoo in Phoenix on March 24th and 26th. First grade students took a field trip to the PHS science lab. Blake had a wonderful assembly called "Body Works" for all students on March 27th. Mrs. Penn had a select group of third grade students perform at the district "Music in Our Schools" program on March 31st. Third grade students took the AIMS Writing test on April 1st. Third grade students took math and reading tests on April 7th, 8th and 9th. Students who tried their best on AIMS were in a drawing, and fifty prizes were given out. The Blake SIC met on April 1st. Third quarter awards assemblies were held April 2nd. Great turnout by community! First and second grade teachers attended the Terra Nova training provided by Sandy Cooke on April 8th. Kindergarten teachers and Mrs. Bachmann will be presenting to Head Start parents on April 15th at 5:00 PM. ADE will be administering health screenings to third grade students on April 21st and 22nd if parents have given permission. Kindergarten, first and second grades will be going to IHS for dental field trips the week of April 20th. Blake teachers will be setting goals for 2009-10 at a meeting on April 28th. Blake has implemented six Smart Boards.

Mr. Sale congratulated the WES students of the month. Congratulations go out to our Parker Rotary Teacher of the Year, Kathy Kenney. Our School improvement team is busy finishing up our school improvement plan. It has been a process that has been good for all of us. Currently, we have set our academic and behavior goals. There are just a few more items left to do, and we

will give the teachers a chance to take a look at it. Like all the other schools, the AIMS test is the priority for the month of April. Our staff will be using the early release Fridays to do a book study on, "Rigor is not a Four Letter Word." We had a PTA meeting on April 6th. On April 16th, we will be having a family fun night. We will be playing, "Are you Smarter than a Wallace Mustang?" This event starts at 6:15 PM and refreshments will be served. On April 23rd, we will be having our spring pictures. On April 27th, the Talent Search kids will be taking a field trip. Finally, it is that time of the year again when the students will be getting to go on field trips. WES has implemented four Smart Boards. They have been especially successful in Math.

Mrs. Cooke provided a written report stating that all schools are participating in AIMS and TerraNova testing. The high school has completed the mathematics field test, mathematics and science AIMS test, and TerraNova. Grades 3-8 are completing AIMS writing, reading, mathematics and a mathematics field test. Grades 4 and 8 are also testing in science. Grades 1-2 will test TerraNova on April 14-15. Congratulations to the teachers who received SmartBoards in the second round of applications: David Daly, Kelly McGuire, Kari Heyman, Reiannon Metz, Norma Ray, Kendra Daniels, Tammy Page, and Heather Johnson. These teachers will go through four training sessions on the use of the SmartBoard and integrating it into the classroom. April 17th is the second Goldmine for this school year. Twelve topics are being offered to teachers by PUSD teacher facilitators. The topics include origami, game boards, multiplication/division strategies, poetry to teach fluency, Publisher for web pages, strategies for struggling readers, SynchronEyes, cloud computing, gifted students, human touch in communication, internet career investigation, and self-harm. Fourteen teachers will participate in a training conducted by CSS Presentations on April 13th to learn more about the student response systems that have been purchased for teachers in Title I schools. Members of the Professional Development Leadership Academy will attend a two-day training in Phoenix on April 24th-25th. The team consists of Aimee Viramontes, Karen Taft, Wilma McKenzie, Jackie Patterson, Esther Scott, Amy Conway, and Sandy Cooke. Amy Conway and Sherry Rennau have been accepted into ADE's Mentor Academy Series and will receive their first training April 14-16 in Phoenix. The Mentor Academy is funded by ADE, providing training in mentoring and coaching teachers.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM by Mr. Rudy Parker, President.

Governing Board President
Parker Unified School District #27