



# Phoenix Elementary School District No. 1

## Governing Board Meeting December 10, 2009

Dr. Ruth Ann Marston presided over the PESD #1 Governing Board Meeting in the Phoenix Elementary School District #1 Governing Board Room.

Other Board members present at the meeting were:

Mr. Doug Allsworth  
(Absent)

Ms. Susan Bliss

Ms. Liz Meza

Dr. Louisa Stark

*Also present were:*

Ms. Myriam Roa  
Superintendent

Mr. Tom Lind  
Assistant Superintendent  
for Curriculum and Instruction

Mr. Kenneth Baca  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Business Services

Mr. Randy Dickason  
Executive Director for  
Human Resources

Ms. Debra S. Gomez  
Interim Executive Director  
University Public Schools, Inc.  
(UPSI)

Ms. Joanne Phillips  
Arizona Education Cadre

Ms. Eleanor Moyza  
Board Secretary

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### A. Regular Session – 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order – Dr. Ruth Ann Marston, President
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Adrian Walker
3. Request for Approval of the Governing Board Calendar for 2010  
(Item A3 was discussed out of the order of discussion)

### B. Approval of Consent Agenda

- 1 Minutes:           September 17, 2009  
                          October 22, 2009  
                          November 12, 2009  
                          December 3, 2009
2. Ratification of Payroll \$3,901,862.83 and Expense Vouchers \$1,967,348.48 in the Total Amount of \$5,869,211.37
3. Request for Approval of Gifts and Donations
4. Request for Approval of Financial Reports for Student Activity Funds for September and October 2009
5. Request for Approval to Renew the Membership Agreement with Arizona State University in the ALPHA Partnership for 2009-2010
6. Request to Approve Out of District Field Trip
7. Request to Approve Out of State Travel

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8. Request for Approval of Employment of Administrative, Certified and Classified Staff and Employee Contract Adjustments
9. Request for Approval of Separation of Employment, Resignations and Retirement  
*Ms. Bliss moved for approval of the Consent Agenda and Dr. Stark seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion (4-0) and the Consent Agenda passed*

(Section D was discussed out of the order of discussion)

#### **D. Superintendent's Report**

##### **1. Awards and Recognitions**

For their accomplishments and for making a difference in people's lives, Ms. Roa proudly gave recognition to Ms. Gevene Savala and Mr. R. Carlos Nakai, Arizona Indian Living Treasures who were both honored at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Arizona Indian Living Treasures Awards. Ms. Kathy Savala, Native American Community Liaison with Phoenix Elementary School District is the daughter-in-law of Ms. Gevene Savala, and Mr. R. Carlos Nakai is a relative of Ms. Susan Bliss, our Board Member.

Ms. Roa gave recognition to Dr. Jill Andrews, Director of Federal Programs for her accomplishment in earning her Superintendent Certificate.

Ms. Roa gave recognition to Mr. Adrian Walker, Principal of Magnet School for doing such a wonderful job of instituting our initiative for Kids at Hope Day at Magnet Traditional School. A video of the event was shown at the board meeting.

Ms. Roa stated that we also have Kids at Hope Initiative in full bloom at Bethune School and gave recognition to Dr. Ronnie Pitre, Principal of Bethune School and Ms. Milinda Crawford, Positive Behavior Intervention Specialist at Bethune School for also doing a wonderful job and a video of the event was shown.

Ms. Roa also gave Recognition to the Sequoya Elementary, Cherokee Elementary, Cochise Elementary and Cocopah Middle Schools in the Scottsdale Union School District for their generosity in giving a holiday gift to each of the 519 students enrolled at Bethune School. The total value of the wrapped gifts is \$10,380 which will be delivered to Ms. Sara Meyer, Bethune School Social Worker who will then give the gifts to the students on December 15. Ms. Meyer introduced Ms. Julie Gildersleeve of the Scottsdale School District who has been the point person helping out with this program which is a huge undertaking. Ms. Meyer also introduced Ms. Gildersleeve's children, Ben, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Cochise Elementary School and Molly, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Cocopah Middle School. Ms. Meyer stated that this is the 10<sup>th</sup> year that Scottsdale Union School District is involved in this program.

##### **2. Announcements**

Ms. Roa announced that in this evening of generosity and giving, Phoenix One Foundation has received over \$15,000 in donations. She stated that one donor gave approximately \$12,000 in a single donation and Ms. Roa stated that we are currently identifying families in need. She stated that our Phoenix Elementary School District Social Workers and Community Workers help to identify those families. She also stated that the Phoenix One Foundation Board is changing and a report on the financials and some of the events and activities that we've had will be presented to the board early in the next year.

Regarding the Holiday Programs, Ms. Roa announced that three of our schools are having Holiday Programs tonight but we won't be able to attend since the Board Meeting is in session. Ms. Roa gave copies of the Holiday Programs to the Board Members so they will know which programs she and her Cabinet Members will be attending.

(Ms. Susan Bliss presided over the board meeting beginning with Item F1)

(The sections below were discussed out of the order of discussion)

**F. Curriculum & Instruction – Tom Lind, Assistant Superintendent**

1. Request to Receive and Discuss Collaboration Agreement between Phoenix Elementary School District #1 and University Public Schools, Inc.  
Ms. Debra S. Gomez, Interim Executive Director at UPSI introduced her staff, Dr. Prudence Lee who is the Chief H.R. Officer and Legal Counsel; Ms. Nadine Gofonia, Elementary Principal at UPSP; Ms. Sue Henderson, the Director of Student Services; and Mr. Barnaby Wasson, the Director of Technology. Ms. Gomez gave an overview on UPSP and gave much information to board about the employees, its classes and programs.

**E. Business Services – Kenneth Baca, Assistant Superintendent**

1. Request Approval of the Revised Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 as Required by A.R.S. 15-905  
*Dr. Stark moved for approval of Item E1 and Ms. Meza seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion (4-0) and Item E1 was passed.*
2. Request for Approval to Enter into a Contract with Kennedy Partners LLC for Solar Photovoltaic System Installation at Three (3) School Sites and One (1) Non School Site Not to Exceed 15 Years  
Mr. Baca informed the Board Members about the request for drafting a contract and stated that this is not the actual contract. He stated that more details will be provided to the Board so we can very clearly understand what our obligations are to APS during times when we may not have enough solar energy to power up the facility. He stated that we'll need to know what the rate will be and that it won't be an exorbitant amount of money and further added that when we sell back the power to APS if we generate more than what we can use, we want to ensure that we get a fair rate in return because the contract will be with Kennedy Partners, not directly with APS, and we want to make sure that everything is in order to know that our rights are preserved as well.  
*Ms. Meza moved for approval of Item E2 and Dr. Stark seconded the motion.*  
Ms. Allison Serrano with Kennedy Partners gave financial information to the Board Members.  
*The Board approved the motion (4-0), the motion was passed and Item E2 was approved.*

**(Item F2 was tabled)**

**F. Curriculum & Instruction – Tom Lind, Assistant Superintendent**

2. Request for Award of Request for Proposal #006-0910 for Cognitive Coaching Training  
*Ms. Meza moved for approval of Item F2 and Dr. Stark seconded the motion. Ms. Bliss stated that the Board needs to know more about the cost involved for these services and the format that it will be in. Dr. Marston moved for approval to table Item F2 and Dr. Stark seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion by 4-0 and Item F2 was tabled until more information is brought to the board members for their review.*
3. Request for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Arizona Governor's Office of Economic Recovery for Race to the Top Funding  
*Ms. Meza moved for approval of Item F3 and Dr. Stark seconded the motion.*

Ms. Rosalinda Ramirez, PECTA President, spoke to the Board and stated that PECTA is aware that this Memorandum of Understanding is in support of the state implementing their approval for the grant for Race to the Top. She stated that her concerns are how the District will link teacher evaluations and other items specifically under the D-section of Exhibit One. She further stated that she would like PECTA to be a part of that process in developing the final scope if and when we are granted this Race to the Top Grant and the right to object to any terms and conditions that she is not aware of yet or that are to be developed in that final scope.

Mr. Rinaldo Perez, PECTA Member at Large

Mr. Perez stated that he thinks we should not consider Race to the Top because of the state's plans and he believes that the Annual Evaluation System is very subjective and with the funds coming with that sort of plan, PECTA is concerned about the repercussions and he hopes that it is not considered.

Dr. Marston stated that it's clear that we are going to have to change or stabilize our staff evaluations because of the laws that have gone into effect, and because we may always improve those evaluations. She stated that it's our job and PECTA's job to help us make sure that whatever changes are made to the evaluation system are not subjective. She stated that it's the law that is in place now that is forcing us to review our staff evaluations. The question is, the State does not have or is not willing to allocate the money to support our educational system. They're looking to the federal government for additional funding and it is major additional funding. We have the opportunity to apply for some of that funding if the basis of that funding is not repugnant to us, but we don't know. Dr. Marston stated that she doesn't think we should take ourselves out of the possibility at this point. If we see it's something we can support, then we're interested in being part of it; but if it isn't, then we haven't approved anything.

Ms. Bliss stated that she is in favor of going forward with this at this time and see what it's about. She stated that we've got some excellent teachers and we obviously have an evaluation system, because the Board approved the results of that evaluation system. She urged that PECTA continue to work with district staff and urged district staff to listen to PECTA and concerned teachers because if someone has something to say, they should be listened to and if it's a good idea, it might help you with your job. She stated that she thinks this is in response to conditions in other parts of the country or other school districts because she doesn't think it's in reference to our school district. Ms. Bliss stated that if we don't say that we're interested now, we will not have another opportunity later.

*The Board approved Item F3 by 4-0 and the motion carried. Item F3 was approved.*

(Item C was discussed out of the order of discussion)

### **C. Community Communications**

Ms. Rosalinda Ramirez, PECTA President, spoke to the Board about recently-enacted HB2011 which contains numerous policy changes affecting school personnel and AEA has vigorously opposed these changes and continues to work to reverse them. She stated that on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, AEA filed a petition for Special Action in the Arizona Supreme Court, claiming that the policy changes were unconstitutional and unconstitutionally-enacted and PECTA is hopeful that these changes will be invalidated. On behalf of PECTA's leadership and members, they request that these changes to policy in-district and regulations affected by the House Bill not be considered until the outcome of this lawsuit is known. Many of the policies enacted by HB2011 are punitive towards teachers and have numerous unintended consequences that will be detrimental to teachers and the district. For example, HB2011 deleted the deadlines for issuing contracts March 14 through May 15 and for issuing non-renewal notices on April 15. She stated that eliminating the certainty of deadlines makes it harder for the district to meet staffing needs and hampers employee recruitment and retention. She stated that the lack of these deadlines adversely affects employees' morale and makes planning problematic for teachers who are understandably concerned about security for their families. Ms. Ramirez stated that she feels these policies and regulations need much discussion and also expressed her appreciation to Superintendent Roa and Cabinet because they have begun discussions with them and she wants them to know that their efforts are appreciated. She stated that she is very proud to say that they have started and she hopes they can work together cooperatively on these issues.

#### **4. Request to Receive and Discuss Reorganization of Student Services for More Effective Management and Delivery of Special Education and Related Services to District Schools**

*Mr. Tom Lind introduced Ms. Joanne Phillips and presented a Special Education Flowchart.*

*The Board directed that the right side of the flowchart be changed/corrected and brought back to the Board.*

*(Item G1 and Item G2 were tabled by the Board)*

**G. Human Resources – Randy Dickason, Executive Director**

1. Request to Receive and Discuss Reorganization of Human Resources for More Effective Management of the Highly Qualified Programs  
*Item G1 was tabled by the Board.*
2. Request for Approval of Job Descriptions for Human Resources Reorganization  
*Item G2 was tabled by the Board.*
3. Request Approval of the Following Individuals as Hearing Officers/Investigators  
*Dr. Marston moved for approval of Item G3 and Dr. Stark seconded the motion. The motion carried and Item G3 was passed.*
4. Approval of Revised and/or New Job Descriptions to Support the Reorganization of the Student Services Department  
*Dr. Marston moved for approval of Item G4 and Dr. Stark seconded the motion and then abstained. The Board approved the motions by 3-0 and Item G4 was passed.*
5. Approval of Revised 2009-2010 Salary Schedule for Speech Language Pathologists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, and the Grade Assignment for Speech Language Pathology Assistants (Degreed and Non-degreed), Physical Therapy Assistants, and Occupational Therapy Assistants  
*Dr. Marston moved for approval of Item G5 and Ms. Meza seconded the motion. The motion carried and Item G5 was approved by 4-0 and was passed.*

**H. Board Reports and Requests**

1. Board Direction to the Superintendent (if necessary)  
None
2. Board Report  
None

**I. Adjournment**

The Board meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dr. Ruth Ann Marston  
Board President

RAM/evm

December 10, 2009