



**Minutes of Regular Public Meeting
May 13, 2015**

Dr. Ruth Ann Marston presided over the PESD No. 1 Governing Board Meeting in the Governing Board room at Emerson Court, 1817 N. Seventh Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85006.

Other board Members present were:

Dr. Louisa Stark Mrs. Susan Benjamin Dr. Angel Jannasch-Pennell Mr. Daniil Gunitskiy

Also present were:

Dr. Myriam Roa Superintendent	Mr. Tom Lind Assistant Superintendent	Mr. Larry Weeks Assistant Superintendent	Jovanny Cervantes Board Secretary
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A. Regular Session – 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order - Dr. Ruth Ann Marston

Meeting called to order at 6:05 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance- Dr. Myriam Roa

Dr. Myriam Roa led us in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. *Adjourn to Executive Session*

B. Public Hearing

2. Public Hearing: The Governing Board shall hear public comments for and against the potential closure of Shaw Elementary School located at 123 North 13th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034 and to hear public comment regarding any resulting boundary changes or school consolidations. With the exception of a presentation by administration, all speakers shall be limited to three minutes.

Dr. Myriam Roa gave a public statement and presentation to the issue and as to how the district got to the point of potential closure of Shaw Elementary School due to budget cuts.

Comments from the public may not be in the order they were heard and are grouped by for and against the possible closure of Shaw School, boundary changes and consolidation of schools.

The following people spoke on behalf of not closing Shaw Elementary School

1. Milly Franks 2nd grade teacher at Shaw School spoke against the possible closure of Shaw School. She expressed her concerns and feelings about the rushed notification of the closure and asked the Governing Board and Cabinet to take the time and ask themselves all the right questions and to come up with a better solution that doesn't involve closing the school. Ms. Franks worries that the students will not feel welcomed at a new school where they will be bussed off to face new challenges. Ms. Franks wonders what will happen to the employees at Shaw School and what's going to happen with the students from Shaw School.

2. John Kain spoke against the closure of Shaw School and shared a little information as to why the District was closing a school and stated that the school district and the state see the students as living breathing wads of cash.

3. Talese Russell student from Shaw School spoke against the possible closure and informed the Governing Board about her history and experience at Shaw. Ms. Russell asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw because if they did she would lose all the memories and friends she has gained from her time at Shaw Elementary School.

4. Jaclyn Parker Social Worker at Shaw Elementary School informed the Governing Board about her history and experience at Shaw. Ms. Parker expressed her feelings about the possible closure of Shaw. She found it to be a very wasteful after so much time, resources, love and dedication has been given to the school and its students just to see it quickly sacrificed. Ms. Parker asked the Governing Board and the cabinet to ask themselves who is really benefiting from this and is it worth the livelihood of the community.

5. Aida Crespo asked the Governing Board to please reconsider the possible closing of Shaw School. Ms. Crespo expressed her feelings and concerns about the possible move of the students to other schools. Ms. Crespo worried that the students will be bullied by other students from different neighborhoods. Ms. Crespo stated that she is proud to say that coming from a poor neighborhood such as these children received the greatest education from such great teachers. Ms. Crespo pleaded to the Governing Board to please keep Shaw School open because it's a strong community icon that she holds dear to her heart.

6. Elizabeth Crespo a mother of a student at Shaw School stated the history she had with Shaw School and expressed her feelings and concerns with the possible closure of Shaw School. Ms. Crespo asked the District to strongly reconsider closing Shaw because she holds it very close to her heart and would like to see her kids continue to benefit from such a great school.

7. Sophia Chavarria a 3rd grade student from Shaw School stated that she made a promise to a 6th grade teacher to be in her class and asked that the Governing Board not break that promise. Ms. Chavarria shared her and her brother's history and experiences at Shaw. Ms. Chavarria informed the Governing Board that many students, staff and parents would be heartbroken to see Shaw School closed and ended with saying, teachers tell them not to give up and by closing down Shaw it's like giving up.

8. Luz Olivas the mother of 3 students at Shaw School stated that it's going to be very difficult for many students, especially to the special needs students like one of her sons. Ms. Olivas asked why do you favor the students at Faith North. Why move them from their own school? Ms. Olivas stated that Shaw belongs to the students and the community. Ms. Olivas asked why not add more programs to Shaw instead of closing it. Ms. Olivas asked that the district sit down and talk about other options and please reconsider closing the school and please help the community.

9. John Carpenter former member of Governing Board asked the following questions: Where is the total savings from this closure, 2.5 million dollars? What will happen to the Faith North campus? How will shifting everyone around save money?

10. Calvin C. Goode a local community leader shared his history and experience with the Phoenix Elementary School District and expressed his concerns on the possible closing of Shaw Elementary School. Mr. Goode asked for more information as this issue was brought up to his attention as of recently. Mr. Goode asked that the District provide some more information as to why closing this school will better the community. Mr. Goode asked that the District provide the education the students in this community deserve and not put those students from out of district to the top priority.

11. Joel Sanchez, a 4th grade student from Shaw School, asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School.

12. Edilberta Martinez Godinez a parent from Shaw Elementary, said that tonight they have talked a lot about the Faith North but lacked to talk about the closure of Shaw Elementary School. Ms. Godinez shared her concerns and stated that all statistics show that all changes bring us out of balance. Ms. Godinez shared her family's experience and history with Shaw School and asked why they are moving the students to another school. Ms. Godinez said it looks like the District is giving more in favor of the Montessori program. Ms. Godinez asked the Governing Board to please reconsider the closure of Shaw.

13. Irma Cruz a parent from Shaw Elementary School expressed her families worry about what will happen to her kids with all these changes. Ms. Cruz stated that her kids are saddened not knowing what school they will end up at with all these waiting lists. Ms. Cruz believes it is not fair that the District is giving preference to those kids who live out of district and asked the Governing Board to please reconsider the closing of Shaw School.

14. Brandon Bradley a parent of Shaw School, expressed his concerns and feelings about pushing so many minorities into Garfield. Mr. Bradley asked the Governing Board to please reconsider kicking out the large number of students from their school. Mr. Bradley asked that the District do a better job of informing the parent and the students about all these changes and not just throw it at them at the last minute. Mr. Bradley reminded the District that before you balance your budget please consider the students because without the students there is no budget.

15. Perry Young staff member from Shaw School accompanied by one of his students Natalia Sanchez acknowledged all of the Shaw staff present at the Public Hearing and shared his history

and experience at Shaw Elementary School. Mr. Young asked why close Shaw? Why so fast? How much will it cost and how much will the district lose by closing Shaw? Mr. Young asked what does the future hold if Shaw School closes. What feelings will this produce by closing the School? Mr. Young asked the Governing Board to please reconsider the closing of Shaw school and find alternatives to save money.

16. Rebecca Sanchez a student at Shaw School spoke about the issue and shared her feeling about the closing of Shaw. Ms. Sanchez asked that the Governing Board please reconsider closing Shaw

17. Dana Ramos, an instructor at Shaw School shared her concerns on the closing of Shaw School. Ms. Ramos asked the Governing Board to please consider the students' emotional concerns, family's transportation during parent events, and by consolidating two campuses the negative affect that will come to those student moving across communities. Ms. Ramos also addressed how the district handled the communication of the school closure on such a short notice to the school and the community.

18. Janice Barrios Martinez a 6th grader from Shaw School came to show her support to keep Shaw School open. Ms. Martinez shared her feelings as to why it should remain open. Ms. Martinez expressed her feelings in the loss this change would bring to her. She asked the Governing Board to please reconsider.

19. Charles F. Brewer a community leader shared his feeling about seeing the children in his community move to another school in another community. Mr. Brewer asked that the Governing Board please reconsider and think about all the possible alternatives. Mr. Brewer stated that it doesn't seem right to him that the District is splitting the two teaching techniques.

20. Esther Sanchez parent of Shaw School shared her feelings and support to keep Shaw open and also shared her experience she and her child have gained while attending Shaw.

21. Khadijah Crosby, Science teacher at Shaw School shared her experience and history at Shaw. Ms. Crosby expressed her feelings and support to keeping the school open and asked the Governing Board to support her vote.

22. Axel Diaz a student from Shaw School, asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School

23. Kevin Diaz student from Shaw asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School and added that it would hurt him to see the school closed because he had a lot of memories there and that a lot of students would miss out on the experience he gained while attending Shaw School.

24. Stephanie Aguirre Flores 8th grade student of Shaw asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School.

25. *Gabriela Torres a parent of Shaw School shared her feelings and support to keep Shaw open. Ms. Torres said it's not fair that the District is moving the children from their own space. Ms. Torres asked why you not find another location to put Faith North. Ms. Torres asked why the District not think about the psychological damage it would cause the kids by moving them out of their school.*

26. *Miguel Givelas a student from Shaw, asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School.*

27. *Christina Magruder, a teacher of Shaw School shared her feelings and support to keep Shaw School open. Ms. Magruder expressed her concerns about having the district support the kids in our district and not the ones who travel in. Ms. Magruder encouraged the Governing Board to please reconsider and think of other possible options.*

28. *Lidia Bernal, a student of Shaw School, asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School.*

29. *Trevor Collinsworth, a teacher at Shaw School, shared his feelings and support to keep Shaw open. Mr. Collinsworth acknowledges the parents of Shaw School and for trusting him with the education of their kids. Mr. Collinsworth asked the Governing Board to please consider Ann Ott as another possible location for Faith North.*

30. *Jhovani Giles a student of Shaw asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School. Mr. Giles asked why Faith North is getting all the support of the District.*

31. *Rayna Soqui, a student of Shaw asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School.*

32. *Ramona Ramos, a parent of Shaw School shared her feelings and support to keep Shaw open. Ms. Ramos said it's not just a campus, it's tradition and by closing Shaw it's disrespectful to close Shaw School. Ms. Ramos asked why not add Faith North School and Shaw as one school instead of moving our children. Ms. Ramos stated please consider all the psychological damage you will inflict on the student by moving them out of their school. Ms. Ramos shared her history with introducing change with her kids and expressed how many difficulties this brought to the whole family so she asked the Governing Board to please reconsider the closing of Shaw School*

33. *Marin Denise, a student of Shaw School shared her history and experience and asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School.*

34. *Stephanie Bernal a parent of Shaw School shared her feelings and support to keep Shaw open. Ms. Bernal said the children will all suffer from this change. Ms. Bernal asked the Governing Board to please reconsider this change. She believes the teachers at Shaw School do an amazing job and don't deserve this*

35. *Dominika Grandlienord, an art teacher at Shaw School shared her experience and history at Shaw school. Ms. Grandlienord expressed her feelings and support to keep Shaw open and asked why the district doesn't consider Ann Ott as another option for Faith North*

36. *Gail Harris the principal at Shaw Elementary School came before the Governing Board to thank them for the chance to speak about the issue on the possible closure of Shaw School. Ms. Harris described Shaw as Successful, Hardworking, Actively achieving and Worthy school. Ms. Harris went on with presenting a short video by Shaw students opposing the closure of the school.*

Those For the Move and Consolidation of the Faith North Montessori campuses

1. *Adrienne Speas shared her history and experience with the Faith North Montessori educational program. Ms. Speas stated that she understands that the budget cuts are unfortunate to everyone but there is nothing that can be done about it at this time and urged people to vote during state elections to make the changes(increasing funding). Ms. Speas told the Governing Board she understands they are in a difficult situation but the possible expansion of the Faith North campus would bring more students to the district to benefit from this great public Montessori education.*

2. *Justin Talbot-Stern, a parent of a student at Faith North School, said he recognized the comments made before him by John Kain and shared his support the possible closing of Shaw School and the expansion of Faith North campus. Mr. Stern asked that the district and the Governing Board please take care of the staff and students of Shaw and asked for them to be well placed and taken care of during this tremendously difficult time.*

3. *Karen Bayless Feldman spoke about the Faith North education and shared her experiences and history with the Montessori program. Ms. Feldman expressed her enthusiasm of the possibility of the expansion of the Faith Montessori campus. Ms. Feldman also shared the concerns her child had about moving from the Faith North campus to another and sympathized with the Shaw students. She hopes that the Governing Board votes to expand the program so more kids can benefit from such a great program.*

4. *Amy Nugent a parent from Faith North shared her experience with the Faith North education. Ms. Nugent stated that the learning styles are different, but it's a great hands on program. Ms. Nugent shared how she travels from the Madison School District to the Phoenix Elementary District for such a great learning program and asked the Governing Board to vote toward the expansion of the Faith North Campus.*

5. *Alissa Mazanek a parent from Faith North shared her history and experiences with the Montessori program. Ms. Mazanek asked the Governing Board to vote for the expansion of the Faith North campus as this would (bring)over 300 (more) parents to the Faith North Montessori program.*

6. James O'Brand a parent from Faith North Montessori, stated that he fully supports the expansion of the Faith North campus. Mr. O'Brand shared his child's experience and said that the Montessori learning style is fantastic for his kids and hopes other kids can benefit from it as well.

7. Maurita Walker a parent from Faith North Montessori spoke about the issue and expressed her feelings about the school closing. She shared the pros of having the Faith North campus expansion. Ms. Walker said she feels for the Shaw Community and hopes that the schools that accept those students are very welcoming. Ms. Walker urged the community to go out and vote to help make changes to the legislation to help with our education. Ms. Walker reminded the community that they are all friends here we are all in the same boat.

8. Katherine Santangelo, a parent of Faith North shared her experience with Faith North. Ms. Santiago expressed the enthusiasm her and her kids have by attending the Montessori program. Ms. Santiago loves the care her family receives at Faith North and hopes many more families can benefit from such an amazing program. Ms. Santiago hopes the Governing Board approves the move of the Faith North campus because one campus would save money.

9. Jessica Stewart, a parent Faith North, shared her experience that her child has gained by attending the Faith North program. Ms. Stewart informed the Governing Board that it is amazing to have such a diverse community at Faith North School and is proud to be a faith North parent and would be glad to be called a proud Shaw Parent if the expansion is approved.

10. Jessica Brainard Smith, a parent from Faith North shared her experience while attending Faith North program and expressed her feelings about having all her kids at one campus. Ms. Smith asked the Governing Board to support the expansion to unite the Montessori campuses because she believes it's a great exceptional program.

11. Krista Pacion, a parent of Faith North thanked the Governing Board for a chance to speak about her experience and history with the Montessori program. Ms. Pacion asked the Governing Board and Community to allow her to join their community by moving the Faith North Campus to Shaw School. Ms. Pacion understands the Governing Board is under a lot of pressure right now and feels there is big pressure on the (Shaw) community of losing their school, but she asked the Governing Board to please support the move of the Faith North Campus.

12. Leign Ann Dolan, a parent from Faith North shared her experience and history with the Montessori program. Ms. Dolan stated that she was proud to be a parent of the Phoenix Montessori program. Ms. Dolan expressed how happy she is to travel 80 miles every day to have her child attend such an amazing program and asked the Governing Board to support the move of Faith North Campus to allow more parents to benefit from this amazing program.

13. David Garcia, parent at Faith North shared his history with the Montessori program. Mr. Garcia said that he understands it is going to be difficult for both Shaw and Faith North students because both will be going through a tough transition. Mr. Garcia asked the Governing Board to support this change because he would like to see a positive outcome out of this tragic budget crisis.

14. Karl Wick, a parent of Faith Montessori, shared his experience and history and stated that he is in favor of the positive change to move the Montessori program to a bigger campus. Mr. Wick said that the possibility of a larger campus would allow for better possibilities for the students who attend this program it would also open new doors to the many other families wanting to join the Montessori community. Mr. Wick Strongly encouraged the Governing Board to please support the change.

15. Danielle Martin, a parent from Faith North shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Martin encouraged the Governing Board to please support the consolidating of the Faith North Campuses to better improve the Montessori program.

16. Julie Wonsowicz-Moore, a parent from Faith North shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Moore stated that it is very important that they expand the Montessori program to allow other families who want to join the program.

17. Shelley Wright, a parent from Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program Ms. Wright expressed her feelings and support as to why they should expand the Montessori campus because this would allow the community to get stronger and bring more families to join the program and become a very strong school

18. Magdalena Weinkein, a parent from Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Weinkein asked the Governing Board to support the consolidation of the two Montessori campuses.

19. Alma Corrales, a parent from Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Corrales expressed her support to consolidating the two Faith North campuses.

20. Justin Peterson, a parent from Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Mr. Peterson expressed her support to consolidate the two faith north campuses.

21. Edde De Arcos, a parent from Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Mr. Arcos expressed her support to consolidating the two Faith North campuses.

22. Wallis Hardie, a parent from Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Hardie expressed her support to consolidating the two faith north campuses.

23. Robert Dalessandro, a community member and a parent from Faith North, shared his history and experience with the Montessori program. Mr. Dalessandro expressed her support to consolidating the two Faith North campuses.

Neutral vote

1. *Rayna Rosel, a past Governing Board member for the Phoenix Elementary School District, spoke about her strong support for both Faith North and Shaw Schools. Ms. Rosel asked the Governing Board to go back at re-look at where District can save money to fund both schools.*

2. *Joseph Fuentes a community member and teacher at Garfield Elementary school shared his experience with Phoenix Elementary School District. Mr. Fuentes spoke about stability it brings to students by having strong support in their schools and asked the District these following questions: What else will be provided to students beside transportation who are coming due to Shaw closing? Will those students be able to participate in clubs and sports? Will Garfield have enough staff to support all their new flow of students coming? Mr. Fuentes told the community of Shaw School that they would be welcomed with open arms and he and the Garfield staff would try to make this transition as smooth as possible.*

3. *Pam Gavinia thanked the Governing Board for a chance to speak to them again about the Show closure. Ms. Gavinia expressed the importance of stability. Ms. Gavinia stated that Shaw School lacked the experienced teachers that would allow the student to thrive. Ms. Gavinia asked the District if it really has been maximizing the potential for Shaw School.*

7:48 P.M. The Public Hearing Stood at Recess

7:59 P.M. Dr. Marston Reconvened the Public Hearing

C. Administration

1. Request Approval to Schedule a Second Public Hearing to Consider Potential School Closures, Consolidations, and Resulting Boundary Changes

Dr. Marston asked for a motion to schedule a public hearing to Consider Potential School Closures, Consolidations, and Resulting Boundary Changes

Susan Benjamin stated that she will not be at the next meeting and asked to hear the recording of the May 28th Public hearing.

Administration recommends that the Governing Board schedule a Second Public Hearing to Consider Potential School Closures, Consolidations, and Resulting Boundary Changes on May 28, 2015 at 1817 North 7th Street, Phoenix, AZ at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Angel Pennell, second by Louisa Stark.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Daniil Gunitskiy, Ruth Ann Marston, Susan Benjamin, Angel Pennell, Louisa Stark

D. Adjournment

1. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:49 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

x *Ruth Ann Marston*

Dr. Ruth Ann Marston

Board President, Phoenix Elementary School District #1