



**Minutes of Regular Public Meeting
May 28, 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 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 6:11 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance- Mr. Tom Lind

Mr. Tom Lind led us in the Pledge of Allegiance

B. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Request Approval for Out of State Travel

2. Request Approval of Renewal Memorandum of Understanding with Playworks to Provide Services to Bethune, Edison, Emerson, Garfield, Heard, Herrera, and Whittier Schools for the 2015-2016 School Year

3. Request Approval of Ratification of Payroll \$2,175,700.71 and Expense Vouchers \$2,405,552.59 in the total amount of \$4,581,253.30

4. Request Approval of the Financial Reports for Student Activity Funds for April 2015

5. Request Approval of the Resolution to allow Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools Office as the Chief Disbursing Office for all Wage Garnishments

6. Request Approval of the Resolution to designate Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools Office as the Chief Disbursing Office for all Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants

7. Request Approval or Ratification of Employment of Administrative, Certified and Support Staff

8. Request Approval or Ratification of Employee Contract/Work Agreement Adjustments for Changes in Position

9. Request Approval of Separation of Employment, Resignations and Retirements

10. Request Approval of Uncompensated Leave of Absences

11. Request Approval/Ratification of Emergency Actions (if necessary)

12. Request Approval of Consent Agenda
Resolution: Recommend approval of consent agenda

Recommend approval of consent agenda

Motion by Daniil Gunitskiy, second by Louisa Stark.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Daniil Gunitskiy, Ruth Ann Marston, Louisa Stark

C. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Myriam M. Roa

1. Awards and Recognitions

Dr. Roa recognized Herrera School Panther Band and Orchestra for having two students receive Silver Ratings at the Forum Music Festival at Cypress College in Cypress, CA on Friday, May 15th. Two students received musician honors for their solos: Ruben Miranda (trumpet), and Viridiana Soto (string bass).

2. Announcements

Tom Lind spoke about the Summer School events and programs and stated that it began on Tuesday, May 26th at Heard and Herrera for student K-3 who need more support in English language arts and ended with stating that the summer school would be concluding on June 12th.

Mr. Lind also stated that the state legislature removed the retention requirement for 3rd graders that are falling far below due to the reading assessment because of the new state assessment being implemented.

Dr. Roa celebrated that some of our retirees were returning to the district to continue to work for the district.

3. MCESA / REIL Update

D. Community Communications

1. Community Communications

E. Board Reports and Requests

1. Receive, Discuss and Take Possible Action on Proposed Items for the 2016 Arizona School Boards Association Political Agenda

Dr. Pennell spoke about the need to stay informed on the issues going on with education.

Dr. Marston added that all the Governing Board members have and continue to take the action to support education and fight back against state budget cuts.

2. Board Direction to the Superintendent (if necessary)

3. Board Reports

4. Adjourn to Public Hearing

Dr. Marston asked for a motion to adjourn to a Public Hearing

Motion by Daniil Gunitskiy, second by Louisa Stark.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Daniil Gunitskiy, Ruth Ann Marston, Louisa Stark

F. Public Hearing

1. Call for Public Hearing - Dr. Ruth Ann Marston

The Public Hearing began at 6:19 P.M.

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 answered the questions asked at the previous Public Hearing on May 13th

The Following Questions and Answers were:

1. ***Why was Shaw recommended and not a different district school?***

The District's goal has been to maintain our neighborhood schools. It is difficult when enrollment drops below 400. Shaw's enrollment is below 400; yet we have a waiting list of 300 students for the Montessori Program. The Montessori Program is already using an increasing amount of the Shaw Campus. It is purely a budget recommendation in response to our budget cuts.

2. Why wasn't Ann Ott School recommended to grow the Montessori Program?

It would cost the school district \$1.8 million to upgrade the Ann Ott campus to District standards. We have to cut \$818,000 from the budget. We cannot add expenses. Presently, a local community center and alternative school are using a portion of the Ann Ott campus.

3. Why can't the Shaw students just attend the Montessori School?

The Montessori approach is a unique and effective approach to education. However, it is a style of teaching and learning that should begin in the primary years to ensure children are successful. Student success must remain our priority. Our parents make choices for their students, and the Montessori Method is not one that the parents of the traditional schools have made in the past. Usually, if a student has attended a Montessori program in another district, they shadow students for a day so that parents can get on a waiting list and then a random lottery is conducted to enroll the new students annually. A transitional Montessori program can accept some current Shaw students if there is parent interest. If you are interested in knowing more about a transitional Montessori, please let Principal Gail Harris know.

4. Where would students from Shaw go to school if the Montessori School moves to Shaw?

Garfield is the recommended school. They have room to effectively add the students of Shaw, and they welcome the opportunity to bring them to their campuses. If for some reason, Garfield is not the school of choice for the Shaw students, we have 13 other schools that are also open enrollment that would be considered options for enrollment. Parents will have the opportunity to open enroll their students in the other district schools. Administration is recommending that all Shaw students be given choices for all schools in the District that have capacity. Transportation is already offered District wide to some special populations, including any 7th and 8th grader choosing a school out of their area of attendance in the District. Sometimes younger siblings ride along to go to a school of choice within the District.

5. Is Garfield a good school for children to attend?

Garfield is our 3rd highest performing school in the District for academic proficiency. It ranks just behind Magnet Traditional and Faith North in terms of academic proficiency. We are very proud of their academic performance. Garfield also has all the programs that are offered at Shaw including but not limited to: Free All-Day Kindergarten, Free Breakfast & Lunch, Free After School Sports for 5th – 8th grade students, Free Before & After School Care for Students of Working Parents.

6. What would happen to the teachers and Staff?

The recommendation is to move the staff of Shaw to other schools with similar/like vacancies across the district. No reduction in force is expected, all positions will be placed.

7. What would become of the name Augustus H. Shaw, Jr. School?

The administrative recommendation will be to retain the name of this school, named for an important person in the history of Phoenix. Our Montessori program has moved many times during its growth, and each time they have taken on the name of the campus.

8. How can I best prepare my child for this potential transition?

Children are most often concerned about where their friends will be attending school. You can assure them that their friends will also be moving, and they will be at the schools with other Shaw students. You can also remind them of how easily they make new friends and how great it will be to keep their friends and grow new friendships, as well. You can share with them that the teachers and staff of Shaw will be moving to the other schools, as well. Children are amazingly resilient and with a positive attitude from their parents and teachers, they make these transitions very well.

9. How can I share my questions and concerns and ideas?

You can attend the public meetings that the Governing Board is hosting on May 13th and May 28th at 6:00 PM to hear public comments. They will be held at 1817 North 7th Street in the Governing Board Room of Phoenix Elementary School District #1.

You also may call my office at 602-257-2912 or myriam.roa@phxschools.org. My assistant is Kathy Garcia. You may speak with Dr. Gail Harris the principal at Shaw School. She can be reached at gail.harris@phxschools.org or 602-257-3899.

10. What are the important dates to remember regarding this potential change?

May 13th at 6:00 PM is a public hearing at 1817 North 7th Street, Phoenix 85006.

May 28th at 6:00 PM is a public hearing at 1817 North 7th Street, Phoenix 85006.

June 11th at 6:00 PM is the board meeting for the board to vote on the recommendations at 1817 North 7th Street, Phoenix 85006. August 5th is the first day of the 2015-2016 school year. We will be working hard to insure that however the Governing Board votes the 2015-2016 school year is a great year for all of our students and staff.

11. Are there other things I can do to drive enrollment up in our schools so that we can maintain our community schools in downtown Phoenix?

Yes, please remind your family, friends and co-workers of our great schools in downtown Phoenix and of all the wonderful opportunities we offer including: free breakfast and lunch for all students, free before and after school care for students of working parents who are enrolled in the districts; as well as many of the programs such as art and physical education that other districts can no longer offer. And, most importantly that our schools are communities of families

where we all work together to ensure success for every child! Please be sure to contact us if you have questions about these recommendations that will be made May 13th and May 28th in public hearings to the Phoenix Elementary School District #1 Governing Board regarding potential changes to Shaw and Faith North Schools; as well as adding students to Garfield School.

Dr. Roa introduced Principal of Garfield School Silvia Bernal

Ms. Bernal came before the Governing Board to alleviate some of the community's worries, concerns and feeling of loss. Dr. Bernal stated that change is a difficult process to go through and commended the Governing Board for the tough decision they will be facing. Ms. Bernal spoke about the great benefits Garfield school offers and spoke for her and her staff when saying that all of the Shaw community will be greatly welcomed and assisted with the transition to Garfield School.

The following people spoke to oppose closing Shaw Elementary School

1. Ramon Aquino, a Puente Human Right organization member, started his statement with reading an article by the raisingazkids.com and then asked the Governing Board to please stand up and start speaking against the budget cuts so no more schools are being closed. Mr. Aquino stated that the community loves Shaw School and would not like to see it close he also asked that the Governing Board look for alternative ways to fund the school and not close it.

2. Sophia Chavarria, a student of Shaw School, shared her history and experience and asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School.

3. Eric Higgs, a parent from Shaw School, came to ask the Governing Board to please reconsider the closure of Shaw. Mr. Higgs asked the District where are the totals in saving in closing Shaw School. Mr. Higgs also stated the history and experience he has had while living in the Community of Shaw.

4. 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. Mr. Brewer asked why we can't just make all the current Shaw Students Montessori Students. Mr. Brewer asked can Faith North handle the upcoming new residential buildings being added to the area. Mr. Brewer asked if Faith North is a better way of learning why don't all the Schools in the District have it at their campuses.

5. Luz Olivas, a parent of three children who attend Shaw School, came before the Governing Board to speak against the closing of Shaw School. Ms. Olivas asked the Governing Board to think about the children because the children see the district only thinking about the money instead of their feelings and concerns. Ms. Olivas asked the Governing Board if you move the children will you have the money you need. Ms. Olivas also asked why the District tries to say

that Montessori education is better than Shaw's education. Ms. Olivas ended with saying that the students at Shaw School matter as much as Faith North's students.

6. Hilver, a student of Shaw School, shared her history and experience and asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School.

7. Franny Velgara, a parent from Shaw Elementary School, stated that she hopes in God that the Governing Board makes the best decision to help the children and also asked to think with their hearts and not with their minds to please do not just think of the money. Ms. Vergara asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw and to always think of what's better for the children in their community.

8. 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 can Garfield handle all the kids being added to its School. Mr. Goode asked what will be the total itemized savings in the closing. Mr. Goode asked for more information about the Montessori program. Mr. Goode asked why doesn't the Faith North Montessori community members do not ask their home communities to start a Montessori program.

9. Crystal, a student of Shaw School, shared her history and experience and asked the Governing Board not to close Shaw Elementary School.

The following people turned in a comment card and asked not to speak but were against the closing of Shaw Elementary School

1. Tim Higgs

2. Hannah Lucas

3. Ernestina Romero

4. Cristal Padilla

5. Ernestina Romero (written statement submitted)

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

1. Leisla Church, a parent from Faith North, shared her experience while having her child attend Faith North Montessori Program and expressed her feelings about having all the Montessori staff and students at one campus together. Ms. Church stated that uniting campuses would strengthen the community and the students learning. Ms. Church asked the Governing Board to support the expansion to unite the Montessori campuses because she believes it's a great exceptional program and it would allow more students to join the Montessori school.

2. *Marisa Panchios, a teacher from Faith North Montessori, thanked the Governing Board for allowing her to teach for the district for 10 years and for taking a chance on the a new innovative way of teaching. Ms. Panchios asked the Governing Board to support the expansion to unite the Montessori campuses because she believes it would allow the program to flourish.*

3. *Megan Trezise, a parent at Faith North and a parent and ex-teacher at Shaw School from Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Trezise expressed her support of consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidation. Ms. Trezise stated that by consolidating it would give more space for the students to learn.*

4. *Susan Engdall, the Principal at both Faith North Campuses, shared her experience with the District and the Faith North Montessori. Ms. Engdall spoke about the struggle of an ever growing and changing program. Ms. Engdall asked the Governing Board to support the expansion to unite the Montessori campuses to offer more families the opportunity to join such an amazing learning program.*

5. *Corrie Box, a Music teacher at Faith North Montessori, spoke about her experience and struggles they have in their daily teaching because of the lack of space. Ms. Box stated that most teachers would have to share the gym during lunch and have a big lack of teaching for the student because of multiple classes going on at once. Ms. Box asked the Governing Board to support the expansion to give the music students at Faith North the same opportunities at learning that the other students in the School District receive.*

6. *Katherine Santangelo, a parent from Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Santangelo expressed her support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses.*

7. *Robert Dalessandro, a community member, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Mr. Dalessandro expressed her support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses. Mr. Dalessandro asked the community to make sure they know who they are voting for during state elections and thanked the Governing Board for the tough decision they have to make with all these budget cuts.*

8. *Adrienne Speas, a parent from Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Speas expressed her support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses. Ms. Speas also stated the benefits of having the two campuses join together.*

9. *Patricia Earby, an Instructional Assistant and previous parent of the Faith North Montessori, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Earby expressed her support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses. Ms. Earby asked the community to not blame the district for the State budget cuts but rather work together to get through these tough times.*

10. Madelyn Macias, a student from Faith North Montessori, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Mr. Dolan expressed her support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses.

11. Bob Dolan, a parent from Faith North, shared his history and experience with the Montessori program. Mr. Dolan expressed his support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses.

12. Ron Marsoha, a parent from Faith North, shared his history and experience with the Montessori program. Mr. Marsoha expressed his support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses.

13. Edde De Arcos, a parent from Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. De Arcos expressed her support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses.

14. 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 campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North School.

15. Djuon Williams, a parent from Faith North, shared his history and experience with the Montessori program. Mr. Williams expressed his support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses.

16. Lance Dunlop, the P.E. Teacher at Faith North, shared his history and experience with the Montessori program. Mr. Dunlop expressed his support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses.

17. Jessica Mitchell, a parent of two children of Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Mitchell expressed her support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses.

18. Opal Hardie-Jorgenson, a student from Faith North Montessori, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Jorgenson expressed her support to consolidating the two campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses.

19. Melissa Buelow, a parent of two children of Faith North, shared her history and experience with the Montessori program. Ms. Buelow expressed her support to consolidating the two faith north campuses and asked the Governing Board to please vote in favor of consolidating Faith North campuses.

The following people did not speak but were For the Move and Consolidation of the Faith North Montessori campuses

1. *Gina Roam*

Neutral

1. *Rosalinda Ramirez, Reading Interventionist and President of Teachers' Association (PECTA), shared her experience with Phoenix Elementary School District. Ms. Ramirez talked about change and about how two great schools will grow and change. Ms. Ramirez stated that she admired the Governing Board for the great decision they will be making and hopes that there is a blessing in disguise out of all of this.*

7:39 P.M. The Public Hearing Stood at Recess

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

3. **Adjourn Public Hearing**

Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

G. Adjournment

1. **Adjournment**

2. The next Governing Board Study Session is scheduled to be held on June 8th, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at ALPS Monterey Park located at 2301 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

x Ruth Ann Marston

Dr. Ruth Ann Marston

Board President, Phoenix Elementary School District #1