STUDY SESSION

The study session was called to order at 4:30 PM and concluded at 5:18 PM. A quorum of Board members was present; namely, Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil, Bonnie Schroader, Jennifer Tanner, and Blossom Tande. Information regarding the 21st Century Collaborative Network was presented by the Valley Vista High School Feeder Schools. Appendix A

Valley Vista High School  Ashton Ranch School
Countryside School  Surprise School
Thompson Ranch School  West Point School

I. REGULAR MEETING - GENERAL FUNCTION

1. Ms. Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil, Governing Board President, called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Governing Board members constituting a quorum were present; Ms. Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil, Mrs. Bonnie Schroader, Ms. Jennifer Tanner, and Ms. Blossom Tande.

2. Jeremy St. Germain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. A motion by Sawyer-Sinkbeil/Schroader was entered to approve the Agenda Form consistent with Board Policy and temporarily suspend any Governing Board Policy with which this agenda may be inconsistent. UNANIMOUS

4. Summary of Current Events
   • Presentations, Recognitions, Celebrations
     • The Collaboration Technology Showcase was hosted by El Mirage, Riverview, Dysart Elementary, Marley Park and Dysart High School. Each school focused on different performance indicators; cooperation, self-regulation, responsibility and productivity.
     • Mr. Jim Dean shared the certificate presented to the District by the City of Surprise Council and Mayor recognizing October as Bullying Prevention Month.
     • 14 of the 28 November Rachel’s Challenge Heartbeats were recognized. The individuals named were congratulated by each Board member, received a token of appreciation and placed their heartbeat certificate on the dais. The remaining 28 will be recognized at the November 19th meeting. Appendix B
   • Superintendent Update – Dr. Pletnick read aloud the memo prepared to communicate the unofficial results of the 2014 Dysart Unified School District Override. (Appendix C) Dr. Pletnick reported Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil and Spencer Bailey were elected to the two 4-year term seats on the Board. She also indicated the results of the write-in campaign for the 2-year term seat will be available on November 14th. She congratulated Traci and Spencer and thanked Blossom Tande for her contributions to the District during her time on the Board.
   • Governing Board Update – Governing Board members expressed their disappointment in the failure of the Override to pass and thanked parents, staff and community members for their tireless efforts in advocating for the vote. They encouraged the Dysart community to remain strong, rally together and move forward.
• Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil attended the Pre-K Parent Involvement Training and the Breast Cancer Awareness events on October 22nd. She also attended the November 4th City of Surprise Council recognition of Karen Winterstein honoring her achievement as the National Association of Elementary School Principals 2014 Principal of the Year.

• Blossom Tande toured Luke School. She also attended the City of Surprise recognition of Karen Winterstein, a Greater Phoenix Economic Consortium meeting, the ASBA Maricopa County meeting, and the Mayor’s chat on the State of the City meeting at the Marley Park HOA. She congratulated Traci and Spencer and said it has been honor to serve the District.

5. Audience with Individuals or Groups
Angie Normand and Suzanne Kellis addressed the Governing Board and encouraged the Board to go out for another Override Election. Wm. S. Stephens explained why he voted against the Override primarily saying the District needs to make it easier for the community to understand the budget and education initiatives. Steve Long, Pastor at Ridgeline Church, encouraged the Governing Board and Administration to remain hopeful and to continue doing what is right for children.

ACTION/CONSENT

A motion by Tanner/Schroader was entered to approve the consent items as presented.  UNANIMOUS

ACTION/CONSENT

1. Recommendation for Approval of Cooperative Purchases Over the $100,000 Threshold for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year
   Approved  UNANIMOUS

2. Recommendation for Approval to Issue and Release Solicitations for P-card Services, Armored Car Services, Audit Services, Employee Insurance Benefits Consulting Services, and Special Needs Supplies & Equipment
   Approved  UNANIMOUS

3. Recommendation to Approve the Claim Form for State Aid Corrections Due to Transwestern Pipeline Company Tax Appeal Settlement
   Approved the Claim Form for State Aid Corrections due to Transwestern Pipeline Company Tax Appeal Settlement.  UNANIMOUS

   Approved the Skyway Business Park FTZ and authorized Dr. Gail Pletnick, Superintendent, to sign the Letter of Support.  UNANIMOUS

5. Recommendation to Approve the Warranty Deed for Right-of-Way Property Conveyance to the City of Surprise
   Approved the Warranty Deed for Right-of-Way Property Conveyance and authorized the Executive Director for Business Services to sign the agreement and any affiliated documents.  UNANIMOUS
6. Recommendation to Approve the Sun City Grand Room Rental Contract for the Dysart High School JROTC Military Ball and Authorize the Executive Director for Business Services to Sign the Agreement and Any Affiliated Documents
   Approved
   UNANIMOUS

7. Recommendation to Approve the Proposal for the 2014-2015 High-Impact Instructional Initiative Consulting and Training Services Provided by Clark Consulting and Training, Inc. and Authorize the Assistant Superintendent to Sign the Proposal and any Affiliated Documents
   Approved
   UNANIMOUS

8. Recommendation to Approve the Practicum Articulation Agreement with Liberty University and Authorize the Executive Director for Human Resources to Sign the Agreement and Any Affiliated Documents
   Approved
   UNANIMOUS

   Approved
   UNANIMOUS

10. Recommendation to Terminate Employment – Classified Staff – 2014-2015 School Year
    Approved the termination of Benny Jones effective November 10, 2014.
    UNANIMOUS

11. Approval of the Minutes of the October 1, 2014 Governing Board Meeting and the Candidate Forum Held October 2, 2014
    Approved
    UNANIMOUS

12. Declarations of Curricular & Instructional Alignment to the Arizona Academic Standards
    Affirmed adoption of curriculum that is aligned with the Arizona Academic Standards, including the Arizona Common Core Standards and has adopted an evaluation system that assesses whether teachers are integrating the Standards into instructional practices for the School District and the School District Charter.
    UNANIMOUS

13. Recommendation to Approve Overnight and Out-of-State Travel
    Approved
    UNANIMOUS

14. Career Ladder Program FY15 – Statement of Action Taken
    Authorized the Governing Board Clerk to sign the Statement of Action form.
    UNANIMOUS

15. Acceptance of Donations, Gifts and Grants
    Accepted
    UNANIMOUS

16. Extra-Curricular Tax Credit Fund and Student Activities Fund Reports for the Month of September 2014
    Acknowledged receipt.
    UNANIMOUS
17. Approval/Ratification of Payroll Vouchers 14, 7597, 15, 7598, 16 and 7599 in the Amount of $9,955,094.09  
Approved/Ratified  
UNANIMOUS

18. Approval/Ratification of Expense Vouchers, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017 and 1018 in the Amount of $5,730,213.49  
Approved/Ratified  
UNANIMOUS

**INFORMATION**

19. Update on November 4, 2014 Election Outcomes Related to Dysart Unified District Measures and Board Seats  
Dr. Pletnick shared that when we opened our doors today, as difficult as it was for all of you who were out there saying *please support our students and vote yes*, 25,000+ students came through the doors. So even though our staff, our teachers, and administrators, all of us, felt a bit gloomy because of the outcome, we knew that that could not impact what happened in our classrooms. The students depend on us. This district does tremendous things for students because of great leadership, dedicated faculty and staff, and a community that does support student success. We know that businesses do not come to communities where they don’t have a reliable and ready workforce. That’s what Dysart is preparing our students to do. We know families don’t move to communities where they don’t have a quality education. This is an “A” district; it is a quality education. This is a district that has embraced 21st century learning skills; this is a quality district. This is a district where every single day our schools are filled with volunteers, parent/teacher organizations, and where dedicated teachers and staff go above and beyond.

She went on to say that the 2010 approved override funding is required to be spent in the way it was outlined in the language for that ballot measure. The monies were outlined to be used for and dedicated to all day kindergarten, maintaining class sizes, student programs for art, music, band, physical education and athletics, competitive salaries and critical resources for the K-3 reading program. The money was spent for these areas and this is where the cuts will be made. When you lose an override it is an immediate death because when you cut a program you are cutting people in that program/area.

Work begins to develop a 3-year phase down plan which will reduce the $18M override funded programs described above by $6 million dollars in 2015-2016, an additional $6M in 2016-2017 and the last $6M in 2017-2018. That plan will be presented to the Board in December.

Dr. Pletnick reported Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil and Spencer Bailey were elected to the two 4-year term seats on the Board. She indicated the results of the write-in campaign for the 2-year term seat will be available November 14th.

20. Expenditures for Gifted Program  
Dr. Pletnick shared information regarding the costs of and resources utilized for the District’s gifted program including: 1) the number of gifted students 2) state allocated funding for gifted programming 3) Dysart funded specialized programming for the gifted program; 4) testing; and 5) resources. Appendix D

21. Policy Governance – Board Monitoring of Adopted Policies – Section 3.0 to 3.5 – Board Superintendent Relationship  
Governing Board members asked for and received clarification regarding Section 3.1 and 3.4. Revision of policies in this section was not requested.
ACTION/DISCUSSION

22. Rescind Approval of Statement of Charges Recommending Dismissal of Certificated Teacher C. Tanner
   A motion by Schroader/Sawyer-Sinkbeil was entered to rescind the Statement of Charges and Notice of Intent to Dismiss Christopher Tanner, Certificated Teacher, and release Mr. Tanner from his 2014-2015 certificated contract and waive the liquidated damages. UNANIMOUS

23. Governing Board Self-Assessment Schedule of Workshops
   After discussion, a motion by Schroader/Tanner was entered to approve establishing Governing Board Self-Assessment Workshops to be held on a quarterly basis with 2014-2015 dates identified as January 21, April 15 and June 17, 2015. UNANIMOUS

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion entered by Sawyer-Sinkbeil/Schroader and by a unanimous vote, the meeting ended at 7:44 p.m.

Signed

Date:

November 19, 2014
APPENDIX A

21st Century Collaborative

Valley Vista Feeder Group
(Ashton Ranch, Countryside, Surprise, Thompson Ranch, West Point)

Power in the preparation...Excellence in the journey...Success for a lifetime...

Alignment to District Strategic Plan

- Goal A: All Dysart students will graduate ready for college, career and life in a globally competitive economy by mastering New Century Learner skills as defined by Dysart’s Profile of a Graduate.

- Goal B: Implement the “We Are Dysart” culture defined by common beliefs, high expectations, collaboration and shared leadership resulting in improved student success as defined by the strategic plan academic goals.
21st Century Specialists

Vision: A culture of innovation and inspiration for all

Mission: Innovative educators facilitating a shift in learning toward a global, collaborative environment and inspiring future generations to be critical and creative thinkers who persevere in an ever changing world.
21st Century Specialists

District Wide Projects:
- Critical Thinking
  - Administrator Training in Math and Science
  - High School Math Support
  - Leadership Cadres (Middle and High School)
- Authentic Assessment
- BYOD
- Peer Mentor and New Teacher Support Training
- Innovation Ambassadors Technology and Leadership
- Gifted Services

Site Level Partnerships
- Requested by administrators based on CIP
- Inclusive of 4C's

Examples:
- Teaching Critical Thinking through Science
- Student Engagement and Collaboration
- Questioning and Discussion Strategies to Promote High Level Learning
- Critical Thinking and Collaborative Environments
Peer Mentors

Positive impacts - one teacher at a time.
Gifted Support

Gifted Cluster Teacher Model
Gifted Cluster Teachers are trained by 21st Century Specialists

Gifted Support

Ongoing training for gifted cluster teachers and gifted technology instructional assistants

Gifted Cluster Teachers Reminder : Week 2

Remember, students must pre-assess out of content skills to participate in Defined Stem projects. Therefore, completion timelines should be customized to each student.
Gifted Support

The mission of Your Call is to create a 21st century community of learners and a sustainable model for developing leaders throughout the Dysart Unified School District. 13 Current Projects

- Bringing Multiple Teacher Initiatives Together to Build a Path to Coherence
- Cracking the Code
- English Language Proficiency (ELP) Mastery Assessment Project (MAP)
- Flipped Classroom - Chemistry and Cambridge Chemistry
- iSchool Facilitator Course
- Motivating Students through Innovative Instruction and Authentic Assessments
- Reading Intervention by Choice
- Realign & Redesign Art Through Technology
- Simplifying I.T.
- Standards Alignment Cross Walk: Arizona College and Career Ready
- Standards-Based Grading
- Strategic Intervention in the Middle and High School Levels
- Administrative Internships
Your Call

Online directory and discussion forum for current and potential Your CaLL participants.

Your Call

Simplifying I.T.
Technology Specialists

Technology Specialists build technical capacity for the 21st century graduate and staff members. They empower the school staff to address technology issues by providing them with access to resources and training opportunities.

Technology Services Zones

There are 8 Technology Specialists serving 25 district sites and one Career and Technical Education Specialist. Zone school distribution was based on school technology volume and technology inventory. Technology Specialists are not based at a school.
Power in the preparation...
Excellence in the journey...
Success for a lifetime...
Rachel’s Challenge
Dysart Heartbeats
November 5, 2014

Ashton Ranch - Mina Munoz
Canyon Ridge - Janelle Brooks
Cimarron Springs - Marcella Davis
Countryside - Justin Greathouse
Dysart Elementary - Bev Zwick
El Mirage - Stella Soto
Kingswood - Sherri Deissler
Luke - Helen Ly
Marley Park - Valerie Kaye-Smith
Mountain View - Kristi Franco
Parkview - Robin Hollowell
Rancho Gabriela - Steve Markowski
Dysart High - Holly Johnston
Shadow Ridge - Bernice Garcia
MEMO

DATE: November 5, 2014

TO: Dysart Unified School District Staff and Community

FROM: Gail Pletnick, Superintendent

SUBJECT: Unofficial Results of the 2014 Dysart Unified School District Override

Unfortunately, The Dysart Unified School District’s Override ballot measure does not appear to have the necessary votes to pass. I do want to thank all those in our community who supported the 2014-15 Override and worked to support a “Yes” vote for our children and schools.

Although the election results have not yet been finalized, we need to begin to explore the ramifications of the Override not being approved. This ballot defeat will result in cuts to critical programs for the students in this district. The Override paid for important programs, including all-day kindergarten; maintaining reasonable class size and salaries; maintaining fine arts programs, band, physical education, athletics and intervention resources. Without the Override funds, the district will need to start cutting those areas beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. These cuts will result in a reduction of staff beginning next year. Six ($6) million dollars must be cut from the 2015-2016 school budget as the Override begins to be phased out, with a total of approximately $18 million dollars in cuts to these programs over the three (3) year phase out period. The goal will be to begin the phase down by finding the least devastating cuts for next year with the hope the district will have an opportunity to bring the Override back to voters before the end of the 3 year phase out.

As a direct result of the Override failure, cuts will be made beginning in the 2015-2016 school year focused on class size, all day kinder, fine arts and athletic programs and intervention programs; those areas funded by the Override. Considering the impact of these programs, there are no cuts that are inconsequential. We will work with our stakeholders and Governing Board on a plan and provide the details the beginning of next month. Even though the phase down process must be implemented next school year, we must remain hopeful the district will not be forced to phase out or eliminate all programs funded by the Override. The district must work to educate voters on the need to support our students and a quality public education system.
Gifted Students & State Funding

- K-8: about 644
- 9-12: about 436

- State Allocated Funding for Gifted Programming = $0
Funding for Gifted Education in Dysart

- State Allocated Funding for Gifted Programming = $0

- Dysart funded specialized programming for gifted:
  - 171 Cluster Teachers at $52,000 each in salary and benefits
  - 13 21st Century Specialists at $811,000 in salary and benefits
  - 10 Gifted Technology Instructional Assistants (GTIA) at $134,000 in salary and benefits
  - Multiple trainings for Cluster Teachers and GTIAs at a cost of more than $24,000 (Additional Details)
  - Over $60,000 for computer program licenses
  - Additional extended learning opportunities outside of specialized programming including Honor, Cambridge, other higher level courses

Funding for Gifted Education

Additional unreimbursed costs: Testing
- Tested this fall: 314
- Qualified: 40
Supporting Student Success

• Interest Inventory & Gifted Learning Plan - 7th grade Plan
• Cluster teacher support and student extension programs including:
  • Integrated STEM
  • Duke
  • Mango
  • Web based programs

Questions?