

Western Maricopa Education Center, District 402

Meeting Location: West-MEC Office

4949 W. Indian School Road – Phoenix, AZ 85031

May 7, 2008

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Board President James Kaltenbach at 4:07 p.m. All Board Members were present except Mr. Lunsford who arrived during the discussion on Health Savings Accounts. Mr. Amery and Mr. Donovan presented the award of Outstanding Maryvale Women of the Year to Diane McCarthy for her work in the community.
2. Board President Kaltenbach asked Mrs. McCarthy to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked those present to observe a Moment of Silence.
3. Mr. Amery made a motion to approve the consent agenda including the Minutes of the April 2, 2008 Board Meeting, Accounts Payable Voucher Reports, Payroll Voucher Reports, and travel for Greg Donovan to attend the National Skills USA Conference in Kansas City, Missouri in June 2008. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
4. Mr. Taylor made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.7 in order to consider the district's position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of real properties. Mr. Straka seconded the motion and an executive session was opened. After the executive session concluded, Mr. Taylor made a motion seconded by Dr. Mulcahy to close the Executive Session and return to regular session. Mr. Donovan was instructed to pursue the items discussed.
5. Mr. Vic Harrell, CTE Director at Dysart, reported to the Governing Board regarding CTE programs in the Dysart Unified School District. He said that the Dysart District has 24,000 students after the growth of the community in the last five years. CTE went from 1,700 to 4,300 students in three years and he attributes the growth of some programs to West-MEC. Scott Thomas has led an outstanding architectural program partly because of West-MEC funds. Paul Johnson has led the growth in the medical lab courses. The culinary arts programs are outstanding due to funding by West-MEC. Mr. Harrell invited those present to visit the district. This year, the growth is due to slow to about 5%, which still means many more students, but not as much funding. Because of that, the entire Dysart Nursing program is eliminated for next year. A Pharmacy Tech and a Law program are scheduled to open. Dysart's High School #4 was designed as an engineering school and High School #5 will be a bio-tech school. Mr. Harrell said 78% of the students have something to do with CTE and he attributes that to talking to the incoming freshman to encourage their interest in what CTE has to offer. The CTE staff sees every freshman. Lab Assistant 2, Sports Medicine 2, and Architectural Design are all CTE courses that are also honors classes. The Board thanked Mr. Harrell for his report.
6. The West-MEC Advisory Committee met on April 24th. Staff appreciates the input from the committee and is trying to invigorate the attendance. The next meeting is in August. In response to a question about what is being done about addressing interest, Mr. Donovan said staff has not done anything to date but that we will work on that aspect.
7. In an update on the establishment of a Cosmetology School in partnership with Maricopa Skills Center, Mr. Brown said there were construction issues to be dealt with but they have each been resolved positively and the remodel is on schedule and on track. He still believes the building will be approved for operations by about the middle of July and then achieve approval of the Cosmetology Board as needed for instruction to begin at the end of July. The courses are full as of now and students will be enrolled in the program next year on a space available basis.
8. In her report on state and federal legislation, Mrs. McCarty said she is still working on two bills in the State Legislature. The bill regarding Bonding is moving through the system. The second bill she is working on is in regards to adult students in courses such as cosmetology. Funding for the 1.75 ADM

has not actually been authorized and she working on that.

Mrs. Flax asked about Bill# 2234 with Mrs. McCarthy responding that it's on the Senate side and is ready to go to the Rules Committee and then to a vote. President Bee or anyone else in leadership and in Rules can be contacted about the bill.

9. Mr. Cook reported that the Peoria High School career fair was great. He thanked Mrs. McLaughlin for her guidance when he toured Verrado High School and showed the Board photos of the open design of the school. Mr. Cook attended the ASPRA Superintendent luncheon saying it was valuable to see how their awards were planned. He reported that photos of Mrs. Flax and Panfilo Contreas at the NSBA Walk of Excellence were on the ASBA website.

The sign for the cosmetology school which should be on the building soon was shown to the Board. Channel 12 School Solutions will feature a Cosmetology piece on the show. An Architectural piece from Dysart also will be featured. Cox 7 After the Bell will be placed on our website after we get permission from Cox.

Mr. Cook gave the Board a preview of the website and of some of the new brochures and other printed pieces to update our information. Mrs. Flax commented on the glossy paper with Mr. Cook replying that the mat finished would be used on many pieces. He said individual pieces are designed for specific target markets. Dr. Mulcahy would like to hear more about the publicity plan at a future meeting. Mr. Amery noted he is very impressed and thinks the quality should be shown. Comments included, "nice, sharp, awesome, will catch the kids' eyes." These pieces will be distributed to the counselors.

10. During the discussion and consideration of establishing Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and consideration of other options, it was noted that a HSA may not be the best option for some of our employees. An article urging caution from the Wall Street Journal was distributed to the Board regarding the subject. Staff recommended that this may not be a good move for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The Board said that each employee would receive a \$500 stipend to help offset the insurance cost for the 08-09 school year. A HSA is something that should be still considered so that it helps future employees.

Mr. Amery moved to continue the current insurance plan, add the stipend, and continue to monitor the Health Savings Account option. The motion was seconded by Mr. Straka. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Lunsford abstaining because of his late arrival during the discussion.

11. Update on current budget status and the FY2009 budget projections. Ms. Bishop said that the current budget has not changed. We are waiting for the Legislature to finish. Our enrollment has gone up again this year. More information will most likely be available at our next meeting.
12. A letter from the Arizona Department of Education regarding funding for Joint Technical Education Districts dated April 3 was included in the packet. The Board was referred to the second paragraph where it was stated that there is no current authorization to pay districts more than a total of 1.0 funding. The JTEDs are asking that the max funding be 1.75, however, if the legislation fails, then funding will be reduced. The attorney general rendered an opinion, but not a ruling. Mrs. McCarthy asked the Board to look at Senate Bill 1269 which is a clarification and suggested that we need to push hard on this. She will keep the Board posted. Ms. Bishop is attending a meeting about this on Monday at the Arizona Department of Education. The dollars affected may be millions. Central campus programs will be cut if this continues.
13. Mr. Donovan asked if the Board would like staff to submit a pro/con letter for the Ballot Publicity Pamphlet regarding School District unification. Mr. Amery said we should just start asking for answers to our questions first. Our position on unification has been explained to our member districts and we have asked the questions but have not received any responses. Dr. Mulcahy made a motion to draft a letter for official approval at the June Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Amery

and passed unanimously.

14. Reports on recent meetings or conferences: President Kaltenbach congratulated Mrs. McLaughlin for receiving the ACTE Administrator of the Year award.

Mrs. Flax represented the Board at the National School Board Association Annual Conference. She said it was a good conference. Sandra Day O'Conner was excellent. She distributed a written report to the Board. She presented the Integration Grant at the Walk of Excellence and it was well received. She reported that some attendees were from Arizona but did not know anything about West-MEC.

15. Mrs. Flax made a motion, second by Dr. Mulcahy, to approve the Engineering by Design curriculum and approval for public display. Paradise Valley Unified, Glendale Union, Wickenburg Unified, and Peoria Unified will implement the curriculum. The City of Phoenix Small Schools project at Paradise Valley will be the model for this program. West-MEC will be the license holder for the State of Arizona and other districts will work through the West-MEC license. Steve Welsh from Glendale Union will be the Coordinator of the program for West-MEC. The program is K-16. Project Lead the Way will not be out-placed by this program. If approved, the program materials will be displayed publicly and will be on the next agenda for consideration of approval. The cost is \$23,000 for the first three years for the state-wide license. West-MEC is allowed to charge non-member districts to participate. The National ITEA organization is the license holder. Member district Dysart Unified opened an elementary school this year that focuses on math and science. Although West-MEC funds may only be spent on grades 9-12, this is a K-12 program. Mr. Donovan was asked to speak to the Arizona Tech Council to keep them informed. The motion passed unanimously.
16. Report on West-MEC Intergovernmental Agreements: Only the Deer Valley Unified IGA is still outstanding. The Board directed staff to send a letter to Deer Valley Unified that if their signed IGA is not approved and returned by June, they will receive no funding from West-MEC.
17. Mr. Lunsford made a motion to approve an intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona State purchasing COOP at the cost of \$955 per year. Mr. Amery seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
18. Dr. Mulcahy made a motion to approve an IGA with Northern Arizona University to facilitate the West-MEC Teacher Externship Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Amery and passed unanimously.
19. Discussion and consideration of approval for funding of Grants. Mr. Brown requested 100% of the 08-09 grant applications be funded for a total of about \$20,000. He said the number of applications was lower than in prior years, but the quality was higher. These applications do not include the Academic Integration Grants which are on a different cycle with about \$100,000 budgeted for them. Dr. Mulcahy noted that we should continue these grants in the future and possibly add a School Reform grant next year. Mr. Amery made a motion seconded by Mr. Lunsford to approve the grants. With Dr. Mulcahy abstaining from the voting, the motion passed unanimously by the remainder of the Board.

In the future, staff was asked to send out samples to each district of what was funded in the past. Mr. Brown said he doesn't think the lack of requests is because some people may not be aware of the grants.
20. Dr. Mulcahy made a motion for the adoption of the textbooks and other instructional material for the Cosmetology Courses offered by West-MEC. Mr. Straka seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
21. Mr. Amery informed those present that Mr. John Long provided the first office space for Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Conner when she first started practicing law.

22. Future agenda items will include:
 - 2008-2009 Budget Adoption – July 9, 2008
 - Marketing Plan
 - Update on Deer Valley Unified
 - Information on the Engineering by Design Program
 - Governing Board Training
 - Exploratory Committee for Bonding
 - Curriculum Sharing

23. Discussion and consideration of releasing a request for written quotes for a Bond and Long-Range Planning Consultant. This item will be on a future agenda with a change to a Request for Proposal. It was suggested that instead of a Planning Consultant, a Support or Advocacy Group or an Exploratory Committee be used instead. If the Board decides to call for a Bond Election, it must be within 150 days of the election and at that point, the Board Members may not be involved at all. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

24. Mr. Amery made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lunsford seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.