

**Western Maricopa Education Center, District 402**  
**Governing Board Meeting**  
**4949 W. Indian School Road – Phoenix, AZ 85031**  
**January 9, 2008**  
**Minutes**

1. The meeting was called to order by Board President James Kaltenbach. He asked those present to observe a moment of silence. Board members, James Kaltenbach, John Mulcahy, Doris Flax, and Garry Taylor were present. Board members Dwight Amery, Jack Lunsford and Frank Straka were absent.
2. Those present were asked to join the Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.
3. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mulcahy and passed unanimously.
4. Mr. Cook gave a Public Relations report including the dedication of the Barry Goldwater High School Culinary Arts program with photographs of the center, the update of the website, the incorporation of suggested changes in the brochures, photographs of the Cosmetology Center. He discussed possible enhancements to the website and presented the Board with photographs of the CTE Academic Integration conference. Mr. Cook explained that the staff met to discuss the West-MEC vision and goals and asked that the Board participate in the same project. Mr. Mulcahy suggested a study session be scheduled to discuss the vision of “advancing” education, career training, and career paths. Mrs. Flax suggested using “enhancing” along with “advancing.” It was agreed that as a district, West-MEC must move forward and develop a strategic plan.

Mr. Taylor agreed that West-MEC must be explained in one sentence saying that we need to be able to educate parents and serve the customer (student and parent) in a very simple way. The Board agreed that a work study session would be held in late January or early February to discuss this further.

5. Update on the establishment of a Cosmetology School in partnership with Maricopa Skills Center. Mr. Brown reported that things are moving forward. The floor plan has been determined and the plans should go to the City of Peoria in the next couple of weeks for a plan review. Applications are due to us on February 11. The goal is to start classes the first of August, but we have plans to start later if necessary. Mrs. Flax asked if it is possible to put out a PR piece so that if any counselors do not yet know of the program, they can get the information. Mr. Brown said he talked to at least one counselor at every school. Mrs. Flax asked for a map or directions to be placed on the literature we distribute. Students must have an email address and we plan to distribute updates via emails. Mrs. Flax asked about signage with Mr. Brown replying that a sign would be up soon after the lease is signed. Mr. Brown said that proper ventilation will be taken into consideration.
6. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the lease agreement at 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Peoria Avenue for the Cosmetology Program assuming approval by our attorney. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Flax. The cost of the lease is \$10,700 per month. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Mr. Mulcahy made a motion seconded by Mr. Straka to approve preparing a request for bids for building improvements for the cosmetology program after final plans are available. The motion passed unanimously.
8. Mr. Mulcahy made a motion seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the preparation of a Request for Proposals for Legal Services. The current Legal Services contract expires June 30, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.
9. Report on recent conferences: Mrs. Flax distributed her report on the ASBA Annual Conference and ASA Legislative Workshop. She said the general sessions were very good, but that she was disappointed with the quality of the break-out sessions. She reported that there is a proposal for a

super-majority for Bond or Override elections. Mrs. Flax suggested that West-MEC apply for a Golden Bell Award in the future. She distributed information on a Robotics competition and suggested that a team of West-MEC students get involved in future competitions.

Mr. Straka and Mr. Mulcahy reported on the ACTE National Convention. Mr. Straka was impressed with the general session speakers and was alarmed that the source of CTE teachers is going down while the population is going up because students need to be prepared to think through complex structures and CTE leads to higher graduation rates. Mr. Mulcahy said that AZ was well represented and that it was an excellent conference.

10. Mr. Mulcahy made a motion to evaluate the West-MEC teacher, Ron Kalmbach. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and passed unanimously. Mr. Kaltenbach asked and was told that teachers in the Cosmetology Program will not be West-MEC employees but rather Maricopa Skills Center employees.
11. Mr. Donovan gave an update on the redistricting proposals saying a response has not been received from the Redistricting Committee, but we have done due diligence. Mrs. Flax informed those present that she sent a letter on behalf of the League of Women's Voters and has not received a response to her letter either.
12. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Agua Fria Union High School District and with Paradise Valley Unified School District with corrections to the paging. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mulcahy. The IGAS from Deer Valley Unified, Peoria Unified, Saddle Mountain Unified, Wickenburg Unified, and Fowler Elementary, Pendergast Elementary and Cartwright Elementary have not been received yet. The motion passed unanimously.
13. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Fiscal Services JTED Lobbying with CAVIT . No other IGAs have been received as of the meeting date. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mulcahy and passed unanimously.
14. Michelle Bush gave a report on the Integration of Academics Project saying there are many different projects starting February 1 and ending June 1. Projects will be posted on the website. The project was submitted to the Arizona School Boards' Association for consideration for the Golden Bell Award; however, the Project did not receive the award.
15. After a discussion, Mrs. Flax made a motion to begin the application process to apply as a consortium for a Federal Small Schools Grant. Title 1 schools are required to be eligible. Mr. Mulcahy suggested that Staff talk to the superintendents of Agua Fria Union, Deer Valley Unified, Dysart Unified, Glendale Union, and Paradise Valley Unified school districts. Mr. Donovan said Michelle Bush brought this prospect. She gave the Board information and said applying as consortium means eligibility for \$14 million. Mr. Donovan asked for approval to proceed.  
  
Mrs. Flax made a motion seconded by Mr. Mulcahy to approve moving forward with the application process for the Federal Small Schools Grant. Mr. Mulcahy asked Mr. Donovan to talk to the Superintendent of Agua Fria Union, Deer Valley Unified, Dysart Unified, Glendale Union, and Paradise Valley Unified. Title One schools are required. It was asked what provisions are made for the large mobility rate with Ms. Bush responding that moving within West-MEC would not be a problem. If students move out, it would be more difficult. The motion passed unanimously.
16. Mrs. McCarty gave the Board a report on meetings with State Legislators. She reported to the Legislators that high school completion rates are averaging 90% for students who have taken two years of West-MEC classes. Also, West-MEC students are generally twenty percentage points higher than the other students on AIMS testing. Personalized briefing books were prepared for each Legislator to include information about their own district. The meetings will continue until all Legislators who represent a portion of West-MEC are visited.

17. Discussion of state and federal legislation: No further information at this point.
18. Call to the Public:
  - Robotics Competition was fascinating.
  - A letter to Mr. Donovan was prepared after his review.
19. Discussion of future agenda items: Board Members asked for the following items to be placed on a future agenda:
  - Work Study Session for Strategic Planning
  - Reports from Member Districts
  - Legislative Reports
  - Small Schools Learning Grant
  - Cosmetology
  - National School Boards Association
20. Mr. Mulcahy made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.