

MINUTE RECORD OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF THE AZUSA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HELD OCTOBER 17, 2006 AT THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 546 S. CITRUS AVENUE, AZUSA, CA.

Call to Order

At 6:03 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez.

Roll Call

Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez, President	Present
Burke Hamilton, Vice President	Present
Ilean M. Ochoa, Clerk	Present
Rosemary Garcia, Member	Present
(arrived at 6:53 p.m.)	
Barbara R. Dickerson, Member	Present
(arrived at 6:05 p.m.)	
Nichelle Lehmkuhl, Student Member	Absent

Study Session - Assessment

The Board convened to Study Session at which time the Board received a report on the Student Achievement/Assessment Results.

Assistant Superintendent Alexis Ruiz-Alessi and Director of MIS Sara Shankin provided a power point presentation to the Board of Education pertaining to local and state multiple assessments and subsequent targeted instruction and interventions. This presentation provided an update on how multiple forms of data are used to inform instructional plans and strategies and construct appropriate interventions based on demographic information. The district's AYP and API status was also reviewed. The presentation included information on the most current student achievement results from the standardized testing and reporting (STAR) program, the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) and the Annual Measurable Objectives (AMAO).

Board members were asked if they had any questions regarding the information presented to them.

Study Session/Convene

At 7:14 p.m. the Study Session convened.

Flag Salute

At 7:15 p.m. President Cruz-Gonzalez led the audience in the Flag Salute.

The Board President informed the audience of the procedure for filling out a blue card to address the Board and that translation services are available in the back of the room from Mrs. Pastora.

Approval of Agenda

Preferential Student Vote: Absent  
It was moved by Mrs. Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Dickerson and unanimously carried to approve the agenda containing items for Closed Session, Consent Calendar and items for action, as presented.

Others Present

Approximately 50 in attendance.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Held 10/03/06

Preferential Student Vote: Absent  
Moved by Mrs. Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Dickerson and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 3, 2006, as presented.

**Comments and Reports  
by Student Board Member/  
Superintendent/Council**

The following comments and reports were made by the Student Board Member/Superintendent and Council:

Cynthia Cervantes McGuire

- (a) Just want to say thank you to all of you who came to the parade, so thankful that it didn't rain.
- (b) CSBA visit did occur yesterday at Hodge. It was a 2-hour visit, asked a lot of questions.
- (c) Will have the Superintendent/Parent Roundtable all day Wednesday, first meeting of the year; have a full agenda. Will make sure you get all of the information.

- (d) Sierra High School will have their Back to School Night Thursday at 5 p.m.
- (e) Will begin school site visits next week.
- (f) Because we won't be meeting for a while, remember that Homecoming for Azusa High is Friday, November 3, followed by a whole weekend of activities.
- (g) Yesterday was National Bosses Day and in August after Management Seminar the Board and Superintendent worked together with a consultant. In September, the Board adopted a formal resolution to work together for the benefit of our students. Had an opportunity to hear the reasons why our Board members wanted to run for the school board. All had different reasons yet all wanted to make a better life for our students and community; each brings different talents and experiences to the table. This resolution is evidence of that commitment. Couldn't ask for a better group to work with and for. Thank you all very much and wish you a very happy Bosses Day.

Corey James

- (a) Center Middle School will be losing its Assistant Principal. Lynn Reck is moving to another district to the west of us that will remain unnamed. Will be taking the position of assistant principal at the continuation high school. So with that we have an interview that we need to schedule. Jon Blickenstaff has once again agreed to come back. He is the happiest administrator; will assist Bob Ware at Center Middle School. It's certainly better for us, he's an exceptional person, will do a good job. Interviews are scheduled for November 27. Ilean Ochoa agreed to participate on the panel and Barbara Dickerson is the alternate.

Alexis Ruiz-Alessi

- (a) Happy to report that Safe and Civil Schools has gotten off to a great start. The first cohort included Lee, the Sixth Grade Academy, and Magnolia schools. Our second cohort includes the remainder of the elementary schools, all are meeting at Hodge. It's a great team; very energized, doing a lot of action plans. Need to see Safe and Civil as a process using data, analyzing data, taking a look at policies people have and forming a plan with data. Saw a good drop in our suspension rate from schools. Have been very careful about alternatives; and certain practices schools are using to make a difference.
- (b) Our application for the Prop. 49 After-School program is in progress and will be going out to the state. Am available to answer any questions and will make available to the Board a DVD with a 15-minute overview. May schedule a meeting to make a short presentation. The program will use our facilities which will be part of the required match; have to have a 33% match. They can hire some of our people to assist at their rate.

Brad Frick

- (a) Just want to say quickly that Gladstone High School had a surprise Williams visit last week, received a good rating.

Items From the Floor

There were no items from the floor.

Consent Calendar

Preferential Student Vote: Absent

It was moved by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mrs. Dickerson and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented.

**Item IV-B** – Adult Education Classes – Fall and Spring  
2006/2007 School Year.

**Item V-C - Res. #06-07:52** – Employ Consultant, Wayne Hoefft, O.D. of Vision Screening Services be employed to provide mandated eye exams for students from October 18, 2006 through June 30, 2007. The cost, not to exceed \$3.25 per student, is reimbursable under MAA medical billing.

**Item V-D - Res. #06-07:53** – Employ Consultant, Susan Jones-Feeney to provide tobacco prevention and cessation presentations and workshops to students in grades 4-8 from October 18, 2006 through June 14, 2007. The cost, not to exceed \$6,000, will be paid from Tobacco Prevention categorical funds.

**Item VI-A** – Purchase Orders and Warrants

**Item VI-C** – Budget Revisions

**Item VI-F - Res. #06-07:48** – Ratification of contracts for Azusa Pacific University Marriage and Family Therapists Counseling at Elementary School Sites.

**Item VI-G** – Ratification of contracts for Azusa Pacific University Marriage and Family Therapists Counseling at Middle Schools.

**Item VI-H**– Acceptance of Donations, as follows:

- \$1,000.00 from the City of Azusa for the Underdog Mural Program;
- \$100.00 from Let's Get Visible Promotional Products to Sierra High School's Canyon City Chalk Festival, 2006;
- \$700.00 from Vanessa Irion to the Mariachi After-School Music Program;
- \* \$500.00 from Cities Towing and Storage Inc., to Sierra High School's Canyon City Chalk Festival, 2006;
- \$500.00 from White's Funeral Home to Sierra High School's Canyon City Chalk Festival, 2006; and
- \$250.00 from Inge Hu to the Mariachi After-School Music Program.

## Employee Recognition Program

The Board recognized the following employees who have been chosen by their peers to be honored in the District's Employee Recognition Program:

- Tony Garcia – Azusa High School
- Mike Murphy – Hodge Elementary School

Mr. Garcia was especially honored for being a former student of Azusa schools and an employee for 42 years.

## Select Members to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization

Preferential Student Vote: Absent  
Moved by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mrs. Dickerson and unanimously carried to elect the following two members to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization. The District's voting representa-

tive, Ilean M. Ochoa, received input from members of the Board of Education. An absentee ballot will be submitted as Mrs. Ochoa is unable to attend the annual meeting.

Frank Ogaz (Incumbent)  
Dr. Gilbert G. Garcia

ASES – After-School Education and Safety Grants (Proposition 49 and SB638)

Assistant Superintendent Alexis Ruiz-Alessi asked Board members if they had any questions regarding the submission of the grant application for ASES – the After-School Education and Safety Grants (Proposition 49 and SB 638).

Preferential Student Vote: Absent

It was then moved by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mrs. Dickerson and unanimously carried to approve the submission of grant application ASES – After-School Education and Safety Grants (Proposition 49 and SB 638).

If funded, the grant includes \$112,500 per each elementary school, and \$150,000 for each middle school. The program is required to operate a minimum of three hours for the days the school is open. Program elements must include an educational and literacy component to provide tutoring and/or homework assistance; and educational enrichment which may include recreation, physical activity, health promotion, visual and performing arts, music and service learning. Mr. Hamilton expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Ruiz-Alessi for taking the time to work on this project; will greatly impact the community.

Williams Settlement Legislation Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report Summary

The Board received information regarding the Williams Settlement Legislation Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report Summary for the time period of July 1, 2006 until September 30, 2006. Mrs. Lydia Estep announced that once again there were no complaints to report.

Pursuant to Education Code 35186 (Williams Settlement Legislation) and the A.U.S.D. Uniform Complaint Procedures #6704.2 the Superintendent or designee is responsible for submitting a quarterly report to the County Superintendent and the Governing Board on the nature and resolution of complaints addressing insufficient instructional materials, teacher vacancies and misassignment, and emergency or urgent facilities issues.

Public Hearing on Sufficient Textbooks

Preferential Student Vote: Absent  
Moved by Mrs. Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Dickerson and unanimously carried to open the Public Hearing on Sufficient Textbooks at 7:40 p.m.

Mrs. Sharron Lindsay addressed this item by stating that in order to meet the requirements of the state department, will be delivering books just received. Azusa High has been placed on a list where the state department can postpone its visits which are scheduled to occur between now and December 1. Had a surprise Williams visit for facilities today; twenty-five percent are unannounced and the rest are scheduled visits. We feel confident that we are prepared for all this.

We needed 15 language arts student books and 50 algebra books and that was because of enrollment issues. We have been in constant contact with the publishers and the high schools

As there was no input from the audience, at 7:44 p.m., the following action was taken:

Preferential Student Vote: Absent  
Moved by Mrs. Ochoa, seconded by Mrs. Dickerson and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote to close the Public Hearing on Sufficient Textbooks.

Approval of Resolution for  
Sufficient Textbooks  
Res. #06-07:51

Preferential Student Vote: Absent  
Moved by Mrs. Ochoa, seconded by Mr. Hamilton and unanimously carried to approve Resolution #06-07:51 establishing that there are sufficient standards-based textbooks and materials for fiscal year 2006-2007 in reading/language arts, mathematics, science, history/social science and foreign language, and that these materials are the most current publications. In addition, all high school science laboratory courses have sufficient equipment.

Mrs. Sharron Lindsay asked to take the opportunity at this time to thank all the administrators who have been extremely quick to assist. It is very much appreciated.

Mrs. Ruiz-Alessi also acknowledged the work that Sharron and the ESD department did to assist the schools in going through all the paper work and books. Due to the great work of the departments, everything worked out fine.

Personnel Report  
Certificated  
Classified

It was moved by Mrs. Ochoa, seconded by Mr. Hamilton and unanimously carried to approve the Personnel Report Certificated/Classified, as presented.

CLAD/BCLAD Certification  
of Employees

Mr. James provided information to the Board on teachers who have earned a Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (CLAD) Certificate or a Bilingual Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (BCLAD) Certificate. These teachers have completed the necessary tests or courses to complete their certificates.

Mr. James added that 15 more teachers have earned certification. This is the last group to be certified under the old CLAD guidelines.

Teachers from now on will be under the new CTEL certification.

Financial Reports  
Associated Student Body Funds  
Azusa High School  
Gladstone High School

The Board received information on the following financial reports:

Associated Student Body Funds  
Azusa High School (as of 9/30/2006)  
Gladstone High School (as of 9/30/2006)

Mr. Hamilton asked when the District would know how much the cost would be for an armored vehicle to pick up the money. (Mr. Frick responded that this issue is still under investigation, will need to follow up on that).

Measure I Series B and C  
Bond Issue Options

At this time, Brad Frick thanked all for their patience as he handed out a document titled District Bond Advancement Program. Last month, went through district modernization and finance program. It was important to accomplish that. Will try to answer any questions that may still remain and seek your direction in the form of submission in regard to next steps. One of the questions was a future discussion of the three options as it relates to the formation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

Mr. Frick introduced Greg Harrington, bond counsel with Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, LLP and Michael Ogburn, senior vice-president, principal partner and founder of California Financial Services. Mr. Ogburn provided the previous presentation of the Series B and C Bond Issue Options at the last Board meeting. Mr. Frick turned the meeting over to them to present and answer any questions the Board may have.

Mr. Ogburn informed Board members that the document distributed to the Board is a summary for completing the implementation of the Azusa Unified School District's 2004 Bridge Series Certificate payoff under its Bond

Advancement Program. Mr. Ogburn informed the Board of Education that they would try to answer any questions about the three primary options in forming a JPA.

The following is a summary of the primary steps for completing the implementation of the Azusa Unified School District's 2004 Bridge Series Certificate payoff under its Bond Advancement Program:

- Step One – Create a Joint Powers Authority (“JPA”):

- \*With a 2<sup>nd</sup> school district party (Grant JUHSD)

- \*With the formation of District Community Facilities District (CFD to be established over some existing District owned land; or,

- \*By accessing an existing JPA providing a financing mechanism for the District's bond issuance purposes.

- Step Two – Issues the 2002 Bond Measure \$45 million remaining authorized principal amount with approximately:

- \*\$29,500,000 principal amount issued in FY 2006-07 under SERIES B; and

- \*\$15,500,000 remaining authorized principal amount issued in FY 2008-09 under SERIES C.

- Step 3 – The Series B and Series C Bonds initially issued with a premium amount needed to pay all the closing costs associated with the G.O. Bond issuances.

- Step 4 – The Series B and Series C Bonds are purchased by the JPA.

- Step 5 – The JPA then issues Marks-Roos Bonds with an additional proceeds amount sufficient to repay the 2004 Series Bridge Certificates Non-recoverable interest expense and closing costs.

- Step 6 – Proceeds generated by the issuance of the JPA Marks-Roos Bonds are

then utilized to pay off the District's 2004 Series Bridge Certificates.

As described above, the JPA will issue bonds, the proceeds of which will be used to purchase the District's G.O. Bonds. The G.O. Bond principal amount and the JPA bond additional proceeds will then be used to pay off the District's 2004 Series Bridge Certificates.

Board Member Dickerson asked what the cost would be to the district in forming a JPA. Mr. Harrington explained that the financing costs are the basis points of calculation or 100<sup>th</sup> of a percent. Mrs. Dickerson also asked if there are restrictions on those funds that we would receive through that. The response was that the purpose would be to finance school facilities.

Mr. Ogburn presented reasons for the formation of a Joint Powers Authority with a summary of options. The primary purpose of creating a JPA is to enable the District to generate the additional proceeds needed to repay the 2004 Series Bridge Certificates' non-recoverable interest and closing expenses. The JPA is simply a financing tool that is created to assist the District with its long-term school facility financing needs. The JPA does not create any additional obligations or liabilities of the District.

The following are options that the District has available in creating a JPA and the advantages and disadvantages of each option:

**Option #1: JPA with a 2<sup>nd</sup> School District participant**

Advantages:

- District control
- Well Established Precedent
- Long-term District Financing Tool
- Potential School Facility Revenue

Disadvantages:

- Second School District
- Meeting Logistics

**Option #2: JPA with District Created Community Facilities District**

Advantages:

- District Control
- Long-term District Financing Tool
- Potential School Facility Revenue

Disadvantages:

- Limited Established Precedent
- Longer Timeline

**Option #3: Participating with an Existing JPA**

Advantages:

- Convenience
- Accelerated Timeline

Disadvantages:

- Limited District Control
- Long term District Financing Uncertainty
- District Periodic Expense
- Elimination of Potential School Facility Revenue

Mr. Ogburn concluded the presentation by providing a status report of the options available and timelines specific to each option.

President Cruz Gonzalez announced that she would be in favor of working with Grant Joint Union High School District in Sacramento to form a JPA. Believe it's the best option and the tax rate will not exceed \$60.00, expect that it will be lower. Ms. Cruz-Gonzalez asked how the tax rate would be comparable if the district did not go in that direction. Would it be lower or have a shorter amortization? Ms. Cruz-Gonzalez asked that the district get validation from county counsel due to the misuse she had heard about in other jurisdictions. Just want to make sure that what we are doing is appropriate. There is a proceeding that is called a validation procedure. It's a court procedure where there are legal questions about whether or not partnered bond issuances are valid. Mr. Harrington acknowledged the abuses in the 90's but most of those had nothing to do with

JPA's themselves. Mr. Harrington was asked to explain the legal opinion that would be issued regarding the bond. He added the opinion that is of concern to the bond has to be unqualified. In order to meet that unqualified opinion, there has to be a lot of diligence by bond counsel to make sure everything is legal and appropriate.

At this time, Mr. Ogburn stated the need to gather a little direction on what the Board is inclined to do and to get back to Grant Joint High School District. Mr. Frick again stated the need for direction from the Board to bring the next steps forward and what direction the Board is moving toward. Grant JUSD is very interested in working with Azusa district.

Mr. Hamilton asked if something should happen, is the Board liable for the bonds issued by the other agency partner in the JPA? The response was no, each school district would be liable for its own G.O. bond. The JPA is a conduit and is not authorized to incur any other liabilities.

At this time, President Cruz-Gonzalez asked for the Board's feelings on the item.

After discussion and questions and answers from the Board to the presenters, all Board members agreed that Option 1, forming its own JPA in partnership with Grant Joint Union High School District is the best course of action for the district.

Preferential Student Vote: Absent

It was then moved by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mrs. Dickerson and unanimously carried to recommend Option 1 to be utilized for issuance of Series B and C of the \$75,000,000 Measure I General Obligation Bond authorization.

Option 1 will enable the District to form a JPA with Grant Joint Union High School District located in Sacramento.

The next steps will be the formation of the JPA document. After the draft is reviewed by both districts, the document will require approval by both governing Boards. The agreement will establish the formation of the JPA; the JPA's basic structure and powers; the JPA's governing body; and JPA's authority to issue bonds.

Mrs. Dickerson asked what the timeline is for Option 1. Mr. Ogburn responded that the timeline needed is 30-45 days with a bond issuance target date of January/February 2007.

Mrs. Garcia thanked Mr. Ogburn and Mr. Harrington for a very thorough presentation.

Approval of Settlement and Release Agreement regarding Adult Education Average Daily Attendance "Audits" for School Years, 1990-1991 and 1991-1992

Preferential Student Vote: Absent

It was moved by Mrs. Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Ochoa and unanimously carried to approve an official signature on the Settlement and Release Agreement regarding Adult Education Average Daily Attendance "Audits" for School Years, 1990-1991 and 1991-1992.

Beginning in 1995, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) periodically proposed to impose retroactive recalculation of the 1990-91 and 1991-92 average daily attendance (ADA) of adult education programs maintained by 35 districts. This district was one of 35 districts that would have been affected by the recalculation. Although the SPI never imposed the retroactive recalculation, the effect, if implemented, would have been the "recapture" of disallowed ADA which would have resulted in reduced funding

to this district's current adult education program.

In 2002, this district joined a lawsuit to halt the implementation of the recalculations by the SPI. A secondary purpose of the lawsuit was to gain leverage to force a negotiated resolution of the issue.

A negotiated resolution of the claims against these 35 districts, including this district, has been reached.

In order to dismiss the lawsuit and to provide assurance to the SPI and the State Department of Finance that no further claims will be made relating to this matter by any of the 35 district, it is necessary that the Settlement and Release Agreement be signed by a representative of this district.

Our adult education program did not maintain their CAP even though we were unable to grow. The District endorses this settlement.

Mrs. Mary Ketza, Adult Education Director added that the program did allow for growth in the medical fields such as the CNA program.

The adult education program has had many challenges the last year in meeting requirements of the LVN and EMT programs. Programs require that our staff is in place one year prior to class beginning.

The CNA program is coordinated with Kaiser Hospital. Students are in their system working as interns, students go to the sites for classes and then go into a facility.

Mrs. Ochoa asked about the untapped funding. Mr. Frick said the funding reverts back to the state.

**Comments, Reports and  
Requests by Board**

The following comments, reports and requests were made by Board members:

Barbara Dickerson

- (a) Would like to see a listing of athletic programs, protocol for participation, protocol for coaches and academic standing of students participating in sports.

Rosemary Garcia

- (a) Golden Days Parade was very well attended considering that it was sprinkling and then it started to rain. It was all a lot of fun, went very well. Great to see kids and parents participating.

Ilean Ochoa

- (a) Had the opportunity to do two Golden Bell visits this past week. Evaluated Arcadia science program. It was so dynamic. Have copies available for Cynthia and Alexis. The program used electrical robots made from Legos. The program involves second graders working with electrical engineers. This program is worth looking into. The other program was an after-school enrichment program in Rowland School District where student learning is reinforced. How did our program go at Hodge? Charter Oak Board Member Bob Cruz evaluated our program at Hodge.

Burke Hamilton

- (a) Appreciated the report regarding substitutes. Hope that we can resolve some of those things. Perhaps we have

to limit some of the people that go out for conferences in the school district in the future. Do we still pay \$110/day? Do we also have to have our subs fully credentialed? (Mr. James responded that Azusa district is right in the ballpark salary-wise and that substitutes must be fully credentialed with a BA or BS, and the CBEST).

- (b) Golden Days was great, tickets sold fast, had to open another booth. Interfacing with little kids to buy tickets, asking them math questions, was eager to hear if they could answer 2 or 3 math questions.
- (c) Also read the article - Tips for Communicating with Parents, will be sure to include in my newsletter next month.
- (d) Golden Days Run started a long time ago. Just want you to know it was so much fun running. Barbara and her friends came up from behind me. Received a medal for running.
- (e) Was unable to attend the Chamber's Taste of the Town, maybe next year.
- (f) Appreciate the district's response to be a part of Golden Days. It was a fun day; enjoyed the parade.

Additional Board Member Comments:

Mrs. Ochoa noted that the Board meeting minutes last month had indicated that the Azusa Woman's Club had made 250 tamales. In actuality, 2500 tamales were made by the organization.

Mrs. Garcia added that she had one more item -- the Citrus College mixer. It was very well attended and very good to be a part of that. It's good to see that Citrus is coming around to our students and want to have our kids. It's a wonderful way to provide many options for our kids.

Mr. Hamilton had one more item -- just want to say that Scott Magnusson, who is here late almost every night, has been given a very big opportunity. There are other things that our administrators are involved in and just want to recognize Scott for that opportunity.

Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez

(a) Attended the California Latino School Boards Association conference and was reelected as secretary; will be secretary for one more year.

Items From the Floor

There were no Items from the Floor.

Closed Session/Convene

At 8:49 p.m. Board members convened to Closed Session at which time they received information on Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Superintendent (Government Code Section 54957).

Adjournment/Closed Session/  
Regular Meeting

By consensus, Closed Session/Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.