

YARNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #52

MODEL CREEK SCHOOL

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Joint Board Meeting
Monday, August 14th, 2017

Item 1: Call to Public

Item 2: Welcome and Purpose of the Meeting

Tim Carter introduced purpose and regulations of Joint Board Meeting.

He discussed agenda items of limited discussion of Kirkland Mine and then a menu of items to choose to discuss.

Item 3: Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Carter also led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 4: Introduction of Governing Boards

Participants were introduced:

Lori Bomar Head Teacher from Yarnell School District, Lani Beyle, Rich Goldman, Penny Thal acting Board President.

Michelle Perey, District Administrator from Kirkland-Diane Hussen, note taker. Diana Dowling Board President, Cathi Cobey, Kenney Denney and Samir Rafeedie .

Kelly Hill and Irene Komadina representing Hillside and Walnut Grove, respectfully.

Vicki Hilliker, Administrator from Sully Valley -Laura Briggs.

Item 5: Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Yarnell and Kirkland board meetings were called to order and agenda's approved at 6:09.

Item 6: Kirkland Mine

Kirkland Mine and its educational impact: Mr. Carter shared that in discussing the educational impact we are statutorily limited to 4 very broad items. Transportation-Environmental (air quality, water etc)-Enrollment (increase or decrease)- Tax Rate and Property Values.

Mr. Rafeedie mentioned Health being added as a 5th category. Ms. Briggs agreed.

Transportation:

1. Mr. Rafeedie shared concern of transportation of many, many trucks (every 6 minutes a truck going by). Difficulty getting to Prescott in a timely manner with trucks going no more than 35 miles per hour. School Bus' traveling these roads in a timely manner.
2. Ms. Cobey asked about transportation in Phoenix. School's transport kids and there are trucks. How do they do it in Phoenix with trucks?
3. Mr. Denney explained his experience that trucks could have a positive effect in that traffic may have to slow down. My long term concerns have been the high speed of vehicle traffic is more of a danger than

having trucks that are state and federally regulated. He went on to say that he has confidence that school personnel would make the necessary adjustments with buses and parents.

4. Ms. Briggs mentioned the loaded trucks with stuff falling off of them would impact everyone's commute, negatively. "It's about everyday people going about their everyday lives."
5. Concern about accidents and buses stopping for loading and unloading of students. Question asked, "could trucks be regulated so that during school schedules could be accommodated? School Administrators could meet with and discuss these concerns with mine operators when appropriate.
6. Mr. Carter asked about use of the railway? If that happened would we know where that would load? A member mentioned that transport within 350 miles would be done by truck and beyond that would be done by rail. Numerous members mentioned local towns where that rail loading could be done. Hillside being the closest.
7. Another member mentioned that BLM was doing a study on transportation.
8. Road Quality was asked about. Ms. Briggs discussed the comment period having been extended until August 25th after that time the studies would be conducted and then when those results become available another public comment period will be instituted.
9. Mr. Carter spoke to Supervisor Simmons and he believes there has been a request for extended comment has been submitted.

Environmental:

1. An accident, crash, or diesel fuel being spilled 150 yards from the school. Emergency management plan. With respect, law enforcement, medical, and fire.
2. Air quality. Are their studies? A member said they are to be done after this comment period.
3. Mrs. Cobey mentioned that in her experience, working in two different mines there are watchdogs that track environmental issues of mines.
4. Water contamination. How will that affect the schools in the area and downstream? Mrs. Hilliker mentioned that the type of mining isn't likely to pollute the water but the shortage of water is a concern.
5. Mr. Rafeedie discussed the notion that the product has silica in it and if breathed in could cause a lung disease. (an item for both environment and health)
6. Noise was mentioned as a concern. Not just noise from the mine, but also truck noise.
7. Mrs. Cobey mentioned the increased truck traffic we already get with the road changes.

Health:

1. Silica (number 5 from above).
2. Accidents.
3. Soil test results have been done and Mrs. Briggs mentioned that those results are not yet released. Also mentioned, was another carcinogen that may be worse than silica.
4. Mr. Denney asked if these concerns will be taken to the mine? Mr. Carter suggested that each district could file their concerns.
5. Mr. Rafeedie shared concern of accidents with students in an effort to pass on our two lane roads.

Enrollment:

1. Mrs. Hilliker commented that housing is not available in Skull Valley and therefore enrollment would not be affected. Mr. Carter reminded members that open enrollment doesn't require in district housing.
2. Mrs. Briggs' mentioned that her relative has not been able to sell her property due to the bad mine signs.

3. Mr. Denney recounted the past efforts of consolidation of schools and a K-12 school here in Kirkland. Mr. Carter discussed briefly the unification and consolidation efforts. He shared that the boards could unify and then in addition you could ask the voters to consolidate. Three primary concerns. 1. Will you save money? 2. Governance. The five districts have 5 governing boards. And if voters were to choose to consolidate all members would go together to make one board. Mr. Denney shared a previous study done by ASU in the 1970s and the idea of a k-12 school could alleviate a lot of the issues. 3. Can we provide a better education for kids? Mr. Carter went on to share that if the boards are serious about wanting to move forward with that discussion we can.
4. Mr. Rafeedie mentioned that as a real estate broker he believes property values would drop and people would move out of the area causing enrollment to drop.

Tax Rate and Property Values:

1. Would they go up to help maintain the roads? Mr. Carter said the school district's tax rate would not go up to maintain roads. He also discussed that school tax rates may not go up and may actually go down. Mrs. Hilliker noted that the mining would take place on BLM land and would not see school tax dollars collected.
2. Mr. Carter then shared that property values may go down or could go up.
3. Mr. Hill shared that in his experience in Hillside when the Bagdad mine increases staff the property values in Hillside go up. That demand drives them up.
4. Mr. Rafeedie reminded the group that the Bagdad mine is privately owned and so is the housing there. Mr. Hill reminded the group that he was referring to private lands owned in Hillside.
5. Mr. Denney wanted to ensure the group was focusing on the school.
6. Mrs. Perey shared that the tax rate calculation is a percentage and that as property values go up or down the rate does also in order to collect the same necessary dollars.

Next steps:

1. If the Boards would like to review this at the spring Jt Board Meeting that can be done. Yarnell is willing to host in the spring.
2. No other next steps were identified.

Item 7: Information and Discussion

Skull Valley- A-F Accountability System. Mr. Carter shared that the system was approved in April. There are both a K-8 and high school systems.

Next steps: 1. Cut scores to be established by State Board of Education. Mr. Carter was asked if he thinks it's a better system. He responded that, especially at the high school level it is better. 2. The Board has to set cut stores to establish B-C-D. As A and F are already in statute. 3. Modification and response need SBE approval.

Mrs. Perey shared her concerns that the bonus points can be earned easily by high schools and are very difficult for k-8 districts. Mr. Carter recommended that elementary school s can find indicators to add to the rating system in the near future. He also shared that the reported test scores are an easy indicator and that finding accelerator points need to be considered.

Yarnell- Kirkland Night School? Mrs. Perey reviewed that we are still working with our one Walnut Grove student. She also shared the challenges of enrolling students with special needs and that we are still working towards the number of 12. Mr. Carter followed up with his efforts to support the program in whatever way possible. He also reviewed the options for adding high school grades and the fact that the state's ESSA plan, if approved would eliminate the Highly Qualified component.

Kirkland- Legislative Update/Prop 301- Mr. Carter reviewed the Prop 301 Classroom Site Funds and how those are collected and spent. He continued that everyone is aware that Prop 301 must be renewed. The education community would like to see that renewed in 2018, 2019, or 2020. He also shared that the .06—to 2.5% are out there and that it maybe more than the current .06%. Also discussed was the Governor’s suggestion that this tax would/could become permanent and not have a sunset date. Mr. Carter also shared the argument that local control of that money would be advantageous for districts but that politically tying the dollars to a direct program are possibly more palatable.

The 1.06% was discussed. All district’s represented are issuing the additional money in one or two pays during the school year.

Controversy at the state legislature over the Empowerment Accounts. The group Save Our Schools wants to see the item of ESAs be an initiative item for the voters of Arizona. There is talk that the legislature could just repeal the law which would stop both the initiative and the law suit. And then, just pass the law again—causing the group to have to start over again collecting signatures.

ASBA Legislative Agenda will be set in the coming weeks.

Hillside- Walnut Grove—no topics.

Other items: Details provided by Mr. Carter.

FFMA Dollars- The Secure Rural Schools Act has not been reauthorized. At this time, the county has only received a sequestered ¼ payment. Under federal law, if it isn’t reauthorized we will get the sequestered payment for 10 years and then it stops. We are working with both branches of congress to get those dollars reauthorized.

Budget- We are now fully into Current Year Funding. Tax Rates have all been submitted to the county board of supervisors. Mr. Carter went on to share that under a new law anyone can appeal the school’s tax rate. This did not happen this year and all are happy with that.

Special Ed Funding: All Title funding is still in limbo. Federal plan is to “wean schools off of the funds over time.”

Item 8: Adjournment

Kirkland and Yarnell meetings adjourned at 7:34 pm.