

Western Maricopa Education Center, District 402
5487 N. 99th Avenue – Glendale, AZ 85305
February 2, 2011
Governing Board Meeting Minutes

1. Board Chairman Frank Straka called the Governing Board Meeting to order at 4:00pm. Board Members present were Frank Straka, Dwight Amery, James Kaltenbach, and Joe Holcombe. Others in attendance were Greg Donovan, Cliff Migal, Diane McCarthy, Mary Morrow, Barbara Thompson, Adriana Alvarado, Chris Cook, Speranta Klees, Dean Petersen, Stephen Weltsch, Michele Bush, Marilyn Babyar, Jim Brown, John Mulcahy, Patricia Halligan, Cindy Strozewski, Erica Torricelli, Steven Chapman, and Dee Markham.

Frank Straka mentioned that West-MEC has two new employees and he called upon Cindy Strozewski to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was then observed. Erica Torricelli (new employee) was introduced at this time along with Governing Board Member Steven Chapman from the Tolleson Union High School District.

2. During the Superintendent Report, Greg Donovan mentioned that West-MEC has been working on the policy manual revisions, and he recommended that a subcommittee be formed so the revisions could be reviewed before being brought before the Governing Board for approval.

The Public Relations Department has released the information to the media regarding the District 6 Governing Board seat vacancy. At this point, West-MEC has not received any official entrants.

During the Board Member Report, Joe Holcombe mentioned that he had been given a tour of the new Aviation Facility and said the design and progress looked good. He was duly impressed with the program.

James Kaltenbach wanted to thank Chris Cook and Adriana Alvarado for coverage of the FFA Minicamp this weekend. He also distributed information regarding a CBS news article that talked about training students for more than just college; it also talked about training students for career and technical education.

3. Jim Kaltenbach made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Joe Holcombe seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Frank tried calling John Atkins for a conference call, but he was unavailable according to the answering machine.

4. Director of Professional Development, John Mulcahy, reported on Quality Indicators. Quality indicators include a number of components designed to help validate a comprehensive career and technical education program. These indicators help focus on program improvement. He feels that this is an opportunity for West-MEC to engage in learning conversations with our teachers. The real hope is that this will generate a broad understanding of what West-MEC considers core concepts that are program improvements. West-MEC can then

provide the services needed for teachers for professional development.

5. At this time, a second attempt to reach John Atkins by phone was made.
Frank Straka recognized Valley Vista High School, under the direction of Nicole Lewandowski and Jennifer O'Donnell, for catering the dinner for the Board. This was a unique program started in the Dysart School District as an after school extended day program.
6. Stephen Weltsch, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented to the Board the West-MEC Completer Follow-up System. A piece of quality indicators is a follow-up of students to see where they go after finishing the West-MEC Central Programs. This tool is relatively simple, designed to evaluate the programs the 1st, 3rd, and 5th years after students leave the program. Stephen Weltsch anticipates an 85% response rate. This information will be useful for the State Legislature and for future bond elections.
James Kaltenbach made a motion to approve the revised 11/12 West-MEC calendar. Joe Holcombe seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.
7. Business Manager, Barbara Thompson, relayed to the Governing Board that the Soft Capital Allocation Adjustment was \$2,304.968.19. It was noted that the cuts to education this year will be 20-23%. West-MEC, along with other school districts, may have to go into the warrant business because of the partial payment (rollovers) made by the State Legislature in order to balance their budget. West-MEC will wait until May to do any budget adjustments as the Legislature may make more adjustments.
8. Legislative Liaison, Diane McCarthy, relayed that in November the voters voted "No" to First Things First. What the Legislature is planning to do is to borrow \$300 million from First Things First on June 30, then give it back after 24 hours in order to balance the budget.
Diane also spoke about the two State Legislature bills that West-MEC is following closely. One is House Bill 2237, which deals with a technical correction with Average Daily Membership and Attendance as far as JTEDs are concerned. Senate Bill 1263 is a school relief bill giving more flexibility as far as school districts are concerned in the ways that schools can use that money. This would be for funds like transportation and food service, not anything directly like JTED funds going to districts.
Frank Straka mentioned that he heard that Senator Murphy was proposing a new way of appointment process in that school boards would appoint their own vacancies. Diane said this bill was not one that was going to be heard in the Senate.
Diane McCarthy then handed the Board a mockup of the Old Heard Museum West
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site. This Fab Lab mockup was drawn up by the Robotics class at the University of Advancing Technology. Dwight Amery made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Surprise and West-MEC for the Fabrication Lab. Joe Holcombe seconded the motion. James Kaltenbach felt the agreement was punitive and was perplexed about the time line with West-MEC having to build a new building after three years. Diane told him that the IGA was negotiable in the future. He also said he did not see the Fab Lab having a direct tie to any program. He was concerned not only about this, but about students leaving their school campuses and attending the Fab Lab. He saw it as a great community idea, but not as a student idea. He

did not see how it was great for West-MEC's education mission. Diane relayed that the Fab Lab is definitely a nontraditional way of doing education and students will be able to use it on their own time, not just school time. Frank Straka asked if after 3 years, this program didn't work, that it could be closed. Diane said yes. Greg Donovan mentioned that this Lab was part of the strategic plan of West-MEC and getting the community involved in West-MEC's mission.

10. The Intergovernmental Agreement was brought to a vote with the following results: Joe Holcombe-yes, Dwight Amery-yes, Frank Straka-yes, and James Kaltenbach-abstained. The motion was approved.

11. Director of Public Relations, Chris Cook, said his department was busy with Parent Nights, Career Fairs, Student Presentations, CTE Events, Future Freshman Nights, FFA Mini Camp, and the Cutting Edge Style Academy 2nd Annual Fantasy Show Competition. He thanked Marilyn Babyar, Speranta Klees, and Michele Bush for their help with the events.

12. James Brown explained to the Board that West-MEC now has a Certificate of Occupancy for the Corporate Office and Training Center. He also said that the covered parking area is almost finished, but because of the cold weather and wind, the painting had been delayed. James Kaltenbach asked about the solar hook ups and Jim told him that the contribution through SRP did not work out.

Cliff Migal publically thanked Joe Holcombe for visiting the Aviation Center. He explained that all metal and sheet work is completed and the asphalt work begins on Friday. Drywall begins next week. The electrical and plumbing certificates for the 1st floor passed. We are 12 weeks away from completion of the building and still are 7 days ahead of schedule and on budget. James Kaltenbach thought we should put our logo on the roof.

13. Cliff Migal brought forth the Intergovernmental Agreement between Freightliner and West-MEC. Freightliner is in the process of building a new facility and part of that facility is to provide West-MEC with a 5000 sq. ft. facility with private entrance and gated facility. West-MEC would have to provide its own airlines, air compressor, and would pick up costs for electrical and phones. \$12.93/sq. ft. is the cost for a five year agreement. James Kaltenbach moved that the Intergovernmental Agreement between Freightliner and West-MEC be approved. Dwight Amery seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

14. Future Agenda items should include 100 day count, preliminary registration numbers, redistricting, bond election, and a Stone and Youngberg bonding presentation. Greg Donovan suggested that the Board consider starting their meeting at the Aviation Center next month with a tour at 4pm, and then return to the official board meeting at 5pm at West-MEC.

15. James Kaltenbach moved to convene an Executive Session and Dwight Amery seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

16. Dwight Amery made a motion to return to Regular Session and James Kaltenbach seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

James Kaltenbach made a motion to approve the extension of the Superintendent's contract as discussed in Executive Session. Dwight Amery seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

17. Dwight Amery made a motion to adjourn the meeting. James Kaltenbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Dee Markham
Governing Board Secretary

