

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE CAMP
VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Work Session Minutes taken Thursday, November 14, 2013

Camp Verde Unified School District Library, located at 280 Camp Lincoln Road
Camp Verde, AZ
86322

Time: 5:30 PM

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Board President Freeman called the meeting to order at 5: 35 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Board members present were: Helen Freeman, Trent Hackett, Judy Gilbert and Christine Schneider.

Board member Simbric was absent.

Administrators present at the meeting were: Dr. Amber Lee, Superintendent; Mr. Bob Weir, High School Principal; Mr. Danny Howe, Middle School Principal; Mrs. Debi Pottorff, Elementary Principal; Mr. Steve King, South Verde Principal and Mr. Steve Hicks, Director of Business Services.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mrs. Gilbert led the pledge of allegiance.

Mrs. Freeman asked for a moment of silence.

4. AGENDA REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE

Motion: Mrs. Gilbert moved, seconded by Mr. Hackett to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed 4-0.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROJECT BLANK SLATE AND GOVERNING BOARD GOALS

Superintendent Dr. Lee began by stating that she had called the Superintendent of Ash Fork (as recommended by Mrs. Freeman) to ask him how they had accomplished becoming an A school. In speaking with him she found that Ash Fork had received a significant School Improvement Grant after being labeled as Failing. With the grant they did several things including: implementing a program called Capturing Kids Hearts; implementing Beyond Textbooks, and hiring outside evaluators to perform teacher evaluation. She stated that some of the strategies were pricey, but they worked for Ash Fork. Dr. Lee said that she believed that everyone present agreed that the District wants to be an A school, however, everyone seemed to have a different idea about what Project Blank Slate was. Getting a good definition behind the Project would be helpful. Dr. Lee stated that a lot of ideas have been brought to the table and some of them implemented.

There was some discussion on the Student Tool Box as part of the Project and using the Project and the Tool Box to help come up with a Mission Statement for the Board. Eventually, the Board agreed that the Mission

statement(s) could be developed over time as proposals come forward, problems are solved, and Blank Slate becomes clearer.

The group of Board members and administrators brainstormed about the Project. One idea brought forth by Principal Weir was implementing a four (4) day week at the High School, having the staff teach on a six (6) period schedule with prep period at the end of the day, ultimately bringing up student and staff morale. This idea would include implementing remediation courses for students and not exclusively offering credit recovery. The High School has also been talking about implementing an Alternative School for students who are failing multiple courses and/or have attendance issues. Students could earn their way out of alternative placement dependent upon their academic progress. This option may help to reduce student apathy. The conversation continued as the group agreed that not every school site needs to look the same, and transportation and cafeteria schedules should not dictate campus schedules.

Other ideas brought forth by the administration and the Board included blended learning; a potential K-8 model; looping teachers; sharing teachers across campuses; more early childhood education; and implementing task forces with targeted innovative ideas.

The group continued conversation on some of the obstacles that need to be overcome including: bullying within the District, lack of parent involvement, a culture of apathy, limited elective offerings, limited funding, Move on When Reading, and discouragement among the staff. Some of the staff struggle with the term Blank Slate and need to be encouraged. The Board agreed that the term Blank Slate was never intended to mean that everything that was established would be thrown out and the District would start over.

Principal King stated that he envied the support that Cottonwood and Mingus received from their community regarding their overrides. Camp Verde has never passed one. The District has done its part; doing more with less, programs have been implemented despite limited resources. The conversations have always been about what we are going to cut instead of how we are going to spend the money. Mrs. Schneider agreed, stating that if there is a united plan, the District will be more likely to get the extra funding.

The conversation continued as Mr. Hackett stated that the administrators are the ones that need to make the decisions; the Board needs to pat them on the back and say good job. The Board and the administrators agreed that the Principals should have the autonomy to bring forth any problems and tell the Board how to resolve them. Each principal knows what is best for their school. The Blank Slate proposal is not a top down theory; those that are in the trenches know best how to fix things. Mrs. Schneider stated that nothing is more discouraging than to put in efforts and then have ideas shot down. After lengthy discussion the Board agreed to have the administration continue to problem solve on their campuses and bring solutions back to the Board. The Board would like Mr. Weir to continue to investigate his ideas on the four (4) day week and the Alternative School and bring pros, cons and budgetary information back to the Board. Mrs. Freeman stated that if the ideas are adopted everyone will need to be 100% (one hundred percent) behind them. Mr. Hackett stated that if the administration and the Board agreed on what they wanted to do they would find a way to fund it.

At the Regular December Board meeting, the Board will set the time and date for the next Work Session to continue the conversation on Blank Slate.
No action was taken on the Item.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mrs. Gilbert moved, seconded by Mr. Hackett to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Hudson
Board/Administrative Assistant

Helen Freeman
Board President

Trent Hackett
Member

Judy Gilbert
Member

Christine Scheideer
Member

Bob Simbric
Member