

CAMP VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD
Minutes taken during
PUBLIC FORUM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON
Tuesday, January 31, 2017
7:00 pm
AT THE CAMP VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
PHILIP ENGLAND CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
280 CAMP LINCOLN ROAD
CAMP VERDE, ARIZONA 86322

Mission:

Providing students a safe and caring environment in which knowledge, skills, and attitudes enable learners to become productive citizens
Respect, Integrity, Positive Relationships, Accountability

Vision:

Our District will:

- Foster confidence, excellence, integrity, and a sense of belonging.
- Ensure each learner studies a challenging, academic and relevant curriculum, which enhances social, emotional, physical and ethical development.
- Work in partnership with all families and the community as an organization of engaged, motivated lifelong learners.

PUBLIC FORUM - SPECIAL MEETING

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Schneider called the meeting to order and welcomed the public at 7pm. Student Chandler Plante led the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence.

2. ROLL CALL

Board members present were: Christine Schneider, Helen Freeman, Tim Roth, Kitty McDowell and Eric Lawton.

3. AGENDA REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE

Motion: Mrs. Freeman moved to accept the agenda as presented. Mrs. McDowell seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

4. PUBLIC FORUM- MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY COMMENT UNDER THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ON THE BELOW OUTLINED TOPICS

A. TOPICS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *What are your thoughts on the current school schedule?*
2. *What of the current schedule works for you?*
3. *What of the current schedule does not work for you?*

B. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ASKED TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

The forum is structured as informational gathering – call to the public -special session of the Governing Board. The Governing Board will not address any comments during the forum but will use the information gathered to help them address the school schedule at a future meeting.

Members of the Public will be asked to keep their speaking time to 3 minutes; remaining attentive to the meeting moderator and the time-keeper. The time-keeper will give a one minute warning for each speaker. Ceding speaking time to other

members of the public is prohibited. The meeting time will be limited to 2 hours; ending at 9:00 pm.

Members of the Public are expected to use decorum and civil discourse when addressing the topics.

Information on state law regarding the school schedule is available in the lobby.

Board President Schneider turned the meeting over to Town Mayor Charlie German explaining that he would serve as the moderator for the meeting. Mr. German welcomed the public and explained the order of operations of the meeting.

Community members including parents, students and staff members addressed the Board regarding the school schedule topics as outlined above.

Parents that spoke in support of a four-day week included: Kiera Garnrieter, Ed Mezulis, Ingrid Lashley, Stacey Barker, Jennifer McDonald, Janet Jones, Rebecca Poppel, Tiffany Zepeda, Britney Armstrong, Miles DeWitt, Janice Plante, Lora Owsley, Jocelyn Brady, Rochelle Beeler, Stacey Gagnon, Rachel Tudor-Thomas, Jennifer Epperson, Kelly Ayotte, Heather Cook, and Kelly Johnson. Some of the common rationale for their support of the schedule included: more family time; student and staff mental health; more time for developmental play; student participation in sports and other programs; split family visitation time; time for doctor's appointments; cost savings to the District and staff morale. Yet, some of the parents who supported a four-day week expressed concern with circumstances like: daycare for some students and the need to increase curriculum options and classroom rigor.

A few of the parents also mentioned that they were not in favor of extending the school year, citing the following reasons: kids need time with family for developmental learning that happens in the home; time for rest and play; family vacations; student and staff morale; and student summer employment.

A few parents addressed the Board in support of a five-day school week including Andrea Freeman, Kyle Fill and Ida Kruger. The parents cited the following reasons: excessively long school days for young children; childcare difficulties; student apathy or lack of discipline; too much homework; and lack of test scores to prove that children are getting sufficient education.

Students spoke in favor of the four-day school week including: Amber Mina, Chris Johnson, Bayley Dykstra, Skyler Pike, Skyler Barker, Jordan Pyle, Cale Cook, Uslado Herrera, Dillan Tressler, Chandler Plante, Chandon Parker, Angel Brady, Jolie Daharsh, Vanessa Gonzalez, Ty Holman, Nicolas Hall and Bryon Mina. Their common reasons for favoring a four-day school week included: weekend (Friday) employment; split family visitation time; time to destress; participation in sports, 4-H, scouting, FFA and other activities; more time for homework; more time for family; Friday credit recovery; and volunteer time. Teacher Robin Tankesley expressed how proud she was of her former and current students who articulately addressed the Board.

District staff members who spoke in favor of the four-day school week included: Lindsey Lowman, Tina Scott, Karen Crownoble, Daria Weir, Lisa Mina, Lara Lawrence, Sheri Gardner, Tami Wattenbarger and Kristi Mulcaire. The staff cited the following rationale in support of the schedule: time for professional development; time for continuing education; time for doctor visits; the District competing with private and charter schools for students; a four-day schedule is an attractive teacher incentive; good staff and student morale; split family visitation; needed consistency in the District; and time for afterschool tutoring, make up work and testing.

Some of the educators also spoke against extending the school year citing the following reasons: it would take away opportunity to supplement staff income in the summer with a second job and interrupted valued family and vacation time.

Mr. German thanked everyone in attendance and let them know that the Board would consider all that they had heard from the public.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mrs. McDowell moved, seconded by Mr. Lawton to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.