

STAR School Board Meeting Minutes

STAR School Training Room

February 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:36 am by Chair Mark Sorensen.

Members present: Mark Sorensen, Chair; Thomas Walker, Vice Chair; Evelyn McCabe, Pauline Butler, and Rick St. Germaine, Secretary.

Others present: Ike Ozis, Principal; Lorissa Namingha, Business Specialist; Alicia Saxe, Instructional Coach, and; Andy LaFrate, Science Teacher.

Evelyn McCabe, in the Dine language, reflected upon the gentleness of the day, the balance in nature, the goodness and beauty in the hearts of those all around us, and the value of the STAR School to this community.

Chair Mark Sorensen reviewed today's meeting agenda with Board members.

A motion was made by Rick St. Germaine and seconded by Evelyn McCabe that the Board Meeting Agenda of February 10, 2019 be approved. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Chair Mark Sorensen made comments about recent school events. Board members shared information about their recent appointments and elections.

A motion was made by Pauline Butler and seconded by Evelyn McCabe that the STAR School Board minutes of November 3, 2018 be approved. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Ike Ozis provided a report on School start-up. The appeal to the state on the A - F letter grade was approved. We are now identified by the state as a D school. There were data corrections that still need to be approved by the state. Our students take AZMerit and AIMS tests, on paper, starting in early April. We are hoping this year to be a B school. We switched from an iReady diagnostics curriculum to a Galileo system. Students took the pre-test, with 17% to 23% who met their target growth rate. In math, our students improved from 7% to 34%. 60% met their goals. We hope to improve. Andy felt that Galileo was more aligned with the AZ state standards. Galileo is purely testing, not curriculum, so we use iReady in some content teaching. Teachers have some student enrichment groups in the morning. Andy said his students take the Galileo tests on paper. Our SPED program is doing well, with Revaline Nez as our SPED teacher. Coconino County monitors our SPED program for compliance. IEP Pro keeps our records, info is logged in. Ike attended a Title Program meeting in Window Rock. As part of the newly awarded Homeland security grant many security upgrades will be accomplished. Classroom doors will be replaced. There will be better lighting around the campus. Transponders on the buses, and security cameras, campus fencing, and automated gate. Alberta Nells, fluent in Navajo, is a new enrichment teacher. Nicole Burkhardt is back and will be working with Alchini Bighan.

Lorissa Namingha provided the school financial report. The school is in a good financial cash position. Lorissa provided a budget review for the 18 school budgets.

Motion was made by Evelyn McCabe and seconded by Rick St. Germaine that the Financial Report be approved. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Motion was made by Thomas Walker and seconded by Evelyn McCabe that the Board go into Executive Session at 12:14 pm to discuss personnel matters. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Motion was made by Rick St. Germaine and seconded by Pauline Butler that the Board leave Executive Session at 1:08 pm. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Thomas Walker had to leave the Board meeting at 1:20 pm.

Motion was made by Evelyn McCabe and seconded by Pauline Butler that the Board assign a task to the CEO, Principal and Business Specialist to review area school salary scales and make recommendations to the Board for increasing salaries that will be considered at the next (March) Board meeting for teacher and teacher aide compensation in future years. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Mark Sorensen presented bids for the well casing replacement project, which will be used for fire suppression.

Motion was made by Pauline Butler and seconded by Evelyn McCabe that the Board select the lower bid made on January 9, 2019, from Pump Tech of Mayer, AZ for \$82,766.21 for a new pump and well improvement based on assessment of the School well. This is contingent on the chosen well professional presenting the CEO, Dr. Sorensen, with an adequate plan for minimizing disruption of well water provision to the community. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Mark Sorensen discussed the Haury Prize competition, which will be conducted in Tucson in April, 2019, for helping the community with water access.

In conversations with the public, teacher Alicia Saxe described her enjoyment of working at STAR School. Teacher Andy LaFrate talked about a feeling of family at STAR School. Members of the staff and Board had very good words for the sense of community and family in the School.

The next meeting of the School Board will be held on March 10, 2019.

Motion was made by Evelyn McCabe and seconded by Pauline Butler that the meeting adjourn at 3:05 pm. The motion carried 4-0-0.