

**Southern Area Joint Governing Board Meeting  
Governing Board Minutes**

**DATE: April 16, 2019**

PLACE: Skull Valley School, 3150 South Old Skull Valley Road, Skull Valley, AZ 86338

PRESENT: Mr. Tim Carter, Yavapai County School Superintendent; Bagdad Unified School District #20; Congress Elementary School District #17; Kirkland Elementary School District #23; Skull Valley Elementary School District #15; Walnut Grove Elementary School District #7; Yarnell Elementary School District #32.

ITEM 1: Call to order- Tim Carter called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, welcomed attendees, and thanked Skull Valley School for hosting the meeting.

ITEM 2: Pledge of Allegiance

ITEM 3: Action: Call Respective Meetings to Order and Approval of Agenda (Board Presidents)  
Those boards who had a quorum called their meetings to order at 6:02 PM.

ITEM 4: Information: Introduction of Governing Boards (Tim Carter)  
Governing Boards introduced themselves.

ITEM 5: Information and Discussion: Special Education Update (Joe Donaldson, YCESA Special Education Director)

Joe introduced himself and thanked attendees for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. Joe handed out a packet of information including an agenda of the items he would be addressing: YADA Meetings and Schedule; Arizona Administrative Code (R7-2-401); Questions and Answers: Graduation and Students with Disabilities; Proportionate Share Report; Repercussions of being Significantly Disproportionate. Joe went over Arizona Administrative Code and the list of Qualified Professionals Eligible to Conduct Appropriate Evaluations. He touched on the Evaluation Standard that states that the school has 15 school days to respond to an evaluation request. Joe explained that progress reports should coincide with report cards on a quarterly basis and that there is an over-dependence on special education software programs. In regards to issuing diplomas to students with disabilities, Joe brought up some controversial graduation requirements. He shared his knowledge of proportionate share as it pertains to the IDEA grant. Joe concluded his update by informing the board of the repercussions of being significantly disproportionate and shared contact information for ADE coordinators.

ITEM 6: Information and Discussion: Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Rural Caucus (District Administrators)

Michelle Perey, District Administrator- Kirkland, brought up that there is not a rural caucus at the ASBA and feels there is a need for one. Kenny Denney from the Kirkland school board addressed the board and introduced the idea of creating the Rural Family and Friends Caucus. Kenny expressed the need for a voice to speak up for needs of rural schools to the legislature. He informed the board that if a caucus is going to be adopted it needs to be submitted to the ASBA prior to September 15, 2019. Tim Carter recommended that Kenny contact the AZ Rural School Association because that may have an interest in this proposal.

ITEM 7: Information and Discussion: Transportation (District Administrators)

Kirkland school board brought up the need for a bus barn to store and care for small school bus fleets. One district questioned the benefit while another commented that this project is too big as the school districts are too spread out. Mr. Carter recommended that each board needs to have a discussion and share that with their administrators.

ITEM 8: Information and Discussion: Consolidation/Unification (District Administrators)

Mr. Carter defined *unification* as a district that becomes K-12 and *consolidation* as (2) or more districts that join to form a new district. The joint board members discussed the opportunities and obstacles of consolidation and unification. The main concern amongst most districts was controlling the tax rate while keeping the schools beneficial for students and communities. Some districts suggested that schools could save money by keeping students local and reducing the burden of having to tuition out students. The topic was raised regarding the Small School Adjustment, which is a significant portion of a school's budget. A school would lose their small school status if their enrollment is greater than 125 students in elementary school and 100 students in high school. Concern over losing local control is a topic that needs to be considered, as communities like to be able to approach their own board. With only one board, local tax payers may also have an issue with their local tax dollars being governed by an outside group. Mr. Carter informed the boards that with consolidation and unification there would be a only be a five member board and he advised further discussion.

ITEM 9: Information and Discussion: Board Goals and Strategic Planning (District Administrators)

Michelle Perey asked if other schools were doing strategic planning. Dr. Stephanie Miller said that they just had a strategic planning retreat and that they would be happy to assist other school with the process.

ITEM 10: Legislative Update (Gretchen Jacobs, RASC Lobbyist): Gretchen expressed that having Karen Fann, one of our local representatives, serving as Senate President is very exciting. She shared that Senator Fann is doing a great job of running the senate in a bipartisan way. She continued that Fann is maintaining close relationships with minority groups, and is currently in negotiations with democrats. Gretchen touched on a few bills that have been on the watch list including the school consolidation bill and the bill regarding 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade hours. Gretchen also mentioned that Michelle Perey has been spear-heading talks with legislators regarding funding for old and damaged schools.

ITEM 11: Open meeting Laws Q and A (Superintendent Carter)

No questions were presented.

ITEM 12: Final Comments and Thanks (Superintendent Carter)

Mr. Carter thanked Skull Valley School again for hosting the joint board meeting. He stated that this group of small schools is unique in Arizona because of the regular meeting of the school boards and that his office will continue to support them.

ITEM 13: Action: Adjournment (Board Presidents)

Board presidents adjourned the meeting at 7:44 PM.