

PARKER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #27
1608 Laguna Avenue
Parker, AZ 85344

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF HTE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: District Office Conference Room, 1608 Laguna Avenue
DATE: November 22, 2011
TIME: 9:00 AM

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Mr. Rudy Parker, President
Mrs. Deanna Beaver, Member
Ms. Margaret Dewey, Member
Mrs. Amelia Flores, Member (left 10:07 AM)

MEMBERS

ABSENT: Mrs. Dolores Ferris, Member

OTHERS

PRESENT: James Lotts, Superintendent
Brad Sale, Assistant Superintendent
Denyce Cribbs, Executive Assistant
LeRoy Shontz, Parker High School Principal (left 10:37 AM)
Rick Carlson, Parker High School Counselor (left 10:07 AM)

I. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Mr. Parker, President.

B. Adopt Agenda

Mrs. Flores moved, seconded by Mrs. Beaver, to adopt the agenda of the November 22, 2011, special meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Call to Audience

There was no comment under Call to Audience.

II. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Online Education Options

Mr. Lotts stated that he believes it is time for Parker USD to begin exploring the possibilities of implementing “digital learning” into our current educational programming. This could be in the form of a completely virtual school, or in some “hybrid” or “blended” format, where students experience both face-to-face instruction, as well as online coursework. Through his research, he has found that school districts our size or smaller have already begun to explore or implement digital learning, along with a large number of districts in the Phoenix and Tucson areas.

Mr. Lotts stated that there are several ways to introduce this into our schools. He is currently focusing primarily at the high school level, with ideas such as summer school, credit recovery classes, transfer-in classes (so students don’t lose credits as a result of our block schedule), alternative education program, and/or high interest elective classes.

e2020 is one potential digital learning vendor who is based in Scottsdale, Arizona. They are currently serving over 15 districts throughout Arizona and have given a presentation to part of the administrative team in Parker. In addition, Mr. Lotts, Mr. Sale, Mr. Olson, and Mr. Parker visited an *e2020* school in Yuma. They saw a blended learning model of 6th – 12th graders who are receiving the core of their instruction through *e2020*. Dr. Shontz, Mr. Sale, Mr. Carlson, and Mr. Parker also visited Chino Valley High School who are using *e2020* for their alternative education setting. Antelope High School began using *e2020* last year for their alternative education and credit recovery. They are now planning to apply for Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) status. *e2020* is on a Mohave contract.

Mr. Lotts presented the potential costs and savings, and reiterated some areas where the district could get started with digital learning. The Board then had general discussion about the advantages and challenges of digital learning. Mrs. Beaver asked Mr. Lotts where he saw the starting point of implementing digital learning into the district’s current programming. Mr. Lotts responded that he would see either Summer School, Credit Recovery, or Alternative Education, all beginning at Parker High School. The Board discussed some particular challenges and deadlines with changing the programming at Parker Alternative School.

The Board will discuss the district’s progress with digital learning at its January Special meeting, with Mr. Lotts making a specific recommendation to the Board for a course of action for 2012/13 at either the February or March Regular meeting.

B. Dual Enrollment Options with Arizona Western College (AWC) for 2012/2013

Mr. Lotts stated that the district currently has an agreement with Arizona Western College for dual enrollment, which allows students to earn college credit while attending Parker High School. The idea for 2012/2013 would be to deliver the AWC coursework via distance learning into the PHS classroom. Dr. Shontz stated that PHS is looking to offer English III Honors, concurrently with AWC's English 101. He stated that more information will be available at the January regular meeting, when he will recommend the high school's course description book for Board approval. Mrs. Beaver stated the importance of providing an informative letter to the parents of those students. She further stated that this was an exciting new opportunity for some of our students.

C. California Students – Enrollment Status for 2012/2013

Mr. Lotts stated that he has talked with the Superintendent of the Needles School District, and that it is looking possible that the elementary California students will need to attend our schools for 2012/2013. The main issues preventing the opening of the Big River site are sewage and electrical power. Mrs. Beaver asked how the transition of California students was going this year. Mr. Lotts replied that they were adapting very well. Mr. Parker emphasized that any agreement made would have to be for the entire year, and not a partial year. Mr. Lotts will bring a recommendation to the Board in January or February regarding the status of these students for next year.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM by Mr. Rudy Parker, President.

Parker Unified School District #27
Governing Board President