

MINUTES
Arizona Ball Charter Schools
Special Board Meeting
March 17, 2015

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Michael Hoogstra, Board President, at 3:40 p.m. on March 17th, 2015 in the conference room at Dobson Academy Middle School, 2716 N. Dobson Road, Chandler, AZ 85224. Some members joined telephonically.

2. Roll Call*Present:*

Michael Hoogstra, Board President
 Diane Fernichio, Board Vice President
 Melissa Flint, Board Secretary
 Michael Hopkins, Board Member
 Michael Sobieski, Board Member
 Jason Stasiak, Board Member
 Pam Rebel, Executive Assistant

Absent:

Mike Dyer, Board Member
 Marcus Harrison, Board Member
 Michael Larrabee, Board Member

Others Present:

Debbie Baca, Dobson Academy Assistant Principal
 Taime Bengochea, Dobson Academy Principal
 Libby Brady, Val Vista Academy Special Education Teacher
 Michelle Hart, Director of Curriculum
 Faith Knight, Dobson Academy Special Education Teacher
 Gaye Leo, Hearn Academy Principal
 Rita Solliday, Director of Special Education
 Ray Webb, Val Vista Academy Principal

- 3. Approval of Agenda** – Motion by Melissa Flint to approve agenda. Second by Diane Fernichio. All in favor.
 Motion carried.

4. Information and Discussion Items:

- a) Special education personnel in place at each school – Rita Solliday informed the Board of which personnel, both certified and paraprofessionals, at each school work with SPED. Rita Solliday discussed her current job duties that current personnel cannot take on due to certification and/or time restraints. Principals expressed concern that SPED personnel are already working at capacity with Val Vista needing extra assistance. There are currently 27 students at Dobson, 34 at Hearn, and 35 at Val Vista. There is 1 special case at Dobson, 0 at Hearn, and 2 at Val Vista that need monitored by higher level special education personnel. SPED teachers from Dobson and Val Vista were present and discussed their current workloads. Gaye Leo verified with Rita Solliday that Hearn's SPED teachers can manage their current workloads, yet a couple students are in the evaluation process currently. Board members asked clarifying questions.
- b) Plan for student evaluations for remainder of school year - Rita Solliday also discussed 504 duties and the need for coverage in that area. It is best practice (not required) to review 504 plans annually but due to workload schools are behind. Rita Solliday stated that student evaluations are standard protocol and can be done by personnel at the schools with the exception of Val Vista's personnel which need extra help due to workload. Rita Solliday and Taime Bengochea explained the credentials/experience needed to perform the "district representative" duties regarding IEPs. Board members asked clarifying questions.
- c) Review of special education attorney fees – Diane Fernichio asked who will handle current cases involving special education. Rita Solliday explained it is common practice for school districts to utilize attorneys in certain cases. Rita Solliday explained to Melissa Flint who attends these meetings and potential costs. Ray Webb gave an example of the timeline that could occur in these types of cases. These cases take a lot of time

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and are costly. This job duty cannot be taken on by SPED teachers. Mike Hoogstra and others expressed they want to assure the comfort level and training necessary for whomever assumes this role.

- d) Meetings with Principals – Diane Fernichio asked Rita Solliday to review with the principals all information regarding the SPED students at their schools. This is necessary in the transition. Diane Fernichio asked that these documents be provided to the board as well. Michael Sobieski asked the principals to share any concerns they have in the transition. Taime Bengochea expressed the need for an interim person to handle compliance issues.
- e) Necessity for an interim Special Education Director – Consensus was that an interim person is needed for the next eight weeks to cover the exiting Special Education Director's duties which were discussed. The group discussed credentials needed. Diane Fernichio shared a resume of a contract employee from her workplace that expressed interest. The group briefly discussed this person's credentials, experience and rate of pay. Michael Hoogstra recommended the Finance and Personnel Committee hold a meeting and make a recommendation to the full Board on both an interim director, and also the formation of a hiring committee to fill the position for the 2015-2016 school year. Principals expressed the need to approve the interim person immediately rather than waiting until the April 13th Regular Board Meeting.

- 5. Adjournment** - Diane Fernichio asked the group for any remaining comments. There were none. Motion by Michael Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 4:54 p.m. Second by Melissa Flint. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approved by Ball Charter Schools Governing Board

Board Secretary

Date