

COUNCIL MINUTES

January 29, 2003

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Meeting with Mesa Unified School District No. 4 Governing Board at the Administrative Services Center, 63 E. Main Street, on January 29, 2003 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Keno Hawker
Rex Griswold
Kyle Jones
Dennis Kavanaugh
Janie Thom
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Denise Bleyle
Bob DeLeon
Debra Dollar
Dennis Donna
Gerry Fathauer
Jack Friedline
Joe Holmwood
Jim Huling
Barbara Jones
Frank Mizner
Dick Mulligan
Eric Norenberg
Ellen Pence
Cliff Puckett
Bryan Raines
Julie Rice
Paul Wenbert
Bob White

GOVERNING BOARD PRESENT

Suzanne Davis
Cindi Hobbs
Mike Hughes
Tom Rhodes

GOVERNING BOARD ABSENT

Elaine Miner

MESA SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Debra Duvall
Charlie Baker
Jill Benza
Joan Conner
David Eagleburger
Chuck Essigs
Steve Hogen
Joe O'Reilly
Jane McGee Rafal
Janice Ramirez
Jim Servis
Steve Smith
Judi Willis
Mike Yonker

MESA SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF ABSENT

Ken Salas

1. Welcome.

Governing Board President Suzanne Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that this gathering is the second one conducted with this type of format (roundtable discussions). Ms. Davis stressed the importance of these meetings in providing Mesa Public Schools and the City of Mesa with an opportunity to share ideas and discuss issues that jointly impact the community.

Ms. Davis announced that both Mayor Hawker and herself will conduct the meeting.

2. Introductions by Elected Officials.

Mayor Hawker requested that the Councilmembers, after their introduction, highlight issues that they consider to be significant priorities.

Priorities mentioned by the Councilmembers included public safety, neighborhood issues, education, customer service, economic development, Williams Gateway Airport area, utilities, Mesa downtown, budgetary restraints, transportation, water and wastewater issues.

Governing Board President Suzanne Davis introduced herself and advised that this is her seventh year on the school board and pointed out that she has also taught for seven years. Ms. Davis commented that obviously, education is her top priority.

Ms. Davis noted that Boardmember Miner was unable to attend this morning's meeting due to an illness but stated that she would introduce the Boardmembers in attendance.

Governing Boardmember Mike Hughes commented that this is the ninth year he has served as a Boardmember and added that he is also the current director of Prehab. Boardmember Hughes stated that education is his priority and expressed the opinion that education is a direct link to an individual's self worth and self-esteem. Mr. Hughes stated appreciation for the positive working relationship that exists between the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools and commented that this relationship is unique and extremely valuable.

Governing Boardmember Cindi Hobbs stated that she has served as a Boardmember for two years and commented that she resides in west Mesa. Ms. Hobbs said that her representation of the west side of Mesa offers a different perspective regarding issues discussed by the Governing Board.

Ms. Davis, during the introduction of Governing Boardmember Tom Rhodes, announced that Mr. Rhodes was honored as Mesa's "Citizen of the Year." Boardmember Rhodes, after providing his background as a downtown merchant, stated his appreciation for the professionalism, imagination and talent of those individuals who work within the Mesa Public School System.

3. Format of this morning's meeting.

Governing Board President Davis stated that five roundtable discussions will be conducted by two Boardmembers and two representatives from the City of Mesa and pointed out that these representatives are prepared to discuss and respond to questions relative to the specific subject matter outlined for discussion (see agenda item #4). Ms. Davis pointed out that at the end of the timed

discussions (15-minute intervals), a chosen spokesperson from each roundtable will provide a synopsis of the various groups' discussions.

(Councilmember Thom arrived at 8:40 p.m.)

4. Roundtable discussions.

The roundtable discussions were held as follows:

Table 1: Public Safety

Relationship between MPS security, MPD, and MFD in emergencies, police interviews of students at school, youth gangs, Homeland Security, use of schools in community emergencies.

City of Mesa: Chief Dennis Donna, Acting Chief Bob DeLeon, Cliff Puckett
Mesa Public Schools: Steve Smith, Charlie Baker

Table 2: Planning Issues, Neighborhood Revitalization:

Changing demographics in neighborhoods.

City of Mesa: Paul Wenbert, Bryan Raines, Frank Mizner
Mesa Public Schools: Jane McGee Rafal, Joe O'Reilly

Table 3: City and School Facilities:

Sharing of facilities, Mesa Arts Center and Aquatic Center, Smith pool.

City of Mesa: Joe Holmwood, Gerry Fathauer, Bob White
Mesa Public Schools: Dave Eagleburger, Ken Salas, Steve Hogen, Jim Servis

Table 4: Finance and Budget Issues, Economic Development:

Impacts of State and City budget cuts, recruitment of employees.

City of Mesa: Debra Dollar, Dick Mulligan, Jim Huling
Mesa Public Schools: Debra Duvall, Janice Ramirez, Chuck Essigs

Table 5: Transportation, Major Projects:

School bus stops in heavy traffic areas, crosswalks, new traffic lights, future road construction, 15-MPH signs on Broadway, multi-modal transportation options, possible joint use of buses, possible extension of the half-cent regional transportation sales tax.

City of Mesa: Mike Hutchinson, Jack Friedline
Mesa Public Schools: Jill Benza, Mike Yonker

5. Reports by each table.

Ms. Davis requested that the chosen spokesperson from each roundtable provide a summary of the discussions that transpired during the roundtable sessions.

Table One's chosen spokesperson, Acting Fire Chief Bob DeLeon reported on the group's discussion relative to planning for emergency preparedness. Fire Chief DeLeon stated that the group reflected on the dramatic changes that have taken place over the last ten years regarding emergency planning and responses. Chief DeLeon apprised everyone of the fact that currently Public Information Officers are speaking to one another relative to any incidents occurring at the schools or the City. Chief DeLeon commented on the importance of sharing databases to ensure that each entity has the same information relative to the school facilities' entrances, exits, utilities and Fire Department measures.

In addition, Chief DeLeon stated that the topics of discussion included the importance of continuing communication as it relates to gang prevention, joint training opportunities between the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools, emergency response procedures in Mesa's County islands and following procedures regarding the interviewing of students by members of the Mesa Police Department.

Table Two's chosen spokesperson, Planning Director Frank Mizner, stated that the group discussed a number of planning and neighborhood issues. Mr. Mizner commented on the cooperation demonstrated by Mesa Public Schools in providing neighborhood schools for various Neighborhood Group meetings scheduled by the City. As an example, he pointed out the 18 meetings scheduled in northwest Mesa relative to the multi-purpose stadium issue and stated the City's appreciation for the use of those facilities.

Mr. Mizner outlined the duties of Planning and Boundary Design Advisory Committee and stated that the advisory group considers and establishes attendance boundaries for existing or new schools. Mr. Mizner stated the opinion that the meetings conducted by this body provides an excellent opportunity for neighbors to obtain information and provide input. Mr. Mizner stated that the input received at the meetings also serves as an additional voice to the Governing Board in their consideration of issues relating to student attendance.

Additional topics of discussion reported by Mr. Mizner included the following: regeneration of older schools, the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools' budget difficulties, the City's formation of a Committee to review Mesa's housing plan, an infill study conducted by the City, and the City's light rail planning efforts.

Table Three's selected spokesperson, Associate Superintendent David Eagleburger, stated that the group's discussion included the sharing of facilities between the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools and pointed out that along with the challenges associated with the sharing of facilities is the lack of facilities available for either entity's use. Mr. Eagleburger reported that prior to the end of May a written agreement regarding the sharing of facilities will be provided to the Mesa City Council and the Mesa Schools Governing Board for their consideration.

Mr. Eagleburger outlined the group's discussions which covered areas such as redevelopment of businesses downtown, additional joint ventures involving swimming pools (built by the City of Mesa but with shared expenses for operations, and budget restraints. He added that because of the current budget constraints, efforts may need to be expanded relative to the possibility of combining efforts relating to bond issues that are proposed to voters.

Table Four's chosen spokesperson, Superintendent Debra Duvall, highlighted issues that were discussed by the roundtable, which included the noted increase in the levels of education provided by surrounding neighborhood cities and the fact that Mesa Public Schools appeared to remain at the same level. Ms. Duvall stated that other topics of discussion included the possibility of locating a Mesa Community College Branch in the downtown area, an increase in personnel costs by the Arizona Retirement System totaling \$8 million for Mesa Public Schools and \$6 million for the City of Mesa, suggestion that Mesa Public Schools conduct a joint meeting with legislators regarding the importance of economic development opportunities for the East Valley.

Table Five's chosen spokesperson, Assistant Superintendent, Jill Benza, reported on the discussions that occurred during the session, which included the Broadway Corridor area and the location of posted speed limit signs, neighborhood meetings conducted by the City of Mesa regarding freeways for the purpose of obtaining citizen's input, the opening of the Wal-Mart Store and its impact on Barbara Bush Elementary School and transportation issues associated with school buses.

President Davis thanked everyone for their participation and input at this meeting.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Joint Meeting between the Mesa City Council and the Mesa Unified School District No. 4 Governing Board adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Joint Meeting between the Mesa City Council and Mesa Unified School District No. 4 Governing Board held on the 29th day of January 2003. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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