

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 24, 2001

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 April 24, 2001 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Keno Hawker
Jim Davidson
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Bob DeLeon
Debra Dollar
Gregory T. Fowler
Barbara Jones
Wayne Korinek
Tony Malaj
Laura May
Ellen Pence
Tom Remes
Jan Strauss
Bryan Raines
Paul Wenbert

GOVERNING BOARD PRESENT

Michael Hughes
Suzanne Davis
Cindi Hobbs
Elaine Miner
Tom Rhodes

MESA SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Debra Duvall
Dr. Charles Baker
Joan Conner
Dr. Michael Cowan
David Eagleburger
Dr. Chuck Essigs
Dr. Ray Rafford
Dr. Janice Ramirez
Linda Rottman
Dr. Ken Salas
Judi Willis

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Mesa Public Schools' Superintendent Debra Duvall welcomed everyone to the meeting and stressed the importance of meetings such as this one, which serves to address issues that foster a partnership between Mesa Public Schools and the City of Mesa. Ms. Duvall advised that both Governing Board President Michael Hughes and Mayor Keno Hawker will preside over the meeting and requested that everyone introduce themselves.

Governing Board President Hughes also welcomed everyone to the meeting and encouraged attendees to participate in any discussions that take place throughout the meeting.

Mayor Hawker encouraged the attendees to provide input and suggestions that will assist in strengthening the relationship that exists between the Mesa Public School District and the City.

2. Update on Campus Safety and Security.

Dr. Ray Rafford discussed the positive relationship that exists between Mesa Public Schools and the Mesa Police Department and the valuable assistance provided by the Department relative to the Schools' crisis plans. Dr. Rafford stated that the Department has provided extensive support this year in the development of policies and regulations relating to crisis situations and commented on the importance of having such plans in place and updating them on an annual basis. Dr. Rafford expressed his appreciation to the Police Department for their input relative to the development of Critical Incident Plans and said that the policies and regulations will ensure overall plan consistency. Dr. Rafford stated that the Mesa Public School District now has an Incident Command Center in place and reported that a recent exercise was conducted simulating a critical incident. Dr. Rafford said that the two-hour session represented an initial step in the implementation of ongoing efforts to ensure the schools' ability to address any crisis situation that may arise.

Board President Hughes stated the Mesa Public School District has put forth extensive effort to ensure campus safety, including the hiring of additional security personnel. He requested feedback from the Police Department relative to the improvements in this area.

Police Chief Jan Strauss commented that the School District's efforts have had a positive impact on campus safety and said that this fact has been verified by statistics gathered by the members of the Police Department.

Discussion ensued relative to the placement of police officers at the schools, statistical data selections and the fact that there are currently six officers assigned to each high school and eight officers assigned to each of the junior high schools.

In response to a question posed by Boardmember Davis relative to the preferred lines of communication to be followed in the event of a threat on campus, Dr. Rafford stated that the principal will be the first individual to be notified followed by district security staff. He added that District Director of Security, Charles Baker, would then contact the Mesa Police Department for assistance.

In response to a question relative to the training of campus security personnel, Mr. Baker advised that security's training curriculum includes nonviolence crisis intervention, first aid (CPR) and a review of the District's policies and procedures.

Dr. Rafford discussed the District's appreciation for the parents and citizens who inform the schools of potential problems that may arise and emphasized the importance of responding to each report without delay.

3. Discuss Use of Facilities and Maintenance.

Community Services Manager Wayne Korinek provided historical background relative to the first joint venture between the City of Mesa and the Mesa School District and advised that former School Superintendent Taylor persuaded the Mesa City Council in 1936 to establish a Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Korinek pointed out the fact that the salary of the first Director of the Parks and Recreation Department was financed 50% by the Mesa High School District and 50% by the Elementary School District and was not financed in any part by the City of Mesa.

Mr. Korinek discussed the numerous agreements that have existed between the two entities over the years which often involved the joint use of facilities located on school property but financed by the City of Mesa.

He noted that joint projects frequently include ballfield lighting and the construction of tennis courts and swimming pools. Mr. Korinek noted that the last three state-of-the-art aquatic facilities were built at Stapley Jr. High, Shepherd Jr. High and Brimhall Jr. High and added that all three pools were financed by the City of Mesa.

Mr. Korinek pointed out that other agreements between the School District and the City of Mesa include the joint building of school gymnasiums and discussed the fact that the City recently installed a sprinkler irrigation system at Stapley and Carson Jr. High Schools to enhance the joint utilization of those facilities.

Associate Superintendent David Eagleburger said that he serves as the facilitator of a committee formed for the purpose of developing guidelines for early morning, evening, weekend, holiday and summer uses at Mesa Public School facilities. Mr. Eagleburger reported that the demands for utilization of those sites far exceed the number of facilities and discussed the difficulties associated with accommodating all of the user groups. Mr. Eagleburger distributed a draft copy of a document that outlined a proposal to equitably distribute the use of the facilities. Mr. Eagleburger stated that, as an example, the City could be given top priority use for facilities located within the City, and the schools would be given secondary priority status. Mr. Eagleburger added that the schools could then have priority use for sites located within school facilities and the City would be given secondary priority status in those instances.

Mr. Eagleburger discussed the proposed fees associated with the use of those facilities and said that the monies generated will assist in maintaining and refurbishing those facilities. Mr. Eagleburger stated that the fees may be based on a percentage of use basis and commented that the fees have not yet been finalized.

4. Update on Current Projects.

Dr. Chuck Essigs advised that the Mesa Unified School District has two new schools, Brinton Elementary and Smith Jr. High and said that both schools will open next fall. In addition, Mr. Essigs stated that this summer Mesa Vista High School will be relocated to a new site located on Country Club Drive, south of McKellips and in close proximity to Whitman Park. Dr. Essigs discussed the development of a joint use facility with the City of Mesa at Webster Elementary School and commented that the District will operate this facility similar to the joint use currently in operation at Jefferson Elementary School.

Mr. Essigs said that within the next two years, the State Facility Board will provide the Mesa School District with monies to replace 100 portable classrooms with permanent building structures. Mr. Essigs outlined the various personnel and departments that are currently housed at the Administrative Services Center, located at 63 E. Main Street. Mr. Essigs expressed appreciation to the City for its assistance in the negotiation process that occurred in order to obtain this building structure.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson outlined Mesa's numerous downtown redevelopment projects and distributed a handout depicting specific locations and timelines for the various activities. Mr. Hutchinson stated that the projects represent positive assets for the entire community and stressed the fact that the redevelopment sites will promote future economic development.

Mr. Hutchinson also emphasized the importance of initiating improvements to arterial streets in order to prepare for the anticipated traffic generated by the Red Mountain Freeway and commented that as a growing community, it is essential that the City continue to maintain and improve streets.

5. Update on Risk Watch Program.

Assistant Superintendent Michael Cowan commented that the staff of the Mesa School District strongly believes in the positive benefits of the Risk Watch Program and supports its continuation. Dr. Cowan

distributed copies of the curriculum for grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 and stated that the curriculum focuses on twelve critical accident prevention areas. He noted that the Risk Watch Program has been successfully integrated into the schools and said that this is due in large part to the excellent presentation that was made last July by Mesa Fire Community Coordinator Laura May.

Assistant Fire Chief DeLeon pointed out that City of Mesa Firefighters are present in every Mesa Public School and are charged with the important responsibility of teaching fire safety in the classrooms. Chief DeLeon commented on the excellent partnership that exists between the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools and said that this spirit of cooperation ensures the success of programs such as this.

Fire Community Coordinator Laura May distributed a handout sponsored by the National Fire Protection Agency, which has historically been involved in providing fire prevention education. Ms. May stated that the Agency broadened their scope of education based on the type of calls responded to by Fire Departments (unintentional injuries). She said that since unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death, the Fire Protection Agency has incorporated educational topics in their informational literature that include motor vehicle safety; fire and burn prevention; choking/suffocation and strangulation; poisoning prevention; falls prevention; firearm injury prevention; bike and pedestrian safety, and water safety.

Ms. May stated that once a school decides to become a Risk Watch facility, training and literature are provided to the teachers to enhance the program in the classrooms and commented that education in this important area is also reinforced by the assigned firefighters who serve as role models to the students while teaching them important safety measures. Ms. May advised that evaluations were distributed to schools involved in the Risk Watch Program to solicit input relative to the program and reported that the comments received were extremely positive.

6. Update on 2025 – A Shared Vision

Mayor Hawker provided a brief overview of the status of 2025 – A Shared Vision. Mayor Hawker advised that based on the Growing Smarter legislation, a thirty member citizen committee has been appointed by the City Council to simultaneously update four plans, the General Plan, Transportation Plan, Parks and Recreation Plan and an Economic Development Plan. Mayor Hawker pointed out that the Committee is co-chaired by John Giles and Pat Gilbert and commented that citizen input is vital to the process.

Mayor Hawker stated that the Committee will address land use issues such as big box retail, and the appropriate zoning for areas surrounding freeway corridors. Mayor Hawker indicated that the Committee will also address transportation-related issues, including the use of light rail and commuter rail as alternative modes of transportation. Mayor Hawker also pointed out that the final land use plan will be placed on the ballot of the City's March 2002 election for citizens to decide. Mayor Hawker added that citizens will also vote at that election for Council candidates in Districts 4, 5 and 6 and encouraged interested members of the School Board to run for office.

Mayor Hawker stressed the importance of developing an economic plan that balances the ratio between employment and residential areas and said that this process is an excellent opportunity to enhance employment opportunities in Mesa. Mayor Hawker discussed the City Council's intention to maintain the area surrounding Williams Gateway Airport for future employment uses and outlined the many benefits derived from regional employment centers, particularly in the areas of transportation and air quality. Governing Board President Michael Hughes and Mayor Keno Hawker thanked everyone for their attendance and said that they look forward to participating in future cooperative efforts that will benefit everyone concerned.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Joint Meeting between the Mesa City Council and the Mesa Unified School District No. 4 Governing Board adjourned at 9:41 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 24th day of April, 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2001

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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