

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 4, 2002

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 4, 2002 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

Dennis Kavanaugh

COUNCILMEMBER ELECT PRESENT

Kyle Jones

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Dennis Compton
Bob Deleon
Debra Dollar
Dennis Donna
Gregory T. Fowler
Jack Friedline
Gerry Gerber
Joe Holmwood
Barbara Jones
Wayne Korinek
Dick Mulligan
Eric Norenberg
Ellen Pence
Bryan Raines
Jan Strauss
Paul Wenbert

OTHERS PRESENT

Joe Singer

GOVERNING BOARD PRESENT

Elaine Miner
Suzanne Davis
Cindi Hobbs
Mike Hughes
Tom Rhodes

MESA SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Debra Duvall
Jill Benza
Joan Conner
Dr. Michael Cowan
Dr. Chuck Essigs
Jane McGee Rafal
Dr. Ray Rafford
Linda Rottman
Dr. Ken Salas
Jim Servis
Judi Willis
Mike Yonker

MESA SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF ABSENT

Dr. Charlie Baker
Dr. Janice Ramirez
Dr. Tom Riffel
Dr. Steven Smith

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Mesa Public Schools (MPS) Governing Board President Elaine Miner welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the MPS Boardmembers present at the meeting. Mayor Hawker introduced the Mesa City Council and Councilmember-Elect Kyle Jones and reported that Councilmember Kavanaugh was ill and unable to attend the meeting. The Mayor suggested that additional introductions take place during the roundtable discussions.

2. Format of this morning's meeting.

Ms. Miner outlined the meeting's new format involving roundtable discussions and commented that selected participants (Councilmembers, Boardmembers) will be required to choose three topics of interest and at fifteen-minute intervals will be seated at each of three tables for discussion. Ms. Miner also explained that at each table, key personnel have been selected to not only respond to questions, but more importantly, listen to the ideas formulated by the participants. Ms. Miner commented that this type of format provides an excellent opportunity for participants to obtain information, share information or ask any questions they may have and stated that discussions are not limited to the assigned topics.

Mayor Hawker pointed out that at the end of the meeting, a selected spokesperson from each roundtable will be asked to summarize the discussions that took place. Mayor Hawker stated the opinion that the discussions will prove to be of greater benefit if the participants provide input, formulate work plans and/or develop resolutions rather than merely listen to staff's presentations.

3. Roundtable discussions.

The roundtable discussions were held as follows:

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|----------|---|
| Table 1: | Public Safety
<i>Relationship between MPS security, MPD, and MFD in emergencies</i>
City of Mesa: Chief Jan Strauss, Chief Dennis Compton
Mesa Public Schools: Dr. Ray Rafford |
| Table 2: | Planning Issues, Neighborhood Revitalization
<i>Changing demographics in neighborhoods</i>
City of Mesa: Paul Wenbert, Bryan Raines
Mesa Public Schools: Dr. Mike Cowan, Jane McGee Rafal |
| Table 3: | City and School Facilities
<i>Sharing of facilities, Mesa Arts Center (update on construction, where MPS clients will park when it is completed), Monument to Education move, city pool at Skyline</i>
City of Mesa: Wayne Korinek, Joe Holmwood, Gerry Gerber
Mesa Public Schools: Dr. Ken Salas, Dr. Steve Hogen, Jim Servis |
| Table 4: | Finance and Budget Issues, Economic Development
<i>City budget cuts and how they affect the school district, charter and public schools (marketing strategies), recruitment of employees</i>
City of Mesa: Debra Dollar, Dick Mulligan
Mesa Public Schools: Dr. Debra Duvall, Dr. Chuck Essigs |
| Table 5: | Transportation, Major Projects
<i>Concerns regarding school bus stops in heavy traffic areas</i>
City of Mesa: Mike Hutchinson, Jack Friedline |

Mesa Public Schools: Linda Rottman, Jill Benza, Mike Yonker

4. Reports by each table.

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

MPS Assistant Superintendent Ray Rafford, selected as representative for Table 1, (Public Safety) spoke of the positive coordination and collaboration between the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools as it relates to crisis intervention and planning. Dr. Rafford commented that Chief Compton emphasized the importance of maintaining ongoing communication regarding incidents that may have citywide implications. Dr. Rafford said that partnerships are critical, especially in the areas of training and planning.

Dr. Rafford stated that discussions took place regarding the District's position relative to the closed campus issue and pointed out that currently, Skyline High School is the only closed campus facility. He added that a modified closed campus exists at Mountain View High School.

Dr. Rafford commented that the group's discussions included communication with respect to radios and stated the importance of communicating effectively between parties. Mr. Rafford reported that criminal activity has decreased based on the presence of officers on the campus and discussed the benefits received from the community policing on the surrounding neighborhoods.

MPS Assistant Superintendent Michael Cowan represented Table 2 (Planning) and outlined the discussions that took place, which involved some of the issues discussed by Table 1 such as security, parking, and the DARE Program. Dr. Cowan commented that one of the needs of the community involves providing assistance to non-English speaking individuals. Dr. Cowan stated the opinion that the schools, libraries, non-profit organizations and communities should coordinate efforts in this area including teaching neighbors how to speak English. Dr. Cowan stated that there was a consensus of the group that a pamphlet or a newsletter does not serve the needs of the community based on the fact that there are numerous individuals who are illiterate in both English and Spanish. Dr. Cowan emphasized the importance of good communication in order to provide information to citizens, obtain their input and promote feelings of involvement within the community. Dr. Cowan spoke of a joint venture with the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools in providing facilities at which neighborhood groups can meet.

Dr. Cowan stated that the group also discussed the west side revitalization efforts that involve a review of school facilities to ensure quality school resources and the revitalization efforts in neighborhoods. Dr. Cowan spoke of the Positive Choices Program, which is the replacement program for DARE, and the fact that the program is funded this year by Mesa Public Schools.

In response to a request from Councilmember Pomeroy, Dr. Cowan advised that the Adult English Instruction courses offered by Mesa Public Schools are scheduled every eight to nine weeks and reported that an average of 200 individuals have been placed on a waiting list. Dr. Cowan stated that consequently, Mesa Public Schools is looking for assistance in this area to meet the needs of the community.

MPS Director of Athletics Steve Hogen, representing Table 3, (City & School Facilities) outlined the group's discussion involving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Mesa Public Schools and the City of Mesa. Dr. Hogen commented on the necessity of an Agreement that identifies the parties involved and outlines procedures affiliated with the sharing of facilities. Dr. Hogen stated that a group exists that meets monthly to address any issues that arise from this partnership and commented that discussions took place on the necessary funding to maintain the shared facilities.

Vice Mayor Davidson pointed out the need for a collaborative effort between the City and Mesa Public Schools to determine if improvements can be made in managing and scheduling all the fields more effectively.

Councilmember Whalen also pointed out the fact that two years ago, the City of Mesa had a bond election and voters did not approve bonds for parks. He commented on the difficulties associated with that decision and stressed the importance of establishing joint efforts to support any future parks and recreation bond proposals.

MPS Superintendent Debra Duvall, spokesperson for Table 4, (Finance & Budget Issues, Economic Development) outlined the group's discussion that involved the City's budget cuts and the fact that the reductions may impact Mesa Public Schools. Ms. Duvall reported that the City's capital projects that will be deferred as a result of the budget were outlined. Ms. Duvall emphasized that the School's mission and primary purpose is to ensure that students meet the necessary standards. In addition, Ms. Duvall stated that individuals discussed the significant increases in employee healthcare costs and pointed out that an exploratory committee had been established approximately one year ago to study the feasibility of jointly providing healthcare benefits to employees. Ms. Duvall stated that the Committee concluded that stabilization of both providers would need to take place prior to a joint venture occurring.

Ms. Duvall commented on the group's discussions relative to recruitment of business, employers and employees and said that educational efforts need to be expended to ensure the success of economic development efforts. Ms. Duvall emphasized the importance of having large companies locate in an area that provides high quality education and job opportunities. Ms. Duvall reported that discussions evolved regarding the development of freeway corridors and job opportunities expected at Williams Gateway Airport. Ms. Duvall stated that there were discussions involving redevelopment issues and how redevelopment may impact schools.

MPS Assistant Superintendent Jill Benza, representing Table 5, (Transportation, Major Projects) reported that discussions at their table involved the difficulties associated with buses stopping on main streets and other bus and traffic safety issues. Ms. Benza stated that additional subject matter involved some necessary changes to the designing of apartment complexes and gated communities for greater ingress and egress capabilities.

Ms. Benza discussed the group's comments regarding the exploration of ideas to educate the community on bus and traffic safety issues. Ms. Benza pointed out that traffic safety problems exist at McKellips Road and Lindsay/Val Vista Roads as the street narrows and at Thomas Road and Power Road with children crossing the median area. Ms. Benza discussed the positive effects realized from the new school zone signs and commented on the fact that these signs are very expensive.

Ms. Benza said that discussion occurred relative to forming a partnership between the City and the Mesa School District whereby a school district liaison could meet with City personnel to discuss the Transportation Plan. Ms. Benza pointed out that the liaison could identify problems and offer suggestions regarding the proposed 25-year plan.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ms. Miner thanked everyone for his/her attendance and stated the opinion that the meeting was very productive. Ms. Miner requested that individuals provide feedback regarding the meeting's new format.

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Joint Meeting between the Mesa City Council and the Mesa Unified School District No. 4 Governing Board adjourned at 9:08 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 4th day of April 2002. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK