



# COUNCIL MINUTES

June 24, 2003

The City Council of Mesa met in a Joint Meeting with the Gilbert Unified School District Governing Board, on June 24, 2003 at 7:30 a.m.

## CITY COUNCIL PRESENT

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

## COUNCIL ABSENT

Claudia Walters

## STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Debra Dollar  
Jack Friedline  
Patsy Hansel  
Joe Holmwood  
Barbara Jones  
Eric Norenberg  
David Plumb  
Jeff Welker

## STAFF ABSENT

Paul Wenbert

## GILBERT UNIFIED SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD

Helen Hollands, President  
Van Dunham, Boardmember  
Suzy Horvath, Board Clerk  
Sheldon Jones, Boardmember  
Linda Rollans, Boardmember

## GILBERT UNIFIED SCHOOL STAFF PRESENT

Dave Allison, Asst. Superintendent  
Brad Barrett, Superintendent  
Nikki Blanchard, Asst. Superintendent  
Dianne Bowers, Community Education Director  
Clyde Dangerfield, Asst. Superintendent  
Sherryl Henning, Asst. Superintendent  
Paul Huston, Associate Superintendent  
Keith Vaughn, School-Community Director

## 1. Welcome.

Mayor Hawker welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that Councilmember Thom's suggestion to meet with the Gilbert Unified School District is very appropriate given the fact that there are Gilbert schools located within the boundaries of Mesa.

Governing Board President Helen Hollands pointed out that five elementary schools, two junior high schools and one high school, are within Mesa's city limits. President Holland stated that due to these geographic boundaries a significant amount of Mesa youth are provided their education by the Gilbert Unified School District while simultaneously receiving other services by the City of Mesa. President Hollands stated the opinion that oftentimes, in larger cities, schools become the center of the

community and for that reason this joint meeting with the Mesa City Council is not only appropriate, but also essential.

2. Introductions by Elected Officials/Councilmembers.

Mayor Hawker requested that each Councilmember, Boardmember, any elected representative, staff and others in attendance introduce themselves. In addition, Mayor Hawker requested that each attendee, after their introduction, provide some background information relating to their special interests or their specific expertise.

3. Hear a report and discuss Summer Library Reading Programs.

Governing Board President Helen Hollands commented that this issue was placed on the agenda since literacy and maintaining youth reading throughout the summer is critical to a student's excellence in academics throughout their career. President Hollands stated that based on that fact several libraries in the Town of Gilbert are open in the summer so that youth can utilize library services and thus, continue with their Literacy Program. President Hollands emphasized that funding for this program cannot be totally financed by the School District; therefore, the Town of Gilbert offers their support for these efforts. She also commented on the possibility of opening an elementary school library in East Mesa so Mesa's youth can obtain access to a library during the summer months.

At the request of Mayor Hawker, Library Director Patsy Hansel, outlined the Regional Library System that encompasses a countywide Summer Reading Program. Ms. Hansel informed those present that fourteen schools in the Mesa Public School District participate in the County Summer Reading Program.

At the request of Mayor Hawker, Dave Allison, Assistant Superintendent outlined Gilbert's Library Program relative to the following; staffing, advertising, hours of operation and transportation efforts. Mr. Allison responded that the program is currently staffed by one individual (a library employee) and commented that volunteers are also recruited from the Community. Mr. Allison emphasized the need for additional staffing for the program but indicated that funding continues to be an issue. Mr. Allison stated that currently, the Town of Gilbert provides \$6,000 (this summer) to fund the two schools' employee positions and the materials necessary for the program.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Thom, Mr. Allison confirmed that the Gilbert School libraries that are located in Mesa are not open at the present time during the summer but added that there is interest in exploring the opening of at least one of those libraries next summer.

President Hollands emphasized the importance of books in the hands of youth during the summer and indicated that these programs are an excellent use of resources.

Discussion ensued relative to Harris Elementary as an appropriate site to continue the open library program for next summer since there are many children in that area that are within walking distance to the school.

Mayor Hawker stated concern regarding the costs associated with opening every school's library during the summer when they are located in the Mesa School District. President Hollands discussed various means to determine the appropriate designations serving the greatest need.

4. Hear a report and discuss plans by Gilbert Public Schools for a new elementary school to be located in Mesa.

Gilbert School Superintendent Brad Barrett announced that next year there will be thirty-six schools in the Gilbert School District and commented that newer schools will be opening in the boundaries of the City of Mesa. Superintendent Barrett emphasized the need for a mutual agreement relating to locating those facilities and issues associated with planning and zoning.

Mr. Keith Vaughn Director of School-Community Development, with the illustration of a map depicted Gilbert's School District boundaries, which encompass approximately 22½ square miles in Mesa. Mr. Vaughn reported that by the time new schools have been constructed student levels are already at capacity and pointed out that recently the School District has received federal funding to construct a new elementary school next year (2004). Keith pointed out the challenges associated with providing school facilities that synchronize with the tremendous population growth, specifically in the East Valley. Mr. Vaughn spoke of the likelihood of erecting portables as an alternative to assist in meeting the demands for school facilities.

Superintendent Brad Barrett stated concern with the development of neighborhoods without the infrastructure necessary to support the community. Superintendent Barrett stated that this Board is aware of Council's difficult position created by the compelling force to zone the area surrounding the General Motor Proving Grounds as residential. Superintendent Barrett emphasized the importance of coordinating with the City of Mesa if it appears that this area will have residential components.

Superintendent Barrett discussed various technical issues that need to be addressed with the City of Mesa relative to providing utility infrastructure for the property surround the Proving Grounds. Superintendent Barrett spoke of land that may be donated by LKY property owners to the School District for the erection of a new school in that area.

Discussion ensued relative to the LKY property that is currently located in Maricopa County and the efforts that have been initiated to annex the property.

Utilities Manager Dave Plumb briefed those present relative to the current wastewater system in the area and stated that within 30 days a revised interim plan for improvements will be presented to Council. Mr. Plumb indicated that for future uses, the joint wastewater treatment plant between the Town of Gilbert and the City of Mesa would service the area including the enormous growth that has taken place.

Mayor Hawker emphasized the importance of protecting Williams Gateway Airport as an employment center and spoke of the voter approved General Plan that reflected the land uses surrounding the Airport. Mayor Hawker outlined the zoning designations reflected on the Plan surrounding Williams and commented on the issues that may arise from residents relative to the noise from aircraft. Mayor Hawker discussed a proposed apartment complex in close proximity to the end of the Airport's runway and commented that the Council does not have a consensus relative to proceeding with the proposal.

5. Hear a report and discuss plans by the City of Mesa for future swimming pools in Southeast Mesa.

Parks & Recreation and Cultural Director Joe Holmwood provided background information relative to the Master Planning process undertaken by the City of Mesa involving a plan for aquatics projects for the future. Mr. Holmwood referred to the oversight committee, which contained thirty-five citizens from the Community and spoke of the numerous public meetings held in order to obtain public input. Mr. Holmwood commented on the tremendous efforts that were expended to formulate a document for presentation to the voters as part of the General Plan. Mr. Holmwood indicated that the General Plan was approved by voters in November 2002 and will serve as an instrument to carry out any future aquatic projects.

Mr. Holmwood emphasized the positive relationship that exists between the School Districts and the City of Mesa regarding the construction of public swimming pools, which are located on school sites. Mr. Holmwood pointed out that the arrangement between the City of Mesa and Mesa Public School District requires the District to provide the property for a new pool while the City, in concert with the District, provides the funds for construction. He stated that historically, the District has paid a share of the capital costs at a rate of 25% of the costs; however, in recent years it appears that the District's share has not increased proportionally to the current total cost of pools. Mr. Holmwood commented that as far as operational costs the City of Mesa has paid the cost of operating the pools and the School District has been responsible for the cost of utilities.

Mr. Holmwood outlined on the map two selected sites for future pools, Smith Junior High and Skyline Park, which is adjacent to Skyline High School. Mr. Holmwood also identified two other target areas depicted in the Master Plan that would require bonding capacity and operating costs.

In response to a question relative to the location of pools in general, Mr. Holmwood indicated that swimming pools have been historically constructed at junior high schools versus high schools because there are a greater number of junior high schools in the Community, thereby serving a greater number of the Community.

Discussion ensued regarding the delayed project, the downtown aquatics facility, which would provide a location for national competition.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson informed those present of the possibility of obtaining voter approval for bonding authorization at the next election in order to continue funding for aquatics.

6. Adjournment.

In closing, President Hollands commented on the benefits of this meeting and stated that future dialogue would also be beneficial.

Mayor Hawker thanked everyone for his or her attendance.

Without objection the meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

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KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Joint Meeting of the City Council of Mesa and the Gilbert Unified School District held on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 2003. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2003

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK