MINUTES

Present:
Adelita S. Grijalva, President
Alex Rodriguez, Clerk
Bruce Burke, Member
Judy Burns, Member
Joel T. Ireland, Member

Also Present:
Roger F. Pfeuffer, Superintendent
Rob Ross, Legal Counsel
Patricia Lopez, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer
Judith Knight, Ph.D., Associate Superintendent, Education Support Services
Estella Zavala, Interim Director, Public Information
David Scott, Director, Accountability and Research
Maria Patterson, Principal Supervisor
Ross Sheard, Principal Supervisor
Glynda Underwood, Principal Coach
Marcus Jones, Director, Engineering and Planning Services
Bill Ball, Director, Transportation
Lisa Long, Assistant Director, Curriculum and Technology Integration
Albert Siqueiros, Principal, Smith Elementary School
Chad Knippen, Principal, Borman Elementary School
Bridget Auvenshine, Director of Staff Services to the Governing Board
Mary Alice Wallace, Senior Staff Assistant II to the Governing Board
Sylvia Lovegreen, Senior Staff Assistant I to the Governing Board
Col. Caesar Rodriguez, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base
K-leigh Shaw, Hearing Impaired Interpreter
Sandra Padilla, Spanish Language Interpreter
Amy Zuniga, Hearing Impaired Interpreter
Yovannah Diovanti, Spanish Language Interpreter
Mary Bustamante, Tucson Citizen
TV Channels 11 and 13

ITEM ACTION

SPECIAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 6:05 p.m.

Board President Adelita Grijalva announced that the services of Sign Language and Spanish interpreters were available.
ITEM | ACTION
--- | ---
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | No action required.

Board Clerk Alex Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION ITEMS RE: CLOSURE OF SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | No action required.

1. Introductory Comments – Roger Pfeuffer, Superintendent | No action required

   Roger Pfeuffer welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending tonight’s meeting. He also briefly outlined the reasons for recommending the closure of Smith Elementary School, i.e., decreased enrollment, the loss of sixth graders to charter schools, and the potential savings of $3 million. Roger then introduced Col Caesar Rodriguez representing Davis-Monthan (DM) Air Force Base personnel and Deborah Drew representing Smith Elementary School parents.

2. Presentation by Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Personnel | No action required

   Col. Caesar Rodriguez indicated TUSD has the full support of Col. Spencer and DM personnel in its recommendation to proceed with the closure of Smith Elementary School. He indicated that DM is going through a privatization process for base housing which will improve base housing over a period of time.

   Board Clerk Alex Rodriguez asked a question regarding projected growth at Davis-Monthan. Col. Rodriguez indicated that with improved base housing, more military families will live on base which will create growth potential for this school system.

3. Smith Elementary School Council Presentation | No action required.

   Linda Lewallen, School Site Council Facilitator, indicated that the School Site Council has met and is recommending that Smith Elementary School remain open as a K-8 elementary school, expanding it to a K-6 for the 2006-2007 school year. If this is not possible, the School Site Council’s recommendation is that Smith be closed for no more than one year with a plan in place to reopen it as a middle school (K-8) for the 2007-2006 school year.
### ITEM 3. Smith Elementary School Council Presentation (continued)

Deborah Drew spoke on behalf of Smith and Borman elementary school PTA members and other parents and presented the Board with a petition requesting TUSD seriously consider keeping Smith Elementary School open and turning it into a K-8 school.

Board President Adelita Grijalva, once again, announced that the services of Sign Language and Spanish interpreters were available, and that if their services are not needed, the interpreters would be released for the remainder of the evening.

### ITEM 4. Public Hearing/Meeting pursuant to A.R.S. §15-341 (A)(36)

No action required.

Board President Adelita Grijalva reviewed the rules for public participation at Board meetings. The following persons spoke:

- **Joseph Stella** – read partial letter urging TUSD to convert Smith Elementary School into a K-8 school
- **Linda Lewallen** – read remainder of Mr. Stella’s letter urging TUSD to convert Smith Elementary School into a K-8 school
- **Francis Burneo, Jr.** – praised the teachers at Smith Elementary School and asked Board to reconsider recommendation to close the school
- **Joan Penniston** – Smith Elementary School teacher expressed there is a lack of respect for TUSD teachers
- **Mark Severson** – Smith Elementary School teacher praised the school and its staff and expressed support for the alternative to closing the school provided by the School Site Council
- **Kathy Clow** – Grandparent of Smith Elementary School students requesting the school not be closed and instead gradually be converted to a K-8 school
- **Nicole Fye** – Smith Elementary School parent pointed out the value of teachers who understand military life and requested the school not be closed
- **Pansy Zunda** – Smith Elementary School grandparent praised the Special Ed program at Smith and requested the school not be closed
- **Des Wells** – Smith Elementary School parent asking the Board to reconsider keeping the school open to maintain some stability for military families
- **Theresa McButchart** – Smith Elementary School teacher requesting the Board consider the Site Council’s recommendation to convert the school to a K-8 school
ITEM ACTION


Vida Kimberlin – Smith Elementary School retired teacher expressed support to maintain stability and not to close the school
León Stallworth – Smith Elementary School parent and retired Air Force member praised the school and its staff and requested TUSD reconsider closing the school
Ingrid Butler – Smith Elementary School parent of a special needs child expressed her concern for how the special relationships students and parents have with teachers will be affected
Sarah Hargis – Smith Elementary School parent feels the quality of education the children receive will decrease if the school is closed
Mark Severson – (second time) spoke on behalf of the Smith Elementary School’s night custodian expressing his son’s (former Keen Elementary School student) inquiry “Why is it that every school I go to has to close?”.

SPECIAL MEETING RECESSED – 7:00 P.M.

SPECIAL MEETING RECONVENED – 7:24 P.M.


Dawn Fradette – Smith Elementary School parent and employee shared that if it were not for Smith, her child would be in a charter school
Lee Stallworth – Smith Elementary School parent and military family requests TUSD take a look at the entire picture before proceeding to closing the school
Mary Shepard – Smith Elementary School parent and retired military feels the quality of education is going to suffer if the school is closed and is in support of the Site Council’s recommendation to turn the school into a K-8 school
Peggy Levingston – Smith Elementary School parent urges TUSD to reconsider the closure of the school and asks that it be turned into a K-8 school
Nicole Fye – (second time) expressed her concern for the safety of children who will be forced to cross a major road (25-30 mph) to get to Borman Elementary School
ITEM | ACTION
--- | ---

Elizabeth Valois – U of A student expressed that she can relate with what students at Smith are going through and expressed concern for their quality of education in a larger school environment

Francis Burneo, Jr. – (second time) expressed concern for the long-term psychological harm done to Smith Elementary School students if the school is closed

Sarah Hargis – (second time) shared that parents are angry because there are a lot of unanswered questions; suggested TUSD have more dialogue with parents in a question and answer format

Mary Schiltz – spoke regarding the requirement for the Court to approve the closing of Smith Elementary School

SPECIAL MEETING RECESSED – 7:45 P.M.

SPECIAL MEETING RECONVENED – 8:40 P.M.

Martin Enriquez – Smith Elementary School parent and night custodian shared his son’s (former Keen student) question, “Why does every school I go to close?”; and asked that Smith not be closed

Mark Severson – (third time) shared stories indicative of the collaboration among the entire staff at Smith to ensure that students receive the best education

Joseph Stella – (second time) Thanked board members for their time, including during meeting breaks this evening

Mark Severson – (fourth time) Shared an anecdotal story regarding one of his former Smith students

Miguel Cuevas – spoke regarding the need to have a plan of action in place that will keep the community informed

Board members commenting were Judy Burns and Adelita Grijalva.
## ITEM
SPECIAL MEETING ADJOURNED – 8:53 p.m.

## ACTION
Alex Rodriguez moved to adjourn, Bruce Burke seconded. Unanimously approved.

Approved this 9th day of May, 2006.

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. ONE

By

Alex Rodriguez, Clerk
Governing Board