

**Tucson Unified School District No. 1  
Governing Board Special Meeting  
Vail Middle School Cafeteria  
5350 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tucson, Arizona**

**April 18, 2006  
6:00 p.m.**

**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**

Board Clerk Alex Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

No action required.

**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**

**ACTION**

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.

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**

4. Public Hearing/Meeting pursuant to A.R.S. §15-341 (A)(36) (continued) No action required.

**Vida Kimberlin** – Smith Elementary School retired teacher expressed support to maintain stability and not to close the school  
**Leon 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.

4. Public Hearing/Meeting pursuant to A.R.S. §15-341 (A)(36) (continued) No action required.

**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**

4. Public Hearing/Meeting pursuant to A.R.S. §15-341 (A)(36) (continued) No action required.

**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.

4. Public Hearing/Meeting pursuant to A.R.S. §15-341 (A)(36) (continued) No action required.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9<sup>th</sup></sup>\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_May\_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. ONE

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alex Rodriguez, Clerk  
Governing Board

sll  
Minutes\4-18-06Special