

**Tucson Unified School District No. 1
Governing Board Special Meeting
Auditorium
Pueblo High Magnet School
3500 S. 12th Avenue
Tucson, Arizona**

**September 1, 2004
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Present:

Joel T. Ireland, President
Judy Burns, Clerk
Bruce Burke, Member
Adelita Grijalva, Member
Mary Belle McCorkle, Ed.D., Member

Also Present :

Roger F. Pfeuffer, Interim Superintendent
Patti Lopez, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer
Judith Knight, Ph.D., Chief Business Officer
Estella Zavala, Interim Director, Public Relations
Harriet Scarborough, Ph.D., Senior Academic Officer – Professional Development and Academics
Dea Salter, Principal Supervisor (Interim)
Ross Sheard, Principal Supervisor (Interim)
Susan Wybraniec, Executive Director, Human Resources
Nancy Woll, Compliance Officer
Norma Johnson, Policy Coordinator
Pam Fine, Director, School Community Relations
Tanya Thompson, Office of Academic Excellence
Dick Yetwin, Legal Counsel, DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy
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
Elsa Gutierrez, Spanish Interpreter
Brad Harkins, Spanish Interpreter
Rachel Runge, Sign Language Interpreter
Patricia Perry, Sign Language Interpreter
Eric Sargara, *Tucson Citizen*

ITEM

ACTION

SPECIAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 6:10 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

No action was required or taken at this meeting.

1. Introductory Comments

Joel Ireland opened the public hearing by announcing that the purpose of this Public Hearing/Meeting was to collect input regarding whether the Tucson Unified School District has reached “unitary status” which could lead to future action to terminate the pending desegregation lawsuit commonly known as Fisher-Mendoza.

Roger Pfeuffer made a PowerPoint presentation that provided a chronology of the Fisher/Mendoza litigation. This was followed by a brief explanation of what unitary status means. **[See Attachment A]** This presentation was simultaneously presented in Spanish. **[See Attachment B]**

Joel Ireland reviewed the rules for speaking at the Public Hearing and stated that headsets are available for Spanish speakers who need English/Spanish translation by our interpreters.

2. Public Hearing/Meeting to collect input regarding whether the Tucson Unified School District has reached “unitary status” which could lead to future action to terminate the pending desegregation lawsuit commonly known as Fisher-Mendoza.

The following persons spoke during the Public Hearing:

John O’Dowd – Expressed concerns regarding facility equity at Tucson High Magnet School and the discontinuation of DESEG/OCR report outlining how money was being spent.

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DISCUSSION ITEMS (continued)

Irene Amavizca – (Spanish speaker; interpretation by Brad Harkins) Expressed that that the current policy with magnet schools is discriminatory. And wants children to have the right to continue in the programs they have been in.

Randy Palacio Teacher at Roskruge Bilingual Magnet School expressed concerns regarding discrimination against the students the desegregation order was intended to protect.

Joel Ireland opened the floor for persons who had already spoken to speak again since he had no more Speaker Cards.

John O'Dowd – (second time) Spoke regarding a post-unitary decree giving a role to the site-based committees in determining compliance and equity.

Cristina Lugo – Assistant Principal at Roskruge Bilingual Magnet School expressed that in her opinion, Tucson Unified School District has reached unitary status.

Theresa Roybal – Expressed her support for TUSD declaring unitary status.

Joel Ireland again opened the floor for persons who had already spoken to speak again since he had no more Speaker Cards.

John O'Dowd – (third time) Expressed his concerns regarding the gap between the achievement of Hispanic students and Angelo students and that not enough is being done to close that gap.

Joel Ireland opened the floor for persons who had already spoken to speak again since he had no more Speaker Cards. He also reiterated that headphones are available for Spanish speakers who need English/Spanish translation, and expressed gratitude for the sign language interpreters that were signing for the hearing-impaired.

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DISCUSSION ITEMS (continued)

Raul Aguirre – Local businessman and TUSD parent expressed his concerns regarding student enrollment at Roskrige Bilingual Magnet School and restrictions for admissions under current TUSD desegregation policies.

Joel Ireland announced that another Public Hearing is scheduled for September 28, 2004 at Sahuaro High School. He also announced that copies of the Stipulation of Settlement were available both in English and Spanish for anyone who wanted a copy. **[Attachment C and D]**

**PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING
ADJOURNED – 7:00 P.M.**

Approved this 9th day of November, 2004.

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. ONE

By



Judy Burns, Clerk, Governing Board