

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE ARIZONA STATE SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND**

.. APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 30, 2013

Capitol Executive Tower, 2nd Floor Governor's Conference Room
1700 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona

Board President Bernhardt Jones provided a welcoming statement to the audience.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Board President Jones called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. and Board Secretary Sherri Collins conducted roll call.

Members Present: Orlenda Roberts, Ray Mungaray, Bernhardt Jones, Sherri Collins, Clifford Rowley, Michael Williams (arrived at approximately 1:15 p.m.)

Members Absent: Marv Lamer

Others Present: Superintendent Robert Hill, and Attorney General Representatives Kim Anderson, Michelle Kunzman, and Dennis Carpenter

II. Public Comment on Agenda Item

It was moved by Sherri Collins, seconded by Clifford Rowley, that the Board accept comment on non-agenda items.

Spoke to the Issue: Kim Anderson, Bernhardt Jones, Sherri Collins, Clifford Rowley

Highlights: Board members cannot consider or take action on any item that is not on agenda; motion out of order; request more than three minutes be provided for deaf speakers; reiteration of rules of public comment.

Henry Garcia, graduate of ASDB, requested the Board search for another Superintendent to clean up the damage done by current Superintendent.

Jessica Sizemore, ASDB employee, asked if the Board had received her emails in support of Nancy Amann, the agricultural program, and the lack of leadership from Superintendent. She requested the Superintendent be put on leave and a neutral party be brought in to investigate the issues.

Belinda Bendick, ASDB employee, wanted to speak to the positive leadership of Nancy Amann. Board President encouraged Ms. Bendick to keep her comments directed to agenda item III regarding the complaints about administration. Ms. Bendick noted she didn't know the details of the complaints and therefore could not comment on the complaints.

Alan Schussel, community member, spoke to the lack of communication and poor leadership by the Superintendent and the Board President, legal and policy requirements of the Superintendent and Board President jobs, and asked the Superintendent to step down.

Brandon Decker, ASDB employee, spoke to his complaint against the Superintendent and the disruption caused to him and his family as a result of the decision to file a complaint. He spoke to specifics contained in his complaint and the Superintendent's mishandling of a situation last spring. He requested the Superintendent be placed on administrative leave pending a neutral investigation and asked for full transparency.

Spoke to the Issue: Sherri Collins, Bernhardt Jones

Highlights: Request that those who have complaints on the agenda be given more than the three minute time limit for their comments; goal to keep to three minutes but will be flexible.

Lisa Svenningsen, ASDB employee, spoke regarding the specific details of her complaint against Superintendent, claims of retaliation since she filed the complaint, and requested the board open a neutral investigation of the Superintendent.

Courtney Fritz, ASDB employee, spoke to her concerns about the Board's procedures for responding to complaints or items not on the agenda at a board meeting, the need for Board leadership, and noted that the complaints placed on the agenda were all deaf and leaders, middle managers and supervisors. Ms. Fritz was also allowed a minute to read a letter on behalf of Maureen Mazza which addressed concerns of lack of supervisor training, poor handling by Superintendent of police investigation, lack of consequences to Superintendent, and asked the Board to be more connected to ASD and PDSD staff and students.

Glen Wells asked how the Board will respond to allegations, meet expectations of students and parents. He expressed lack of confidence in the Superintendent, the need to build ASDB back up, and wants the Attorney General's Office to follow the Governor's recommendations.

Bobbie Beth Scoggins, on behalf of NAD, spoke to the process and review of grievances, and recommended a neutral independent party conduct an investigation to find the root of the issues, indicating NAD will stand behind the students, staff and stakeholders to help find a resolution.

Michael Williams left the meeting at approximately 1:46 p.m. and returned at 1:56 p.m.

Polly Brady-Garcia, ASDB graduate and former employee of ASDB, spoke about the ASDB museum being closed.

Spoke to the Issue: Bernhardt Jones

Highlights: Comments not related to any item on agenda.

Becca Bailey, parent, spoke to the complaints, a few items not on the agenda involving the Superintendent's contract, and asked the Board to have a neutral investigation.

Michael Williams left at approximately 1:50 p.m. and returned at approximately 2:03 p.m.

Sherri Williams left at approximately 1:55 p.m. and returned at approximately 1:57 p.m.

Spoke to the Issue: Bern Jones, Sherri Collins

Highlights: Loss of quorum with two Board members stepping away; additional public comment submission; no further allowed.

Rob Voreck, parent, spoke to the Board's obligations to oversee ASDB during good and bad times, the misconduct of the Superintendent with collusion from Board President, no response from Superintendent and Board President to online petitions, his previous support of Superintendent but that support is no longer, Superintendent's absence for nearly a month, and the need for Superintendent to go.

Vivienne Schroeder, ASDB employee, spoke about the specific details of her complaints, concerns of hostility and lack of trust, and fear of retaliation for filing complaint.

Sabina Shysh, ASD student and president of student body government, commented on the Superintendent's lack of presence, the Superintendent is not welcome at ASDB, and she wants Nancy Amann as Superintendent.

Spoke to the Issue: Bernhardt Jones

Highlights: Superintendent has been with his mother who is dying.

Jesus Diaz, student representing the ASD Junior class, spoke about the impact to students from Nancy Amann being placed on administrative leave, how students are finding it hard to focus on classes, the loss of programs without Nancy, and his disgust with the Superintendent and Board President.

Fangen Thompson, student, commented that Superintendent is not seen, that Nancy Amann thinks of students first, and the Board has ignored student concerns.

Nancy Amann spoke to what led to her first and second complaints, the lack of communication from Board regarding her complaints, how long she has been out of the office, the investigation should be neutral without involvement of Superintendent and agency personnel, and a conflict of interest between the Superintendent and Board President

Spoke to the Issue: Bernhardt Jones

Highlights: Response to allegation of conflict of interest between Superintendent and Board President; the Board is not an investigative body so any investigation must be conducted by an outside source.

Juliana Apfel, ASD student and student body government president, commented that if the Superintendent's mother is sick and if he is grieving, then why is he here now. She spoke about an incident from May 2012 and her concern of not having access to communication at that time; stated the Supervising Teachers are so frustrated and afraid of retaliation, students are protesting and they are being ignored, and requested Dr. Amann be returned to her position.

Alan Amann, parent, commented that while he works in the Attorney General's Office, he was commenting as a parent and not in his role with the AG's office, and that his comments were his own personal views. He requested the Board take extra precautions to ensure the investigative process remain fair and neutral. He spoke to the concept of good faith and asserted the Superintendent was not acting in good faith. He clarified his son is not a leader in the student protests, but is a participant, and asked if his son's voice is meaningless because the Board is not listening to students.

Highlights: Mike Williams, Ray Mungaray, Sherri Collins, and Cliff Rowley assured the audience that they have received and read all communications sent to them, noting the students and community have been heard.

- III. Consideration of the procedures for reviewing/addressing the complaints received by the Board from Nancy Amann on March 8, 2013 and April 25, 2013; Lisa Svenningsen on March 14, 2013; Maureen Mazza on March 20, 2013; Brandon Decker on April 6, 2013, and Vivienne Schroeder on April 25, 2013 for Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action

It was moved by Michael Williams, seconded by Orlenda Roberts, and unanimously carried that the Board go into Executive session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3), for discussion/consultation for legal advice with the Board's attorneys as it relates to this agenda item; and pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(2), for discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law as it relates to this agenda item.

The Board went into executive session at approx. 2:45 p.m. and returned to public session at approximately 3:45 p.m.

It was moved by Orlenda Roberts, seconded by Ray mungaray, and unanimously carried that the Board appoint Michael Williams to work with AG's Office to select and hire an outside independent investigator to investigate all of the complaints listed in Agenda Item III with a preliminary report provided at the June Board meeting with a goal of a final report by the August board meeting.

- IV. Adjournment

It was moved by Michael Williams, seconded by Ray Mungaray, and unanimously carried, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50 p.m.