

Informal Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 04, 2009
Meeting Scheduled Start Time: 10:00 AM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Maricopa County, Arizona
(and the Boards of Directors of the Flood Control District,
Library District, Stadium District, Improvement Districts,
and/or Board of Deposit)



"The mission of Maricopa County is to provide regional leadership and fiscally responsible, necessary public services to its residents so they can enjoy living in healthy and safe communities"

Board Members

Max Wilson, District 4, Chairman
Fulton Brock, District 1
Don Stapley, District 2
Andrew Kunasek, District 3
Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5

County Manager

David Smith

Clerk of the Board

Fran McCarroll

Meeting Location

Supervisors' Auditorium
205 W. Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85003

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County Arizona convened in Informal Session at 10:00 AM on Monday, May 04, 2009, in the Supervisors Auditorium with the following members present: Max Wilson, Chairman, District 4; Don Stapley, Vice Chairman, District 2; Fulton Brock, District 1; Andrew Kunasek, District 3; Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5. Also present: Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board; Shirley Million, Minutes Coordinator; David Smith, County Manager; and Victoria Mangiapane, Deputy County Attorney.

PRESENTATION

Superintendent of Schools

1. MARICOPA COUNTY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #509 STATUS UPDATE

Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-308, Providing Educational Services of an Accommodation School, the statute states "the county school superintendent shall provide a report to the county board of supervisors by April 1 of each year, on the county school superintendent's plans for the provision of accommodation school services for the next school year and the projected number of students at each accommodation school in the district."

The purpose of the presentation to the board of supervisors is not only to comply with the statute but has a four-fold purpose. The four-fold purpose of the presentation to board of supervisors regarding the Maricopa County Regional School District #509 is to provide them with information on the governance of the school district, enrollment projections, budgets, and educational programs of the district. (C-37-09-019-P-00)

Dr. Donald Covey, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Covey presented an overview of the operation of the County's Accommodation Schools to provide education services for special needs youth who have made some wrong decisions in life. The three parts he covered concerned current enrollment and projected enrollment for next year; the educational program plan that will be used; and the financial projections for the fiscal year.

He said that Arizona statute calls for a one-person school board but he has determined to "empower a group" to join the board, and he introduced the five members: Dr. Gerald Cuendet, President; Ms. Jemeille Ackourey; Mr. Harry Valenzuela Garewal, Jr.; Dr. Stuart Turnansky; Mr. Ron Willingham.

Dr. Covey reported that 3,145 students had been served during the current fiscal year and explained that student class time could be as short as three-days to a possible length of three-months, likening it to a revolving door. Numbers are expected to decrease by approximately 200 next year but these are also expected to stay shorter periods than in the current fiscal year. This will drastically affect the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) from 905.5 currently to 308.5 ADA next year. This, in turn, will reduce the District's funding received from the State, which is based on ADA. Staff members will also be reduced.

Michalean Bendotti, Consultant for Educational Accountability, said it is important to gather a great deal of data in order to "reinvent" a school curriculum. She considered data, current practice and the "village" with regards to recidivism; school affiliation; the four factors leading to success; and getting lost in the system.

She explained that a teacher would deal with an average of 120 students in the current Accommodation School because class enrollment is constantly changing. She said that when a student transitions out of detention their personal records go to the last regular school they attended, whether that school wants them back or not. This is one procedure that will change in the proposed program.

Ms. Bendotti saluted probation officers, saying, they are often the only adult a child has who can move them forward in a positive manner, adding that they cannot do it alone. She said the best thing that can possibly happen is to educate the child while they are incarcerated and then returned to a regular school. The goal is for a seamless transition from the time a child is incarcerated until they move out into the real world. To reduce recidivism it is important to improve the factors that affect juvenile success. One goal is to do away with the practice of giving kids "pieces of credit" because these are not applicable to transcripts. Monitoring kids after their release is also important, and the plan is to do this at three-month, six-month and nine-month intervals. She explained Arizona State's mandated use of the Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP). Dr. Covey returned to the podium to explain funding for next year, which is expected to be approximately \$4 million in state and federal funds. He said he and his staff are committed to holding to that budget.

In response to a question from Supervisor Kunasek, Dr. Covey explained the difference between Average Daily Membership (ADM) and Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and why the state legislature adopted the current payout plan on ADA in 1971. He said the membership number would be higher than the attendance number of hours a child spends in class.

Discussion ensued during which the information was relayed that the cost to educate a child is approximately \$8,000. The cost of incarcerating a child for the same time period is approximately \$24,000, which increases dramatically when additional costs are included for recidivism. The final consideration is the jail time and loss of a productive life that may ensue if prevention or rehabilitation is not successful.

PRESENTATION AND ACTION

Public Health

2. SWINE FLU VIRUS UPDATE AND ACTION PLAN ON REQUESTED EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

Update on the swine flu virus (H1N1) in Maricopa County, including proposed action plan. At the conclusion of the presentation, Per A.R.S. § 42-17106(b), approve the transfer of expenditure authority in the amount of \$150,000 from Non-Departmental (470) General Fund (100) Operating (0000) Contingency item "Unreserved Contingency" to Non-Departmental (470) General Fund (100) Operating (0000) Other Programs item "Countywide Emergency Issues Fund". (C-49-09-055-M-00)

Approval of this action will allow for Maricopa County's response to Swine Flu.

Dr. Bob England, Director, Public Health

Warren Leek, Director, Emergency Management

Dr. Bob England gave the Board an update and background on the rapidly evolving situation regarding the Swine Flu Virus in the County and explained why the level of concern throughout the world has risen to such a high level. He also explained his decision to back away from the decision of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to close schools at this time. He believes this new strain of flu, at this time, is no more serious than others have been over the years, and possibly less serious than some new strains. He said fear has escalated because it is new and unknown, adding that people have been hospitalized and have died from the flu throughout history.

He explained, "New strains of flu happen all the time. What doesn't happen all the time is the ability of the virus to infect people." He said there had been three pandemics of a flu virus in the 20th century and two of these were relatively mild and deaths were not much more than during any typical flu season. Thirty-six thousand Americans a year die during a typical flu season and he said some people will also die from the Swine Flu.

Dr. England indicated that decisions and actions would be changed if the circumstances change enough to warrant that. In communicating with school personnel, he learned the practice of sending sick kids home is being strongly enforced as is the stern admonition to stay home if you, or family members, are already sick. He added that taking precautions really does work.

He reported that their surveillance efforts will continue but the cost in both staff sleeplessness and overtime costs are mounting, with many working 80 or more hours a week. The staff has set aside most other work to concentrate on the Swine Flu issue. While trained personnel are needed now, if this becomes a true pandemic community volunteers would be welcome.

Previous pandemics have come in waves over an eight to twelve month period. This flu virus could continue to mutate and could become a much more serious disease in the fall. Much needs to be done to prepare for the second and third waves. Dr. England said the pandemic flu of 1918 killed 600,000 Americans and the population was one-third of what it is now.

Supervisors all expressed their appreciation for the informative presentation and for the difficult task that is being handled so well by Dr. England and the Public Health Department staff. The Board promised to be responsive to requests from Dr. England in fighting this outbreak.

Motion to approve by: Supervisor Stapley, Seconded by: Supervisor Wilcox
Ayes: Kunasek, Stapley, Brock, Wilcox, Wilson

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vote to convene in Executive Session to consider items on the Executive Agenda dated Monday, May 04, 2009, pursuant to statutory authority listed for each item.

Motion to approve by: Supervisor Stapley, Seconded by: Supervisor Kunasek
Ayes: Kunasek, Stapley, Brock, Wilcox, Wilson

MEETING ADJOURNED

After consideration of items in Executive Session and there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 p.m.

Max W. Wilson, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board