

COOLIDGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 21
Governing Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2025

REGULAR MEETING

Date, Time, Place of Meeting

The Governing Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM, 450 N. Arizona Boulevard Coolidge Arizona.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

Call to Order and Roll Call

Present at this meeting was Vice-President Linda Heath, Member Kris Gillespie, Member George Arredondo and Member Victoria Quintero.

Welcome and Meeting Procedures

Approval of Agenda

Member George Arredondo MOVED, SECOND by Vice President Linda Heath, to approve the Work Session Agenda. Vice-President Linda Heath voted "yes", Member Kris Gillespie voted "yes", Member George Arredondo voted "yes", and Member Victoria Quintero voted "yes"

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0

BUSINESS (Action, Discussion, and Information Items)

A. Discussion on the Allocation and Utilization of Bond Funds

Allocation and Utilization of Bond Funds

- **Overview of Bond Election and Authorization:** The bond election took place in November 2019, with a 10-year authorization period. Bonding capacity was initially estimated at \$35-\$38 million, with potential growth to \$42 million based on property tax levels. The decision was made to utilize \$21 million based on assessed needs.
- **Facilities Condition Assessment (FCA):** Conducted in June 2018 to evaluate the condition of facilities and guide bond fund allocation. The FCA includes detailed information on systems such as HVAC units, roofs, and other assets, providing data on age, expected replacement, and costs.
- **Bond Fund Allocation and Projects:** Of the \$21 million authorized, \$12 million has been expended, with \$9 million remaining. Projects include addressing HVAC and roof issues at Coolidge High School, designing a new HVAC system for the Performing Arts Center, and upgrading Coolidge Junior High's roof, interiors, and technology infrastructure.
- **Historical Context and Challenges:** Previous bond elections faced challenges due to falling property values, affecting bond sales. Current projects address major

deficiencies identified in the FCA, with ongoing updates to asset data.

- **Categories for Bond Projects:** Projects must fall under categories such as maintenance, building, renovation, athletics, and transportation, involving coordination with architects and contractors.

School Site Assessments

- **Architect Collaboration:** Site visits conducted to assess major systems and identify additional needs, with principals providing input on issues aligning with previously identified problems.
- **Specific School Projects:** Focus on Coolidge High School's Performing Arts Center, addressing house lighting and other renovations.

Facility Improvements and Upgrades

- **Coolidge Junior High School:** Preliminary bids for house lighting are approximately \$130,000. The project is not covered by the school facilities board and is intended to be funded by bond money. There is a noted lack of multi-purpose space for athletics.
- **Bell System Replacement:** Transition to an IP-based system is planned, similar to systems at CAP, Coolidge High School, and West, which include safety features like message boards and lockdown capabilities.
- **Recreational Areas:** The junior high lacks playgrounds, which is a concern for younger students. Ideas for recreational activities include relocating basketball courts and introducing pickleball or cornhole.

Water and Irrigation Challenges

- **West School Water Situation:** Discussions with the City of Coolidge and San Carlos Irrigation are ongoing to address irrigation needs at West School. The underground infrastructure's condition is uncertain, affecting irrigation possibilities.
- **Irrigation Concerns:** North side of Pima receives irrigation; south side does not. Discussion on potential collaboration with the city of Coolidge for ball field irrigation.

School Infrastructure and Maintenance

- **Playground and Equipment:** New play equipment installation for kindergarten and first-grade areas. Previous equipment included a metal slide, considered outdated and unsafe.
- **Building Maintenance:** Discussion on repainting the gym and cafeteria; current earth brown color is faded. Consideration of alternative colors.

Student Drop-off and Pickup Safety

- **Current Issues:** Safety concerns due to incidents where children were almost hit by cars during drop-off. Parents often drop off children on the main street, which is discouraged.
- **Ongoing Study:** A study is being conducted with the city to assess and improve student drop-off and pickup safety.

School Facilities and Renovations

- **CAP Overhaul:** Extensive renovations with new plumbing and modern interiors, except for the roof. Principal's concerns about the perimeter and proximity remain unchanged.
- **Budget Allocation:** \$900,000 to \$1 million allocated for new buses over three years. \$500,000 allocated for bus shade to extend bus life and manage temperature.

High School and Athletic Facilities

- **Proposed Multi-Purpose Facility:** An 8,000 square foot facility proposed to include locker rooms, a multi-purpose room, and practice space. Estimated cost is \$3.4 million.
- **Additional Considerations:** Discussion on the need for additional restrooms closer to seating areas at the stadium.
- **Long-term Planning and Spending:** Emphasis on the necessity to utilize allocated funds within a three-year period. Concerns were raised about the lengthy timeline.
- **Specific Projects and Funding Sources:** Gym bleachers at Coolidge Junior High, West School bathrooms, and general maintenance funded through Maintenance and Operations (M&O) rather than bonds.
- **New Facility Design and Usage:** Proposed industrial feel with concrete floors and exposed ductwork. Emphasis on multifunctionality to support various sports and activities.
- **Year-Round Program Operations:** Continuous use of facilities for sports like basketball and volleyball.
- **Timeline and Urgency:** A decision is needed soon to avoid delays and potential cost increases. Starting today could align completion with the 2026 football season.
- **Additional Considerations:** External bathrooms could enhance the utility of facilities for events.

Member George Arredondo MOVED, SECOND by Member Kris Gillespie, to Discussion on the Allocation and Utilization of Bond Funds. Vice-President Linda Heath voted "yes", Member Kris Gillespie voted "yes", Member George Arredondo voted "yes", and Member Victoria Quintero voted "yes"

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0

ADJOURNMENT

Member George Arredondo MOVED, SECOND Member Kris Gillespie. To Adjourn the meeting at 6:00PM. Vice-President Linda Heath voted "yes", Member Kris Gillespie voted "yes", Member George Arredondo voted "yes" and Member Victoria Quintero voted "yes"

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Andrea Felix and approved on March 12, 2025.

Governing Board	Title	Date
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