



A Special Session of the Maricopa County Community College District Governing Board was scheduled to be held beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the District Support Services Center, 2411 West 14th Street, Tempe, Arizona, pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.02, notice having been duly given.

GOVERNING BOARD

Dana Saar, President
Randolph Lumm, Secretary
Doyle Burke, Member
Alfredo Gutierrez, Member
Debra Pearson, Member

ADMINISTRATION

Rufus Glasper
Maria Harper-Marinick
Lee Combs
Margaret McConnell

GUESTS

Don Covey
Kristine Morris
Harry Garewell
Earnest Rose

DISCUSSION

The Special Session began at 4:35 p.m. Board President Dana Saar introduced Dr. Rufus Glasper, Chancellor, to begin the discussion on Maricopa's sponsoring a new single charter school—Hope College and Career Readiness Institute, LLC. Dr. Glasper informed the Board this presentation was a follow-up to April's Agenda Review where the request from Dr. Don Covey, Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools, to consider sponsoring a single charter school was presented. Dr. Covey and his staff were in attendance. Plans include two MCCCCD Board members to sit on the proposed Charter School Board.

Dr. Covey cited research from *Measures of America* (2012) and their statistics showed Phoenix had approximately 250,000 disaffected youth. Last Wednesday, they put on a Disconnected Youth Seminar and had 175 attendees when they had planned for 150, and there were an additional 150 on a waiting list. They are using a Collective Impact Model where they plan to leverage community assets to attain a common goal. They have received \$175 million from national and international investors for re-engineering to develop the workforce. They are also using the Big Picture Schools model where students will spend three days each week doing internships so they will become certified in certain skill sets to qualify for particular jobs. Big Picture Schools have a graduation rate of 93% and a job placement rate of 96%. Statistically, by 2020, 68% of jobs in the community will require a post-secondary education. This prompted a discussion with the Chancellor and Maricopa Corporate College to look into creating a school within the next 12-24 months modeled after the Big Picture Schools. They will build from the ground up, creating a grade 9-14 seamless transition. They are able to provide free and public education for students through age 22 by statute. The new school will start with 300 and grow to about 800, and they plan for multiple locations in the future. Two members from the MCCCCD Board and three members from the management Board will oversee the school.

A Board member asked for more information about serving students to age 22. Dr. Covey replied they can basically provide the cost of registration and tuition or use other models, such as dual/concurrent enrollment, and can keep serving students until the age of 22. The data show the largest cohort needing to be served is single females, age 16-20, with children. Courses can be adjusted to meet the specific needs of these students.

Ms. Kristine Morris, Chief Deputy Superintendent, noted the Big Picture Schools

concept demonstrates that learning doesn't just happen in traditional classrooms. Beginning freshmen youth will start to gain experience in the workforce. Big Picture will move students from school to career. Mr. Earnest Rose, Maricopa County Regional School District Superintendent, noted they have research around what works for disconnected youth.

Board members asked for clarification on what the Maricopa County Regional School District is. Mr. Rose noted they had been in existence for approximately 50 years. "Maricopa County Regional School District is an accommodation school district for approximately 2,500 students in transition throughout the year." (<http://www.mcrsd.org/domain/6>) Board members asked Dr. Covey about his relationship with Phoenix Union School District. Dr. Covey said they received positive response from the school districts.

A Board member asked Dr. Covey to outline the opposition. Dr. Covey replied their strongest opposition might come from other charter schools. But the population being served by this new school is not being served by other schools so there will be no competition. Currently they have 32 charter school partners working to help students make transitions to traditional schools, community colleges, universities, and the work force.

Board members asked if Dr. Covey had a pool of faculty already or would they need to be trained. Dr. Covey replied teachers would need to be recruited and be willing to accept that all students can succeed—no exception. In Big Picture Schools, the turnover rate is unbelievably small.

Another Board member asked for clarification on the competency-based aspect. Ms. Morris replied that every teacher would adhere to state standards. Teachers must meet with internship facilitators, determine which standards students will work to, and what work products will demonstrate competencies mastered.

Mr. Rose noted they plan to offer a Microsoft IT Academy where high school students graduate with a certificate and can immediately enter the workforce and make more money than the teachers they learned from! They are working with the Arizona Drywall Association and other construction internships which will allow students to graduate with a Journeyman card. They are creating new partnerships with community colleges and universities now.

A Board member noted another opposition to consider would be those who oppose the socialist-type approach of training workers rather than educating students. Are any aptitude instruments used? Dr. Covey noted they use ACT, but acknowledged that flexibility is necessary.

Ms. Morris noted San Diego adopted an approach where students are exposed to a variety of options to explore a variety of careers early on, starting in ninth grade. They help students start to find relevancy and meaning and are not forced or set into one place.

A Board member asked what the liability would be for Maricopa if something should happen at the school. Ms. Margaret McConnell, Assistant General Counsel, replied that the statute says MCCCDC can sponsor and none of the principles would be liable for anything the charter school did. The MCCCDC Board would be immune under statute. Dr. Glasper clarified the question, noting that two MCCCDC Board members would be part of the charter school Board; would they then be liable as members? Ms. McConnell noted they would be liable as any other Board and the institution should have appropriate insurance.

Board members noted there appeared to be no financial risk evident but a reputational risk was. They will be going after a high risk group of students. They asked what kind of evidence existed to ensure they would get the target number of students enrolled in the first year. Mr. Rose replied that some of

their partner schools are already at capacity so they would inherit their overflow. They are also hiring a marketing firm. Another Board member asked about not providing transportation. Dr. Covey noted it was expected public transportation would be used for this population and private vehicles once students came of age.

Mr. Harry Garewell, Board Member, remarked that when they opened their Bio Science High School, success was so overwhelming that there is now a waiting list. He felt that once word got out about the new school the response would be overwhelming. A Board member asked if they had considered the school's impact on JTEDS. Mr. Garewell said the school would be similar and they have a significant number of students who want to go there.

Board members asked when it would start. Dr. Covey said classes are slated to start in July, 2015. They will have a 208-day calendar, rather than 180-day. Implementation was delayed due to some construction and other issues.

Board members asked how this idea fit with MCCC'D's vision, mission, and goals. Dr. Glasper replied it fits in well with MCCC'D's ABE/GED mission. The partnership with Maricopa Corporate College and direct jobs creates a synergy. Dr. Glasper asked for clarification whether anything would happen if the Board approved in 2014 but classes didn't start until 2015. Ms. McConnell noted the authorization has no time limit. It will allow MCCC'D to review the application, get a contract signed, and the charter holder could initiate the program and get the facility up and running by July, 2015.

President Saar noted MCCC'D would give the names of the two MCCC'D Board representatives to Dr. Covey by May 15, 2014.

President Saar asked Dr. Glasper to make the motion.

**APPROVAL OF
NON-CONSENT ACTION**

II.A.1 AUTHORIZATION TO SPONSOR A SINGLE CHARTER SCHOOL—authorize the Chancellor to exercise the statutory authorized granted under Arizona Revised Statutes §15-183-C for the purposes of sponsoring a single charter school contingent upon establishing the appropriate MCCC'D structures and identifying the required MCCC'D expertise to perform the statutory responsibilities of a charter school sponsor.

A Board member asked for clarification on Dr. Covey's response to community concerns regarding the proposed location of the facility. Dr. Covey replied the site originally proposed, located at Baseline Road and Central Avenue, was released after negotiation with the community. A new location will be found. Another Board member thanked Dr. Covey and his staff for their sensitivity to community concerns.

MOTION

Motion 10167

Board Member Pearson made a motion to approve Item II.A.1. Board Member Burke seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The Special Session was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.