

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA

Date: March 1, 2007

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Vice-Chairman

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STEVEN L. BESICH

Clerk of the Board

By: Marilyn Brewer
Deputy Clerk

Payson College Campus
Payson, Arizona

PRESENT: Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman; Shirley L. Dawson, Member; Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk; Marilyn Brewer Deputy Clerk; and, Bryan Chambers, Chief Deputy County Attorney.

PRESENT from Gila County Provisional Community College District: Bernadette Kniffin, Vice-Chairman; Michael Pastor, Secretary; Don Crowley, Member; Larry Stephenson, Member; Margo Bracamonte, Senior Dean; Stephen Cullen, Campus Dean for Globe and San Carlos; and, Harry Swanson, Campus Dean for Payson.

The Gila County Board of Supervisors, hereinafter referred to as “BOS,” and the Gila County Provisional Community College District Governing Board, hereinafter referred to as “GCPCCD Board,” met in a Work Session in Payson at 10:30 a.m. this date. Bernadette Kniffin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Reverend Joe Falkner of the Ponderosa Baptist Church delivered the Invocation.

Chairman Sanchez introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then called on Vice-Chairman Martin and Supervisor Dawson to introduce themselves for the record. He also introduced Bryan Chambers, Chief Deputy County Attorney; Steve Besich, County Manager/Clerk; and,

other staff and elected officials who were present in the audience. On behalf of the GCPCCD Board, Bernadette Kniffin, Vice Chairman, and speaking on behalf of Robert Ashford, Chairman, who was unable to attend the meeting, introduced herself, Michael Pastor, Secretary; Don Crowley, Member; Larry Stephenson, Member; and, other GCPCCD staff members present in the audience.

Agenda item 2 - Gila County Provisional Community College District – Eastern Arizona College partnership. Chairman Sanchez called on Mr. Besich to address this item. Mr. Besich introduced Brent McEuen, Vice-President of Eastern Arizona College, and stated that he has always known Mr. McEuen to be a fair man and a man of the highest integrity and he appreciated his attendance at this meeting on short notice. Mr. McEuen stated he was delighted to be at this meeting. He stated, “I just want to make a couple of observations. I’m not there to tell you anything; I’m just here to listen and learn. I’m encouraged by the progress that has been made with the GCPCCD in the past year and a half, but at the same time I also recognize that GCPCCD has a long way to go.” Mr. McEuen stated that what he’s really encouraged by is the passion and dedication of both Boards, and although the members don’t always agree on everything, he has observed that the Boards are passionate about education and “I salute you for that.” Mr. McEuen spoke on a recent Needs Assessment Survey he received regarding the Payson Campus and stated, “It was a wealth of information that will be a key in providing a lot of opportunity and challenges as the college moves toward change and improvement.” He spoke about Eastern Arizona College (EAC) pursuing its goal to become a 4-year degree-granting institution and stated that EAC stands ready to assist and support the GCPCCD in becoming a free-standing, independent, self-sufficient community college. Chairman Sanchez thanked Mr. McEuen for his comments.

Agenda item 3 - Meeting the needs of the communities of our college district. How do we identify and address? As a matter of process, Mr. Besich

offered that this question be put to the governing boards for collective input and discussion. Larry Stephenson stated that the needs of southern Gila County have been pretty well met by a lot of innovative programs, but northern Gila County lacked some of those things. He stated the Don Crowley and Peter Kettner had done a survey to uncover the needs of northern Gila County and he requested that Mr. Crowley be allowed to expound on the survey. Mr. Crowley passed out both a written summary of the survey as well as a detailed and complete report, both of which were entitled, "Northern Gila County Higher Education Needs Assessment." Mr. Crowley thanked Mr. McEuen for attending the meeting and stated that he had given a copy of the report to him. Mr. McEuen apologized for not having first presented the report to the GCPCCD Board in advance for review as that was his intention although it didn't happen and it had appeared to him that it was being omitted from today's agenda. He stated that he would briefly go over the highlights. Mr. Pastor clarified that when Mr. Crowley advised the GCPCCD Board of this report, at that time it was a rough draft and copies were not available for the Board's review, so Chairman Ashford made the request that copies be made available prior to the discussion at the March meeting. He wanted to make it clear that there was no refusal to hear the report; in fact, the GCPCCD Board was looking forward to receiving it in order to pursue the needs of northern Gila County. Mr. Pastor also stated that he appreciated the Board of Supervisors participating in this meeting. Discussion ensued on whether or not the report was to be presented at this particular meeting. Chairman Sanchez stated that the agenda item is about meeting the needs of the community and this is an assessment report of some of those needs and with both Boards' approval, he requested that Mr. Crowley proceed. Mr. Crowley stated that over the past 6 months, this report was the work of approximately 600 people in the community of Payson, which began with a survey of finding out exactly what the community wants from the college district. The group worked with Payson Unified School District students and staff, parents, businesses including health care providers and realtors,

businesses in the Pine-Strawberry area, senior citizens, arts and culture groups, and the geographical scope of the school district area from Pine down to Tonto Basin. Mr. Crowley then presented some of the details of the study, which included the catalysts prompting the assessment; distribution of taxes versus the distribution of services; educational expenditures; distribution of scholarship data; the problem of under-funding the entire district compared to other communities; the per capita income for Arizona excluding the 4 counties that are barred from having their own community college districts compared with Gila County alone and then the 4 counties combined; poverty levels; enrollment in colleges and those receiving degrees; a comparison by county of higher education expenses per capita; and, district operating expenses divided by the population, which showed the average for Arizona at \$170/person and Gila County at \$58/person because it is only a provisional community college district. He stated that southern Gila County has a lower population; however that area of the County is receiving a higher proportion of the college funding, although both are inadequate when compared to the entire State. The survey was then broken down by the results from each represented group. Mr. Crowley concluded by stating that the overall conclusions in the report included the following: 1) Virtually all groups felt the first priority of local higher education must be the needs of the high school students and graduates; 2) foremost, an Associate of Arts (AA) program that can be completed in 2 years is basic to meeting these needs; 3) due to the many rural areas within Gila County, a state-of-the-art high technology and distance learning emphasis is needed; 4) for the workforce, there is need for a skills center offering self-paced learning for the trades and other vocational areas; 5) special efforts need to be put into recruitment and retention of qualified instructors; 6) concerted effort to maximizing the use and benefit of the Payson campus 53-acre site; and, 7) lack of financial resources available for higher education in Gila County to meet this community's needs highlights the failure of the "provisional" community college structure. A more coherent community college structure,

with districts covering all areas of the State, is an immediate need in Arizona. He stated, "We must urge our legislators to end the higher education disenfranchisement of Gila County and the other 3 'have-not' counties." **(Both reports are available at the Board of Supervisors' Office.)** Ms. Kniffin thanked Mr. Crowley for the presentation and stated that in the last joint meeting with Eastern Arizona College (EAC) when the topic of this survey was mentioned, EAC did say they would look at the survey and see what could be done, so perhaps this was a step forward. Vice-Chairman Martin inquired about the assessment by regions and what boundaries were used to differentiate northern Gila County from southern Gila County. Mr. Crowley stated that John Nelson, Deputy County Manager, provided the statistical information, which was based on the school district boundaries to get a full distribution on a correct basis. He stated that the northern region was the Payson Unified School District boundaries and that Young and Tonto Basin were both half of the central region and the remainder of the County was the southern region. The Boards discussed the various partnerships that have been created between some of the major employers and the college district, which included Phelps Dodge, Arizona Department of Transportation and Arizona Public Service. Mr. Crowley and Mr. Stephenson voiced concerns that southern Gila County had benefited much more than the north in developing its college curriculum because of partnerships with businesses. Mr. Pastor stated that the GCPCCD has been more than happy to partner with all businesses in the County in order to meet the community's needs and that Dean Swanson was very agreeable to meeting with community businesses and organizations. Mr. Pastor stated, "Our problem has been a real poor lack of communication. For what reason we have no idea, but the college doors have been open since we set up. We've been successful with the San Carlos Apache Tribe and the business community in southern Gila County has been very receptive and helpful in helping us establish these programs and EAC, from the beginning, has said 'If your community needs it and you can come up with

programs and develop them, we are not going to stop you. That's what a community college is.' We've tried on several occasions to make headway and we've run into some blocks and one of the reasons for this workshop is to let people know that our doors are open. We are here to do business and provide an education for the students and their families and there's no other motive, but to provide futures for all of Gila County. I think you've seen that progress in the south and it's unfortunate that hasn't happened up here in the north. We're going to keep plugging away and we will be successful." Mr. Stephenson stated that the staff can't just sit in their offices and wait for people to come in. They need to get out into the community and make things happen. He stated that Dean Cullen has done that in Globe, but Dean Swanson has not done that in Payson and "we need a real advocate or someone to go out to the community and make things happen." Chairman Sanchez inquired of Mr. Besich that since the Board had heard the needs assessment for northern Gila County, would there be another needs assessment or a way to identify the needs of southern Gila County? Mr. Besich stated that could best be answered by Senior Dean Bracamonte or Dean Cullen. Chairman Sanchez decided that since the report was new to the GCPCCD Board, they should be allowed time to review the report and discuss it at a future meeting. He then called on Ron Christensen, former BOS and GCPCCD Board member. Mr. Christensen stated that having served on both Boards, the communication levels are not what they should be and haven't been for quite some time. He stated, "There needs to be openness in the board meetings to discuss whatever issues need to be discussed and find solutions. We seem to be caught in a quagmire of not moving forward even with the information that we do have. This information is good information and I think it's vital that we move forward to try to meet those [needs] the best we can." He spoke on problems with the Legislature in terms of college funding that is currently not available to Gila County. He stated that if EAC is successful in becoming a university that would change things for Gila County significantly and he believes that both Boards should start addressing

these issues with the legislators and support EAC's bid for a university in conjunction with Gila County becoming a community college district rather than a provisional community college district. Mr. Christensen advised that there are 4 counties that are not being treated well in respect to the educational opportunities for the young people and he pleaded with both Boards to hold meetings and put together agendas for discussion of these issues to seek solutions because "there hasn't been enough of that." He stated that Gila County is going to fall farther behind and the Legislature is going to act and "we do not want to be left out." He concluded by stating, "We have the opportunity to make this college much more than what it is. The opportunities are there." Chairman Sanchez thanked Mr. Christensen for his comments. Chairman Sanchez then called on Peter Kettner, a resident of Payson. Mr. Kettner voiced his concern that the current Board was not providing for the needs of northern Gila County and a lot of people were angry. He stated that a group was formed and they expressed their anger about the contract with EAC to the Legislature on an e-mail network and many other different ways. After being advised to start doing something positive, they decided to get past those issues and began the survey to find out what this community desires from its college. He stated, "This community doesn't want the same things that the Globe community wants and I don't see why that's so hard to understand...Why can't you let Payson be Payson and let Payson determine its needs?" He stated that he was glad that Globe was happy with the community college since EAC took on the contract; however, his group would like the opportunity to develop what they would like in their own community. Chairman Sanchez then called on Doyle Coffey, a resident of Payson. Mr. Coffey stated that he put 15-16 years into bringing life into the Payson campus and he's not happy with the way it has grown under EAC. He stated that EAC is using Gila County as a way to support their institution and build buildings for their campus in another county. He stated, "We don't want EAC up here and it won't stay any longer than we have to put up with it." Chairman

Sanchez thanked Mr. Coffey for his comments. Chairman Sanchez stated that at an earlier meeting attended by the BOS, a discussion was held on the possibility of a skill center or workforce development facility with various programs to meet local needs. He stated, "There are different needs and as much as we try to bridge the north and south and say we are Gila County, we have to admit that at times there are different needs for the different campuses and workforce issues that we have throughout the County. When we formulate these visions we have to form a way to implement them. If we are going to implement them and be successful, we have to form these partnerships and work together." Mr. Stephenson inquired about a survey conducted by the County, which included questions about the college and he requested a copy of same. Mr. Besich stated that he would provide a copy of the report to Mr. Stephenson. Chairman Sanchez explained that what Mr. Stephenson was referring to was that the County hired a professional company owned by Joel Wright of Strawberry to conduct a survey so the BOS could get a feel for how to proceed on some issues and concerns. Mr. Besich stated that although he had not had a chance to review the results of the survey received today, "I would venture to say that the County survey would probably mirror a lot of the statistics of today's report." He stated that it was made clear in the County's survey that the college is not beating its own drum enough and he felt that some of the discussion today has led to the same conclusion. He spoke about the Gila County Facility Planning Citizens Advisory Committee that was recently formed and how the County has tried to include everyone in order to bring about more awareness as to the assets of this County. Mr. Pastor stated that this is the third survey completed in the last one and one-half years and all 3 indicate that there is a lack of communication. Mr. Pastor stated, "This Board has nothing to hide and I don't know why people think that this Board has something to hide. The only concern of this Board is to provide quality education to those students who want it and those adult learners who want it. The purpose of this Board is to provide for students to stay in the community

and go to college...This college is here for the community and always has been. The perception has been that it isn't, but this program is here to serve the community." Mr. Crowley stated, "I was told a long time ago to watch what they do, not what they say. For 2 years the college budget has allocated 35-40% to the Payson campus, but what has been delivered is closer to 25%. When you look at the classes, 27-28% are held on this campus; the rest are elsewhere. Talk is cheap. I think the issue is some measure of equality, some measure of cooperation so that the educational resources available up here are somewhat more in balance. I have shown you that the numbers with regard to spending per person by population are so disproportionate that it's very hard to avoid the conclusion that this is being done deliberately because anybody looking at those numbers who wanted to provide the services would redistribute things." Ms. Kniffen stated that the Board is here to work with northern Gila County and she would like some time to review the survey. She stated, "Let's quit focusing on the past and move on with the future because we have a lot of bridges to build and it's only the beginning."

At 12:03 p.m. Chairman Sanchez called for a brief recess.

At 12:14 p.m. Chairman Sanchez reconvened the meeting.

Agenda item 4 - Legislative goals and initiatives - How should we proceed? Chairman Sanchez called on Mr. Besich to address this agenda item. Mr. Besich stated that the GCPCCD Board requested BOS assistance in some legislative affairs, but the specifics have never been discussed. He believes there are three issues as follows: 1) the GCPCCD provisional community college district program which will sunset on July 1, 2009; 2) the need for GCPCCD to become a regular community college district because regional community colleges are precluded from bonding; and, 3) everyone pays State sales tax; however, GCPCCD does not qualify for any investment money. Chairman Sanchez inquired of Dean Cullen if there are any other legislative issues. Dean Cullen spoke about some of the recent accomplishments of the GCPCCD to use as a benchmark to move forward. Dean Cullen stated, "I

believe it is time that we come together and set goals as just outlined by Mr. Besich about workforce development. Workforce development starts with economic development and until we get our fair share, we are handicapped financially and I hope the powers that be can help us get over that hurdle.” Supervisor Dawson stated that her vision was similar to Mr. McEuen’s vision and she believes that GCPCCD should become a community college district, not a provisional community college district. She stated, “Education has taken a far different path than many of us grew up with. A 4-year degree is not adequate for many people in today’s world, so we need to be a preparatory school to EAC or other 4-year colleges.” She spoke on the need for the college to look forward in serving the needs of Gila County by getting the sunset clause eliminated, increasing college enrollments, offering quality classes and installing and running the ITV program. She stated, “Throwing road blocks at this college and tearing it down is not a way to get there...If you are talking about putting a dagger in the heart of this college, I’ll fight you hard on it.” Chairman Sanchez requested that the Board move back to the agenda item of legislative goals and initiatives. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that it was her understanding that the GCPCCD governing Board has hired a lobbyist. Mr. Pastor acknowledged that the GCPCCD has contracted with Triadvocates, LLC, a lobbying firm located in Phoenix, Arizona, and Washington D.C. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that she would be interested in knowing the manner in which the GCPCCD Board has directed that firm to stand on these issues because she believes the BOS needs to know if it could support those positions and she inquired if there were other college issues besides the ones Mr. Besich had listed. Mr. Crowley stated that he has raised the question at Board meetings as to the person(s) talking to the lobbyist and he understands that Chairman Ashford has been primarily the only person meeting with the lobbyist. Mr. Stephenson added that the Board has had no position at all—“just neutral so to speak.” Vice-Chairman Martin stated that she would like to know the GCPCCD Board’s stance on those issues before she would have a

serious discussion with the BOS about its position on the same issues, so she felt “we are kind of jumping the gun a little bit.” Mr. Pastor stated that the GCPCCD Board could direct Dean Bracamonte to place an item on its next Board meeting agenda and have the lobbyist present at the meeting along with the BOS and Mr. Besich. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that she doesn’t want the BOS lobbying or taking a stand on issues before knowing the GCPCCD’s position. Mr. Pastor stated that he thinks everyone is a little confused. Mr. Besich stated that another reason this item is on the agenda is that from the BOS standpoint, Gila County does not want to pay the out-of-county tuition again, which is \$1 million dollars, and the County needs to have some “breathing room” on the length of the provisional community college district language in order to make any real progress. Mr. Christiansen stated that he believes that in upcoming legislative sessions, the opportunity will arise on how Arizona structured its community college system county by county, which was a huge mistake. He stated that it should have been done by region so that every county and every individual in Arizona would be in a district that would provide a community college system. He stated, “We wouldn’t have the situation we have now where 4 counties are grandfathered out and that is not equitable.” He stated that the report presented today shows that those 4 counties are the 4 poorest counties; they have the minority; and, they have the least number of children going to college. Mr. Christiansen stated, “I would support the Legislature taking a look at redesigning a community college system in this state and lifting Arizona up out of the bottom of the pile where it now sits.” Mr. Crowley agreed with Mr. Christensen. In conducting research of other states, Mr. Crowley advised that only Arizona has portions of the state that are left out of the community or junior college structure. Chairman Sanchez stated that Maricopa and Pima Counties were threatened by the existence of the past State Community College Board and issues it was working on to bring about equality and changes, so the 2 Counties simply eliminated that State Community College Board. He stated that because there are so

many new people in the Legislature, “our Boards will have to take every opportunity to be at the legislative sessions to make our voices heard.” Vice-Chairman Martin requested that this item (agenda item number 4) be tabled for the present time until the BOS receives additional information. She supports this in principal at this stage. Chairman Sanchez agreed and stated that it was the consensus of the BOS that it needs clarification on the GCPCCD Board’s priorities. Ms. Kniffen inquired as to the date of the GCPCCD Board’s next meeting. Mr. Pastor replied that the next meeting would be held on March 20th, which was later corrected to March 16th.

Agenda item 5 - Developing strong public/private partnerships – goals and roles. Chairman Sanchez called on Mr. Besich to address this issue. Mr. Besich stated that the survey refers to the 21st century platform for education. He stated, “How do we get there and what tools do we use?” He spoke about a video conference demonstration held at a recent BOS meeting where the Board was communicating directly with a U.S. Army specialist who was stationed in Al Asad, Iraq. The County has agreed to become a partner with the Freedom Calls Foundation so that the opportunity will be available both in Globe and Payson for soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan to be able to sit down there and visit with their family members here via the County’s video conferencing equipment. He stated that because technology sophistication is almost endless, one of the goals that he has voiced would be to obtain enough money to place ITV (Internet TV) equipment at each high school in Gila County for the dissemination of educational information from college campuses directly to the high school classroom. Mr. Besich stated that he would like to move forward with those types of partnerships whether it’s with the Town of Payson, City of Globe, the tribal governments, the GCPCCD or anyone moving into these areas because they are potential partners. He stated that was the platform of this agenda item and discussion. Dean Cullen stated that the company that did the presentation for the BOS also did research for the GCPCCD and the cost to establish ITV in all of the Gila County high schools would be \$182,000. A

Grant application for same has already been submitted through Congressman Renzi's office. The schools would include Hayden-Winkelman, Globe, Miami, San Carlos, Payson and inadvertently Young was omitted and Dean Cullen apologized for that, but added that the GCPCCD stands ready to resolve that oversight. This would allow the pooling of resources in order to have qualified instructional staff broadcasting from anywhere to the college and to the schools. It could also be tied into the County's ITV system. Discussion ensued by the Boards on the possibilities with ITV. Mr. Besich and Supervisor Dawson also spoke briefly on an upcoming educational summit that is being organized by Arizona Public Service and Globe School District consultants. The details of the summit will be publicly announced in the near future. Mr. Crowley also wanted to note for the record that the Tonto Apache Tribe was contacted numerous times to participate in the assessment survey; however, that did not work out so that is a notable omission. He stated this is a living document in process and it's still open to more contributions and comments. Chairman Sanchez called on Dr. Trent, Superintendent of the Globe Unified School District, who spoke about Governor Napolitano's P-20 Council. "P-20" is an education policy term that refers to the full range of child education from preschool through post-graduate work (or the 20th grade). The primary goal of the P-20 Council is to improve education in Arizona, as well as to assure that more students graduate from high school, succeed in college and are ready for the modern workforce. He requested that both Boards support this initiative as there will probably be a lot of money available through grants and other opportunities for all of the schools in the County. He suggested the Boards also have someone from the Governor's office present at the next joint meeting to talk about P-20 because some of the program involves workforce development. He stated that by 2013, 40% of the jobs in Arizona will require a bachelor's degree and that's where the community college will play a very integral part. Vice-Chairman Martin thought that was a good suggestion and requested that Dr. Trent provide Mr. Besich with the name of the Governor's

contact person because she felt that person should also speak to each of the town councils. Dr. Trent stated that the Southern Gila County Economic Development Corporation Education Committee was also going to make the same request about someone from the Governor's office attending a meeting for the purpose of explaining the P-20 program. Chairman Sanchez thanked Mr. Trent for his comments and then called on Sue Connell, a resident of Payson. Ms. Connell stated that she would like to make 6 brief points as follows: 1) The first thing that needs to be done is to bury the egos, the "we think" syndrome and move forward and look to the good of the communities and make the colleges a seat of excellence and high quality; 2) it appears that there isn't an equal budget for the community college campuses and when grants are available, the funding should be more equal for the campuses; 3) the needs shown in the assessment reports for both areas should be identified as "must haves," "like to have," and "share to have" instead of trying to address all the needs at once; 4) everyone needs to get out of their boxes and think, do and act, not procrastinate and dwell on what happened 40 years ago, 20 years ago or 10 minutes ago because information is flowing too fast and there are so many opportunities; 5) everyone needs to help build the economies whether it is Globe, Payson, Tonto Basin or Young; we need to help our economies grow and take pride in each other's college campuses and make them the showcase of the communities; and, 6) we need to quit philosophizing on our podiums and move forward, link arms and work together.

Chairman Sanchez thanked everyone for their participation and stated, "It's going to be up to us where we go with this and whether we go forward with it." He suggested that both Boards meet again in about 3 months to see what has been accomplished.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman

ATTEST:

Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk