

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA

Prescott, Arizona March 10, 1999

The Board of Supervisors met in special session on March 10, 1999.

Present: Chip Davis, Chairman; Gheral Brownlow, Vice Chairman; Bill Feldmeier, Member; Bev Staddon, Clerk.

Also present: Dave Hunt, Board Attorney/Assistant County Administrator.

ITEM NO. 1. Convene in open session, and then convene in executive session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) in order to interview candidates for the position of Yavapai County School Superintendent. Because candidates have the choice of having their interviews held in executive session or in open session, the Board will convene in executive session or in open session depending upon each candidate's choice. In addition, the Board may request a second interview of any candidate on this day. The Board did not convene in executive session because all of the candidates indicated they preferred to have their interviews conducted in open session. The Board interviewed the following candidates for the position of Yavapai County School Superintendent: Karin Ward; Rod Cordes; Jacqueline Price; Paul Street; Robert Shaw; and John Ogle. Each Board member asked questions of each candidate. Supervisor Brownlow focused his questions on charter schools and the effect they have on public education, particularly in the rural areas. Supervisor Feldmeier asked questions related to the candidates' knowledge of the County School Superintendent's office and role. Chairman Davis' questions focused on supervisory and budget experience, and grant writing experience. Following an initial interview of each candidate, Supervisor Brownlow moved to eliminate from further consideration all candidates except Rod Cordes and Paul Street. Supervisor Feldmeier seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote in the absence of any public comment. Each Board member then expressed his appreciation to the candidates, saying that it took courage to apply for the position and that all of the candidates were obviously very dedicated to the educational process and especially to the children of Yavapai County. The Board then asked additional questions of Mr. Cordes and Dr. Street, with Chairman Davis requesting additional information regarding supervisory experience, budget experience, problem-solving abilities and asking how the County School Superintendent's Office could help school districts prepare for the new AIMS testing program.

ITEM NO. 2. Convene in open session and consider appointment of Yavapai County School Superintendent. Supervisor Brownlow said the Board had excellent candidates in Mr. Cordes and Dr. Street, that it was clear they have respect for each other, and that he hoped that respect would carry over to the election in 2000. He said that Dr. Street was certainly qualified for the position, but that he had resigned the position once before to take a new position. He said he had received calls from some candidates who had asked if this was a "done deal", and that he wanted to make it clear that it was not a done deal. He said if the Board appointed Dr. Street, it would give him a foot up in the 2000 election, and from that standpoint he believed Mr. Cordes would be the person to appoint. Supervisor Feldmeier said he had studied the candidates' resumes and that he had received numerous calls and contacts from people who expressed support for both Mr. Cordes and Dr. Street. He said that absent Dr. Street's application, Mr. Cordes would be the clear choice for the position, but that Dr. Street had applied and that his varied experience was important. He said that Dr. Street understands the changing face of education from several different mirrors and that he believed Dr. Street's experience would provide the County with an opportunity that is not available to any other county in the state. Supervisor Feldmeier said he believed that Dr. Street was the solid choice, but that he was saying so with the understanding that he has great respect for Mr. Cordes and his abilities. Chairman Davis referred to a comment made by Ms. Price that someone had once stated the County School Superintendent's Office was a "dinosaur." He said that might be true because school districts have their own governing boards, but that he believed the job was what one makes of it. He said that the people involved in both traditional and charter schools are begging for help. He said he agreed with Supervisor Feldmeier that in Dr. Street the Board has an opportunity to bring someone into the system who has experience with the State Board of Education and the Arizona Department of Education, and that this would result in opportunities for Yavapai County. He said his decision would be based on what he believed was in the best interest of Yavapai County. Mr. Cordes said he believed that whoever the Board appointed would need the support of all three Board members, and that if it was the Board's wish that Dr. Street assume the position of County School Superintendent, then he would suggest that the Board make that appointment by a unanimous vote. Supervisor Feldmeier moved to appoint Paul Street as County School Superintendent. Supervisor Brownlow seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote. Dr. Street thanked the Board for its support, saying that he and Mr. Cordes had been friends for many years and that Mr. Cordes was a true professional and a gentleman.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

_____ Clerk _____ Chairman