



Management Board

Tom Boone, Chairman/CEO
Mike Barragan, Vice-Chairman
Bill Maas, Treasurer
Jim Migliorino, Secretary
Jill Barragan, Member
Jim DiCello, Member
Ken Hicks, Member
Michelle Myers, Member

VALLEY SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2025

1. Tom Boone, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:41 a.m.

2. **Board Members Present:**

Tom Boone, Chairman/CEO
Mike Barragan, Vice-Chairman
Bill Maas, Treasurer
Jim Migliorino, Secretary
Jill Barragan, Member
Jim DiCello, Member
Ken Hicks, Member

Board Members Absent

Michelle Myers, Member

Staff Present:

Tom Elliott, Executive Director Member Services
Laura Felten, Chief Financial Officer
Raquel Flores, Administrative Assistant
Jodi Jerich, General Counsel
Leigh Steele, Director Marketing and Communications
Kendall Taylor, Executive Director Health and Wellness Services

Guest Present:

Meaghan Dell'Artino, Lobbyist – Public Policy Partners
Gretchen Jacobs, Lobbyist – Arizona Governmental Affairs

3. Approval of the VSMG Board meeting minutes held on December 18, 2024.

MOTION: Jim DiCello

SECOND: Bill Maas

VOTE: 7-0-0-1

Tom Boone – yes

Mike Barragan – yes

Jill Barragan – yes

Jim DiCello – yes

Ken Hicks – yes

Bill Maas – yes

Jim Migliorino – yes

Michelle Myers – absent

Due to time constraints, the Legislative Update, original agenda item #11 was moved to agenda item #4.

11. Legislative update – Mike Barragan/Gretchen Jacobs/Meghaen Dell’Artino.

Mike Barragan introduced Gretchen Jacobs and Meghaen Dell’Artino, lobbyists, and stated they would provide an overview of some of the issues being discussed at the legislature so the board members could fully understand them.

Gretchen spoke about health insurance bills that got out of committee. Mike Barragan said one, in particular, provides a report for school districts to be a part of the state medical plan and that this bill will create a committee; however, Meghaen stated that it doesn’t have public support. Gretchen Jacobs talked about the gift clause for HB 2722 and the amendment for SRP.

Meghaen gave an update on education challenges with AEL, prop 123, and its impact on the school districts and discussed House Bill 2919. Ken Hicks asked if the dead cash is just looking at the M&O. A lengthy discussion took place.

Mike Barragan said he appreciated all the questions. He also thanked Meghaen and Gretchen for coordinating everything and stated that we look forward to working with them.

4. Approval of the Valley Schools Insurance Group ("VSIG"), Valley Schools Workers' Group ("VSWCG"), Valley Schools Employee Benefits Group ("VSEBG"), and Valley Schools Management Group ("VSMG") financial statements for the months of December 2024 and January 2025 – Laura Felten.

Ms. Felten discussed the Investment Income and Change in Market Value shown in the January financial statements. January saw an improvement in market changes from December, and at this point, the returns are looking good for an even stronger February.

VSIG— Laura Felten reviewed the VSIG financial statements in detail. She stated that interest earnings continued to be strong for another year. We have gone through 58% of the budget.

VSWCG—Laura Felten reviewed the VSWCG financial statements in detail. She stated that they have been performing very well.

VSEBG—Laura Felten reviewed the VSEBG financial statements in detail. She stated that we are seeing some claims coming in high. Jim DiCello asked about the Fixed Expense, to which Laura responded.

VSMG—Laura Felten reviewed the VSMG financial statements in detail. She stated the budget is performing well.

MOTION: Jill Barragan

SECOND: Jim DiCello

VOTE: 7-0-0-1

Tom Boone – yes

Mike Barragan – yes

Jill Barragan – yes

Jim DiCello – yes

Ken Hicks – yes

Bill Maas – yes

Jim Migliorino – yes

Michelle Myers – absent

5. Executive Director Member Services update – Tom Elliott.

Tom Elliott reviewed the VSEBG Medical Plan Experience Report Summary. He pointed out that the Medical Plan through December is running higher than normal. Last year, it was 99%. Regarding the Medical renewals, he has met with all the members.

Bill Maas congratulated the Wellness Department, noting it would be great if we could get more districts on the wellness program.

Tom Elliott reviewed the Dental Pool. He pointed out that it is running at 90%, up from 87% this time last year.

6. Chairman/CEO summary report and update – Tom Boone.

Tom Boone reminded the Board of the next meeting date and stated it would be lengthy. He also provided a copy of the future meetings and events to the Board.

Tom Boone provided an update on New Members.

Mike Barragan stated that the Yuma Area Benefits Consortium is very appreciative of the transition process that Tom Elliott, Elvis Becerra, and April Jelovic have helped them with.

Ken Hicks stated he has a couple of districts that would like to use Valley Schools and inquired about whom he should pass the information on to. Leigh Steele stated that she is in the appropriate department. Ken Hicks stated seeing this kind of growth is unbelievable.

7. Board Member comments.

Bill Maas thanked Tolleson Union High School District for assisting with the lease-purchase agreement for Isaac Elementary School District. Isaac ESD received 25 million immediately and was able to get out of debt in one day. He stated it was nice that we helped each other.

Jim DiCello stated he signed up for Hinge Health and is enjoying it.

Jim Migliorino inquired if everyone was aware of the Executive Order President Donald Trump signed that may affect Valley Schools.

Jill Barragan thanked Kendall Taylor and Riley Gerveler for coming to PVUSD to present to a few groups and discuss some of Valley Schools' products. Riley also met with the bus drivers and provided lunch. Jill appreciated them taking time away from their schedules. She also expressed her gratitude to Scott McCleary for the service provided by Valley Schools.

Ken Hicks stated that Valley Schools does an amazing job with the Members with Wellness. Jerry Cipriano is planting seeds and is doing an amazing job.

Mike Barragan appreciates Valley Schools' leadership and vision. He is proud of all the work that has been done. Everyone plays a critical part in meeting the districts' needs. Tom Boone thanked Mike Barragan for his comments on the leadership and Valley Schools' vision and thanked the Board Members for being very supportive of the Organization.

8. Motion to convene Executive Session pursuant to:

A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) and (A)(3) for discussion or consultation with legal counsel for legal advice and the discussion and consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of an officer, appointee, or employee for the purpose of appointment or reappointment of Director(s), and;

A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for discussion or consultation with legal counsel for legal advice for the purpose of long-term planning, possible changes to business models and organizational structure, and changes to the Bylaws.

MOTION: Jim DiCello

SECOND: Ken Hicks

VOTE: 7-0-0-1

Tom Boone – yes

Mike Barragan – yes

Jill Barragan – yes

Jim DiCello – yes

Ken Hicks – yes

Bill Maas – yes

Jim Migliorino – yes

Michelle Myers – absent

Executive Session convened at 1:23 p.m.


9. Returned to regular session at 2:37 p.m.

10. Possible action from Executive Session.

No action was taken during the executive session.

11. Legislative update – Mike Barragan/Gretchen Jacobs/Meghaen Dell’Artino.
Due to time constraints, agenda item #11 was moved to agenda item #4.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Migliorino, Secretary

JM/rf