Staff Report

Agenda Item: **PRESENTATION BY PARTNERS IN EDUCATION ON COTTONWOOD-OAK CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT AND MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET OVERRIDES** – Mingus Union High School Superintendent, Tim Foist, and a representative of the Partners in Education will make a presentation providing facts about the continuation of the overrides.

Staff Contact: Walt Good, Deputy Town Clerk

Meeting Date: September 22, 2009

Background: Tim Foist, Mingus Union High School Superintendent, will make a presentation to Council providing facts about the continuation of the override, an item on the November ballot, and what it means to the district and students. Also a member of Partners in Education, a political action committee, will be seeking the support of individuals.

Recommendation: This is a presentation only and no action is required.

Local voters are supportive of educational needs and we

thank you!

Please renew your support for our schools and our children.

Vote **"YES"** to continue the override at Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District

and

Vote **"YES"** to continue the override at Mingus Union High School.

VOTE "YES" - "YES"

How You Can Help

The general election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2009. Early ballots will be sent to voters in the districts by the first week in October.

You can help by voting "YES" - "YES" to continue the override on your mail-in ballot or at the polls on November 3, 2009.

Become a Partner in Education (P.I.E.) and help P.I.E. with its campaign to ensure that voters approve the overrides by contributing money or in-kind services to:

Partners in Education (P.I.E.)
Political Action Committee
989 S. Main Street, Ste. A, #477
Cottonwood, AZ 86326 928-639-8060

Lewis Rice, Treasurer ♦ Margie Beach, Chair

For more facts and information about programs and services affected by the overrides or to make a donation, please go to:

www.voteforkidsaz.com

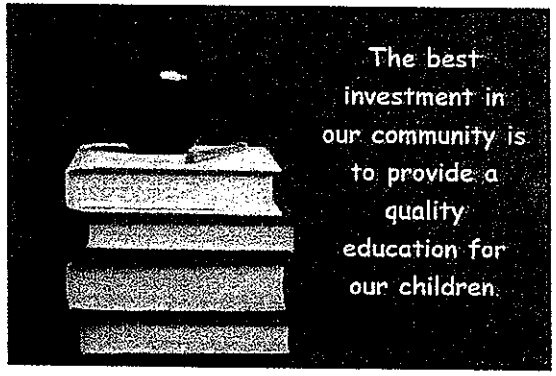
VOTE "YES" - "YES"

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Asks you to Support Our Schools and Continue to Support Our Community

Vote "YES" - "YES" on November 3, 2009

on the Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District
and
Mingus Union High School District
Budget Overrides



VOTE "YES" - "YES"

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT CONTINUING THE OVERRIDE

1. Do the overrides increase my current tax rate? No. If the override is approved, your taxes remain the same because it is already reflected in your tax rate. The two districts are not requesting any additional funds, only a continuation of the current funding.

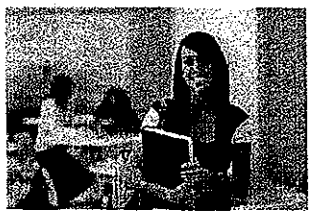
2. If the overrides fail, does it mean larger class size? Yes. The funds for the override in both school districts are used to reduce class size. Without these funds, class sizes are certain to increase. With these funds, the districts are able to provide smaller classes and more individualized instruction.

3. How much additional support will the two school districts receive if I vote YES—YES? Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District (COCSD) will receive about $1,100,000 and Mingus Union High (MUHS) will receive $534,000 financial assistance.

VOTE "YES" - "YES"

4. Approximately how much does an override cost the average taxpayer? Based on the 2008-09 data, for Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District (COCSD) the average homeowner only pays $2.52 per month on a home valued at $100,000 or about $28.00 per year. For the Mingus Union High School District (MUHS), the cost is about $1 per month on a home valued at $100,000 or about $12 per year.

5. If we do not continue the override, how much will the average home owner's tax rate be reduced? For COCSD the average homeowner would save approximately $10 during the first year, based upon on an assessed value of a $100,000. For MUHS the savings would be about $3 during the first year.



6. Do override funds pay for additional staff? Yes. At COCSD override funds are used to pay for teachers, nurses, classroom aides, and counselors. Without the override funds, positions in these areas will have to be reduced and possibly eliminated. At MUHS class sizes will be impacted because there will be a reduction in teachers.

VOTE "YES" - "YES"

7. If the override fails, what programs will be affected? At COCSD programs that will be affected are technology, alternative classes, music, physical education, and extra curricular classes. For MUHS, student services, guidance, nurses, and transportation.

8. If the override fails, will some teaching positions be reduced? Yes. Current estimates show that COCSD could lose up to ten teaching positions. MUHS would also reduce up to six teaching positions.

9. How well does the State of Arizona support its school districts? Unfortunately, Arizona ranks near the bottom in per pupil funding when compared to the national average.

10. How long have the two districts' overrides been in effect? COCSD's has been in effect since 1993 and MUHS' has been since 1985.

11. How many overrides are we voting on? The community will be asked to vote "YES" for COCSD override and to vote "YES" for MUHS override.

VOTE "YES" - "YES"