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Office of the Governing Board

PRESS RELEASE

The Governing Board of the Sahuarita Unified School District is pleased to announce the purchase of the first diesel-electric hybrid school bus in Arizona. The Governing Board feels that it is in the best interest of the environment and the School District's operating budget to purchase the 72-passenger International diesel-electric hybrid bus. The bus is being purchased through a Mohave purchasing contract from McCandless of Arizona, Inc., which is the dealer for International school buses in Arizona. This purchase is a cooperative effort between the Sahuarita Unified School District and their corporate partner, Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold, Inc. – Sierrita. The cost of a conventional diesel engine 72-passenger bus is approximately \$100,000.00. This particular diesel-electric hybrid bus will cost the District significantly more than that. However, we appreciate the help of Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold, Inc. – Sierrita, which is contributing \$60,000 to offset the additional cost of this hybrid school bus. Freeport-McMoRan has worked with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to direct these funds to the school district.

The District is looking forward to the increase in gas mileage from 6 miles per gallon on a conventional diesel engine bus to an estimated 12 miles per gallon for the diesel-electric hybrid bus. The District is also looking forward to having the hybrid bus available for inspection and review by the automotive classes taught by Mr. Bryce Bond at Sahuarita High School. The automotive students will have an opportunity to review the way the bus has been converted from a conventional diesel engine to a combination of diesel engine and electric motor. Both Sahuarita Unified School District and Freeport-McMoRan believe that the hybrid bus investment will benefit the entire community by demonstrating advanced technology for fuel savings and reduced emissions, while providing a unique learning opportunity for our students and faculty.