

**MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #4**  
**1801 East Fir, Cottonwood, AZ 86326**

**GOVERNING BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

Mingus Union High School Library  
Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 6:00 PM

**Governing Board:**

Lori Drake  
Misty Cox  
Anthony Lozano  
Carol Anne Teague  
Austin Babcock

**Also Present:**

Mike Westcott, Superintendent  
Lynn Leonard, Finance Director  
Jennifer Reed, Admin Asst.  
Shellie Phillips, Admin Asst.  
Josh Fant, IT

**OPENING**

**Call to Order**

Board President Drake called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Roll Call**

Board President Lori Drake, Vice President Misty Cox, Board Member Carol Anne Teague and Board Member Austin Babcock are all present. Board Member Anthony Lozano is absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge was led by Shannon Anderson.

**Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion** was made by Board Member Babcock to adopt the agenda as presented. Second was made by Board Member Teague.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Public Comments**

Janet Loy wanted to talk about board communication. She publicly thanked those Board Members who have responded to her emails. She questioned why Board Members have email addresses if they don't respond to constituents' emails.

## **Board Meeting Minutes Not Previously Approved**

**Motion** was made by Board Member Teague to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes and the Executive Sessions Minutes of March 7, 2024, and the Special Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of March 20, 2024, as presented. Second was made by President Drake.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Mike Westcott gave an update from the first meeting of the Salary and Benefits Committee and notified the Governing Board of a change in the dates for the committee's interim and final reports.

### **Administration Report**

Principal Genie Gee introduced the following speakers/presentation:

- Student Council Report from Student Council Members Kenzie Fangman, Dalton Ryan, and Dezi Saucedo.

### **Finance Report**

Superintendent Mike Westcott and Finance Director Lynn Leonard gave a presentation on the AG School Spending Report.

**ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT** *Specific information on routine vouchers and personnel will be available at the District Office 24 hours prior to Board Meetings. Please see Governing Board Secretary during regular office hours. (All items listed hereunder are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board Member requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be discussed separately.)*

### **5.1 Approval of Routine Vouchers**

Expense, Payroll, and Bookstore Activity

### **5.2 Personnel**

HR Report, Classified, Certified, & Administration, Administrative Staff Renewals for SY 2024-25, and the CTC Instructional Aide Job Description.

### **5.3 Donation(s)**

Hope Center Report, Hope Center Donation, Prom Closet Donations, Donations to the Theatre Department, Donations to the Auto Department, Donations to the STEM Club, Donations to the Auto Club, and Donations to the Marston's Class.

### **5.4 Agreements**

Second Amendment to our Employee Services Agreement with Educational Services Incorporated (ESI), Waiver of Conflict of Interest regarding agreements with Yavapai County through the Yavapai County School Superintendent, IGA for Substitute Consolidation Services with YCESA through ESI, and IGA with ADE for the reimbursement of arts consumables.

## **5.5 Policy Second Readings**

Second Reading of ASBA Policy Advisories 763-786, Second reading of Policy KF Community Use of School Facilities and Second reading of Policy IKF Graduation Requirements.

## **5.6 Travel Requests**

FFA Sponsor Eric Banuelos is requesting out of state travel to Warner, OK from May 28, 2024, to June 2, 2024, to attend Be A Champ Camp and travel to Washington DC from June 10, 2024, to June 16, 2024, to attend the National FFA Washington Leadership Conference.

## **5.7 Disposal of Vehicles**

The Auto Department has completed their training on the vehicles listed below and would like to recycle them. Iron King will come to pick them up and will pay scrap value for them.

Board Member Teague would like to pull Item 5.3 Donations and Vice President Cox would like to pull Item 5.2 Personnel.

**Motion** was made by President Drake to approve the Consent Agenda excluding Item 5.3 Donations and Item 5.2 Personnel. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

## **ITEM 5.2 - HR Personnel**

Vice President Cox would like to have Superintendent Mike Westcott go over the CTC Aide position and why we need it. Mr. Westcott explained this is a self-sufficient person who manages a classroom for student referrals such as mild insubordination, discipline reasons, or emotional reasons. In the past, this position was set up as an Alternative Learning Center (ALC). This approach makes more connection with kids, have them return to classroom to avoid behavior that brought them to this classroom in the first place.

Ms. Cox asked if this is a new position. Mr. Westcott said this position is new enough and different enough from ALC position.

Ms. Cox asked what minor infractions are. Dean of Students Katherine Forbes said a couple examples might be, the student may not be prepared for class or not able to join the classroom because they need space.

Ms. Cox asked about salary. Finance Director Lynn Leonard went over the salary range. We are moving a current employee into the position; we are not hiring another person or adding to the budget.

Board Member Babcock asked if there is a time frame for the student to be in this classroom? Ms. Forbes said it is primarily just for that specific class period. She also explained that staff is watching for reoccurrences.

Ms. Cox asked about punishment. Ms. Forbes explained this is more about protecting the learning environment for the remaining classmates. Director of Student Intervention Dave Beery said this class would be preparing the student to get back into the classroom; more prepared to learn.

## **Item 5.3- Donations**

President Drake recognized the donations by reading them aloud and thanked them individually.

**Motion** was made by Board Member Teague to approve Item 5.3 Donations and Item 5.2 Personnel. Second was made by President Drake.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**ACTION ITEMS - DISTRICT BUSINESS** *(Specific items of District business as listed for consideration - may include various categorical areas as the business of the District necessitates Board discussion, deliberation, and action)*

**English Textbook Adoption - The Board will consider and possibly accept the recommendation from the English Textbook Committee regarding adoption of Grade 9-12 and Advanced Placement Textbooks for the 2024-25 school year.** (Staff Resource: Shannon Anderson)

Superintendent Mike Westcott summarized the English Textbook Committee Meetings. He thanked everyone who served on the committee.

President Drake asked if these books were the same books that were presented to the Board earlier in the school year. Assistant Principal Shannon Anderson said the HMH Textbooks were the same; the committee previewed three sets of textbooks. Board Member Babcock gave an overview of his experience on the English Textbook Committee.

Vice President Cox thanked the committee for their time. She also reviewed the books. She is disappointed they were presented with books that the Board said they did not want. There were some articles she didn't like and didn't think were appropriate for English Class. She specifically went through the teacher manuals because she wanted to know how they were recommending the teachers teach this material. She found they were very high in social and emotional learning and Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT). Ms. Cox went on to say Culturally Responsive Teaching is a term coined by Gloria Ladson-Billing who is a self-proclaimed critical race theorist. She creates critical consciousness for students and challenged iniquities. This publisher is also heavy in DBI. Ms. Cox explained that she had previously stated that she would work hard to not have CRT/SEL in the classroom. It does not belong in the English Classroom or any classroom for that matter. It's delving too much into emotions and trying to teach kids how to think. Mr. Babcock asked if there was a certain article that she didn't agree with. Ms. Cox said they talked about helicopter parenting and marriage and didn't understand how that was relevant to English. Mr. Babcock reviewed the process the committee went through to choose these books. There was very little that came up that anyone was unhappy with; seeing how diverse the committee was.

**Public Comment**

Joe Wegwert- explained he was a community member that sat on the Textbook Committee. He believes the committee was unnecessary because they came back with the same result offered by teachers and administration. He feels the Board has exhibited a pattern of what he terms as "governance by arrogance." Ignoring the hard work & considered professional judgement of its employed experts is not only disrespectful but also wastes time/money. The Board needs to be better listeners.

**Motion** was made by Board Member Babcock to approve the English Textbooks. Second was made by Board Member Teague.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Nay  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 3-1.

**VACTE Satellite Course Approval- VACTE requires Board consideration and approval of SY24-25 CTE Satellite Courses per ADE program and funding audits. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott)**

Superintendent Mike Westcott reviewed the courses and the reason for this approval.

**Motion** was made by President Drake to approve the VACTE Satellite Course for SY24-25 per ADE program and funding audits. Second was made by Vice President Cox.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**District Participation in Benefits Plan for Part-Time Employees- The Board will consider and possibly approve an increase in the District's contribution for benefits of part-time employees.**

(Staff Resource: Lynn Leonard)

Finance Manager Lynn Leonard reviewed the proposed benefit plan for part time employees. This benefit would be to attract bus drivers.

**Motion** was made by President Drake to approve the proposed benefit plan for part-time employees. Second was made by Board Member Teague.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**May 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Date Change- Discussion and possible modification of the May 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Date. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott)**

Superintendent Mike Westcott will be out of town May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. He proposes the Board chooses an alternate date. Possibly the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>? Board Members checked their calendars.

**Motion** was made by Vice President Cox to move the regularly scheduled May Board Meeting to May 7<sup>th</sup>. Second was made by President Drake.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Information and Discussion regarding the participation of students who are ESA recipients in our interscholastic and academic offerings.**

Superintendent Mike Westcott reviewed ESA's and how they work. He also reviewed the rules for students who want to participate in athletics. Athletic Director Yancey Devore spoke about his understanding of the rules for participating. Finance Director Lynn Leonard reviewed different schools and their numbers. Mr. Westcott suggests when the Board typically considers the online charter approval every year, for the new school year, this be put into an action item.

**Information and Discussion regarding a camera and vape detection system upgrade and service and maintenance agreement.**

IT Manager Josh Fant went through the research on the camera system and the need for a maintenance agreement. There will be a 10-year warranty, updates and infrastructure is good for 10 years as well. Indoor cameras would be installed "in house" outdoor cameras would be professionally installed.

**INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS:**

**Future Agenda Items-**

- Bob Weir CTE Update

**Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by President Drake to adjourn the meeting. Second was made by Vice President Cox.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Adjournment:** 7:50 pm

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Board President Lori Drake

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Vice President Misty Cox