

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

**GOVERNING BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Regular Meeting**

Mingus Union High School Library  
Thursday, April 10, 2025 6:00 PM

**Governing Board:**

Austin Babcock  
Ashley Koepnick  
Taylor Bell  
Frank Nevarez

**Also Present:**

Melody Herne, Superintendent  
Lynn Leonard, Finance Director  
Bridget Hillman, Admin Asst.  
Josh Fant, IT Director

**OPENING**

**Election of a temporary President for the current Governing Board Meeting**

**Motion** was made by Vice President Koepnick to elect Board Member Nevarez as Temporary President to open the April 10, 2025, Regular Meeting. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Vice President Ashley Koepnick – Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye  
Board Member Taylor Bell - Aye  
Board Member Frank Nevarez - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Call to Order**

Temporary President Nevarez called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

**Roll Call**

Temporary President Frank Nevarez, Vice President Koepnick, Board Member Austin Babcock, and Board Member Taylor Bell, are all present.

**Pledge of Allegiance** The pledge was led by Principal Beery.

**Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed

Temporary President Nevarez requested that Item 9.1 be removed from the agenda.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion** was made by Board Member Bell to adopt the agenda with the removal of Item 9.1. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Temporary President Frank Nevarez – Aye

Vice President Ashley Koepnick – Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Board Member Taylor Bell - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**STUDENT RECOGNITION**

Principal Beery and Superintendent Herne presented the student recognitions.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Temporary President Nevarez thanked everyone for coming. It is incredible to have students, parents, teachers, and community participating in what we do at the school.

**REPORTS**

**Superintendent 's Report**

Superintendent Herne reported on several events and recognitions that students have received during the last month. Upcoming events: April 11<sup>th</sup> Unified Sports Volleyball at 3:00 PM, Baseball vs Coconino at 1:00 PM, April 12<sup>th</sup> Prom at Clarkdale Clubhouse 7:00 PM, and April 24<sup>th</sup> Board Work Session 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

**Mingus Recognitions and Highlights**

College signing for Alice Kensey on March 14, 2025. She will be attending Glendale Community College to pursue her education and to play Basketball.

College signing for Marlee Naegle on March 27, 2025. She will be attending Mesa Community College to pursue her education and to play Soccer.

On March 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Dr. Alasady with Northern Arizona Healthcare Hospitalist performed sports physicals for our students who are participating in Unified Sports. Sports physicals are a requirement for participation in Unified Sports and were conducted at no cost to the student or school.

The Unified Sports Volleyball teams were announced; Baby Blue Raiders with Coach Ramirez, Pink Pirates with Coach Zapata, and Black Treasures with Coach Hernandez.

Three staff members were awarded the Yavapai County Education Foundation Grant. Mr. Elm was awarded \$165.59 and will use the funds to purchase classroom cleaning supplies, materials to facilitate interactive notebooks, and posters to clarify government policy and practice. Ms. Gee was awarded \$494.39 and will use the funds to enhance the classroom needs at the Academy. Ms. Taylor was awarded \$500.00 and will use the funds for props to facilitate the study of human biology, perception, social development and psychological Disorders in AP Psychology.

**Board Member Report(s)**

Temporary President Nevarez reported on his attendance at the performance of Mamma Mia. The stage crew was excellent. He stated that some of the content of the performance he did find difficult but the talent the students have is outstanding. They did a wonderful job.

## **PRESENTATION AND INFORMATION**

### **Administration Information**

Principal Beery gave the Board information regarding State Testing and RTI (Response to Intervention) training from Solution Tree. In Principal Beery's presentation he reviewed what RTI is, how it is being incorporated on the Mingus Union High School campus and FLEX. Data regarding FLEX was shared with the Board during the presentation.

Board Member Bell states that she appreciates this program and is happy to see the data being incorporated in measuring the productivity of this program.

Principal Beery agrees that data must be used to see if we are being successful. If we are not successful then we need to regroup and find where we can improve.

Temporary President Nevarez asked if we have any hard data regarding attendance.

Principal Beery states that the FLEX program is not. What has made a bigger impact on attendance is taking a harder stance and keeping students accountable.

### **Student Council Presentation**

Student Council members and Mrs. Lyons presented current Student Body events and future activities. Items Included: Prom, Prom Spirit Week, Student Council to AZ Diamondbacks Vitalant Banner Night, and Teacher Appreciation Week.

Board Member Bell thanked the Student Council for making fun activities for the campus and their efforts on putting Prom together.

Temporary President Nevarez is impressed with the Student Councils dedication to their Blood Drives. They do a great job and are very successful.

### **AVID Information**

AVID students presented information on how the AVID program has helped them this year.

### **Other Information for Reading**

April Newsletter

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED**

**Motion** was made by Temporary President Nevarez to approve the minutes for March 13, 2025, Regular Meeting, March 13, 2025, Executive Session, March 28, 2025, Executive Session, and March 28, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

Temporary President Frank Nevarez – Aye

Vice President Ashley Koepnick – Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye  
Board Member Taylor Bell - Aye  
**Motion** passed 4-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were submitted for this meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT**

### **Approval of Routine Vouchers**

Expense, Payroll, and Bookstore Activity

### **Personnel - HR Report**

HR Report, Classified, Certified, and Administrative

### **Professional and Support Staff Benefits and Paid Holidays for FY2026**

### **Donation**

Open Range Filming, Hope Center - March Report, L.I.S.A., Arizona Flywheelers, Dean and Mary Troy Castimore, G.M. and S.D. Rench, Carol Osborne, Julia Pinneo, Thomas Coultas and Jack Van Rixel, Ossipee Trail Motor Sales, INC, Charlotte Page

### **Agreements**

Grad Solutions - Dropout Recovery  
Yavapai County Educational Service Agency (YCESA) Yavapai County School Superintendent (YCSSL)

### **Mingus Union High School 2025-2026 Academic Calendar**

### **Policy Second Readings**

Policy Advisory 809-818 Volume 37 #2  
Policy A, A-R, IJM, IJM-R, and IKF

### **Approval of Counseling, Psychologist, Classified, Teacher, and Administrative Contract Templates**

### **Sole Source**

The addition of College Board to the FY25 vendor list to provide Advance Placement and CLEP testing.

**Motion** was made by Board Member Babcock to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Second was made by Vice President Koepnick

### **Roll Call Vote:**

Temporary President Frank Nevarez – Aye  
Vice President Ashley Koepnick – Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye  
Board Member Taylor Bell - Aye  
**Motion** passed 4-0.

## **INFORMATION, DISCUSSION ACTION ITEMS - DISTRICT BUSINESS**

### **Grand Canyon University Data Sharing Agreement**

Superintendent Herne presented information regarding the Grand Canyon University Data Sharing Agreement. The Board discussed the requirements of the data sharing agreement. This agreement will be in an opt-in format.

**Motion** was made by Board Member Babcock to approve the Grand Canyon University Data Sharing Agreement as presented. Second was made by Temporary President Nevarez.

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

Temporary President Ashley Koepnick – Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Board Member Taylor Bell - Aye

Board Member Frank Nevarez - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

## **INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

### **Maintenance and Operations Budget Override**

*TO CONSIDER, DISCUSS, AMEND IF DESIRED, AND, IF DEEMED ADVISABLE, TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION ORDERING AND CALLING A SPECIAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION BUDGET OVERRIDE ELECTION TO BE HELD IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT AND DECLARING THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARGUMENTS "FOR" AND "AGAINST" THE ELECTION TO THE PINAL COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AS AUGUST 8, 2025 AT 5:00 P.M. AND APPROVING THE GOVERNING BOARD'S ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE SPECIAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION BUDGET OVERRIDE ELECTION.*

Superintendent Herne presented to the Board information on the Maintenance and Operations Budget Override and the renewal process. Superintendent Herne strongly recommends that Mingus Union High School District goes out for the Override at the same time as our other feeder schools do, November of 2025. Attorney James Giel with Gust Rosenfeld (Election Counsel) complemented Superintendent Herne on her presentation. Superintendent Herne, Business Manager Lynn Leonard and Attorney Jim Gil answered questions that the Board Members had. Attorney Jim Gil encouraged the Board and Mingus Union High School staff to reference A.R.S. 15.511. for protocols.

**Motion** was made by Vice President Koepnick to call for the Special Maintenance and Operation Budget Override election for November 2025. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

Temporary President Ashley Koepnick – Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Board Member Taylor Bell - Aye

Board Member Frank Nevarez - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

Superintendent Herne thanked the Board for their support.

### **Mingus Board Communication Protocol**

Superintendent Herne thanked the Board for attending the Board Retreat on March 28, 2025. She read and reviewed the Communication Protocols created at the Board Retreat.

Board Member Babcock asked for clarification on the emergency communication protocols point of contact when Superintendent cannot be reached during an emergency.

Superintendent Herne clarifies that she will get a message out to the Board. However, if she is in the command center information will be relayed to and from through the Superintendent's Secretary.

Temporary President Nevarez expressed his thanks to ASBA and Superintendent Herne for their work at the Board Retreat. He found the retreat very beneficial and educational.

### **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Information has been sent out via email.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** was made by Temporary President Nevarez to adjourn the meeting. Second was made by Vice President Koepnick.

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

Temporary President Ashley Koepnick – Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Board Member Taylor Bell - Aye

Board Member Frank Nevarez - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Adjournment: 7:23 PM**

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Temporary Board President

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Vice President