

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

GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING

Mingus Union High School Library
Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 6:00 PM

Governing Board:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was led by Genie Gee.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Vice President Teague to adopt the agenda as presented. Second was made by Board Member Cox.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments

Tammy Herman said her special needs child suffered gender based sexual harassment from a teacher during the 22/23 school year. She didn't hear back from Administration regarding the incident and would like an investigation be launched.

Jessie Dowling- thanked those who have apathy. He spoke about the intended purpose of the "Call to the Public" and said it should not be abused.

Ron Vachon-Vierra- spoke about Title VI and a Gender Identity Policy. He is asking the Board to implement a Title VI Gender Identity Policy.

Eilene Vachon-Vierra – spoke about implementing the imposed Title VI changes.

Mike Cosentino- thanked the Board and staff for work that they do. All communities, especially LGBTQ deserve the support of the Board. He encouraged the Board to spread love around and teach United States History.

Julie Fernatt- is unhappy the public couldn't vote on the Bond issue. The public should have had a chance to vote on the bond and it should be put back on the agenda for 2024.

Molly Heckman- spoke of a bully experience she had as a child. Those experiences last a lifetime.

Erin Whitesitt- doesn't feel heard by board. She wrote letters to the Board and only received one response. She feels Board Members represent churches and politics but not students. It is the job of the Board to represent the students and parents.

Eleanor Kirk- commends those who decided to review the textbooks. She also doesn't feel the bond should be put on the ballot. This money should be part of the budget. Take the items to the state and not to the property owners.

Charles Mackey- the community has right to vote bonds, overrides, and Board Members. With that right, is the obligation to be an informed voter. No one attended the public Bond Meetings. Voting for or against a bond without being educated is lame.

Michael Nisito- commended President Drake, Board Member Lozano and Board Member Cox for voting for the conscience of the community and against the Bond. The community elected you the public trusts you with decisions. He suggests working within the finances you have.

Nancy Scarangella- wants to know about the 4-day School Week Study/Data. She wanted to know who is on the committee, what data do they use, how much money did it cost the school and taxpayers to do the study, how would a 4-day week improve the status of Mingus.

Joe Wegwert- spoke about social emotional learning and classroom size.

Guy Vaaskelalson- freedom of religion is also freedom from religion. Politics is the knowledge of self-governance and art is what refines us.

Paula Herald- would like to know more about the 4-day school week Committee. She heard the effort to move forward is underway and coming before the Board for the vote. Has a committee been formed, who it includes, and are the pros and cons both taken into account? Has the direction of the Board changed?

Board Member Cox would like someone from Administration to respond to the two ladies regarding the 4-day school week.

Board Meeting Minutes Not Previously Approved

Motion was made by Board President Drake to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2023, and the Public Hearing Minutes of July 13, 2023, as presented. Second was made by Vice President Teague.

Roll Call Vote:

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano – Aye

Board Member Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock – recused himself as he was absent from that meeting.

Motion passed 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Board Member Report

Vice President Teague reported on ATORT's Beyond the Yellow Brick Road Production.

Administration Report

Principal Genie Gee reported on the start of the 2023-24 School Year.

Finance Report

Finance Director Lynn Leonard presented information on the District's Athletic Budget and report on regional participation in the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program and the Governor's Grant. She announced MUHS has been awarded the grant. This grant will pay for the Yavapai College Counselor and the two new Success Coaches. Monies must be spent by 6/30/24.

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 so 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

5.3 Donation(s)

5.4 Agreements

- School Facilities Division, Building Renewal Grant Fund, Expansion Joints Restoration.
- School Facilities Division, Building Renewal Grant Fund, Roof Repair & Replacement.
- School Facilities Division, Building Renewal Grant Fund, Elevator Replacement for PE Weight Room.

5.5 Fee Schedule

Student Fees Modifications

5.6 Policy Second Readings

Changes to the Extended Illness Bank provisions as part of Policies GCCA & GCCG.

Board Member Babcock would like to pull Item 5.6 Policy Second Readings for clarification. Board Member Cox would like to pull Item 5.2 Personnel and Item 5.5 Fee Schedule for clarification.

Motion was made by Board President Drake to approve Items 5.1, 5.3, and 5.4 of the Consent Agenda. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

Roll Call Vote:

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano – Aye

Board Member Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock – Aye

Motion passed 5-0

Item 5.2. HR Report

Board Member Cox Misty wanted to ask specifically about the Freshman On Track Stipend; what is it. Principal Gee the Freshman On Track Coordinator oversees the Freshman On Track Program. They supervise Success Coaches. This person will be pulling data and working in partnership with our Freshman Administrator.

Item 5.5. Fee Schedule

Board Member Cox Misty asked how non-enrolled students are made aware that they are eligible for sports. Superintendent Mike Westcott explained there is no plan to proactively provide that information. Most families contact local districts/schools to inquire about participation if they are interested.

Item 5.6. Policy Second Readings

Board Member Babcock asked about the changes to the policy. Superintendent Westcott explained the changes are to comply with federal regulation on leave transfer banks.

Motion was made by Board President Drake to approve Items 5.2, 5.5 and 5.6 of the Consent Agenda. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

Roll Call Vote:

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano – Aye

Board Member Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock – Aye

Motion passed 5-0

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)*

Entity status of The Academy at Mingus- Consideration and possible approval of a recommendation to close The Academy as an entity with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott) Superintendent Mike Westcott reviewed the need to close the academy and let the Arizona Department of Education know. Applications will reopen November or December 2023 and schools will be informed in May 2024. The Board will then have to vote to reopen The Academy. **Motion** was made by Board Member Babcock to close The Academy at Mingus as an entity with Arizona Department of Education; Entity ID: 90449, CTDS #130504202. Second was made by Board President Drake.

Roll Call Vote:

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano – Aye

Board Member Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock – Aye

Motion passed 5-0

Certified Staff Evaluators for 2023-24- Consideration and possible approval of recommended Certified Staff Evaluators for the 2023-24 school year. (Staff Resource: Genie Gee)

Principal Gee explained this is a routine approval that is needed annually. She reviewed the list of evaluators.

Motion was made by Board President Drake to approve the recommended Certified Staff Evaluators for the 2023-24 School Year as presented. Second was made by Board Member Cox.

Roll Call Vote:

President Lori Drake- aye

Vice President Carol Anne Teague - aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano – aye

Board Member Misty Cox - aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - aye

Motion passed 5-0

Student Hearing Officers- Consideration and possible approval of The Trust's approved list of trained Student Hearing Officers. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott) Superintendent Mike Westcott explained that per Policy JKE, this is an annual requirement the Board annually approves the Discipline Hearings are conducted by a Hearing Officer and simultaneously confirms a list of approved Hearing Officers by the Trust. Board Member Lozano is concerned about the length of the list. He would like to condense the list. He suggests tabling the list and take a look at the list at a later date. There is one person on the list should not be a hearing officer. Vice President Teague asked if we are under any time restraints to get the list approved. Principal Gee stated we do need the list approved in a timely manner because of a pending hearing.

Board Member Babcock asked Board Member Lozano how he suggest narrowing down the list. Board Member Lozano suggests limiting it to a 40-mile radius. President Drake assumed this is a statewide list that was approved by the Trust. There are people on the list that we would probably not use unless it came to not having anyone on the approved list available. **Motion** by Board Member Lozano to table this item. **Motion** failed due to lack of a second. **Motion** was made by Board Member Drake to approve The Trust's approved list of trained Student Hearing Officers AND confirm such approved Officers conduct Student Discipline Hearings. Second was made by Vice President Teague.

Roll Call Vote:

President Lori Drake- aye

Vice President Carol Anne Teague - aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano – abstain.

Board Member Misty Cox - aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - aye

Motion passed 4-1

Board Member Babcock left the meeting at 7:14pm

Board Member Babcock returned to the meeting 7:17pm

Safe Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan- Consideration and possible approval of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan as required by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott)

Superintendent Mike Westcott reviewed the Service Plan. President Drake would like to make a change on final page; 'Other Needs- Our Governing Board ~~will~~ may approve modifications to our supplemental leave bank.' President Drake explained she would make this change because we can't guarantee changes would automatically be changed if brought to the Board. **Motion** was made by Vice President Teague to approve the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan as required by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) with the modification to the last page. Second was made by President Drake.

Roll Call Vote:

President Lori Drake- aye

Vice President Carol Anne Teague - aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano – aye

Board Member Misty Cox - aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - absent

Motion passed 4-0

Information and Discussion Items:

First reading of recommended changes to transportation Policies EEAG, IJOA, and EE based on new guidelines from The Trust. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott)

Superintendent Mike Westcott reviewed the changes to the policy.

Future Agenda Items-

- Board Member Lozano would like to talk about Board Member Thanks.
- Report and status of the 4-day School Week Advisory Committee as a non-action item.
- Sports report.
- The possibility of getting the Staff and Faculty CPR and AED Certified.
- Status of the Verizon Tower Contract.
- Report on the goals and objectives of Student Success Coaches.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Vice President Teague to adjourn the meeting. Second was made Board Member Cox.

Roll Call Vote:

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Board Vice President Carol Anne Teague -Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Aye

Board Member Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment: 7:25pm

Board President Lori Drake

Vice President Carol Anne Teague