

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

GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

Mingus Union High School Library
Tuesday, May 7, 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, Board Member Anthony Lozano and Board Member Austin Babcock are all present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was led by Austin Babcock.

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 Vice President Cox.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments

None

Board Meeting Minutes Not Previously Approved

Motion was made by Board Member Teague to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2024 and the Special Session & Executive Session Minutes of April 12, 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 - Aye
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Mike Westcott recognized the contributions of longtime Mingus Employee & Coach John Behlow. Other presenters to recognize Coach Behlow included Calvin Behlow, Brandon Wacker, Corby Rice, Erick Quesada, Bob Young, Casey Adams, Travis Lyons, and Steve Hussen.

Board Member Report(s)

- Board Member Teague reported on the ATORT Production of ‘A Comedy of Errors’.
- President Drake reported on the Verde Valley Fair.

Finance Report

Finance Director Lynn Leonard gave a budget update and a Conflict-of-Interest Training for Board Members.

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, Classified Staff Renewal List, Summer School Staff Approvals, Independent Contractor Agreement-Dr. Melody Herne, & the Principal Position Description.

5.3 Donation(s)

Hope Center Report and Cash Donation to the Tennis Team.

5.4 Agreements

MOU Verde Valley CTE Consulting LLC.

President Drake would like to pull Item 5.3 Donations

Motion was made by President Drake to approve the Consent Agenda excluding Item 5.3. Second was made by Board Member Teague.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

Item 5.3- Donations

Board Member Teague recognized the donors by reading them aloud and thanked them individually.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Aye

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - 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)*

Final FY24 Budget Revision- Consideration and possible approval of the final Fiscal Year 2024 budget revision. (Staff Resource: Lynn Leonard)

Finance Director Lynn Leonard reviewed the final FY 2024 Budget Revision.

Motion was made by President Drake to approve the final Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Revision. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

Roll Call Vote:

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Aye

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

Final report and recommendations of the 2024 Salary and Benefits Committee - The Board will receive an update regarding recent meetings of the 2024 Salary and Benefits Committee and will consider approval of the SY2024-25 recommendations of the committee. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott)

Superintendent Mike Westcott reviewed the processes & recommendations from the 2024 Salary and Benefits Committee. He also gave members a copy of the Performance Pay Plan for members to review. Vice President Cox asked where the money is coming from for the proposed increases. Finance Director Lynn Leonard explained where the anticipated funds would be coming from. She also mentioned the Governor's Office is recommending a 2% increase. Vice President Cox asked, regarding raises, where else could this money be utilized? Board Members then discussed how the classroom site fund is used. Board Member Lozano asked if Ms. Leonard could guarantee there wouldn't be a deficit in future school years? He suggested a workshop on the budget. Ms. Leonard explained in her years of experience, building a school budget, she includes a lot of safeguards regarding salaries. Board Members discussed current year funding.

Motion was made by Board Member Teague to approve the recommendation of the 2024 Salary & Benefits Committee as presented. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

Roll Call Vote:

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Nay

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Aye
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye
Motion passed 4-1.

Interscholastic Eligibility of Non-Enrolled Students- Consideration of Interscholastic Athletic Eligibility for online charter school students and students who are ESA recipients with residency within the District boundaries for SY24-25. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott)

Superintendent Mike Westcott reviewed the guidelines and bylaws. Board Members discussed if they should include both online charter school students and ESA students.

Motion was made by Board Member Lozano to not allow the Interscholastic eligibility for non-enrolled students. Second was made by Board Member Teague.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion failed 1-4.

Motion was made by Vice President Cox to table this item for clarification. Second was made by President Drake.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Academic Participation of Non-Enrolled Students- Consideration and possible approval of the participation of non-enrolled students who are ESA recipients in MUHS academic offerings for SY24-25. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott & Lynn Leonard)

Superintendent Mike Westcott reviewed this item and went over the participation guidelines.

Motion was made by Vice President Cox to allow academic participation of non-enrolled students. Second was made by Board Member Teague.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passed 4-1.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Information and Discussion regarding Adjacent ways levy and tax rate impacts. (Staff Resource: Lynn Leonard)

Finance Director Lynn Leonard explained they identified a need for resurfacing the lower parking lot and surfacing the area in front of the Bus Barn. She went on to explain the Adjacent Ways Levy and tax rate impacts. Adjacent Ways is a tax you can levy for a certain amount. Those funds can only be used for egress and ingress for buses and fire trucks. The School Facilities Division must approve any Adjacent Ways Projects, and this has already been done. Mr. Westcott noted the issue with the parking lot and Bus Barn area was recently brought to Administration's attention. Ms. Leonard reviewed the quote versus the budget. She suggests going out for a \$400,000 to bridge the gap. No decisions will be made tonight, the taxes would be collected in October 2024 and May of 2025 and would be a project for next summer. There is not a lot of time for consideration and the Board would have to make decision at the next meeting because it would have to be part of the budget. Average homeowner would see \$18.65 increase for the year. A Public Notice would have to be posted in the newspaper.

Public Comment

Paula Herald is concerned after having sat on the Bond Committee; she hadn't heard anything about this issue. Why hadn't it come up as a Capital Project. She feels this is disingenuous. She is disappointed she hadn't heard about it before tonight's meeting.

Information and Discussion regarding ALICE active shooter response training. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott)

Superintendent Mike Westcott reviewed the training and how the system works. It is an alternate approach with formalized training.

Information and Discussion regarding teacherage projects which may include cooperative efforts with the City of Cottonwood and possible grant funding. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott & Lynn Leonard)

Superintendent Mike Westcott explained that he and Lynn Leonard recently met with representatives from the city. They are aware of teacherage grants. Mr. Westcott reviewed the terms. The question would be is there interest in creating staff housing and if so, staff needs to begin to generate project ideas to submit to the County. Vice President Cox doesn't think the board should deal with this. Board Member Lozano asked about a placement of a Boys and Girls Club type of facility? Mr. Westcott explained these grants are for housing only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1)- for consideration of administrative (salaried certified/non-teaching and non-certified) compensation increases. The Board may convene an executive session for discussions related to salary increases for the following positions: Assistant Principal(s), Director of Student Intervention, Director of Student Support Services, Dean of Students, and Athletic Director. If convened, the Board will either move to a different location to hold the session or will ask those in attendance to leave the room and take with them all materials and ensure that no recording devices are left in the room. Only members of the Board and those individuals whose presence is reasonably necessary for the Board to carry out its executive session responsibilities may attend the executive session. All business conducted in executive session is confidential.

President Drake suggested tabling the Executive Session and the following Action Item due to errors in the agenda title language.

Motion was made by President Drake to table Executive Session and Action Item-District Business. Second was made by Vice President Cox.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Administrative Compensation- Consideration and possible approval of administrative (salaried certified/noncertified and non-teaching) compensation increases for SY2024-25.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS:

Future Agenda Items-

- Administration Compensation

Adjournment

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment: 8:15 pm

Board President Lori Drake

Vice President Misty Cox