

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

GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING

Mingus Union High School Library
Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 6:00 PM

Governing Board:

Lori Drake
Carol Anne Teague
Anthony Lozano
Misty Cox
Austin Babcock

Also Present:

Mike Westcott, Superintendent
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 (via teleconference), Board Member Misty Cox, 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 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

Joanne Miller is against the 4-day school week, she said there is no educational benefit for four-day school week.

Llama Habern spoke about book diversity and supports the 4-day school week.

Joe Wegwert spoke about democratic processes and values; he is concerned the Board is ignoring commitments, expertise and hard work of the staff.

Molly Heckman spoke about childhood bullying and outdated textbooks.

James Ariola is pleased the Jerome bus route has been figured out but is concerned about the Board using their religious views to make decisions for the school.

Nell Faust spoke about religiosity within the school system and the need to teach students new things.

Erin Whitesitt spoke about the importance of accurate and inclusive teaching in school.

Jason Teague spoke about the culture at Mingus.

Stephen Renard spoke about the emotional/mental safety of queer students.

Board Meeting Minutes Not Previously Approved

Motion was made by President Drake to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2023, 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.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Board Member Report

Superintendent Mike Westcott introduced Eric Wyles, Kelcy Lyons, and Board Members who reported on the LISA Program. Mr. Wyles presented Board President Drake with a check for \$1,878.50 to go towards a request for a hearing device for a hearing-impaired student.

Board Member Report

Board President Lori Drake provided an update on the recent Trust Policy Summit.

Tabled- Board Member Anthony Lozano reported on the Capital Bond statutes and Policy.

Administration Report

Principal Genie Gee introduced Kelcy Lyons and students who gave a Student Council Presentation.

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, Fall Coaching Coaches & Stipends, and Cafeteria Manager Job Description.

5.3 Donation(s)

Hope Center Report and Art, Music, & Welding Department Donations.

5.4 Agreements

- MOU- Boys to Men School Based Mentoring
- SFB Preventative Maintenance Report
- SFB FY2024 Capital Plan Submittal Form

5.5 Policy Second Readings

Second reading of recommended changes to Transportation Policies EEAG, IJOA, and EE based on new guidelines from The Trust.

5.6 Athletic Program Donors

Volleyball-Pinnacle Bank-Senior Banners

President Drake would like to pull Item 5.3 Donations. **Motion** was made by Board Member Babcock to approve the Consent Agenda excluding Item 5.3 Donations. Second was made by 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

Item 5.3 Donations

President Drake recognized the wonderful donations. **Motion** was made by President Drake to approve Item 5.3 Donations. 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

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)*

Transportation Policy EEAA© Walkers and Riders- Consideration and possible approval of modifications to language in Policy EEAA© Walkers and Riders related to the distance within which the District will provide regular school bus transportation to and from school. Per Board Policy BGB, the Board may waive the requirement for a first and second reading in order to adopt new policy in a single reading. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott)

Superintendent Mike Westcott reviewed the suggested changes to the Transportation Policy EEAA Walkers and Riders. He also reviewed Policy BGB explaining the Board may waive the requirement for a first and second reading in order to adopt a new policy in a single reading. Transportation Supervisor Mike Earl explained that with the driver shortage, they would like to increase the pickup radius from 1 ½ miles to 2 miles.

Motion was made by President Drake to approve the modifications to language in Policy EEAA© Walkers and Riders in a single reading per Policy BGB. 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 – Aye

Motion passed 5-0

Board Advisory Committee for the purpose of textbook selection- Consideration and possible formation of a textbook selection committee and guidelines in order to provide a recommendation for English textbooks with ESSER III Grant funds. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott)

Superintendent Mike Westcott went over Policies IJJ and BDF which refers to the formation of a committee for textbook selection. He also reviewed the process the committee could possibly follow. President Drake would like to expand the recommended membership from 1 Board Member to 2. Mr. Westcott reviewed Policy IJJ as to who would make up the committee. He went on to say the attorney suggested allowing anyone who would like to volunteer for this committee be able to participate. Principal Genie Gee explained that Finance Director Lynn Leonard wanted her to mention one aspect of the textbook adoption; because we are using ESSER Grant funds, all the textbooks that are selected, would have to be chosen from a clearinghouse that meets “evidence-based criteria”.

Public Comment:

Janet Loy spoke about the lack of support board members give to teachers regarding textbook adoption. She also asked the meaning of “evidence-based textbooks”. Mr. Westcott read from the attachment: “*Evidence-based is defined as an activity, strategy or intervention that demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes. Evidence-based interventions are “practices or programs (including curriculum) that have evidence to show that they are effective at producing results and improving outcomes when implemented.”* Mr. Westcott went on to say, you are working with publishers who have to have shown, based on research, evidence that adoption of their materials would lead to better student outcomes. Ms. Loy

Mr. Westcott suggested the motion be to form the membership; to include Principal, Assistant Principal of Curriculum, 2 or more department members, 2 Board Members (Carol Anne Teague and Austin Babcock contingent on meeting times), 2 or more parents, community members, 2 or more students, to begin meeting as soon as possible. Provide an Interim Report November 9, 2023, and a Final Report January 11, 2024.

Motion was made by President Drake to approve the motion as stated. Second was made by Vice President Teague.

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

AGENDA ITEM: 4-Day School Week - Consideration and possible approval of modifications to the 4-Day School Week Advisory Committee guidelines which were established in April 2023, and/or direction for the committee and possible work timelines. (Staff Resource: Mike Westcott)

Public Comment

Sabrina Conway supports the 4-day school week.

Juliana Baer explained that a 4-day school week would make it tough for her family’s schedule, please factor in what it will do to individual families.

Paula Herald doesn’t understand why the committee hasn’t moved forward. Please do research before moving forward with a decision that could be detrimental to families in the community.

Nancy Scarangella said she hasn’t gotten the 4-day Committee Report.

Dawn Stockbridge advocates for the 4-day school week.

Cathrine Delaney is against the 4-day school week.

Superintendent Mike Westcott review what happened earlier this year. He explained in the spring, the Board authorized an Advisory Committee for the purposes of studying and making a recommendation to the Board regarding the four-day school week and approve the Four-Day School Week Guidelines and make up. In that same discussion, about guidelines, included that community members would be recruited in late summer. Since that time the Board has been provided with dozens of resources related to research and antidotal evidence about the four-day school week. Since the committee has not been convened, there is NO report. Mr. Westcott suggests considering that with his retirement announcement the Board should take that into consideration before recruiting community members. The committee should be formed with the new superintendent. **Motion** was made by Board Member Cox to suspend the work of a 4-day school week committee until such time as a new superintendent can participate. Second was made by President Drake.

Roll Call Vote:

President Lori Drake- aye

Vice President Carol Anne Teague - nay

Board Member Anthony Lozano – aye

Board Member Misty Cox - aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - aye

Motion passed 4-1.

Meeting break: 8:05

Meeting resume: 8:10

Information and Discussion Items:

2022-23 Athletics Report and update on the start of athletics for the 2023-24 school year. (Staff Resource: Yancey DeVore). Athletic Director Yancey Devore gave the 2022-23 Athletics Report and updated the Board on the start of Athletics for the 2023-24 School Year.

Freshman On Track (FOT): Dave Beery and Paige Bodam will present information regarding the Freshman On Track program including program organization, goals, and processes.

Director of Student Intervention Dave Beery and Teacher Paige Bodam presented information on the Freshman On Track Program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1) -The Board may vote to convene in executive session for discussions related to the Superintendent's performance, annual evaluation, and performance pay. 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.

Motion was made by Board Member Cox to convene into Executive Session for discussion. Second was made by President Drake.

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.

Adjourn to Executive Session: 8:50 pm
Resume from Executive Session: 9:03 pm

ACTION ITEM - DISTRICT BUSINESS

Superintendent's Goals and Pay for Performance Plan - Discussion and possible approval of the 2023-24 Superintendent's Goals and Pay for Performance Plan.

Motion was made by Board Member Cox to approve the Superintendent's Goals and Pay for Performance Plan for 23/24. Second was made by Vice President Teague.

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.

Future Agenda Items-

- Superintendent search should be started ASAP.
- Route drivers pay and sub pay.
- Hope Center Presentation

Adjournment

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

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: 9:11pm

Board President Lori Drake

Vice President Carol Anne Teague