



FOUNTAIN HILLS

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BOARD FOUNTAIN HILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 98

"We Achieve and Celebrate Educational Excellence"

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

**Business Meeting and Work Study Session
5:00 p.m.**

Business Meeting

I. Call to Order

Time: 5:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Board members present are Nadya Jenkins, President, Judith Rutkowski, Vice President, Jill Reed, Member, Wendy Barnard, Member and Dana Saar, Member.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Judith Rutkowski

Second: Jill Reed

The board approved unanimously 5-0

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Jenkins called upon Krista Andreae to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Public Hearing on Instructional Time Models to be presented to ADE

- a. The Board will vote to suspend the regular meeting to conduct a Public Hearing on Instructional Time Models
- b. Presentation/Public Comments/Questions
- c. The Board will vote to reconvene the regular meeting

Motion to Suspend: Nadya Jenkins

Second: Judith Rutkowski
The board approved unanimously 5-0

Time: 5:03 p.m.

The Instructional Time Model presentation included highlights such as:

- It is a requirement from ADE so that in the event that we are required to close schools, whether from an outbreak or a state mandated closure, we have a written and Board approved plan in place.
- We are required to have two public hearings. This is considered the second hearing and will be voted upon by the Board.
- Instructional hours requirements are as follows:
 - a. 720 hours - Grades 9-12
 - b. 890 hours – Grades 4-8
 - c. 712 hours – Grades 1-3
 - d. 356 hours – Grade K
- Instructional hours may be delivered through any combination of direct instruction, project based learning, independent learning and mastery based learning.
- Remote instruction will be provided for classroom, grade level or school closure that is for two or more weeks.
- Schools and classrooms will be closed due to an outbreak based on the requirements and advisement of Maricopa County Department of Public Health. At that time FHUSD will provide full access to the curriculum with instruction and academic tasks to all students.
- FHUSD will follow guidelines from MCDPHS and our safe return to school plan in quarantining students.
- Parents who voluntarily provide proof of vaccination may return to school without quarantine unless presenting with symptoms.
- Teachers are essential workers and will remain on campus. If the schools should close, they will be in the classrooms teaching as we did last fall.
- Every student has been issued a device, as long as a signed tech agreement has been received.

Motion to Reconvene: Wendy Barnard
Second: Jill Reed
The board approved unanimously 5-0

The regular meeting reconvened at 5:29 p.m.

VI. Informational Reports

a. Superintendent's Comments

o PAC Information and Update

1. First meeting was held August 24th. They will begin fundraising and going to community meetings. Ms. Glass will present to the Rotary tomorrow morning.

o Meeting with Town Regarding Four Peaks/Biz Hub

1. Ms. Glass felt it was a productive meeting. She helped them to understand the purpose of the business accelerator. She stressed that we really want to use this

model to benefit our students with internships and further the educational benefit for them.

o Staffing

1. Ms. Glass has concerns about staffing. She shared that we are currently short staffed at MMES. We need a facilities manager there. She shared that we are taking a look at how to fund that and what that might look like.
2. We are also in need of an additional technology specialist as technology has exploded in our district.
3. We are looking at a contracting company that can provide custodial services for McDowell Mountain as we are unable to keep up with the work that the building requires in the condition it is in.

VII. Public Comments *(Members of the Governing Board shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action)*

o The following members of the public shared their opposition with the current school district quarantine processes and concern with discrimination of their students:

1. Jessica Johnson
2. Heather Chandler
3. Jeff Lupien
4. Brandon Wise
5. Stacey Peterson
6. John Wiel
7. Aaron Good
8. Eric Munzinger

o Madicyn Reid – Spoke regarding possible reinstatement of masks mandates.

o Virgil Solomon – demonstrated the use of a no cost covid test.

VIII. Information/Discussion Items

a. Covid-19 Discussion

- o FHUSD is striving to have as normal of an environment for our students as possible.
- o We want to remain open but can only do that when parents are partnering with us and keeping their children home when they are sick.
- o It was brought up in public comments that some school districts have been reprimanded by the Governor's office for instituting a mandatory 10-day quarantine for unvaccinated students citing ARS 15-342.05. Attorneys outside of the Governor's office have responded to those claims and indicates that nothing in ARS-342.05 restricts a school district from following guidance from federal, state or local public health guidelines regarding students who have been exposed to covid-19. The attorneys also indicated that the Parents Bill of Rights give parents the right to choose the school their child attends but does not permit them to dictate which of the school's lawful health and safety precautions their children will follow.

- We will continue to follow mitigation strategies such as limiting the sharing of resources and food, keeping all student desks facing the same way, follow social distancing measures where possible and stock classrooms with hand sanitizer, wipes and cleaning solutions. We are no longer completing health/temperature checks or requiring the use of masks.
- We will continue to conduct contact tracing should a student or staff member be diagnosed with covid-19. We are required to report all close contacts and reported positive covid-19 cases to MCDPH.
- We will implement quarantine procedures for students who present with covid like illness or are in close contact. Guidance indicates that quarantine is required unless a student has proof of vaccination or has proof of having covid-19 in the last 90 days. For students who are wearing a well fitted mask consistently and correctly, quarantine may be reduced or eliminated or a shortened quarantine when a student obtains a negative covid test after day 5 – can return on day 8.
- An outbreak is defined by MCDPH as two laboratory confirmed covid-19 cases among students or staff with symptoms within a 14-day period, who are linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as a close contact of each other in another case investigation or contact tracing. An outbreak will be determined by MCDPH.
- AIA recommends that all members of the athletic community wear a mask at all times while using the training facility or receiving treatment.
- AIA follows the same protocols that we have implemented in our safe return to school plan. They do however now recommend a 14-day quarantine which was recently changed from a 10-day quarantine.
- The Board also disagrees with the 14-day quarantine for our athletes with no option of an early return and stated that we are keeping our athletes out longer than our non-athletes and this goes against CDC guidelines.
- The Board stressed that this is a guideline and questioned what would happen if we did not follow the guidelines. Ms. Glass stated that we could be disqualified from play if we choose to not follow the guidelines.
- The Board also brought up the fact that even vaccinated students can transmit covid and shared that it was not fair that we are telling unvaccinated students to stay home even though vaccinated students pose the same threat in passing along covid.
- Ms. Glass made some suggestions for establishing our own guidelines for both students and student athletes and they include:
 1. Students quarantined for close contact may return to school on day 8 with a negative covid test.
 2. Student Athletes who were quarantined for close contact may return on day 10 with a negative covid test.

3. Student athletes who test positive for covid must obtain a doctor's clearance and complete the additional 14 days plus the 7-day return to play protocol as indicated by AIA.
 4. Masking of visitors to the schools.
 5. Limiting the number of spectators at indoor sporting events.
 6. Limiting the number of visitors at meetings and indoor events.
- Ms. Glass also stated that as a district, we are on the fence about quarantining students who are close contacts with no symptoms because we have lost our ability to require masks. We believe masks were a significant mitigation strategy that made a difference for children and kept our schools and classrooms open much longer than other districts.
 - The Board questioned whether any of these suggestions would affect the quarantine process.
 - The Board also shared their concerns with overall quarantining and that we are not prepared to educate our students through any type of distance learning. They also are not fond of quarantining healthy children but support the quarantine of a student that presents with a positive covid test.
 - They stressed that a mask mandate will help with our mitigation strategies and help reduce the need for quarantining.

IX. Action Items

a. Request for Board Approval of Instructional Time Model

- The Instructional Time Model is a requirement of ADE. We will utilize this plan in the event that we are required to close schools, whether that be from an outbreak or a state mandated closure.

Motion: Nadya Jenkins

Second: Jill Reed

The board approved unanimously 5-0

X. Governing Board Reports

- Wendy Barnard – Dr. Barnard had nothing to share.
- Judith Rutkowski – Mrs. Rutkowski shared that she read the entire Instructional Time Model and that she really enjoyed reading it.
- Nadya Jenkins – Mrs. Jenkins had nothing to share.
- Jill Reed – Mrs. Reed shared that she went to Hawaii and that her kids start college next Monday.
- Dana Saar – Mr. Saar had nothing to share.

XI. Future Action

XII. Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 –Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. and
Wednesday September 22, 2021 –Work Study Session @ 5:00 p.m. in
the FHUSD Learning Center

XIII. Adjournment of the business meeting

Time: 8:58 p.m.

Motion: Nadya Jenkins
Second: Judith Rutkowski
The board approved unanimously 5-0

Work Study Session

I. Call to Order

Time: 7:57 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Nadya Jenkins
Second: Judith Rutkowski
The board approved unanimously 5-0

XIV. Public Comments (*Members of the Governing Board shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action*)

1. Jeff Lupien encouraged the board to allow public comments to be increased as well as his concerns with exactly what we are protecting our children from.
2. Madicyn Reid shared her thoughts about our safe return to school plan.

III. Work Study Discussion Items

a. Superintendent Goals

- The Board indicated that they would like to have some input on the Superintendents goals.
- Ms. Glass would like to know what items the Board would like for her to focus on so that she can begin to put them together.
- Mr. Saar shared that the budget needs to be included in her goals.
- Dr. Barnard would like Ms. Glass to create a goal that continues to provide a quality education for our students.
- The Board would also like Ms. Glass to figure out and build off of how do we recruit the highest quality teachers to teach our students.
- Mrs. Jenkins circled back to the budget and that we need money to be able to afford to pay teachers a competitive salary.

- Mrs. Reed would like a more equitable environment for all our students and that no student should suffer because of covid.
- The Board emphasized that we need to keep our students in school.
- The Board would like Ms. Glass to encourage unified teaching practices across the district.
- They would also like to see Ms. Glass implement measures that keep our children safely in school this year.
- Ms. Glass would like to continue committee work for equity across the district.
- The Board would like Ms. Glass to create a staff retention and recruitment committee.
- They would like to see Ms. Glass continue to create a learning environment that engages students using 21st century thinking skills and include more project based curriculum.
- The Board recommended that Ms. Glass allow teachers release time to see classrooms/teachers that are excelling.
- They would also like to continue the use of Panorama and PBIS as tools to gauge measurable improvements.
- The Board would like to see measurements in place that go beyond just test scores.
- Ms. Glass will put together her goals and present them to the board.
- The Board is willing to extend the due date if needed so that the goals are meaningful.

b. Board Discussion Regarding Falcon Focus

- Some ideas from the Board on topics for future Falcon Focuses include:
 1. Address family/parent engagement.
 2. Community Service hours for seniors.
 3. What the Falcon way is.
 4. Get to know your board members.
 5. Messages from the board about upcoming Panorama surveys.
 6. What does the board really do and what is their role? Put a human face to the role of a board member.

c. Topics of Interest for Work Study Sessions

- Concurrent/dual enrollment and as soon as possible so that we can put together something to start next year.
- Presentation from Principals.

- Presentation of AZMerit, Student Growth and Panorama results. After presentations, include these in the following work study add as a topic of discussion.

IV. Future Discussion

a. Gordian Presentation

- Request a presentation from Gordian then have discussion at next work study session. Be clear that it is a review of all our facilities and what we need to get fixed or what we need.

b. Department Reports

c. Initiative Reports

d. Staff/Student Recognition

- Sooner rather than later for a work study session.

e. Breakdown and Disaggregate of Panorama Surveys

f. Concurrent/Dual Enrollment

g. CTE Program Update

V. Adjournment

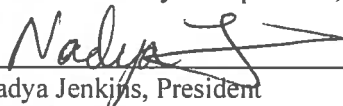
Time: 8:53 p.m.

Motion: Nadya Jenkins

Second: Judith Rutkowski

The board approved unanimously 5-0

Dated this 8th day of September, 2021



Nadya Jenkins, President



Judith Rutkowski, Vice President

Jill Reed



Dana Saar



Wendy Barnard