



# **FOUNTAIN HILLS**

## UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

### **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD FOUNTAIN HILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 98**

*"We Achieve and Celebrate Educational Excellence"*

**Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

**Executive Session**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**6:30 p.m.**

---

I. Call to Order

Time: 5:30 pm

II. Roll Call

Board members present are Jill Reed, President, Nadya Jenkins, Vice President, Judith Rutkowski, Member and Wendy Barnard, Member. Not present was C.T. Wright, Member.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Nadya Jenkins

Second: Judith Rutkowski

The board approved unanimously 4-0

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

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

V. Executive Session

The Board may vote to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel items pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A) (1) as well as discuss contracts pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A) (4).

Motion: Nadya Jenkins  
Second: Wendy Barnard  
The board approved unanimously 4-0

## VI. Informational Reports

### a. Superintendent's Comments

- We held our first calendar committee meeting today with fourteen people, including administration, teachers, classified staff and parents. We will be building the 2021-22 and the 2022-23 calendars for approval by the board at the December board meeting.
- We received the enrollment stabilization grant and are just waiting to find out how much we received.
- Next week is Homecoming at the high school and they will be utilizing Thursday as a non-instructional day in which 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades will be taking assessments and the 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be attending the freshman academy learning AVID strategies.
- We have been working on a staff handbook and are almost finished.
- We will be scheduling a meeting with ASBA for a policy review in Spring.
- We are submitting an application for online instruction for K-12 and plan for a parent handbook for ease of use for our families that choose the online school.
- We have new website updates that include a COVID dashboard under the resource tab and a Title IX tab.
- October is national principal's month. Kelly wants to thank Mr. Alexander, Mr. Markle and Mrs. Dehombreux for their partnership and hard work to get through these difficult times. She greatly appreciates them.

### b. STUGO Report

- Presented by Luke Giger and Morgan Tuazon:
- STUGO is busy preparing for homecoming. Homecoming week will include spirit days - Monday is pajama day. Tuesday is twin day. Wednesday is meme day. Thursday is class color day (Freshmen will wear green, Sophomores will wear orange, Juniors will wear yellow and the Seniors will wear red.) Friday is Falcon blue day.
- They are looking at purchasing a movie screen for the successful drive in movies they hold and are hoping to get Jumanji approved for next drive in movie.
- They are happy to be back on campus full time and feel it is going well. They shared it is great to be back on campus and to see friends.

### c. Student Activity Accounts

### d. Auxiliary Account Funds

### e. Principal's Reports/Site Council Minutes

- As always, the board appreciates the reports and enjoys reading them.

### f. Bond and Capital Override Report

#### • M&O Override Background

- The 15% M&O Override was passed in November 2017 to be in effect for seven school years from July 2018 through June 2025.

- The passage of the override allows the district to exceed its Maintenance and Operation budget by 15% of the Revenue Control Limit.
- The RCL is the sum of the Base Support Level and the Transportation Revenue Control Limit.
- The statement on the 2017 ballot identified the following programs to be supported during the first year of the override:
  - a. Teacher Salary Increases
  - b. Provide Professional Development
  - c. Maintain All-day kindergarten
  - d. Hire Additional staff for Reading Literacy Support
  - e. Financially reward staff for outstanding performance
  - f. Enable the District to maintain its outstanding award winning programs
- Bond Election Background
  - The \$8,000,000 bond election was passed in November 2013 with \$4,000,000 issued in spring 2014 and \$4,000,000 issued in spring 2015.
  - The funding availability extended through May 2018 with approximately 15% allowed to be carried into the next year.
  - The District statement calling for the election indicated “the need to install more energy efficient lighting, energy management systems, new air conditioning, and upgrade facilities to extend the useful life of its buildings.”
  - Proposed Capital Improvements included
    - a. Safety and security upgrades
    - b. Renovations and improvements to existing buildings
    - c. Improvements to school sites and athletic facilities
    - d. Pupil transportation vehicles
- g. Annual Financial Report Review
  - AZ Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 15-904 requires school districts to prepare and submit an AFR to ADE by October 15 each year.
  - The AFR shall contain budgeted and actual expenditures for the preceding fiscal year.
  - Required is detailed information on the school district budgeted and actual expenditures from the bond building fund, the unrestricted capital fund, the deficiencies correction fund and the new school facilities fund, including but not limited to information on employee salaries and benefits, interest and fiscal charges, capital lease agreements, land and improvements, buildings and improvements, furniture and equipment, technology and vehicles and transportation equipment for pupils.
  - A copy of the annual financial report shall be submitted electronically by the school district to the superintendent of public instruction by October 15.
- h. Current Enrollment/Withdrawals
  - 1318 Total students
  - 339 total at MMES with 4 new enrollments and 16 withdrawals
  - 466 total at FHMS with 7 new enrollments and 13 withdrawals
  - 513 total at FHHS with 2 new enrollments and 4 withdrawals

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Consent Agenda

- a. Donations
  - Donations from private donors of musical instruments, PPE supplies and school supplies were received at the middle school. Thank you letters were sent to all donors.
- b. Accounts Payable Vouchers
  - September 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020
- c. Payroll Vouchers
  - September 29, 2020
- d. Personnel Action
- e. Approval of Minutes for September 23, 2020

Motion: Judith Rutkowski

Second: Nadya Jenkins

Wendy Barnard recused herself due to her husband being on the personnel action report.

The board approved unanimously 3-0

IX. Information/Discussion Items

- a. Board Self Evaluation Discussion
  - The Board is working to regroup and ensure board members are following protocol.
  - It is not the board's role to answer to social media posts
  - COVID is our number one issue right now and trying to maneuver through the many different opinions in the community and still keep our staff and students safe.
  - Successes include hiring Superintendent, Kelly Glass, raising teacher salaries and reopening schools in the difficult era of COVID.
- b. Regulation IJNDB-R Use of Technology Resources in Instruction (BYOD)
  - The district will be adding comprehensive language to Regulation IJNDB-R that will set standards for the use of personal devices by staff and students, otherwise known as Bring your own device or BYOD. Not only will this update be added to the regulation, but it will also be added to the district technology agreement.
- c. Title IX presentation
  - The district is currently in the process of implementing the new Title IX guidelines. The requirements we are currently taking care of are as follows: Designate and train a Title IX Coordinator (Alex Means), Investigator (Nicole Latona, Rich Dellacona, Barrie Pinto), Decision Maker (Kris Alexander, Jeff Markle, Val Dehombreux), Appellate (Kelly Glass). Ms. Glass has received the training and will train employees listed above as to the reporting requirement. This will take place via Google Meet or Trust Safe-Schools video by Ms. Means or Ms. Glass. She will also train all employees in processes regarding the Title IX Complaint Process. This will take place on November 5, 2020 from 8-12 in the Learning Center. Create forms and processes for Title IX complaints. Completed in conjunction with Udall-Shumway attorney. We have already created a webpage to post all information regarding Title IX
- d. Superintendent Goals 2020-21

- Goal #1 - To increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency and ensure high student performance and support to schools.
- Goal #2 - To work with the Board to support, promote and champion the district's success and excellence by listening, learning, sharing, building and planning.
- Goal #3 - To build upon the district's respectful, positive culture centered on teaching and learning.
- Goal #4 - Focus on the organizational system to determine alignment between the district and board goals in conjunction with processes and procedures in budgeting and funding needs and human resources.
- Goal #5 - To build upon current district practices, establish processes and procedures that builds a unified school district that is safe for all stakeholders.
- Goal #6 - To establish and promote highly effective district governance by building a trusting, productive, collaborative relationship with the FHUSD Governing Board.

e. PBIS Presentation

- The district has the opportunity to participate in a three year grant with Arizona Department of Education (ADE) focusing on Multi-Tiered Behavioral Support.
- Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) is a research/evidence based program to assist students in positive behavior management.
- It is a proactive, school-wide, data driven, systems approach to improving social and academic competence for all students and is designed to decrease behavior disruptions and increase teacher and administrative time to focus on instruction.

X. Action Items

a. PBIS Grant Proposal

- All three of the district's school engage in PBIS to some degree with the middle school working on full implementation of the program. This grant will provide coaching and training for full implementation of the program at all schools to improve student learning and safety.

Motion: Judith Rutkowski

Second: Nadya Jenkins

The board approved unanimously 4-0

b. Board Goals

- The Board has discussed the current Board Goals and approve them for the 2020-21 school year. The five goals include:
  1. Support and promote policies and practices that increase student achievement and inspire all students to reach their maximum potential.
  2. Support, promote, and champion the district's success and excellence.
  3. Build and sustain a collaborative pre-K through 12 learning environment that meets the needs of individual students, their families, and our community.
  4. Implement and maintain responsible stewardship of district funds and other resources, guided by the best interests of our students.

5. Create and maintain an environment for students, staff and visitors that nurtures health, safety and security for all.

Motion: Jill Reed

Second: Nadya Jenkins

The board approved unanimously 4-0

c. Policy GCQC – Liquidated Damages

- Administration is recommending a waiver be approved for a certificated staff member that had to resign due to unforeseen circumstances with their certification.

Motion: Nadya Jenkins

Second: Judith Rutkowski

The board approved unanimously 4-0

d. Food Service Amendment

- With the COVID-19 situation impacting in-person learning and consequently food service revenue, adding the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) allows the district to claim all breakfast and lunches served to students as reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). This will apply to meals served both on school campuses and for Virtual Academy students opting for meal pickups. This program will run through June 2021.
- Required pre-approval from the Arizona Department of Education Health and Nutrition Division has been given.

Motion: Wendy Barnard

Second: Judith Rutkowski

The board approved unanimously 4-0

e. Leave of Absence

- Only the Governing Board can grant a leave of absence. This staff member is requesting a leave of absence for the remainder of the school year. Administration does not recommend approval of this Leave of Absence and provided reasons for recommending not approving the request to include the staff member not qualifying for FMLA. After discussion related to the Leave of Absence, the Board motioned to not approve the employees request for a Leave of Absence.

Motion: Jill Reed

Second: Nadya Jenkins

The board approved unanimously 4-0

f. Policy GCQF – Discipline, Suspension & Dismissal of Professional Staff Members

Executive Session - The Board may vote to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion or consultation for legal advice with its attorney concerning the administration's statement of charges and recommendation pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A) (3).

Motion: Nadya Jenkins  
Second: Wendy Barnard  
The board approved unanimously 4-0

- Based on just cause and with counsel recommendation that the board adopts the statement of charges against Erin Willis, teacher at Fountain Hills Middle School, and that she be dismissed as a contracted teacher.
- The board has also approved that Erin Willis be placed on administrative leave of absence until the final termination decision is effective.

Motion: Jill Reed  
Second: Nadya Jenkins  
The board approved unanimously 4-0

g. June Board Meeting Dates

- In reviewing the dates for the 2020-2021 Board meetings it appears to be advantageous to change the June board meeting dates from June 9th and June 23rd, 2021 to June 2nd and June 30th, 2021 to better facilitate the budget hearing and adoption prior to yearend.

Motion: Jill Reed  
Second: Wendy Barnard  
The board approved unanimously 4-0

XI. Governing Board Reports

- Wendy Barnard – Mrs. Barnard Thanked Judy Rutkowski for being our delegate at the ASBA delegate assembly. She shared that the JV football team just won this evening’s game. She is so happy that football is back and it was so much fun being in the stands cheering on our Falcons. For the most part the fans were very good about keeping their masks on. Mrs. Barnard also shared that she had the pleasure of being an ASU guest researcher for the AP Capstone lecture on ethics.
- Judith Rutkowski – Mrs. Rutkowski shared that she was the delegate at ASBA’s virtual delegate assembly. Although the meeting was virtual and she viewed and participated using her computer she had to use another device to be able to vote. Normally they vote on every single item but because it was virtual, they picked out just a few specific items to vote on such as Title IX. Prior to voting, they opened it up for discussion. She shared the last part of the agenda was discussing the COVID 19 response throughout the school districts.
- Nadya Jenkins – Mrs. Jenkins shared that she recently viewed a couple ASBA webinars. One on Suicide prevention and the other on Blacks and Indigenous people and how they are affected by society being “color blind.” She shared that they were very interesting. Mrs. Jenkins also will be attending ASBA’s County Meeting for Maricopa on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Jill Reed – Mrs. Reed thanked everyone that was posting the sports live online. She loved that although she was not at the games, she could watch them live in a virtual format. She congratulated the high school on the A+ certification and hoped that administration celebrated with the staff. She also shared that she texted Dr. J since he started the process and she wanted to be sure he heard the good news.

XII. Future Action

XIII. Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, November 18, 2020- Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. in the FHUSD Learning Center

XIV. Adjournment

Motion: Nadya Jenkins

Second: Judith Rutkowski

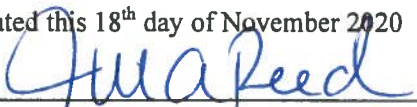
The board approved unanimously 4-0

Please Note: The Board may change the order of items listed in the Agenda prior to the meeting or during the meeting. ALSO, THE BOARD MAY VOTE TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON ANY ITEM THAT IS LISTED ON THIS AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION/CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL TO OBTAIN LEGAL ADVICE, PURSUANT TO A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3)

A copy of the agenda background material provided to Board members (with the exception of material relating to possible executive session) is available at the Administrative Center for public inspection.

*Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting Krista Andreae at 480-664-5011. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.*

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Reed, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nadya Jenkins, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
C.T. Wright

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judith Rutkowski

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wendy Barnard