

AJO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 15

Governing Board Members:

Mrs. Marcia Duncan
President

Mr. Rodney Hopkins
Member

Mrs. Tracy Moore
Member

Mrs. Windy Robertson
Member

Ms. Laura Trujillo
Member

Administration:

Dr. Robert F. Dooley
Superintendent

Mr. Leonard Edlund
Principal

Ms. LeAnn Burns, CPA
Business Manager

Ms. Marichou Beltran
Special Ed. Director

MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING

Ajo Unified School District Board Room #23, 5:30 p.m.

October 7, 2020

1. Call to Order at 5:30 p.m.

- a. Statement of Welcome

2. Roll Call

Present	-	Marcia Duncan, President
Present		Rodney Hopkins, Member
Present	-	Tracy Moore, Member
Present, Video	-	Laura Trujillo, Member
Present	-	Windy Robertson, Member
Present	-	Robert Dooley, Superintendent
Present	-	Leonard Edlund, Principal
Absent	-	LeAnn Burns, Business Manager

- b. Appointment of Acting Clerk, Mr. Rodney Hopkins

3. Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Trujillo, and seconded by Mr. Hopkins, that the Governing Board adopt the agenda as presented. Mrs. Robertson brought her concerns to the Board about parts of the agenda that are posted and possible violation of open meeting law.

The vote to approve the agenda passed 4-0, with Mrs. Robertson not giving a vote.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Visitor's Comments

Visitors are welcome to speak on agenda and non-agenda items. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. Please state your name and address prior to making your comments. Please note that members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, action taken is limited to directing the administration to look into the matter, responding to any criticism, or scheduling the matter for future consideration. (A.R.S. §38-431.01(H))

Mrs. Trish Olsen, parent/community member. Mrs. Olsen pulled her 3 kids from Ajo Schools and enrolled them in another online school. She is requesting the Board go back to school five days a week. 50% of schools back in school 5 days a week.

Mr. Malin Lewis, parent/community member. Roadblocks this year that denied schools face to face and athletic sports. Things are happening across the country and schools are going parents the

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choice to allow kids to go back to school. Mr. Lewis also pulled his 5 students out of school. Mr. Lewis also wants students go back to school 5 days a week and continue sports.

Ms. Savana Lewis, student. Savanna who is a senior this year, wants students to go back 5 days a week. She believes students can socially distance and continue sports.

Mrs. Julieann Koozer, community member and former. Mrs. Koozer home schools her students and does not have students in high school but believes she should say something about how she feels about students returning. Today Mrs. Koozer called as many schools as she could that were a similar size to Ajo and found the following: (this is information given by Mrs. Koozer)

- Snowflake District, open since 8/17 had a total of 7 cases out of 2500 students. Sports went on as normal.
- Round Valley High School, 417 students open since 8/17, no masks required. No cases of staff or students. 1300 district wide zero cases.
- Gila Bend School District, open 8/18, no football but basketball. Temperature checks before class. Zero classes.
- American Leadership Academy in Gilbert. Normal face to face, normal sports, 510 kids.
- 144,000 cases in Maricopa County compared to Pima County of 26,000.
- 0-17 nationwide, 100 deaths total. Death rate from 0-15 is zero

Mr. Buddy Koozer, community member/new football coach. Not allowed to use school facilities to practice. Through the summer program practice was optional through the park. 24 young men decided to come to practice. According to Mr. Koozer, of all the parents he talked to, none wanted the school to shut down or for the sports program to close. Doesn't believe a small group of individuals to take decisions taken away from the many. Parents should be able to choose wither or not if the students should go to school.

Michael Robertson, community member/parent. Wants daughters to be back in school, but also wants to keep them safe. Not just their personal exposure, but their potential to infect other individual. Understand balancing risk and rewards. It is easy to blame fear and push it aside, but rational fear is what pushes us forward and should be headed. We should take into account the essential workers that will have to work regardless of the decision. Entire teaching staff are overwhelmingly opposed to 100% return, and that should be taken into account. It is better to keep students at home and the overwhelming start and stop that schools will eventually occur.

Mr. Scott Moore, community member/parent. Since March 2019, of the first positive case, and 116 cases have been reported and the majority of those were on the reservation. Only one recorded case has been recorded in the last week. Has received report from the AZ Department of Health Services that recommends that Pima county is approved for a hybrid schedule. Has 5 sons in the school. All of his sons have struggled, and work 12-15 hours a day. No social life and all of his sons have pleaded with him to return to school.

At this point the laptop battery dies and the Facebook live video stops. The laptop needs to be taken to another place in the library to resume power and to resume recording. The second video starts with the superintendent's report. The remaining visitors' comments will be brief and concise as the exact words were not recorded.

Ms. Mireya Ramirez, student. Mireya, a senior, is requesting students stay on the 100% online classes.

Ms. Heidi Sallows, Art Teacher. Ms. Sallows spoke about health concerns and does not feel it's the right time for students to return.

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6. Information Items

- a. Governing Board Report – No Board member wished to give a report
- b. Superintendent's Report
 - ✓ To the people who spoke in the visitor's comments, the Board didn't sit silent because they didn't care, the law says they cannot reply.
 - ✓ AFR is on the table for signature. Please don't leave without signing the AFR.
 - ✓ COVID testing. Mr. Edlund and Dr. Dooley worked all summer on a hybrid system that would have started 8/10. The governor came out with and said schools should be more cautious. The Board met and decided to keep online school until October 9.
 - ✓ Five employees tested positive, one this week waiting on results. 13 students have tested positive and more are waiting.
 - ✓ Even though the AZ Department of Health is recommending schools in Pima County open on a hybrid schedule, the Pima County Health Department does not support that.
 - ✓ Per the governor's executive order all public schools, including Ajo Schools students who have an IEP(SPED) or/and an ILLP(English Language Learners) are on campus face to face. Also, on campus are students who cannot stay at home by themselves, because their parent(s) are essential workers
 - ✓ Protocols for the students & staff on campus:
 - If someone who a staff member lives with receives a positive test, they must let the administration know, and go home that day, and either get tested or stay home 10 days. COVID leave will cover the 2-week time period for that person. Once that 2-week time period is exhausted, then leave comes out of the staff members individual bank of leave.
 - Staff, if possible, can work a normal schedule at home if possible.
 - Staff on campus must wear a mask or face covering and all students and staff on campus get their temperature taken each day.

7. Consent Agenda

The following items are being recommended for approval on the consent agenda:

- a. Financial Report
- b. Voucher Approval
- c. Board Minutes
- d. Donations
- e. Library Report
- f. Monthly Contact Report

It was moved by Mrs. Robertson and seconded by Mrs. Moore that the Governing Board adopt the agenda as presented. The motioned passed 5-0.

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8. Board Action Items

a. Personnel

1. Certified Employment – Approval of Fall Intersession Teaching Staff

Fall intersession will be completed online. Fall intersession will be October 19-23, 2020.

The administration is recommending the following staff for online teaching/tutoring:

Carolyn Rodríguez – K/1 grades

Alice Cadiz – 2/3 grades

Raylee Melendres – 4/5 grades

Richard Rigodon - 6 grade

Marichou Beltran – Special Education

Babu K. C. – Secondary 7-12 Grades

Mr. made the motion to approve the above teachers for the 2020 Fall Intersession employment. Mrs. Duncan seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0

2. Classified Employment – Maintenance/Custodian – Alexis Gamez-Herrera

Alexis Gamez-Herrera has been interviewed and reference checks completed for the position of maintenance worker.

Ms. Trujillo made the motion to accept the employment of Alexis Gamez-Herrera as a maintenance worker. Tracy Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Classified Employment – Paraprofessional – Bethany Morawe

Bethany Morawe has been interviewed and reference checks completed for the position of paraprofessional/teacher's aide.

Windy Robertson made the motion to accept the employment of Bethany Morawe as a paraprofessional. Laura Trujillo seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Extra Pay Positions

The administration is seeking Board approval of for extra duty stipends to the following staff members:

Freshman Class Advisor/Jose Villasenor

Yearbook Advisor/Dawnell Connelly

Sophomore Class Advisor/Kmetz & Lopez

Band Director/Jesse Green

Junior Class Advisor/J. Abaja & C. Arancon

Art Director/Heidi Sallows

Senior Class Advisor/Dawnell Connelly

Art Club Advisor/Heidi Sallows

National Honor Society/Kevin Kmetz

Special Education/Marichou Beltran

Powerschool Tech/Babu K.C.

EL Coordinator/Mary Ann Domalanta

CTE/JTED Director & JOM/Leonard Edlund

Jr. High & High School Student Council Advisor/Emily Rosales

Marcia Duncan made the motion to approve the above individuals for the corresponding staff members. Tracy Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

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b. Curriculum & Instruction

1. Approval of Student Instruction Model Starting 10/26/2020

The administration is asking the Board to endorse a plan commencing on October 26, 2020 for a student instruction model. This plan will be designated to promote the health and safety of all students and staff in the Ajo Unified School District.

Dr. Dooley shared information at the meeting: A survey was taken of all 30 certified teachers about how they feel about either: opening 100%, starting a hybrid model, or continuing online instruction until December 18, 2020. 73.3% of the staff wanted to continue online instruction. 26.7% wanted to move to a hybrid system, and no one voted for full open campus. Another survey was sent to enrolled parents and those results are: 46.9% wanted to continue online instruction, 20.3% wanted a hybrid system, and 32.8% parents surveyed want the school to open campus.

Mr. Edlund shared some statistics and information: the administration has looked closely at meeting school benchmarks set out by the AZ Department of Health and the Governor. At one point in time we had meet all three benchmarks, but for the last 2/3 weeks we have not met all three benchmarks. Ajo has seen a regular and steady case occurrence in our town. Ajo is at 116 total and going up steadily on a daily basis, however there was no case today. Medical professionals have stated that we don't yet know the long-term health defects with this virus, but there are risks to the raspatory system, heart and lungs. There have been 9 people under the age of 15 that have died of COVID. If a member of staff tests positive, this will cause at least 3-4 staff members to be quarantined and will cause a significant problem to our staff for no other reason than we do not have enough substitute teachers. One or two of our 7/8 substitutes are not willing to work until they can safely do so. One of the hypothetical situations is if there is a cafeteria exposure this could cease service of the cafeteria and cease meal service for a significant period of time. Our buildings are less than modern, and the HVAC system is a closed system and does not bring outside air in. Please consider the health and safety of students, staff, and community members.

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Mr. Hopkins made the motion to continue 100% online until December 18, 2020. Mrs. Robertson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-2. Dr. Dooley would be willing to bring this issue back for consideration at another board meeting if benchmarks change significantly. The Board agreed.

c. Business

1. Approval of Payout of 19/20 Proposition 301 Plan

Mr. Edlund has compiled results of the FY19-20 Prop 301 plan for each teacher employed that year. Payments have been calculated in accordance with the approved Governing Board Prop 301 plan and the detail is attached for your review.

Mr. Hopkins made the motion to approve the Prop 301 payout for the 19/20 school year. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

2. Approval of 20/21 Proposition 301 Plan

The school principal and a team of teachers in consultation with the business manager and the superintendent developed a 301 plan for the 2020/2021 school year. Teachers reviewed the plan, gave feedback, and voted 87% to approve the plan. (26 yes, 3 no, and 1 no vote)

Mr. Hopkins made the motion to approve the attached 2020/2021 Prop 301 Plan. Mrs. Duncan seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Financial Report

Annually all public-school districts in Arizona must file an Annual Financial Report (AFR) with the AZ Department of Education and the AZ Auditor General's Office. This report will be reviewed with the Board at the Study Session on Monday October 5, 2020.

Ms. Trujillo made the motion to approve the attached 2020 Annual Financial Report. Mrs. Duncan seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Approval, Second Reading – Governing Board Policy Advisory, 670-671

The AZ School Boards Association have proposed changes to the attached Board Policies:
GCCA – Professional/Support Staff Sick Leave
GCKA – Professional/Support Staff Telecommuting

Mr. Hopkins made the motion to approve the attached ASBA Policy Advisory 670-671 on the second reading. Mrs. Robertson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

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5. Approval, Second Reading – Governing Board Policy Advisory, 677-678

The AZ School Boards Association have proposed changes to the attached Board Policies:

ACA – Sexual Harassment

ACAA – Title IX Sexual Harassment

Mrs. Robertson made the motion to approve the attached ASBA Policy Advisory 677-678 on the second reading. Ms. Trujillo seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

6. ASBA Delegate Assembly

Mrs. Robertson was selected by the Board at the September Board Meeting to serve as the Ajo Unified Delegate Assembly representative, County Meeting Representative, and Registration for the delegate assembly was from September 17 to October 1, 2020. Confirmation for Mrs. Robertson registration is attached.

There is no Board action required; This is an informational/discussion item only.

7. Approval of Hearing Officer, per Teacher Request

Heidi Sallows received three letters of reprimand and is requesting a hearing. Per the districts attorney's recommendation, the superintendent should be assigned as the individual who conducts the personnel hearing/appeal.(Policy GCQF)

Ms. Trujillo made the motion to approve Dr. Dooley as a Hearing Officer for a hearing appeal. Mrs. Duncan seconded the motion. The motion did not pass, 2-3.

Noting no other business, President of the Board, Mrs. Duncan, adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

Date