



**MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AUGUST 31, 2020**

The Board of Education of the Artesia Public School District met in special session in the Lowell M. Irby Board Room, at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER — Mr. Irby, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL — A Roll Call was taken with the following members present:

LOWELL IRBY	President
JEFF BOWMAN – (ZOOM)	Vice-President
DAVID CONKLIN	Member
LUIS FLOREZ	Member
CHERIE WIDMAYER	Secretary

Staff attending the meeting included John Ross Null-Superintendent, Danny Parker-Asst. Superintendent of Secondary Education, Mike Worley-Asst. Superintendent of Elementary Education & Federal Programs – (ZOOM), Thad Phipps-Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Janet Grice-Director of Finance, and Mykol Horner-Secretary to the Board.

Others attending the meeting: APS employees attending in person were Lynn Worley, Cody Hanagan, and Cooper Henderson. Those that attended through ZOOM were Tammy Davis, Eric Greer, Audrey Sanchez, Chanda Crandall, Tami Elkins, Cody Skinner, Butcher and Rick Stewart

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The pledge to the United States flag and the official salute to the New Mexico flag were led by Thad Phipps.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA — Mr. Irby asked for corrections, deletions, or changes to the agenda. There were no changes, and the Board approved the agenda as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Conklin and seconded by Mr. Florez to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

***APPROVAL OF REVISED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CALENDAR WITH OPTIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL DAYS**

Mr. Null sought approval to revise the APS elementary school calendar with optional summer school days. The elementary schools will participate in the extending learning time program that will be an optional opportunity for students as well as staff members just as it has been with the K5+ program in the past. However, it will be 12 days instead of being 25 days. Ms. Widmayer made a motion to approve the revised elementary school calendar with optional summer school days, and Mr. Florez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF SCHOOL REENTRY STATUS AND PLANS.

Mr. Parker updated the Board on attendance, virtual school, and the remote learning setting. Mr. Parker explained that teachers are doing everything they can to make students successful. They are communicating with students, parents, and encouraging students to ask for help.

Mr. Worley updated the Board on the elementary remote learning status. He explained to the Board that many parents have expressed difficulty with the beginning of the year diagnostic testing.

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Additionally, parents have been frustrated with the process of navigating the various learning platforms. One suggestion was for schools to host Zoom meetings with parents to help them learn how to maneuver the programs.

Mr. Phipps addressed the Board to inform them of a potential program through the New Mexico Department of Agriculture that would fund free lunches for all children ages 2-18. There is a concern that some children may be not be receiving meals and food right now and, hopefully, this program can help bridge the gap. Additionally, Mr. Phipps explained that the various busing for students who are able to go to in-person schooling right now is going well.

Mr. Null then led discussion regarding new requirements by the department of health and public education department for districts in each county to return to school in the Hybrid mode. Counties must have an average daily case count of less than 8 per 100,000 and a positivity rate below 5%. Mr. Null reported Eddy county currently does not meet that criteria. Updated data will be provided by the DOH every other Thursday. As allowed during the Remote mode, the district currently has PK-2nd graders coming two half-days per week in groups of no more than five. Mr. Null made the recommendation that special education students of all ages and students participating in athletics also be allowed to attend in person in groups of 5—both of which are allowed in the Remote mode. Mr. Bowman recommended the district consider also bringing 3rd grade students to school in-person in groups of 5—also allowed in the Remote mode. Mr. Null agreed it would be in the students' best interest to discuss this possibility with stakeholders. It was agreed that the district be prepared to move into the Hybrid mode as soon as allowed.


10. **PUBLIC FORUM:** None for this meeting.

11. **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Monday, September 14th, Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None for this meeting

13. **ADJOURNMENT:** — The Special Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.


Cherie Widmayer, Secretary