

# MOHAWK VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## *Minutes*

REGULAR MEETING ..... August 11, 2020

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Mike Silva, President  
Mr. Tristan Wright, Vice-President  
Mr. Charles Chavez, Jr., Clerk  
Mr. Howie Jorajuria, Member  
Mr. Julian Rinehart, Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Shanna Johnson  
Mrs. Delia Salcido  
Mrs. Sherry Fajardo  
Ms. Sarah Bell  
Mrs. Jennifer Puga  
Mrs. Kristina Ellis  
Ms. Traci Sparks  
Ms. Kim Hand  
Ms. Nydia Salcido  
Mr. Tim Burns  
Mrs. Wendy Womack

### I. CALL TO ORDER

❖ Mr. Mike Silva called the Board Meeting to order at 5:00 pm

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

❖ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Mike Silva

Following the Pledge of Allegiance the meeting was moved into Executive Session. Mr. Charlie Chavez made the motion to move into executive session. Mr. Tristan Wright seconded. Executive Session started at 5:05 pm. At 5:45 pm the meeting was convened into regular session.

### III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

❖ Mr. Mike Silva asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to adopt. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion, motion carries.

### IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

❖ No comments

### V. GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

#### 1. Administrator Report

##### a) Enrollment Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ We are plus or minus 128 students.
- ❖ Four families have withdrawn for homeschooling or on-line schooling with other agencies
- ❖ Things are changing daily
- ❖ Tracking attendance has been crazy and zoom meetings have been challenging

**b) Budget Report**

➤ **Mrs. Johnson stated the following:**

- ❖ There are pieces being held over our heads in regards to funding. The funding options are the following:
  - Option 1 – Funded up to 98% of FY20 ADM
  - Option 2 – 1.05% of ADM for in-person instruction and 100% ADM rather than 95% ADM for Distant Learning students.
- ❖ It is OR, not both. A district will take the greater of the two options on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of school.
- ❖ We have to have a Distant Learning Plan
- ❖ We have to have a mitigation plan
- ❖ As of August 17<sup>th</sup> school doors will be open to those students who need a place to go.
- ❖ Mrs. Johnson stated she predicts us having on campus at least 30 students next week.
- ❖ We have until September 4<sup>th</sup> to apply for the Stabilization Grant.
- ❖ There is concern about cafeteria reimbursements. We are only receiving reimbursements for about 70 students when we were receiving for 120.
- ❖ We are only feeding MVS students. We can no longer feed others since we are no longer on the summer program.

**c) Bond Update**

➤ **Mrs. Johnson stated the following:**

- ❖ We will begin reaching out to architects in the coming weeks. We will be having interviews to select an architect to overs our projects.
- ❖ We are now members of 1GPA State Procurement. We will be using them along with Bill Munch and Lynn Ford in helping us through the process. If an architect or business is on the 1GPA, we can use them.

**d) Academics Report**

➤ **Mrs. Johnson informed the board of the following:**

**e) Maintenance Report**

➤ **Mrs. Johnson informed the board of the following:**

- ❖ A letter of correction from ADEQ was sent to Sternco on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Corrections need to be made and returned to ADEQ on or before September 5, 2020. Sternco is anticipating having it done before that date.
- ❖ There were minor things that needed to be addressed and a few that take more time.
  - Missing turbidity data.
  - Missing explanation of waste stream.
- ❖ Grade II Operator is looking good. Also, the submitted plan looks good.

**f) General Items**

➤ **Mrs. Johnson informed the board of the following:**

**2. Governing Board Member Comments**

- ❖ No comments

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

*This is adoption of items of a routine nature and those that normally do not require deliberations on the part of the Governing Board. A board member may pull items, which will then be discussed and voted on separately.*

**Minutes**

- a. Minutes of July 7, 2020 – Regular Meeting
- b. Minutes of July 13, 2020 – Special Board Meeting
- c. Notes of July 13, 2020 – Work Session

**Expense Vouchers**

- d. Expense #36 \$ 7,370.00
- e. Expense #37 \$14,928.42
- f. Expense #38 \$ 4,708.45

g. Expense #39	\$ 839.46
h. Expense #40	\$ 510.00
i. Expense #41	\$33,834.77
j. Expense #42	\$24,978.38
k. Expense #43	\$44,890.43
l. Expense #44	\$ 9.46

**Payroll Vouchers**

m. P-01	\$ 9,579.10
n. P-02	\$15,234.58
o. P-03	\$15,725.74

**Student Activity Reports**

- p. June 2020 and July 2020
- q. Year-to-Date – 6/30/2020 and 7/31/2020

**Bank Account Reconciliations**

- r. Student Activities/Revolving Fund/Cafeteria Fund – June 2020 and July 2020

**Other**

**Motion:** Mr. Mike Silva asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Charlie Chavez made the motion to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

Mr. Jorajuria addressed changes that need to be made to the July 7, 2020 and the July 13, 2020 minutes. Mr. Jorajuria asked that the following comments and discussion be added to the July 7, 2020 minutes: He questioned why in the back to school plan staff was required to wear masks and students were encouraged. Mrs. Johnson referred to The Trust documents. After reading The Trust documents it was discovered that there was a difference in risk levels. It was agreed to change the back to school plan to reflect the same risk levels.

On the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr. Jorajuria referred back to two conversations about liability: Mrs. Johnson stated that per The Trust it would be unlikely for a board member to be held personally liable. The other comment Mr. Jorajuria brought to attention was regarding mask: Mr. Wright had stated he would recommend masks be worn by everyone at all times vs. the multiple listing of how/when masks would be worn.

The minutes were pulled and not approved.

Mr. Wright inquired about two paid vendors. Mrs. Johnson explained who the vendors were and why they were paid.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries to approve the consent agenda without the minutes.

**VII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2020-2021 Performance Pay**

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to approve 2020-2021 Performance Pay. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

Mrs. Johnson stated that this is done every year. Prop 301 money goes to teachers for their performance pay.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

**2. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Emily Ortega as a Long-term Substitute for Fourth Grade**

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to approve Emily Ortega as a Long-term Substitute for Fourth Grade. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

Mrs. Johnson stated that we did not have any teachers apply for the position even though it was advertised. Ms. Ortega is doing a great job and is working towards her degree.

Mr. Wright asked if Arizona still has a shortage of teachers and if this is why this is being done. Mrs. Johnson stated yes, that is the reason.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

**3. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Stipend for Tim Burns (Water Plant), Stipend for Jennifer Puga (Communications/8<sup>th</sup> Grade/Christmas Program), Stipends for Nydia Salcido (Sports Director and Student Council), Stipend for Kristina Ellis (Student Council)**

**Motion:** Mr. Charlie Chavez made the motion to approve stipends for Tim Burns (Water Plant), Jennifer Puga (Communications/8<sup>th</sup> Grade/Christmas Program), Nydia Salcido (Sports Director and Student Council), and Kristina Ellis (Student Council) . Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

Mrs. Johnson stated that it is the same as previous years.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

**4. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Stipend for ELL Coordinator/Grants (Shanna Johnson), Manage Grants/ELL Communication Coordinator (Delia Salcido) and Technology (Sherry Fajardo)**

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to approve stipends for ELL Coordinator/Grants (Shanna Johnson), Manage Grants/ELL Communication Coordinator (Delia Salcido) and Technology (Sherry Fajardo). Mr. Charlie Chavez seconded.

Mrs. Johnson reminded the board that raises for her and for Tim Burns come out of the stipends.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

**5. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Updates on the Return-to-School Plan**

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to approve updates on the Return-to-School Plan. Mr. Charlie Chavez seconded.

Mrs. Johnson stated that as information is given out, it is information not as her personal bias. She stated that we started hard and heavy with our Distant Learning Rollout.

The following updates were stated:

- We had parents come to school last week to meet with teachers.
- We connected with most of our families
- It has been very challenging
- Parents are really trying and are very concerned
- Hot spots have been hit and miss. We have allowed parents to come to help them deal with the hot spots
- Mohawk Valley Farms is providing a place for those students that live there to learn. Mrs. Johnson stated she is very grateful for what Mr. Chavez is doing for those students.
- Parents and kids are frustrated and extremely concerned. They are trying very hard to work.
- We are working through the issues that come up with the meal program. Mrs. Johnson stated that when we see a challenge, we work through it when something does not work. Mrs. Fox along with Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Rogers figured out what to do to make this work.

Mrs. Johnson stated she will keep reintegrating as we keep making decisions. A decision has to be made as to when school will open and benchmarks will be shown and how they work. Mrs. Johnson stated that we have to open doors to children on August 17, 2020. We will have children on campus. We already have multiple families that say they will come Monday. It is stated that we have to open doors if they are EL, SPED, High Needs, or Free and Reduced, which is 83% of our students.

A survey was done July 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. At that time 66% had plans to return in person, 85 students out of 120. At that time 33% preferred distant learning, which is 42 students. Fifteen families stated they needed a hot spot.

General information about safety:

- We have a 72 passenger bus
- Mrs. Johnson stated that many families are willing to provide transportation for their own children. That would lower the number of students MVS would have to transport to school than when initially polled.
- The Wellton bus will have about 27 children on the bus
- Texas Hill/Tacna bus will have about 17 children
- AUHS/Roll bus will have about 10 children with 13 being the max.
- Mrs. Johnson shared pictures of classrooms to demonstrate how desks will be spread out. She stated that only students in Kinder and 1<sup>st</sup> grade will have tables. All other classrooms will have desks. She shared with the board the number of students that according to parent surveys will be coming back:
  - Kinder – 8 students
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 10 students
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 9 students
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 8 students
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 8 students
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 10 students
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 10 students

Mrs. Johnson stated that there is a distance of 6 feet apart face to face. Efforts have been made keep kids safe.

Mrs. Johnson asked the board members if they had any questions. She asked what they would want to change or not change.

Mr. Silva inquired about who, when and how temperature checks be done. Mrs. Johnson stated on the buses, we will have an aide who will be doing the checks and only do something if there was a temperature and not necessarily record the temperature every time. The first step would be to have the child go home with the parent if the parent is present, if not then the child would sit by themselves and be isolated as soon as they got to school and parents would be called.

For those students that are brought to school, we would have the students stand outside of the office in a line. We do not want many students inside the office. These are the concerns we are facing. We would have approximately 58 students to check temperatures and it would be time consuming to do this. As for staff, they have been asked to record themselves as stated in the plan and keep a record.

Mr. Silva asked how will screenings will be done. Mrs. Johnson stated that visuals will be done and questions will be asked. She also stated we will not go through every child.

Mr. Silva stated that we must document things. It is important to do health screenings and document. We must have something to look back on.

Mrs. Johnson asked how should it be stated in the plan. Mr. Silva stated that it should state that temperatures will be done and it will be documented. He stated that we want this done as a precaution.

Mrs. Johnson asked if others want temperature checks and screenings in the plan. She stated that the CDC says do not do them. The document from the return to school states that children rarely have temperatures but if the board wants temperatures taken, we will do it.

Mr. Wright stated he looked at CDC to see what the science of it to take temperatures. He realized some of Mrs. Johnson's points about children running temperatures for other illnesses that can possible keep them at home for running a fever but not necessary for Covid positive. The worse that can happen is a child stays home because they are sick but the illness is not related to Covid. He does realize that sometimes temperatures are roped into other illnesses.

Mr. Chavez stated that fever is not reason for a sign of Covid. That is why the CDC's major recommendation is do not do temperature checks in children.

Mrs. Johnson said that Jennifer MacLennan stated that it is a catch twenty-two. Sometimes we can put ourselves in a hole if we are not careful and miss taking someone's temperature on a certain day.

Mr. Silva stated that is why it is important we document, document, document. If it is stated in the plan then he has no problem with the return to school plan.

Mrs. Johnson said she will have teachers make a spreadsheet to document.

Mr. Jorajuria stated that it is clearly stated in the Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction plan from the Arizona Department of Health Services that temperatures are a part of Covid symptoms. He stated that everyone he knows that has tested positive has had a fever.

Mrs. Johnson stated that there are a lot of contradiction in regards to all of this. She asked board members to turn to page 9 of the Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction plan where it states that children are less likely than adults to have fever with Covid-19.

Mrs. Johnson stated we will go ahead and add temperature checks to the plan. Mr. Jorajuria stated it matters because in the event the jury has to decide how safe we are trying to be this is a situation where we can defend ourselves by saying not only did we take the minimal recommendations, but we added to that.

When asked by Mrs. Johnson if temperature checks should be left in Mr. Jorajuria stated that it would be a good place to start.

At this time, Ms. Bell stated that this is asking teachers to do one more thing and that it would take instructional time to do this. She asked if there could be a compromise with parents so they can do the temperature checks instead of teachers taking the role of nurses. She stated that she would feel uncomfortable taking on the role of a nurse practitioner and liability would lie back on the teachers perhaps such as a situation as a teacher forgetting one day.

Mr. Jorajuria suggested that students take their own temperatures. Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Bell replied that this would have more than one person touching the thermometer creating a new issue. Ms. Bell asked for clarification on how temperatures would be taken. Mr. Silva stated he would like to see them taken at the entry of school and on buses and document everything.

Mr. Wright stated that teachers and staff do visual checks and then temperature checks at funnel points that would get teachers out of taking temperatures.

Mrs. Johnson replied with her concerns about the logistics about her concerns:

- Not enough staff
- To many duties the first 30 minutes of school, breakfast, busses, outside duties, office

Mr. Silva stated that the more that is done we have less liability.

Mr. Chavez commented who would do the duties when someone has to be absent.

At this time, Mr. Wright asked at what point would school be closed. His concern was with the situation snowballing stating we have measures but we still have to have a game plan. Mrs. Johnson stated that it is not a canned answer. She said that one case does not close the school. She referred to page 12 of the return to in person instruction plan and read the definition for quarantine classes. She stated that the YC Health Department would be called. Mr. Jorajuria asked what number of staff members would need to be absent to have a school closure. Mrs. Johnson stated again that there was no clear number, that the areas of campus must be considered. She stated that if the office staff became sick more than likely the school would close due to no backups. We do have a solid plan for the cafeteria. Again she stated that the Yuma Co health department would be called to navigate the situation.

Mr. Wright referred to page 10 of the return to in-person instruction plan about the two or more confirmed cases. Mrs. Johnson gave examples and clarified the intention of the statement.

Mr. Jorajuria questioned the Substantial Spread Category that was stated on page 13 of the return to school plan asking why this term was put into the plan. At this point, Mrs. Johnson referred to the return to in person instruction plan and walked the board through:

- Page 2 – Minimal, moderate, substantial spread
- Page 4 and 5 – Discussion of learning models and the three benchmarks
- Explained the three benchmark categories from the ADHS website
- Referenced that the superintendent alone cannot make the decision to close school. It would be in coordination with the YCHD
- Page 16 – Visual of continuum of school learning scenarios

Discussion revolved around continuing to offer distant learning even after opening to in person instruction. Mrs. Johnson stated that distant learning will be offered for a long time. We will after monitor and adjust along the way and will evolve over time.

At this time the discussion went back to temperature screening. Mrs. Johnson stated she is nervous about the inconsistencies and logistics. She understands the safety but we must be careful not to fix one thing and break another. We can document screening of symptoms.

Mr. Jorajuria brought to attention the potential opposition between Mrs. Johnson and the board referring to safety, asking the school to do too much and face masks. Stating that staff sees this opposition and may not be motivated to do these measures when no one is looking. He referenced the videos posted on Facebook where teachers removed their masks.

Discussion went on about referring to asymptomatic cases, and temperatures. Ms. Salcido stated that she is not comfortable taking temperatures and potentially risking herself. A parent, Mrs. Womack, commented that doing more is better and it would be better to check temperatures. She would feel comfortable knowing that the school would do everything they could to promote safety.

Mr. Chavez referenced back to Mr. Jorajuria's comment about Mrs. Johnson opposing the board and causing low staff morale. Ms. Bell stated that Mrs. Johnson is always transparent; her actions are not effecting the staff. She said the morale goes up and down due to crazy time.

Mr. Jorajuria stated this is not you vs. us in reference that we cannot speak in an Executive Session to talk about coronavirus issues. They are forced to ask Mrs. Johnson in public meetings.

Mr. Wright compared wearing a mask as to wearing a hard hat on a job site. If the laborer does not wear the hard hat then you have a problem. When the superintendent does not wear the "hard hat" you have a much bigger problem. She has to set the precedence. He stated she has been apprehensive about wearing masks and they do not know her conviction about wearing masks when board members are not around. He referenced the Facebook video were staff took off masks and were not social distancing. Ms. Bell stated they need to be more conscientious and they realized right away they should not of done what they did. She referenced CDC guidelines stating that masks were off for less than ten minutes which keep it from constituting close contact. She went on to say that we are all wearing masks on campus and when parents came to the rollout we did not have any push back from parents or children.

Mr. Johnson stated that it is not her intent to go against the board. Information coming out is frustrating and contradicting. She stated she understands the safety but also know the logistics of planning. We must be able to do what we say we will do. She must look at the whole picture. She stated we are a team and we have to support one another.

Mr. Burns was asked how he feels about driving and taking temperatures. Mr. Burns stated he thinks it would be a good idea but it would add times to the routes and he does not want to do it.

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to amend and change to take temperature checks as feasible and to document and keep other changes in the plan as presented. Mr. Charlie Chavez seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

#### **6. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve The Trust Covid-19 Liability Coverage**

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to approve The Trust Covid-19 Liability Coverage. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

The following discussion took place:

- Waivers should be for everyone
- Do both waiver and acknowledgment
- Referenced to attorneys advice that only one is necessary
- Liability coverage amount
- Visitors and vendors signing waivers
- Waivers put in place are only for students. Visitors waivers will be coming out from The Trust
- Visitor defined as someone who goes beyond the office

The motion was to accept liability coverage with families signing waivers and visitors signing waivers once they become available from The Trust

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

#### **7. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Return-to-School in Person Start Date**

Motion: Mr. Charlie Chavez made the motion to approve Return-to-School in Person start date. Mr. Tristan Wright seconded.

Mrs. Johnson stated that the big question is when are we going to return to in person teaching. She gave examples to consider:

- by date
- by reaching benchmarks
- a date to revisit and decide

Mr. Silva asked if Mrs. Johnson is comfortable returning when all lights are green.

Mrs. Johnson stated that we have a mitigation plan and it is being enforced, we cannot control the virus, distant-learning is in place. She restated that we could have at least 30 students next week. She also stated we need a threshold as to when we are going to start.

It was stated that all three benchmarks must be green for two weeks to open. We would then open the following Monday. It was also stated that on the first green we can begin to prepare and the school open the Monday following the second green.

Mrs. Johnson state we can revisit in September.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

#### **8. Discussion on Policies IHA – Basic Instruction, KB – Parent Involvement, GCCA – Professional Leave, and GBEB – Staff Conduct, First Reading**

Mrs. Johnson stated this is the first reading for the following policies:

- IHA – Basic Instruction Program – This policy adds in Sandra Day O’Conner Civics Celebration Day on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- KB – Parental Involvement in Education – This policy adds in reference to ADE and DOE handbook of parental rights.



- GCCA – Professional/Support Staff Sick Leave – This policy adds information about school closing due to public health emergency to the need to be absent to care for oneself, or a child if deemed that their presence in the community may jeopardize the health of others. All in reference to a pandemic type situation.
- GBEB – Staff Conduct – This policy references to ARS statutes added.

This was a discussion item only.

**9. Discussion on Regulations GBGB-R – Staff (Masks), JICA-RB – Student (Masks), and KI-RB – Visitors (Masks)**

Mrs. Johnson stated that for Regulations GBGB-R, JICA-RB and KI-RB, the policies remain the same. There was verbiage added to the regulations that came from the Executive Order. Regulations are put in place by the superintendent and do not need board approval.

- Regulation GBGB-R – Staff Personal Security and Safety – Adds the language to include face coverings.
- Regulation JICA-RB – Student Dress – Adds the language to include face coverings.
- Regulation KI-RB – Visitors to School - Adds the language to include face coverings.

Mrs. Johnson stated the policy needs to be kept as is.

There was a discussion item only.

**10. Future Items**

- Next meeting – September 8, 2020 at 5:00 pm

**VIII. ADJOURN MEETING**

A copy of the agenda background material provided to the Governing Board members (with the exception of material relating to possible executive sessions) is available for public inspection at the District Office, 5151 South Avenue 39E, Roll, Arizona.

**Motion:** Mr. Charlie Chavez moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tristan Wright seconded. There was no discussion. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020  
 Delia Salcido, Governing Board Secretary

**AS YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS AGENDA, PLEASE TELEPHONE (928) 785-4942.  
 THANK YOU.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Designated Board Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Delia Salcido, Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date