

Mohawk Valley School District #17

Minutes

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING December 4, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Tristan Wright, President (Via Zoom)
Mr. Charles Chavez, Jr., Clerk (Via Zoom)
Mr. Howie Jorajuria, Member (Via Zoom)
Mr. Julian Rinehart, Member (Via Zoom)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Shanna Johnson (Via Zoom)
Mrs. Delia Salcido (Via Zoom)

I. CALL TO ORDER

❖ Mr. Tristan Wright called the Board Meeting to order at 11:30 am

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

❖ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Tristan Wright

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

❖ Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Charlie Chavez made the motion to adopt. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

There was no discussion, motion carries.

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

❖ No comments.

I. ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Wright stated that before board members make a motion to approve the action item, board members would have the opportunity to discuss the action item and then make a motion.

1. Given the recent rise in COVID-19 related cases within Yuma County, the Administration requests to consider changing the learning modality for the remainder of the semester

Mrs. Johnson stated that our goal is to do what is best for the students. She also stated that the staff is ready and prepared to close if need be. Mrs. Johnson stated that the virus is out of control around us and it is everywhere. There is no right or wrong in this, it is a very difficult decision. She stated the following as factors to consider before making the decision to close:

- Community spread is out of control
- The benchmarks are “extremely red” – far above the threshold
- Hospitalizations are high. The wait at YRMC is hours long
- Data we are reading on ADHS website is two weeks old
- Many of the businesses that we work in have cases

Other factors to consider:

- Our families do not have reliable internet
- We must provide a safe place to learn and we have to keep providing meals
- A parent called this week very stressed about feeling the urge to keep her child home, but yet has to work to pay the bills
- Received a text from a parent Thursday asking that we remain open because that is what is best for students and if petitioning the board to stay open would be helpful

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- Employees with high school students have commented on the deep concerns about their children

Other considerations:

- Sherry Fajardo received training on December 3, 2020 to do the Rapid Testing
- Rapid Testing will be available at Mohawk. Test will be available on Monday, December 7, 2020. We will be provided with 160 test on site. The tests will be available to students, parents of students, staff members and board members
- Keep balanced when we consider liability. We are contacting the YCHD and getting answers in writing

Mrs. Johnson's proposal is the following:

- Stay open through Wednesday, December 9, 2020 or Friday, December 11, 2020
- Virtual Learning – December 14 – 18, 2020
- Extend winter break by a week – December 21, 2020 – January 8, 2021. Add the extra week at the end of the calendar and make May 28, 2021 the last day of school
- Revisit in January 2021 on how to handle the return to school in January

Mrs. Johnson stated that teachers are wanting closure and suggested staying open at least until Wednesday, December 9, 2020. She also stated that she would like to recommend not making a solid decision for returning to school in January. We can revisit in January and go from there.

Discussion was open to the board members:

- Mr. Tristan Wright – He stated that he agrees with Mrs. Johnson. He does not like the numbers and that data is behind. He also stated that he is happy we have been able to remain open and held it together.
- Mr. Howie Jorauria – He stated he agrees with Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Wright. He values the ability to send kids to school but the writing shows we are playing with fire. He said it is a good idea to wait until Wednesday to give the teachers the closure they need and for students to spend time with their friends.
- Mr. Julian Rinehart – He stated he is on board to closing on Wednesday. He also stated they are also just waiting to see how long they can hold on.
- Mr. Charlie Chavez – He stated that the writing on the wall has been there for a couple of weeks. He also stated that there is no need to include a return date since the protocols are already set.

Mr. Wright stated that it sounds like it is the Board's desire to close on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 and transition to Virtual Learning. Therefore Virtual Learning will be from December 9 – 18, 2020. At this time he asked for a motion.

Motion: Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to transition to Virtual Learning on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, therefore the last day of Hybrid will be Tuesday, December 8, 2020. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

Mr. Wright stated to keep the existing protocols and revisit in January if necessary to determine next steps of providing a learning modality.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

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2. Consider changing the 2020-2021 school calendar to extend the Winter Break (12/21/2020 – 01/08/2021) by one week and extending the spring semester to May 28, 2021

Mrs. Johnson stated she mentioned the change in the calendar to all staff and everyone liked the idea. She also stated that by extending the winter break, we then have eleven days after the New Year for any COVID related incidents that could happen. Also she stated that a more calm decision could be made and not feel rushed.

- Mr. Tristan Wright – He stated he has no problem with making these changes.
- Mr. Julian Rinehart – He stated that with this change it gives us a bigger buffer to see what we are going to do.
- Mr. Howie Jorauria – He stated this is a good decision by Mrs. Johnson. It also stated that the conditions should be much better in May than in January.
- Mr. Charlie Chavez – He stated he was fine with this change.

Motion: Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to change the 2020-2021 school calendar to extend Winter Break by one week and extending the spring semester to May 28, 2021. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

II. FUTURE ITEMS

- Work Board Session – December 10, 2020
- Regular Board Meeting – December 15, 2020 at 5:00 pm

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded. There was no discussion. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 11:51 am.

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.

Dated this 4th day of December, 2020
Delia Salcido, Governing Board Secretary

Designated Board Member

Date

Delia Salcido, Board Secretary

Date