

# Mohawk Valley School District #17

## Minutes

REGULAR MEETING ..... May 11, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Tristan Wright, President  
Mr. Julian Rinehart, Vice-President  
Mr. Howie Jorajuria, Clerk  
Mrs. Ann Taylor, Member  
Mrs. Gina Richmond, Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Shanna Johnson  
Mrs. Delia Salcido  
Ms. Sarah Bell  
Ms. Kim Hand  
Mr. Bryan Taylor

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Mr. Tristan Wright called the Board Meeting to order at 5:00 pm

### 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. Mrs. Gina Richmond made the motion to adopt. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion, motion carries.

### IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- ❖ Mr. Bryan Taylor stated he wanted to talk about the masks and what the plan is. He stated he wants to know about next year how we are going to evolve to get rid of the masks. He stated it is hot and the kids are tired of them and we need to move on.

### V. SPECIAL DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM

#### 1. Discussion and Possible Action to Update Face Masks Policies per Executive Order 2021-10

- ❖ Mrs. Johnson shared Governor Ducey's order and stated the following:
  - She is supportive of either decision to keep or remove masks
  - Masks are no longer mandated at schools per the Executive Order
  - Only a couple of weeks left of school
  - It is getting hot
  - Students no longer wear masks during recess
  - Mr. Wright referenced liability
  - CDC is still recommending them for indoors
  - CDC might come out with something soon stating masks will no longer be required
  - We can discontinue but we have to assess your risks as a school board, analyze the risk
  - We have minimal to no community spread in Wellton-Mohawk
  - Mr. Rinehart made the comment about it being hot and students are together most of the time with classmates, masks probably making little impact
  - Mrs. Taylor asked if any parents have called about students no longer wearing masks. Mrs. Johnson stated that one parent has called
  - As far as next year, Mrs. Johnson believes will take care of itself, that Governor Ducey will most likely make mandates as he has done throughout the pandemic

# Mohawk Valley School District #17

## Minutes

- Mr. Jorajuria asked if other schools in Yuma County are doing away with masks. Mrs. Johnson responded that some schools are doing away with them
- The younger kids, K-3, are no longer wearing them during recess and in the cafeteria
- Mrs. Richmond stated that if they are no longer wearing them during recess or in the cafeteria then why wear them in the classroom
- Mr. Wright asked how is policy being followed. Mrs. Johnson stated that every time there is a change we always go back and update the Return-to-School Plan
- Mrs. Taylor asked if wearing a mask can be made optional. Mrs. Johnson stated that yes, even if the board approves to remove masks, it will still be an option
- Mr. Jorajuria stated that as far as next year goes, he would hate to see masks come August or September. He also stated that with two weeks left of school, he does not know if there is enough to off-set the risk of no longer wearing masks, what is the gain? He stated he can go either way
- Mr. Rinehart stated we can control what we do in school but not when they are out of school, same with the mask
- Board members made several comments of places where they have been and no one is wearing masks anymore
- Mrs. Richmond made the statement to see what happens in the next two weeks with making it optional
- Mr. Rinehart stated to make it optional and leave it up to the parents
- Mrs. Taylor stated she supports making it optional and leaving it up to the parents
- Mrs. Johnson stated it is getting hard with programs coming up and referenced the recent NJHS ceremony where parents did not wear them although asked to
- Mrs. Johnson once again stated she is supportive of either decision
- ❖ **Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked if anyone would want to make a motion as to keeping the masks until the end of the year or making them optional. Mr. Julian Rinehart stated he wanted to make a motion to make them optional and leaving up to the parents. Mrs. Ann Taylor seconded.
- ❖ Mr. Jorajuria asked if this is the way we go and if there is a family that does not want to send a student because of this change is there an alternative for distance learning for the last two weeks? Mrs. Johnson stated it would not be a full distant learning but she is willing to accommodate parents
- ❖ Four students have remained in distant learning have been doing Zoom
- ❖ Mrs. Johnson stated that when she sends the notice home to parents about the board's decision she will make sure it states that if they have any concerns with this decision to please contact her to make accommodations
  
- ❖ Motion carries with a 3 to 2 vote. Voting was as following:
  - Mr. Tristan Wright voted no
  - Mr. Julian Rinehart voted yes
  - Mr. Howie Jorajuria voted no
  - Mrs. Gina Richmond voted yes
  - Mrs. Ann Taylor voted yes

## VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

*Matters about which the Board may engage in discussion but will take no action.*

### 1. Administrator Reports

#### a) Enrollment Report

- Mrs. Johnson stated the following:
  - ❖ No enrollment report was given

#### b) Budget Report

- Mrs. Johnson stated the following:
  - ❖ Presented a PowerPoint presentation on Budget Overview and Raises for FY22 , highlighting the following areas and defining how the money is used and the amounts in each category
    - Funding Categories:

# Mohawk Valley School District #17

## Minutes

- DAA
- M&O
- Federal Title Funds
- REAP
- Classroom Site Funds
- ESSER Funds for Covid Relief
- ❖ Mrs. Johnson referenced that Classroom Site Fund is changing. As of next year there will no longer be buckets. Those are going away. The current buckets are as follows. The district will need to budget so teacher will continue receiving these funds as usual.
  - 011 was base level pay for certified teachers only (\$1,000-\$2,500 annually)
  - 012 performance pay for certified teachers only (\$0-\$4,500 annually based on performance plan)
  - 013 class size reduction to pay for staff, teachers or paraprofessionals (pays part of a teacher's salary and raises).
  - These funds can be used at the District's discretion for instructional purposes
  - FY22 - \$160,000, an inflated amount due to increased sales taxes (\$725 per student, typically \$425 per student)
- ❖ Mrs. Johnson also referenced salaries in comparison with other districts in Yuma County and recommendations for staff raises. She recommended a variety of raises based on individual circumstances.

### c) Academic Report

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

- ❖ We were awarded the Literacy Grant! We will be hiring a Literacy Coach. We have been awarded \$800,000, \$160,000 per year for five years
- ❖ We had National Junior Honor Society. Ten students were inducted. We now have a total of 16 members
- ❖ 8<sup>th</sup> graders will go on their field trip on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion will be on the baseball field
- ❖ We ordered a blow-up screen for the promotion
- ❖ We are wrapping up the school year

### d) Bond Report

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

- ❖ To summarize we are going after at least \$3,358,000 with SFB
- ❖ The weatherization assessment has been approved. The design will go to SFB to be put on May 19<sup>th</sup> agenda for approval. The estimated cost is \$1.5 million dollars and the design fee is \$64,380
- ❖ The roofing assessment has been approved. It has been uploaded to SFB for design approval. The cost is \$853,188 with a cost of \$51,00 for design fees
- ❖ With the structural assessment, holes need to be cut in the cafeteria and the main building to complete the analysis
- ❖ Sternco has finished up the fire alarm assessment. We are waiting for a projected cost
- ❖ The assessment for the restroom renovations has been uploaded. The estimated cost is \$837,952 with a cost of \$51,834 for the design
- ❖ The flooring assessment has been finished and should be uploaded soon. The kitchen and cafeteria will be taken care of with all the other assessments and design
- ❖ Teachers will be going OJ Combs to look at the technology and classroom designs
- ❖ The stage and sound system are more of a cadillac item
- ❖ We will see what money we have left for the parking lot
- ❖ The structural analysis for the gym is being worked on
- ❖ We should be able to use the septic soon. However, it has backed up. Mr. Burns stated that it either was not designed correctly or it was not done correctly. Kevin Dahl and Sternco and Merrill Walker are going to be contacted
- ❖ It is projected that at least \$3.3 million will be funded by SFB

# Mohawk Valley School District #17

## Minutes

- ❖ Mrs. Johnson spoke to attorney Danny Atleman. He stated that four districts are suing SFB. There are so many things that SFB said they would do and have not done. The four districts are per se representing other districts in the state. She stated that he would like for Mrs. Johnson to testify and she said she would. SFB has not been transparent has not been transparent in the last several years and difficult to navigate through and inconsistent.
- ❖ Mr. Jorajuria asked if we join the lawsuit would it give us negative repercussion with SFB? Mrs. Johnson stated she will not be joining the lawsuit. However, she stated she would not give up as she navigates through these projects. It becomes frustrating uploading projects, when they are rejected several times and someone has to speak up.
- ❖ The board recommended that we be cautious speaking up while we are getting funded so many projects. Mrs. Johnson stated she would pass that along to the attorney

### e) Water Plant Report

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

- ❖ The change order for the water plant has been submitted at least five times
- ❖ We are still waiting approval from SFB for project manager
- ❖ The decision has been made to begin project management with Arcadis while we await approval. This is a critical start , MVS will cover charges until approved.

### f) Maintenance Report

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

- ❖ No report was given on Maintenance

### g) Return-to-School Report

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

- ❖ No report was given on Return-to-School

### h) General Items

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

- ❖ Policy GCO - Evaluation of Professional Staff Members
  - This policy will waive formal evaluations again due to the pandemic

## 2. Governing Board Member Comments

- ❖ No Comment

## VII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

*These items are adoption 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.*

### 1. Minutes

- a) Notes of Work Session and Minutes of April 13, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

### 2. Expense Vouchers

- b) Expense #28 \$24,041.15
- c) Expense #29 \$24,776.57

### 3. Payroll Vouchers

- d) P-21 \$32,813.44
- e) P-22 \$33,881.87
- f) P-22.1 \$ 900.00

### 4. Student Activity Reports

- g) April 2021
- h) Year-to-Date – 4/30/2021

# Mohawk Valley School District #17

## Minutes

5. **Bank Account Reconciliations**
  - i) Student Activities/Revolving Fund/Cafeteria Fund – April 2021
6. **Other**

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda. Mrs. Ann Taylor made the motion to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded. Motion carries.

### VIII. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Revised Student Calendar for 2021-2022**

Mrs. Johnson stated that the calendar was approved last month. The calendar is now revised to include two additional staff PD days throughout the school year as well as two full days for conferences. Also two PD days in June. Instructional staff will be paid out of 301, no changes have been made to contracts.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve revised Student Calendar for 2021-2022. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to approve. Mrs. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.
2. **Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Coaching Stipends for Track (Nydia Salcido and Kristina Ellis)**

Mrs. Johnson stated that we had a track meet.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve coaching stipends for Track (Nydia Salcido and Kristina Ellis). Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to approve. Mrs. Ann Taylor seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.
3. **Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Sub Teacher Development Performance Pay of \$6,000 for Emily Ortega**

Mrs. Johnson recommended a \$6,000 stipend for Ms. Ortega for hours of training beyond her normal work hours.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve Sub Teacher Development Performance Pay of \$6,000 for Emily Ortega. Mrs. Gina Richmond made the motion to approve. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.
4. **Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Stipends for Teachers and Paraprofessionals Based on Results Based Funding**

Mrs. Johnson stated she is recommending \$1,000 for instructional staff to include teachers, paraprofessional, and superintendent. She also stated that this a special funding that Governor Ducey put out to pat performing schools on the back. She stated that this can only go to instructional staff.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve stipends for teachers, paraprofessionals, and superintendent based on Results Based Funding. Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to approve. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

# Mohawk Valley School District #17

## Minutes

### 5. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve FY21 May Budget Revision

Mrs. Johnson stated that this is what it is. We do not trust it with the change to the new finance system to be accurate but this needs to be approved for submission. Mrs. Salcido explained how payroll encumbrances have been off in the new system and how they have been corrected but still does not seem correct.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve FY21 May Budget Revision. Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to approve. Mrs. Ann Taylor seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

### 6. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve FY22 Certified Salary Schedule

Mrs. Johnson stated that no changes were made to the salary schedule. The changes have been made over the last four years.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve FY22 Certified Salary Schedule. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to approve. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

### 7. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve FY22 New Hires Hourly Rates

Mrs. Johnson stated that significant changes have been made to the hourly rates. These changes apply only if we hire someone new. We put a range for paraprofessionals. We hire subs for our paraprofessionals. We increased teacher substitute, long-term substitute pay and long-term substitute teacher of record.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve FY22 New Hires Hourly Rates. Mrs. Gina Richmond made the motion to approve. Mrs. Ann Taylor seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

### 8. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2021-2022 Certified Contracts for Returning Teachers

Mrs. Johnson stated that she is proposing a 3% raise for teachers. They will see an increase in Prop 301 funds, this will act as a bonus. They have had a 20% raise over the last few years.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve 2021-2022 Certified Contracts for Returning Teachers. Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to approve. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

Mrs. Johnson stated that we have one teacher that will be retiring. When a teacher retires they are hired by ESI for one year

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

### 9. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2021-2022 Contract for Superintendent

Mrs. Johnson stated that this is her full last contract. She plans to retire after this year and return to work. She also stated she cannot make more than the district can sustain. She is recommending a 2% raise.

The board applauded Mrs. Johnson for everything she has been doing with SFB.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve 2021-2022 Contract for Superintendent with a 2% raise. Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to approve. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

# Mohawk Valley School District #17

## Minutes

### 10. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2021-2022 Classified Salary Contracts and Notices of Appointment

Mrs. Johnson stated that raises vary. We need to bring some positions up to a better pay rate for equality and to be competitive.

Mr. Wright asked if all of these raises have been pulled from research she has done from local districts and getting us in the similar ballpark with what the local market is? Mrs. Johnson stated that is exactly what she did.

Mrs. Richmond inquired about the housing allowance for Mr. Burns. Mrs. Johnson stated that Mr. Burns did not pay rent. What we did is take the monthly amount of \$769 times 12 months which equals to \$9,228, so we then changed that from a housing allowance into a salary. We will get the house rented and this will pay for his pay raise.

Mrs. Johnson's recommendation for raises are as follows:

- Cafeteria 7-8%
- Office 8%
- Custodial/Transportation 3-8%
- Paraprofessionals 5-20%

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve 2021-2022 Classified Salary Contracts and Notices of Appointment as recommended by Mrs. Johnson. Mrs. Gina Richmond made the motion to approve. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

### 11. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Retention Stipends for Returning Employees

Mrs. Johnson stated that she is leaning more on towards everyone getting the same amount of money. It has to be called a retention stipend not a bonus through the ESSER Fund. She asked what the board wants to do for everybody? She stated she has given the board some dollar figures so now she is asking what their thoughts are. She also asked when do we want to pay it out? What happens if someone gets it and they do not come back? It is a retention stipend because these people are staying. It is a pat on the back for all the intense hard work over the last year and the willingness to continue employment in the education system.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve Retention Stipends for Returning Employees. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to pay \$3,000 Retention Bonus evenly across the board for all employees with a returning contract by the end of June. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

### 12. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Amanda Talamantes as Long-term Substitute for Kindergarten

Mrs. Johnson stated that she is going to work out nicely and she is working towards a teaching degree.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve Amanda Talamantes as Long-term Substitute for Kindergarten. Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to approve. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

# Mohawk Valley School District #17

## Minutes

### 13. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Jazlyn Martin as Part-time Paraprofessional

Mrs. Johnson stated that she is excited to come on board.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve Jazlyn Martin as Part-time Paraprofessional. Mrs. Gina Richmond made the motion to approve. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

### 14. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2021-2022 Housing Rental Rates

Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- Housing is in good shape
- Three new AC units had to be installed, two more need to be replaced
- Exterior of housing needs to be painted
- The focus is on the Superintendent house
- Recommendation is to raise rent for the superintendent house to \$800 or \$850
- There is usually a 1 – 3% raise in housing rates every year
- Recommendation is to not raise rent for those tenants who already living in housing and will be signing a new contract
- Board decided to raise the rent in the superintendent house to \$850
- Employees get a 15% discount

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve 2021-2022 housing rental rates. Mrs. Gina Richmond made the motion to approve:

- Superintendent house at a rate of \$850
- Houses at a rate of \$700
- Apartments at no increase
- No increase for continuing contracts

Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

### 15. Move to Suspend Governing Board Policy BGB Related to a First and Second Reading, Regarding Policy Adoption, for the Discussion and Consideration of Agenda Item 16, Regarding Policy IKFB – Graduation Exercises of this Board Agenda Dated May 11, 2021

Mrs. Johnson stated that there has to be a vote to waive two readings of a policy. This policy needs to be pushed through. It has to do with graduation.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked to move to suspend Governing Board Policy BGB related to a first and second reading, regarding policy adoption, for the discussion and consideration of agenda item 16, regarding Policy IKFB – Graduation Exercises of this board agenda dated May 11, 2021. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to approve. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

### 16. Discussion and Possible Action on Policy IKFB – Graduation Exercises

Mrs. Johnson stated that this policy has to do with allowing Native American students to wear traditional clothing and headdresses to graduation.

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked to approve Policy IKFB – Graduation Exercises. Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to approve. Mrs. Ann Taylor seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.



# Mohawk Valley School District #17

## Minutes

### 17. Future Items

- June 15, 2021 at 5:00 pm – Regular Board Meeting

### IX. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

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 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021  
Delia Salcido, Governing Board Secretary

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date