

**Yuma Elementary School District Number One
Governing Board
Special Meeting**

The Governing Board for Yuma Elementary School District Number One held a Special Meeting on February 11, 2021 at 4:00pm (*This meeting is Closed to the Public (Virtual) due to the Health Emergency – COVID -19, but is available via YouTube Live, the public is invited to view virtually on our YouTube page Yumaschooldistrict1 and or our Facebook page*) in the District Administration Office, 450 West Sixth Street, Yuma, Arizona.

Members present: Mrs. Barbara Foote, President; Mrs. Karen Griffin, Clerk; Mrs. Theresa Fox, Member, Mrs. Faith Klostreich, Member and Mrs. Adele Hennig, Member

Others present: Mr. James Sheldahl Superintendent, and other Members of the Administrative Staff of Yuma School District One.

Call to Order: Mrs. Foote started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. There was a motion to approve the agenda made by Mrs. Griffin, seconded by Mrs. Hennig. The motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

District Staff and School Principals will present information regarding COVID-19, the district's instructional program and possible paths moving forward for in-person instruction – Mr. Sheldahl thanked the Governing Board for attendance and consideration on all information presented. Dr. Alka started the discussion with a summary of who we are and where we have been regarding the District Core Values of Health and Wellness, Equitable and Excellent Student Learning and Safe Schools and Operations. A recap of the Teaching and Learning Timeline;

- August 17, 2020 opened our schools who needed a safe place to learn up to five days a week (Monitored Onsite Learning Services (MORLS). Most students began the year in remote learning due to COVID-19.
- October 1, 2020 began in person instruction with the 2-day hybrid model, in this model there were two cohorts of students in person as well as those students whose parents chose to keep them learning remotely.
- November 20, 2020- Returned to Remote Learning; based on the Arizona Department of Health Services Benchmarks, students returned to remote learning with the option of on-site services (MORLS) remaining for those students needing this option.

Some information regarding onsite Learning Services -MORLS; several of our elementary schools have between 123 and 295 students attending MORLS five days a week and those students have been in attendance for the majority of this school year. Classrooms at these campuses have up to 15-18 even 20 students in some of the classrooms and have maintained these numbers even during the worst days of the pandemic in January of 2021. We do not have confirmed evidence of spreading or contracting COVID-19 on these campuses.

Mr. Schepers, Director of Transportation gave an overview on the status of bus drivers and the impact of returning to in person learning. The department is short on driver staff, this is a result in low applications and testing restrictions at DOL and DPS. We will not be able to consider distancing on buses but will continue the protocol for cleaning and disinfecting buses before runs, in between runs and after. There may be a need to "double run" bus routes or cancel bus runs. If a bus run is canceled the transportation will notify the parents and school administration. The bus run that is affected by the driver shortage will be the bus run that will be canceled. Mr. Schepers requested that District One continue with the same bell schedule starting at 9:40-3:40. This will allow some time for cleaning and drivers between runs with the High School. With eleven drivers in the process of hiring and training the department is still short 30 drivers to be fully staffed.

Frank Evenson, Director of Facilities gave an update on maintenance of the facilities. All safety protocols established in our Mitigation plan will continue, these protocols have been in place and have proved to be very effective. All high touch areas, classrooms along with the door hangers to make custodial staff aware an area needs attention. Cleaning routines have improved with the electro-static sprayers for large areas and progress is being made on improving the indoor air quality of all classrooms and or area for students. There are fresh air dampers (economizers) on all HVAC units. The dampers have all been opened manually and currently in operation, this allows fresh air from outside to circulate the inside room air. We are in the process of providing and hope to be implementing new ideas. Some of the ideas could include; ionization systems, automated economizers (more outside air), ultraviolet light troffers, ultraviolet lamps as part of an HVAC unit, stand alone HEPA air filtration units and MERV13 or higher HVAC filters. All of these potential upgrades and ideas will meet ASRAE standards and also be the most cost-effective solutions. Lastly, we are meeting with a mechanical engineer for a possible consultation in regards to make sure we create a scope and plan that will be effective and cost effective and proved a safe environment for all of our YSD#1 stakeholders.

Reporting for Health Services were Luciano Munoz, Executive Director Human Resource and Kim Sweeny, Health Coordinator. Shout out to all the registered nurses and health assistants. Kim Sweeny, gave an update on the training from the Yuma County Health Department and status of the rapid COVID-19 testing being administered in our District for students and employees. Criteria for staff to be tested are that they must be symptomatic and have had close contact with a positive person three days or more since last interaction in order to qualify for testing. Videos created by Christine McCoy, were shown to Board members on the process for employees and students getting tested. Two locations are offered for employee testing the Main Cafeteria Health Office and Castle Dome Middle School. This allows an East and West site for employees. From January 12 - February 10, 2021, there have been 97 employees that have been tested, resulting in 12 positive cases identified. Testing of students are at all school health offices with a drive-up option at Pecan Grove Elementary. From January 13 - February 10, 2021, 43 students have been tested with 0 positive cases identified. At the current time we have 1,400 test kits available to the District and the County Health Department has additional ordering opportunities.

Mr. Sheldahl discussed the status of the Arizona Department of Health Services Metrics. District administration follows the AzDHS website which post the School Data Dashboard and laboratory testing. Today Feb. 11th shows 17% and we anticipate the week of the Feb. 18th that we should be right around 11.2%. All data indicates that the downward trend is continuing. Also discussed in this segment was the Vaccination Data, on Feb 3rd we had a vaccine clinic with 55% of all employees participating in getting the first dose, on the Feb. 11th having the 2nd dose, for a total of 66% of all employees receiving the 1st vaccine, the 2nd dose for these clinics will be March 3rd and March 11th. On March 3rd less that 10% of Teachers will have been vaccinated. Some information to consider; the Moderna vaccine against COVID-19 is being offered to all District staff. On-site, rapid testing is available for students and staff, providing results in 15 minutes. As exemplified by our MORLS programs, our District mitigation strategies have been safe and successful in preventing the spread of COVID-19 at schools. National studies and data support our finding that elementary and secondary schools are not a significant source of COVID-19 spread, in fact much lower than the community at large when utilizing recommended mitigation plans. The AzDHS benchmarks indicate that community spread is on a rapid downward trend in Yuma County. Hybrid Learning Models to Consider; two-day hybrid and five-day hybrid. The goal needs to be five-day hybrid.

Principals, Matt Buckley, Carver Elementary, representing the NorthEnd Schools, Angela Logan, O.C. Johnson Elementary, representing the Mid-Town Schools, Kevin Gettings, Castle Dome Middle representing the Middle Schools and Ashley Fox, Otondo Elementary representing the East Elementary Schools reached out to their colleagues to ask some very specific questions regarding returning to in-person learning; What's going well? What learning model is preferred? Staff feeling? All of the responses were the same a mix of parents being very cautious about their students being at school to parents wanting their children at school. The consensus is that five-day is preferred and that the Board continue to watch the data and follow the matrix. Comments made; "Teachers have been successful with all the challenges but are ready to welcome students back to school. Students feel empowered. Parent communication and involvement at an all-time high."

Action Item:

The Board will discuss and take action regarding the return to in-person instruction at Yuma Elementary School District #1 schools – After all the information was presented and questions to principals had been asked and answered. Mrs. Klostreich made a motion that ALL District One schools return to 5-day in-person learning starting March 8, 2021, seconded by Mr. Griffin. Discussion – since 90% of employees vaccinated, there is a strong mitigation plan in place and on-site testing. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Quintero, Secretary to the Board

Barbara Foote, President

Karen Griffin, Clerk

Theresa Fox, Member

Faith Klostreich, Member

Adele Hennig, Member