

**DOUGLAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #27
DOUGLAS, ARIZONA**

Board Room
Central Administration Building

12:00 PM
October 14, 2020

**Special Board Meeting
Minutes of the Board**

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Ray Borane, President

PRESENT: Mr. Mario Ramos, Member (Telephonically)
Mr. Mitch Lindemann, Member
Mr. Natalio Sabal, Member (Telephonically)
Dr. Edward Gomez, Member

Others Present: Ana C. Samaniego, Superintendent
Denise Cox, Assistant Superintendent (Telephonically)
Cesar Soto, Chief Financial & Operations Officer
Gehrig Duarte, Ex-Officio Student Member
Alma Valenzuela, Superintendent's Secretary

Public Comments:

Due to COVID-19, public comments were submitted via email and were read by Mrs. Samaniego. The following public comments were received:

- Mr. Cesar Quijada, regarding the instruction method.
- Mrs. Connie Grijalva, regarding not reopening schools.
- Mr. Abner Cortez, representing DHS Boys Basketball, regarding winter sports.

II. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Discussion/action on the approval of FY 2019-2020 DUSD #27 Annual Financial Report.

Mr. Soto advised this is the final financial report for the school year 2019-2020 and officially closing the books for the past school year. Keep in mind that next year's report will include monies from the Arizona School Facilities Board for the construction of the Douglas High School. We were able to have a good carryover and it will help us tremendously for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Borane asked if the CARES ACT funds were all used? Mr. Soto replied no, the District was awarded \$1.9million and \$1million of that was given to the private school. So far we have spent a little close to \$900,000 in purchasing technology devices, PPE equipment, and school sanitizing supplies. The State is awarding us another grant, Enrollment Stabilization Grant, but have not received information on the amount and have to spend the funds by December 2020. We are planning on journaling all the expenditures purchased under the CARES ACT funds under the Enrollment Stabilization Grant to avoid losing the funds. We will have until September 2021 to

¹A unanimous (5/0) vote will show the members voting in this manner throughout the minutes:

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Mario Ramos	√		
Mr. Mitch Lindemann	√		
Mr. Natalio Sabal	√		
Dr. Edward Gomez	√		
Mr. Ray Borane	√		

spend the CARES ACT funds. District budget M&O funds have not been used to purchase anything related to COVID-19.

Mr. Lindemann motioned to approve the FY 2019-2020 DUSD #27 Annual Financial Report as presented. Mr. Sabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 5/0. ¹

B. Discussion/action on the Distance Learning Plan and Hybrid Model.

Mrs. Samaniego provided a recap of what was presented at the last Board meeting along with the numbers of the surveys conducted. As previously mentioned, in the staff surveys, 37.2% of teachers selected hybrid and 62.8% selected online, and 46% of classified staff selected hybrid, and 40.1% selected online. In the parent survey, 46% selected hybrid, and 54% selected online. In the student survey, 52% selected hybrid, and 48% selected online. 1,607 students responded in 3rd to 12th grades and teachers recorded responses for the lower grades. Based on all the information gathered from the students, some of their concerns in distance learning were:

- Concerns of illness and safety.
- It was easier, less homework, less stress over assignments, and more time to complete assignments.
- Unsure of some protocols: mask wearing and social distancing.
- Concerns that students wouldn't adhere to the rules, including mask wearing.
- Prefer 5-days of teacher instruction versus 2-days.
- Misconception of hybrid, believe they will still be on computers watching the teachers.
- Not living in town.
- Parents would prefer them to stay home.

Concerns for hybrid learning:

- Teachers will explain more and clarify.
- More support from teachers.
- Focus better.
- Instruction flows smoothly.
- Can easily ask questions and get help on the spot.
- Miss school, teacher, and friends.
- Feel they are not learning on the current model.
- Visual learners.
- "I am nowhere near responsible enough to do anything academically without a school setting".

Student Concerns:

- Getting support through emails did not help.
- Felt like teachers weren't there to help out right away.
- Communication was very difficult.
- Home internet cutting out caused them to miss out on some lessons.
- Felt like they were just doing assignments but did not feel they were learning.
- Hard to focus and concentrate.
- Learning was very difficult.
- Being on the screen for long periods hurt their eyes, caused them headaches.
- Not understanding caused a lot of anxiety and stress.
- Felt there was no connection to the teacher.

- Not motivating.
- “Squeezing a semester into 6 weeks, I felt I did not learn anything, I just did work”.

Mrs. Samaniego held a Virtual Town Hall yesterday with over 100 students participating. The elementary and middle students were very vocal and asked many questions. They were asking if they start hybrid, how will the teachers teach them. Many students want to make sure they will be getting the same instruction if they remain online as those that are attending school in person. It is a valid concern. We don't want to leave anybody behind. Mr. Duarte commented that many high school students do want to return to school. There are concerns about instruction, especially with students attending in person also being on the computer, so there would be no difference if they stayed home. Mrs. Samaniego commented that this is a misconception. A hybrid model does not mean that the students that will be attending in person are going to be on their computer as if they were at home following an online model. An in person instruction, is hopefully the teacher engaging as traditionally as possible. There might be some incorporation of having students use their laptop to connect to Google Classroom or videos. The teacher will be directly instruction kids in a hybrid model for those that are in person. The teacher at the same time is going to have to manage those students that are online and that's where it becomes extremely challenging.

There is a reopening taskforce for each of the levels. They are looking at two (2) concerns, whether remaining on the current A/B schedule or having A students be hybrid students and B students be online students so teachers wouldn't have to teach both groups at the same time. Staying on the A/B schedule on a hybrid model allows for schools to have more control of their class size numbers. This is protecting the class size numbers if we can open up for hybrid or traditional settings. The other option would allow for teachers to concentrate on the two (2) different groups, individually, at one time. Mrs. Samaniego recommends doing a phased-in approach on October 26, 2020, or November 2, 2020. This would allow for two (2) full weeks to prepare for the approved model. In the phased-in approach, week one would allow Kinder through 2nd grade, 6th grade, and 9th grade students to attend school. During week two, 3rd through 5th grades, 7th through 8th grades, and 10th through 12th grade students would attend school. By week three, all schools would have all grades attending. From what we can see, many parents will be keeping their children at home. Mrs. Samaniego discussed distance learning and the hybrid model at great length.

Mr. Borane commented that he has a lot of concerns regarding everything. We have the students, parents, and staff to consider and provide a viable solution. Personally in favor of remaining online, don't want to take risk of the health and welfare of students and staff.

Mr. Lindemann commented that we are in the increase and doesn't want to take any chances. We are in a routine now, so we should stay online. The students that are doing well are the ones that will continue doing well and students that need to attend then maybe advertise more that there are safe learning spaces open.

Dr. Gomez commented that safe learning spaces are not teaching spaces, they are spaces where the children that need to be sent to school are sent and nothing else. They are learning on the laptop with assistance from an instructional assistant. Currently, we are teaching students two (2) days a week. If you have children that are just doing assignments and not logging on, they are not

learning. If we go to hybrid, then we have to have protocols in place for students that are not feeling well or exposed to ensure they are not sent to school. If staff or students are not wearing their masks correctly, then it is our job to teach them how. His reasoning for wanting to go to hybrid is because he is afraid of the lack of education that is being given to our children. We should open up and do it safely.

Mrs. Samaniego commented that safe learning spaces are being monitored by classified staff and are assisting the students while they are being instructed by their teachers online. There is instruction for the students that are attending safe learning spaces. They are receiving virtual instruction by their teacher two (2) days a week and three (3) days a week they are getting assignments and instruction via the distance learning model. We are fully open, five (5) days a week with attendance being recorded and instruction happening. Variation to the instruction is definitely that two (2) days a week the instruction is by the teacher with their class and the other three (3) days the instruction is happening via asynchronous learning. If we were to begin a hybrid model, then the plan we would follow will have students attend in person no more than two (2) or three (3) days a week but not the full five (5) days.

Mr. Ramos commented that he agreed with Dr. Gomez about the academics but is also very concerned about the health and welfare of staff and students. He wishes to stay online.

Mr. Sabal commented that staying online is the correct way of going.

Mrs. Samaniego commented that administrators have been asked to try to accommodate students for safe learning spaces as best as possible and allow them to attend. There is a huge concern regarding academics and we will be increasing the instructional time to four (4) days a week and Wednesdays they will do attendance and complete assignments online. For middle schools will be extending their instructional time, each period will be 10 minutes longer. For high school, their schedule is different but their instructional time will be increasing. Our staff is prepared to do either hybrid or online.

Mr. Lindemann commented that he certainly does care about the education of the students but safety is paramount.

Mrs. Samaniego commented that during the first quarter teachers were allowed to teach from home but based on today's decision, all teachers should be onsite.

Mr. Borane commented that he hopes the parents know that the Board and Administration is seriously taking their concerns and being guardians of their children and hope they feel they made the right decision.

Mr. Lindemann motioned to continue online as we are doing. If the administration feels that they can find more instructional time and add it. Also, the Superintendent has the authority to do anything she feels or deems feasible to adding instruction or anything else that would be considered a positive measure. Mr. Sabal seconded the motion.

Mrs. Samaniego asked if it includes teachers now working onsite? Mr. Borane replied that it would be up to her and it would have to be an administrative decision based on each individual case.

There being no further discussion, motion carried 4/1/0.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Mario Ramos	√		
Mr. Mitch Lindemann	√		
Mr. Natalio Sabal	√		
Dr. Edward Gomez		√	
Mr. Ray Borane	√		

Mr. Borane commented that athletics are still in the phase that was Board approved? Mrs. Samaniego replied yes.

Dr. Gomez asked if he would be allowed to make a motion that all teachers should be onsite? Mr. Borane replied that it would have to be an amendment to the original motion. The Board vested the authority on the Superintendent to be able to make the decision based on individual cases. Mrs. Samaniego commented that when the online plan was originated, it was a Board direction that teachers would have the opportunity to stay home, on a case by case basis. Personally, if we are not going to have students in classrooms, and are following all the protocols in place, that all teachers should report to work onsite and teach from their classroom. We do have some staff that have circumstances or medical conditions and can take that into consideration and will work with the principals. The approval request form expires October 23, 2020.

Mr. Borane commented that the Board should meet weekly and receive an assessment from the Superintendent. A tentative meeting will be scheduled for next Wednesday, October 21, at noon.

Mrs. Samaniego commented that she is committed to increasing the instructional time. Our principals and taskforce are prepared and committed to improve the instruction because every child deserves it.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Mr. Lindemann motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Alma Valenzuela, Superintendent’s Secretary.

The Board at their meeting on August 3, 2021, approved these minutes.

Public Comments:

Effective immediately and until further notice, the DUSD Governing Board will be enforcing the Center for Disease Control’s health precautionary recommendation limiting all public gatherings to 10 people. All Governing Board meetings will be live-streamed and available to view via DUSD’s YouTube channel.

Details regarding presentations and discussions are available on the audio and video recordings posted on the Governing Board page on the DUSD website at www.dusd.us (For exact statements made during the board meeting, you may request a copy of the audio).