

## **FY23-24 WORK SESSION**

**THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE ASH FORK JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 31**  
**46999 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Ash Fork, Arizona 86320**

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the general public that the Governing Board for Ash Fork Joint Unified School District No. 31 will convene a Work Session at the time, date, and place indicated. **Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (the Board may vote to convene in executive session to review personnel, confidential and/or legal matters.**

**MINUTES - Date: May 30, 2023 5:00pm Place: Room 124**

I. **Call to Order**

A. Roll Call - Meeting called to order at 4:57pm

Board Secretary, Sue Atkinson read the roll:

Board Members **present** / absent:

**President: Laurie Granger**

**Members: Susan Barnes – via phone**

**Deborah Hunt**

**Joe Fairchild**

**Jodie Benson**

Superintendent: **Seth Staples**

Business Manager: **Sue Atkinson**

Facilities Supervisor: Robert Broehm - excused

II. **Adoption of Agenda** **Jodie Benson made the motion to adopt the agenda as written Joe Fairchild seconded it. Yay votes: Laurie Anderson- Granger, Deborah Hunt, Susan Barnes**  
**Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved**

III. **Pledge of Allegiance** Lead by Laurie Granger

IV. **Discussion /Action Items**

A. FY23-24 State budget factors – Mrs. Atkinson reviewed historical budget information with the board as it relates to the budget computation. ADM numbers have been fairly stable over the last 5-year period obviously seeing the biggest change during the pandemic. Our biggest concern moving forward is going over enrollment in high school of 100 which result in the loss of our small school adjustment. That amount for this year is a little over \$1 million dollars. This adjustment is put entirely towards the capital budget for improvements and repairs around campus. Also remaining historically stable are the assessed property values within district boundaries. Comments were made on the implications and increases to the property valuation will be once the Pilot and TA truck stop are completed. The tax rate set by the District has gone down over the last 6 years from \$11.33 in 2016-17 to \$7.46 this past year. Projections are to lower it again for FY23-24 to \$7.26

1. Projected budget/expenses - Mrs. Atkinson reviewed recently confirmed budget factors issued from the Arizona Auditor General's office – The legislature has approved a 2.92% increase in our base support level to \$4,914.71 along with a \$.05 increase for transportation. The qualifying tax rate (QTR) set by the Joint legislative Budget Committee was reduced to \$3.098. These factors along with a budget balance carry forward, Prop 123, and a onetime adjustment for FY24 has produced an M&O budget of \$6,848,446 and Capital budget of \$2,826,166. Taking into consideration that the budget balance carryforward is not a sustainable source of revenue, Mrs. Atkinson has estimated an actual M & O budget of \$2,891,191 for FY24.

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2. Projected Revenues – Additional State Aid, Small School Adjustment – After a review of the tax rate calculation sheet, it is estimated that the tax rate will go to \$7.2656 and produce a revenue based on current assessed values of \$2,359,100 that along with additional state aid of \$1,608,236 will give us a total estimated of \$3,967,305 and be split between M7O of \$2,942,305 and Capital of \$1,025,000.

- B. FY 23-24 Capital project consideration – Some major considerations for the District in a 5-year capital plan are to complete the bus barn, reconfigure the soccer field and replace all the turf on all the fields as well as adding lights. New/used busses are being considered especially now that a bus will have to be run for CTED programs to Prescott.
- C. Cooperative agreement with Northern Arizona Academic Services – Mr. Staples reported that he has had conversations with Mr. Glenn Carroll who is the Outreach Specialist Director for the Northern Arizona Academic Services Arizona Jr/Sr High School about renting them classroom space on campus and the possibility of hiring a para professional from our staff to assist with the classroom. They are an alternative school that allows for students to complete credit recovery at a faster pace than what we can do here for them. The board agreed this could be a good thing and would like Mr. Staples to pursue it further and report back at the June board meeting with more details.
- D. Minimum Wage increases, classified salary schedule compression – With the passing of ARS 23-363 minimum wage in the State of Arizona will be increased every January 1<sup>st</sup> based on the cost of living. This is creating a problem on the classified (hourly) salary schedule called compression. Currently built into the schedule we give a 1.5% cost of living adjustment based on the lowest classification (minimum wage) for capped personnel and a longevity bonus of 1% or 2% based on the number of years with the district. The board suggested maybe increasing that percentage or giving a fixed amount stipend to offset the compression between the minimum wage increase and capped rates for positions.

E. Payroll considerations

**Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) for Personnel Matters: The Governing Board to**

1. Review individual salaries of staff

**Jodie Benson made the motion to convene into Executive session at 6:35 pm. Deborah Hunt seconded it. Yay votes: Laurie Anderson- Granger, Joe Fairchild, Susan Barnes Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved**

**Susan Barnes made the motion to adjourn from Executive session and reconvene back to the work session at 6:40 pm. Joe Fairchild seconded it. Yay votes: Laurie Anderson- Granger, Jodie Benson, Deborah Hunt, Susan Barnes Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved**

**Jodie Benson made the motion to not review individual salaries of the staff. Joe Fairchild seconded it. Yay votes: Laurie Anderson- Granger, Susan Barnes Nay votes: Deborah Hunt. Motion carries.**

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- F. Meeting procedures and FAQ review – President Laurie Granger wished to revisit the Board meeting FAQ’s document that outlined not only meeting procedures but policy guidelines as well. She felt it important that all of the board members were all familiar with the guidelines for smoother meetings and foster a teamwork approach.

VIII. Information Items (NO Action taken)

- G. Requests for Future Agenda Items ( The governing Board may identify items they would like placed on a future agenda)

- H. Date of Next REGULAR Meeting Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5pm in the Resource Room

IX. Adjournment

**Jodie Benson made the motion to adjourn at 6:50pm. Joe Fairchild seconded it. Yay votes: Laurie Anderson- Granger, Deborah Hunt, Susan Barnes Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved**

**\*Although not on the agenda, public comment was made by Rosemary Hume who spoke to the importance of volunteering and community service for our High School students. Particularly for the seniors as this has become an important and integral part of a college application. Mrs. Hume wondered if there was room in the budget to make a dedicated “community service” liaison position at the school that could work closely with the Ash Fork Development Assoc. on community service based projects.**

**MINUTES APPROVED \_\_\_ WRITTEN/\_\_\_ AMENDED, May 30, 2023 Work Session\***

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Laurie Granger, President**

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**Joe Fairchild, Vice-President**

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**Susan Barnes, Member**

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**Deborah Hunt, Member**

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**Jodie Benson- Clerk**

**\*draft until approved at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.**