



MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
WILLIAMS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 GOVERNING BOARD
WEDNESDAY MARCH 18,2020



COLLEGE, CAREER, AND COMMUNITY READY

Roll Call:

Board Members:

Carla Dent, President, Absent
Ann Wells, Vice President, Present – Call in
Leah Payne, Present
Herman Nixon, Present
Michael Fleishman, Present

Administration:

Rick Honsinger, Superintendent, Present
Eric Evans, WHS Principal, Present
Carissa Morrison, WEMS Principal, Present – Call in
Jessica Guzman, Special Services Director, Present – Call in
Joyce McNelly, Business Manager/Board Secretary, Present
Brianna Ford, Admin. Assistant/ Board Minutes, Present
Guests: 3

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

OPENING ITEMS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Reorder Agenda
- D. Adopt Agenda

- Mr. Nixon called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Motion made by Mr. Fleishman to adopt the agenda, second by Mrs. Payne.
- Motion approved 4/0

ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and possible action re: WUSD response to COVID-19 and the shutdown of schools.
 - Mr. Honsinger stated that currently WUSD2 is on Spring Break. Governor Ducey has closed schools thru March 28th. We should know by Sunday if this time period will be extended. Flagstaff schools are currently closed until April 3rd. We will plan for the worst and hope for the best. I believe that there are three things that we determine at this point.
 1. How can we continue to educate kids?
 2. How can we feed kids? Grand Canyon School has already started this and the community has been very grateful for it. They have fed a few of our students that live out that way also.
 3. Staff Pay? What will be required of our staff? The District Office will be opened. Staff can be in the schools, a few at a time. The public will not be allowed in the schools at this time. How will we get contracts out?
 - Mr. Evans stated that the Administration at all locations have been consulting with each other. We understand that Tech is not available for all families within our district. There are currently many websites available for free. We will be coming up with supplemental work for those who need it. Those without access to technology. These supplemental packets will piggy back off of food delivery busses and handed out at those sights.
 - Mr. Nixon asked if we are required to get work out to all students?
 - Mr. Honsinger stated that we are not required to, but need to attempt to continue to educate students.
 - Mrs. Wells stated that we do need to try to continue to educate students but that is should not be punitive to them.
 - Mr. Honsinger stated that it will be hard to hold students accountable, but we need to offer to continue to educate them.
 - Dr. Morrison stated that we also need to think about how we can support kids emotionally. Some teachers have already started adding things into google classrooms.
 - Mr. Honsinger stated that checking out school devices may be a possibility.
 - Mrs. Wells stated that smaller students may struggle more with technology than older students.
 - Mr. Honsinger stated that we may also be able to put together a mobile library that could be on the meal delivery busses. Student could check books out every week and when they are returned, they could be sanitized.
 - Mr. Evans stated that we need to provide free resources to families. More and more will be available as time goes on.
 - Mr. Nixon asked if we know what will be going on with staff pay, the senior trip, or prom yet? What does staffing for next week look like?
 - Mr. Honsinger stated that we are going to pay staff.
 - Mrs. McNelly stated that we will need to know if they will be reporting to work, working remotely or on-call.
 - Mr. Honsinger stated that we will not have all staff in the builds at the same time. No one who is sick should be working. If staff is unavailable, they will need to take leave.
 - Mr. Fleishman asked if we will be utilizing any faith-base groups to help during this time?

- Mr. Honsinger stated that right now we have an abundance of staff that we can utilize if we need to. If you used faith-based groups right now, it may just be a building as a meal drop off location.
- Mrs. Durnez asked if there was a way that teachers could communicate with students by phone without using their own phone numbers?
- Mr. Honsinger confirmed that there are ways to block your number from showing up when communicating with parents/student.
- Mrs. Wells asked if we would also be providing families with food for the weekend?
- Mr. Honsinger stated that he is not sure of that yet.
- Dr. Morrison stated that we may be able to partner with St. Mary's for a weekend back pack of food. We have done this during the school year before, for families in need.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that some families are dependent upon us for our food program. More families may become that way with lay-offs at this time. Beginning Monday, 3/23, Chris will have a breakfast/lunch combo box for families to pick up. They can pick up at WEMS from 10-11. There will also be meal boxes bussed to Parks school, Valle Travel Stop, and the Shell station on Hwy 64.
- Dr. Morrison asked if this would be for our students only?
- Mr. Honsinger stated that that these meal boxes will be for all who need it. Not just for our students.
- Mr. Nixon stated that with all of the uncertainty right now, we will not be able to answer all of our questions tonight.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that we have some great things in place so far to get things started. It will be a learning experience for all of us.
- Mr. Fleishman stated that since work given to students shouldn't be punitive to them, maybe we can look into giving them a CC- completed course, for the end of the year.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that K-8 grades are not as significant as 9-12. High School is different. There are more questions than answers right now. We're still waiting to find out about graduation and testing.
- Mr. Nixon stated that high school students have to have a GPA for college.
- Mrs. Wells stated that we will need to wait for ADE guidelines to come out about this. We should also consult with neighboring districts to see what they have put in place.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that he doesn't want to put the cart before the horse. We do need to wait for some more guidance from ADE regarding this.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that staff contracts were scheduled to be issued on Monday, 3/23. Is that something that everyone still believes we should do?
- Mrs. Wells asked how that would work since school is closed. Staff generally has 15 business days to review and sign their contract.
- Mrs. McNelly stated that the District Office is opened it's regular business hours and because of that, we can count those business days. We would also be able to issue electronic contracts if people prefer it to be email to them.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that we need to consider that with everything shutting down, it may effect our local economy. Our student count could drop if people need to find jobs elsewhere. A lot of our economy is based on tourism and right now there is not much of it. We also need to show our staff and community comfort and steadiness. We have a rainy day fund that we could use next year if needed.
- Mr. Nixon stated that businesses may be forced to shut down and asked if we could wait 1-2 weeks to issue contracts? We don't want to lose anyone by waiting to long.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that he believes that issuing early contracts is fair to both the district and staff. We want to have the best staff we can for next year, but may not have it if we wait to long.
- Mrs. Wells stated that she thinks that we should issue contracts as planned. Some teachers have already resigned. We should issue contracts to those we know are committed to coming back next year.
- Mr. Honsinger agreed that that was a good point and a good discussion. He then asked Mr. Fleishman and Mrs. Durnez what their thought were?
- Mr. Fleishman stated that he believes that loyal staff deserve the consideration of contracts. Next year if we need to we can implement a rift clause in the contracts.
- Mrs. Durnez stated that it would be nice to have the assurance of a job in our lives right now. It would show that the district does care about us.
- Mrs. Payne stated that this is a lot to absorb. She agreed that contracts should be issued as scheduled. Loyalty between teachers and the district are important.
- Mr. Honsinger that we will go ahead and hand out contracts on Monday. If the economy is hurt by this virus and student count is down, we may not need to hire new staff.
- Mr. Nixon stated that he has faith in the current Administration to lead us through this. We will continue to plan for the worst. Everybody has been doing a great job.
- Mr. Fleishman stated that we may even be able to look into sharing staff with other local districts if the need arises.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that all staff are ready to roll up their sleeves.
- Mrs. Guzman stated that in regards to SPED needs, we will still be accountable to follow IEP and MET timelines even though the schools are closed for now. We may be able to get a 30 day extension on some required deadlines. Most meetings will be done by conference calls with parents and case managers. We're not sure about service providers yet. We may have to do small group drive in services.
- Dr. Morrison asked if it would be possible for service providers to have tele therapy sessions?
- Mrs. Guzman stated that she would look into it and see what is available. Currently she has been looking into educational needs for the SPED population at both schools. We need to continue to serve them the best that we can during this time.

- Mr. Wollman stated that his biggest concern was getting food out to families. It sound like there is a plan in place to take care of most of those needs. He would also like to find a way to offer tangible resources to needy families through the McKinny Vento Grant. It could also be delivered by the meal busses. It would possibly consist of household goods, hygiene products and clothing.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that we should try to make those things available.
- Mr. Nixon asked if hourly staff would also be paid.
- Mrs. McNelly confirmed that they would. We would also need to know from them how they would be working. On-call, remotely or onsite.
- Mr. Nixon asked if staff could help get the buildings cleaned and sanitized?
- Mr. Honsinger stated that they could. We wouldn't want an army of them coming in all at one time, but we could come up with a schedule for them if they were willing to come help.
- Mrs. Payne asked if the buses were also being cleaned and sanitized?
- Mr. Schober confirmed that they were, every day.
- Mrs. Durnez asked what would be expected of current teachers?
- Mr. Honsinger stated that this was still evolving. Principals and administration will be consulting with each other to come up with a plan.
- Mr. Fleishman asked about the districts electronic capabilities such as internet band width?
- Mr. Honsinger assured the board that we have more than enough bandwidth capabilities to support multiple devices. If students were allowed to check-out devices, they would most likely be using their own internet, as they would not be using the devices on site.
- Mr. Nixon asked what was happening with the Senior Trip?
- Mr. Evans stated that the when COVID 19 started to become more and more of a threat, the senior got together and voted to roll the dice and send in the money to the tour company for their trip. We are all hoping that this is cleared up by May and it is safe for them to go on this trip. It's possible that if the trip is canceled, that each senior who signed up for it would receive a ticket to Disneyland that they can use at their own convenience when it is safe to do so.
- Mrs. McNelly confirmed that the check had been sent out to the company putting the trip together.
- Mrs. Payne asked if there was any news about Prom?
- Mr. Honsinger stated that they don't know yet if the Prom will still be able to be held on the scheduled date.
- Mr. Nixon asked how future Board Meetings should be carried out?
- Mrs. Wells stated that ZOOM was a good meeting app that they could try.
- Mr. Honsinger agreed that we would need to find a way to make it available to everyone online.
- Mr. Nixon agrees that it would be a good idea to not hold any open meetings for right now.
- Mrs. Wells asked if the board needed to vote on the food service and employees for the current food boxes being handed out.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that we will look into it and add it to the next agenda if it is needed. We have been directed by the state to provide food to our students so we are going to do so.
- Mr. Evans stated that we could possibly provide emotional support for our students if needed. Mr. Powers and possibly Mr. Wollman could be available to talk by phone or maybe through facetime.
- Dr. Morrison stated that the WEMS counselor could be available this way also.
- Mr. Schober asked how hourly employees time would be paid if they are working remotely or on call?
- Mrs. McNelly stated that it would be based on the hours of their work agreements.
- Mr. Nixon stated that this is all new to us and mistakes will be made. We will learn and get through it together.
- Dr. Morrison stated that she wanted to give a shout-out to Mrs. Guzman. We just learned that we earned a Four Star Quality First Rating for our pre-school program. This is a huge accomplishment.
- The board congratulated Dr. Morrison and Mrs. Guzman on their efforts for this program.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – The Governing Board may identify items they would like placed on a future agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion made by Mr. Fleishman to adjourn, second by Mrs. Payne
- Motion approved 4/0
- Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM

Board President _____ Date _____