



MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
WILLIAMS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 GOVERNING BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020



**COLLEGE, CAREER, AND COMMUNITY READY**

Roll Call:

Board Members:

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

Administration:

Rick Honsinger, Superintendent – Present  
Eric Evans, WHS Principal – Present  
Carissa Morrison, WEMS Principal – Present  
Jessica Guzman, Special Education Director – Present  
Joyce McNelly, Business Manager – Present  
Brienne Ford, Admin. Assistant/Board Minutes – Present  
Guest: 21

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

**OPENING ITEMS**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Reorder Agenda
- D. Adopt Agenda
- Mrs. Dent called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Motion made by Mrs. Wells to adopt the agenda, second by Mrs. Payne.
- Motion approved 5/0

**DISCUSSION**

- Athletic Program for FY21 – Mr. Echeverria
- Mr. Echeverria stated that the AIA Executive Board took a vote today regarding sports programs for this year. They had been waiting on the Governor to make a decision about reopening schools and since there hasn't been a lot of guidance yet from him, the AIA board decided to move forward. They sent out surveys to 279 schools throughout the state to find out if they wanted to move forward with the sports seasons. 251 of those schools replied. The percentages for moving forward with sports seasons this year was high in every sport. The AIA board voted to take a phased in approach based on the low-high risk rate of playing. 57% of schools surveyed stated that they would like to see a phased in approach. Flagstaff has pushed back the opening of their schools until October. Tucson has also pushed back the opening of their school to after the first quarter. This may affect some of their scheduling. Football has been determined to be a higher risk sport. The first official day of practice for our football players will be September 9<sup>th</sup>. This would give our team 6 games to play and the State Championship would be held on Thanksgiving weekend. Right now it looks like the basketball season will only be pushed back about a week. Big schools may have to push it back more. Moderate risk sports like cross country and swim/dive will begin practices in August. Fall golf can start August 17<sup>th</sup>. We generally do a spring golf season. Volleyball and soccer can begin practice on August 31<sup>st</sup> with their first competition on September 21<sup>st</sup>. We may ask the AIA to move volleyball back two weeks to match up with our football season. We like to travel with both teams to the State Championships. Spirit line tryouts can begin on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Our teams are still in summer mode at this point. AIA will be sending out modifications based on their decision today. They are currently allowing individual schools to deal with their game spectators and precautions that should be taken. Currently players who are not playing in the game, will be on the sideline with their mask on. It can be taken off if the player enters the game. They will also have to social distance in the locker room. This may mean that we have to group students and send them into locker rooms separately group by group. It will depend on the size of the locker room. There will not be a meeting in the middle of the field for a coin toss at the beginning of games. We will be ordering the larger mouth protectors that also cover the outside of your mouth. During intermissions/half times, nobody will be allowed on the sidelines. Younger students will no longer be able to play football on the side of the field during games or half-time. Nobody can be on the field unless they are playing.
- Mrs. Wells asked how this would affect the Spirit Line/Cheerleaders.
- Mr. Echeverria stated that they will still be able to cheer from the field. They will also be able to do their half-time performance and stunts, but will need to social distance as much as possible.
- Mr. Echeverria stated that if someone on the team shows symptoms of COVID, that person will be isolated until they can be taken home. All other members of the team will be monitored for symptoms over the next two weeks. The whole team will not have to stop playing if one player gets sick. He stated that he kind of feels like the Governor has forgotten about the phases of reopening that he had initially put in place. We have been stuck in phase 1 for a long time. Now the Governor is saying that we will be going by a matrix, not phases.
- Mr. Echeverria asked the board for some guidance for middle school athletics. Flagstaff has canceled their cross country program for this year. That is who we normally participate with. Williams Youth Football has cancelled their season for this year. Some of the middle school football teams that we normally play have pulled out of this years season. He hasn't heard about soccer yet, but Flag has probably cancelled that also. He reached out to the

Flagstaff AD to see if they would be allowing kids to come to practices when they are not allowed on campus for school. Surprisingly she said that they would be allowed on campus for practices, even with remote learning.

- Mr. Nixon stated that he assumes that football will play six teams in their conference and the top two will go to state?
- Mr. Echeverria stated that all freedom games are going to be hard to schedule. All of the North Conference has cancelled their season, except for El Capitan and Fredonia. They are still waiting to hear the decision that Shonto Prep makes. They are a private school. Most other teams are waiting until December.
- Mr. Nixon asked what the Junior High interest is for football and soccer?
- Mr. Echeverria stated that they usually have between 15-20 sign up for football and another 20-24 for soccer. That's 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Mr. Nixon asked if Mr. Echeverria could get some schedules together and have them ready to bring to the board meeting next week?
- Mr. Echeverria stated that he could bring back a list of teams that would be willing to play middle school football and soccer.
- Mr. Nixon stated that would be important information to have to make a decision.
- Mrs. Wells agreed that we need to determine participation to make a decision.
- Mr. Echeverria asked the board if they would be comfortable letting kids practice if our schools are still in a remote learning situation? He stated that he needed direction from the board on this.
- Mrs. Dent stated that we need to see how many other teams are willing to participate.
- Mrs. Wells stated that we are hoping to start in school learning on August 17<sup>th</sup>, so we are headed in the direction of students being on campus.
- Ms. Chavez stated that she could send out a Thrillshare to try to get an idea of interest.
- Mr. Nixon stated that we needed to do this twofold. Find out how many teams will participate and also how many students.
- Mr. Echeverria stated the participation in Cross Country has fallen over the last couple of years. Cheer is always huge at the middle school level. He knows that we can get games with Salome, Joe City and probably Mogollon.
- Mr. Echeverria stated the he spoke to Riddell in regards to the reconditioning of our helmets. He figured that it might take a little bit longer this year. He was reassured that they are in production.
- Mr. Nixon asked to add Junior High sports on the next board agenda.
  
- ADM Audit results – Rick Honsinger
- Mr. Honsinger stated that it's always good to have good audit results. Audits aren't always good but our district is always improving. We recently had an audit on attendance which affects our ADM. It went really well and we didn't have any findings.
- Mrs. McNelly stated that Halley Rocha and Lora O'Leary did a great job keeping up on their records and gathering information.
  
- School reopening –general discussion
- Mr. Honsinger stated that there is still just a lot of unknown. The next bit of news that we will get from the state will be on 8/7. We are supposed to be getting a bench mark for reopening. Flag has postponed their reopening until October. We're ready to get back in school as soon as possible. It's just all up in the air at this point.
- Mr. Nixon stated that what bothers him the most about this situation is that Gov. Ducey set a deadline for the benchmark for the 7<sup>th</sup>. Some schools opened up on the 5<sup>th</sup>. We may struggle to meet the benchmark. Is Friday the mandated date for it to come out?
- Mr. Honsinger confirmed that Friday was the deadline that they set for themselves.
- Mrs. Dent stated that if we can meet the benchmark, we need to get kids back in school.
- Mr. Honsinger suggested that we see what happens Friday, and what the benchmark is. We can have another meeting Monday if needed.
- Mr. Nixon stated that we have a meeting on Wednesday anyway. It's hard that everything is still up in the air.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that he turned in our districts Distant Learning Plan this week. It was accepted right away.
- Mrs. Wells stated that there will be other unanswered questions with the benchmark. It's inconsiderate of the state to leave us with so many unknowns.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that our reopening could be a week, month or even a semester.
- Mr. Nixon stated that he has five grandkids that started online school down in the Verde Valley this week. It was horrible. Passwords didn't work and there was a lot of confusion.
- Mr. Honsinger stated that he doesn't want to laugh, it could be us next week. The online staff meetings have been a bit of a mess. Day 1 will probably be bad, day 2 will be better and day 3 better than that.

### CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Visitors are provided time to make statements to the Board. Those wishing to do so please complete a "Request to address the Board" form and return it to the Board President. Statements should be limited to no more than 5 minutes. Please keep in mind that the Board cannot take action on comments, questions, or concerns at this time.

- Kelsey Skinner – I have five kids enrolled in school. I would like to say thanks to all of the staff for all of their hard work. I worked with Falcon Flyers this summer and the Tech Department helped immensely with the tech issues of the online learning. One of my children is having a lot of anxiety about wearing a mask all day. If there is a mask mandate in place for on campus learning, is it possible to change to online learning until the mask mandate has been lifted?

- Tanner Logan – I understand that the board is in a tough spot this year. There seem to be a lot of people making rules that don't have any children in school. I would like to see some kind of open forum with parents, administrators and the board where people can speak freely and have a discussion about concerns. I also have questions about hourly staff while the school is closed. Will they still be receiving all of their benefits. What if parents work during the day and can't help their kids?
- Lisa Rogel – I also have concerns about the mask thing. I recently spent all day in Flag with my grandchild. The mask was in his mouth, on his head and everywhere else. It's going to be difficult to enforce masks on young kids. I also have questions about masks on players. They are going to be required to wear them on the sideline. Where are masks being kept while players are in the game? Also, are teachers being trained on online teaching? I have a student that needs one-on-one help. How is he going to get that while doing online learning? How is attendance going to be kept? Will credit still be lost if there are too many absences and how is that being tracked? Once school is opened back up, if a child is home sick will they have the option of online learning during that time?
- Mr. Honsinger reminded the public that the board cannot comment on these questions right now and to please give your building principal a call with questions and concerns.

## ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and possible action re: Approve WUSD 2020-2021 Re-Opening Plan changes.
  - Motion made by Mr. Fleishman to approve discussion of WUSD 2020-2021 Re-Opening Plan changes, second by Mr. Nixon.
  - Mr. Fleishman stated that this may be a good opportunity to address some of the answers to the unknowns. I would also like to see the attendance policies and teacher trainings posted online.
  - Mr. Honsinger stated that the re-opening plan has been posted online. Everyone can look at the plan. It does talk about attendance and teacher trainings. There has been a change in expectations this year. Last spring kids weren't held accountable. If they wanted to improve their grade, they could. If they didn't do anything, it wouldn't hurt them. That's different now. This is required learning. Mr. Honsinger stated that he wouldn't mind having an opened discussion with parents.
  - Mr. Fleishman asked what the plan is for hourly employees this year?
  - Mr. Honsinger stated that the state wants us to keep our people employed. We plan on keeping our people employed throughout the year. Our budget may be hit a little harder next year, but right now we are planning on everyone working.
  - Mr. Fleishman stated that he would also like to see the Governor's Executive Orders posted to our website.
  - Mr. Honsinger stated that he can do that and will at least post the link to them.
  - Mr. Fleishman stated that this would address a lot of concerns. We did send in the online plan. There is one provision that I would like to look at. Can the district look into using Primavera? We may not know much more on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Mr. Honsinger stated that we are hoping to know more on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Mr. Fleishman stated that there are no good option. We've got to make the best of the worst.
  - Motion made by Mr. Fleishman to approve WUSD 2020-2021 Re-Opening plan changes, second by Mr. Nixon.
  - Motion approved 5/0
2. Discussion and possible action re: Approve the recommendation from The- Trust for the waiver for students or the acknowledgement form for students or neither.
  - Motion made by Mr. Nixon to approve discussion of recommendation from The Trust for the waiver for students or the acknowledgement form for students or neither, second by Mrs. Wells.
  - Mr. Nixon stated that he read what Rick put out. He's really struggling with making parents sign a waiver. Waivers are not worth the paper that they are written on. We currently have options. If parents don't feel comfortable sending their kids back to school, they can do school online. Mr. Nixon stated that he deals with lawyers every day. Rick does too. They all tell you that waivers are hard to enforce. If we are going to get sued, we're going to get sued.
  - Mr. Fleishman stated that he is coming from a little different perspective. If parents sign a waiver, all they have to do is prove that we were negligent. If parents don't sign the waiver we have to pay a \$20,000 deductible if they sue us. If parents do sign the waiver we have to pay \$10,000.
  - Mr. Honsinger clarified that if we don't have the extra insurance we will pay the whole cost of the law suit.
  - Mr. Fleishman stated that if parents have to sign the waiver the cost to the district is reduced.
  - Mr. Honsinger explained the Insurance Waiver that was being proposed to the public. He then stated that we are trying to determine if we should get this insurance or not. He stated that he is finding out some wishy washy information. We cannot make parents sign a waiver. We cannot deny a child access to school. Even with the waiver if an uncle comes to a football game and claims he got sick there, even if they traveled from out of state, we would have to pay a \$20,000 deductible. If a kid gets COVID at school it would be another \$20,000 deductible.
  - Mrs. Dent stated that she is the mother of three kids and would not hold the school responsible for something like that.
  - Mr. Honsinger asked how pushy should we be?
  - Mr. Fleishman stated that we all have to do things that we don't like to do.
  - Tifni Sutton stated that as a parent she would personally look at making sure the school did everything possible to prevent the spread of COVID. Does the school nurse have everything she needs? Currently there is one nurse split between both schools.

- Mr. Nixon asked if there was a time limit on making this decision?
  - Mr. Honsinger stated that there isn't a time limit but that we should probably have it before school opens up, if we decide to go that route.
  - Lisa Rogel stated that she believes that if the school explained to parents why they are being asked to sign the waiver, most would agree to it. Parents don't want the school so financially drained that it can't offer a good education.
  - Mrs. Wells stated that the school is a public entity. We can't deny entry. We need to do the best job we can. We got \$200,000 from the Cares Act and it has already been spent. We are starting to eat into our general budget too. Nobody in the district doesn't have the best interest of the students and community in mind.
  - Mr. Nixon stated that if the waiver is clearly explained to parents then he doesn't have any problem asking them to sign it.
  - Mr. Fleishman asked if any districts have stated that if the waiver is not signed then the student will be required to do online schooling? It wouldn't take many law suits to destroy our district. The waiver does not have any substantial protection.
  - Mr. Fleishman mad the motion to approve the COVID-19 waiver as presented by The Trust for requirement to attend school, second by Mrs. Payne.
  - Motion approved 5/0
  - Mrs. Dent apologized to Amber Runston for not seeing her Call to the Public. She let Amber speak at this time.
  - Amber Runston – I am also frustrated with the mask mandate. We picked up our Chrome Books, Hot Spots and schedules today. I have homeschooled my kids before and I don't believe that this schedule is going to work well. It's best to get the work knocked out at the beginning of the day and not have all of these breaks. Dragging it out all day is going to be hard on everyone.
3. Discussion and possible action re: Approve NARBHA funding for Fit Kids program of \$30,685.21 for FY21.
- Motion made by Mr. Fleishman to approve NARBHA funding for Fit Kids program of \$30,685.21 for FY21, second by Mrs. Payne.
  - Motion approved 5/0
  - Mrs. Wells asked what the total cost to the district was from M & O?
  - Mrs. McNelly stated that with benefits it's \$21,000.
  - Mrs. Wells asked how Fit Kids will be done differently for online learning?
  - Dr. Morrison stated that Fit Kids will also look different in brick and mortar this year. They will be outside as much as possible and classes will be separated. Online, Fit Kids will instruct remotely but will be optional. Students will be given access to other alternate classes also.
  - Mrs. Wells asked if the Fit Kids program also still gave nutritional guidance?
  - Dr. Morrison stated that yes it does. They also focus on mental health too. This year was a little more challenging to get funding. NARBHA was concerned about how it would look. This year we will be focusing on physical and mental health.
  - Mrs. Wells stated that Fit Kids would also be a great place to go over hand washing and mask wearing. If a student goes online will they get the same instruction?
  - Dr. Morrison stated that they will. It will take a little extra time to get the program running. Today was the Fit Kid instructors first day back to campus.
  - Mrs. Dent asked what their hours are?
  - Dr. Morrison stated that there is a 36 and 24 hour position.
  - Mrs. Dent asked if we will still need both positions?
  - Dr. Morrison stated that like Rick said, we are trying to retain all of our employees this year.
4. Discussion and possible action re: Approve the resignation of Leah Hernandez from her FY21 3-hour cafeteria aide position.
- Motion made by Mrs. Payne to approve the resignation of Leah Hernandez from her FY21 3-hour cafeteria aid position, second by Mrs. Wells.
  - Motion approved 5/0
5. Discussion and possible action re: Approve the resignation of Sarah Hayward from her FY21 32-hour Special Education Para Educator position.
- Motion made by Mrs. Payne to approve the resignation of Sarah Hayward from her FY21 32-hour Special Education Para Educator position, second by Mrs. Wells.
  - Motion approved 5/0
6. Discussion and possible action re: Approve Mentors and assigned mentees as listed. Funding Title II.
- Ms. Hernandez--Becky Deutschman, PreK
  - Ms. Durnez--Carolyn Massey, 5th Grade Math
  - Ms. Mitkowski--Cathleen Goodell, 7/8 Math
  - Ms. Siegfried--Khaitlyn Serrano, 6-8 Academic Intervention
  - Ms. Jackson--Severyn Cargill, K-12 Art
  - Motion made by Mrs. Payne to approve Mentors and assigned mentees as listed, second by Mrs. Wells.
  - Motion approved 5/0

7. Discussion and possible action re: Approve the following Volunteers for WUSD athletics for the 20-21 season:
- |                  |                    |                |                 |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Edgar Brown      | Jennifer Carter    | Jennifer Cox   | Susan Daly      | Christine Endicott |
| Darcy Evans      | Brianne Ford       | Rusty Ford     | Johnny Garcia   | James Grantham     |
| Robert Harris    | Raul Hatch         | Rick Honsinger | Brian Jessen    | Audrey Houseman    |
| Kevin Larimore   | Michelle Mackay    | Connor Mackin  | Melissa Montoya | Amy Mullikin       |
| Aaron Ben Orozco | Halley Rocha       | Kelsey Skinner | Teri Stevens    | Cindy Sutton       |
| Steve Sutton     | Christina Thibault | Tad Wygal      | Salina Verser   | Julie Williams     |
| April Zicopoulos | Kevin McElwee      | Jeff Brownlee  | Connie Stevens  | Cooper Elliott     |
- **Motion made by Mrs. Payne to approve Volunteers as listed for WUSD athletics for the 20-21 season, second by Mrs. Wells.**
  - **Motion approved 5/0**
8. Discussion and possible action re: Approve Jeff Dent as Volunteer for WUSD Athletics for SY20-21
- **Motion made by Mrs. Payne to approve Jeff Dent as a Volunteer for WUSD Athletics for SY20-21, second by Mrs. Wells.**
  - **Motion approved 4/0, Mrs. Dent abstained**
9. Discussion and possible action re: Approve Herman Nixon as Volunteer for WUSD Athletics for SY20-21
- **Motion made by Mrs. Payne to approve Herman Nixon as Volunteer for WUSD Athletics for SY20-21, second by Mrs. Wells.**
  - **Motion approved 4/0, Mr. Nixon abstained.**
10. Discussion and possible action re: Approve closing the WHS Business Connection and WEMS Business Freedom Student Activity checking accounts and close the WUSD Business Freedom Auxiliary Checking account, all accounts are with National Bank of Arizona.
- **Motion made by Mrs. Wells to approve closing the WHS Business Connection and WEMS Business Freedom Student Activity checking accounts and close the WUSD Business Freedom Auxiliary Checking account, second by Mrs. Payne.**
  - **Motion approved 5/0**
11. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of the first reading of the following board policy as per recommendation by Arizona School Board Association:
- Policy Advisory No 672 Regulation GBGB-R – Staff Personal Security and Safety  
 Policy Advisory No 673 Policy IHA – Basic Instructional Program  
 Policy Advisory No 674 NEW Regulation JICA-RB - Student Dress  
 Policy Advisory No 675 Policy KB- Parent Involvement in Education  
 Policy Advisory No 676 NEW Regulation KI- RB – Visitors to Schools.
- **Motion made by Mrs. Payne to approve the first reading of the listed board policies as per recommendation by Arizona School Board Association, second by Mr. Fleishman.**
  - **Motion approved 5/0**
12. Discussion and possible action re: Approve the resignation of Gurmeet Kaur from her FY21 Certified Teacher Contract. The Governing Board my vote to enter into Executive Session, which will not be open to the public, Pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 (A) (1) (5)
- **Motion made by Mrs. Wells to enter into executive session, second by Mrs. Payne.**
  - **Motion approved 5/0**
  - **Executive session entered at 7:18 PM**
  - **Mrs. Dent rose out of executive session at 7:30 PM**
  - **Motion made by Mr. Fleishman to release Gurmeet Kaur from her FY21 Certified Teacher Contract with a fine of \$500, second by Mrs. Wells.**
  - **Motion approved 5/0**

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

Junior High Sports

- **Mr. Nixon expressed his appreciation to parents for attending the board meeting and expressing their concerns. We're all here because we care about the community and kids. We need to do a forum with Rick and the Principals.**
- **Mrs. McNelly suggested that we do a Town Hall.**
- **Mr. Nixon stated that would be a good format to answer questions. We need to do a town hall in the near future.**
- **Mrs. Dent asked if we could do it after next Wednesdays board meeting?**
- **Mrs. Payne asked if we could do it before the board meeting?**
- **Mrs. Wells suggested that we could have it earlier, around 5:00 PM**
- **Mr. Nixon stated that we need to allow time for parents to get off of work.**
- **Mr. Fleishman stated that we need to be careful not to have a quorum of board members there per ASBA rules.**
- **Mrs. Wells disagreed. She didn't think a town hall would be considered a quorum. If we have to do that then we can have a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with parent discussion as an action item.**
- **Mr. Honsinger stated that he would check with our lawyers to make sure that it was allowable and would be a legal meeting.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- **Motion made by Mr. Nixon to adjourn, second by Mrs. Payne.**
- **Motion approved 5/0.**
- **Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM**