

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 Regular Board Meeting 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 and/or legal matters

MINUTES

Date: February 13, 2024 5:00pm Place: Room 115
(MEETING ROOM WILL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 4:45PM)

- I. Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 5:03pm late start due to technical difficulties with ZOOM
 - A. **Roll Call Present: Jodie Benson, Joe Fairchild, Susan Barnes, Laurie Granger, Deborah Hunt, Seth Staples, Sue Atkinson Guests: Mark Hanson, Evelina Acosta, Haley Atkinson**
- II. Adoption of Agenda **Susan Barnes made the motion to adopt the agenda as written. Laurie Granger seconded. Yay votes: Deborah Hunt, Joe Fairchild, Jodie Benson, Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Board meeting minutes not previously approved
 - A. Regular meeting minutes not previously approved from the January 16, 2024 Organizational meeting and January 16, 2024 Regular meeting.
Deborah Hunt made the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes not previously approved from the January 16, 2024 Organizational meeting and January 16, 2024 Regular meeting. Laurie Granger seconded. Yay votes: Susan Barnes, Joe Fairchild, Jodie Benson Nay votes: none unanimously approved.
- V. Current Events and Items for discussion only
 - A. . Superintendent – Phone call from Tom Horne, Comprehensive needs assessment (CNA), Tier 3 Reading Intervention, Spartan Legacy project
Mr. Staples reported he received a call from the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Horne congratulating the District on their outstanding test scores by beating the state average all doing so with a low social-economic student population. We (Ash Fork Schools) are going to be highlighted in Mr. Horne’s state of the union address. Mr. Staples was able to talk to Dr. Wing and she has agreed to come in and do a Comprehensive Needs Analysis (CNA) for the District. She will conduct student surveys, classroom observations, and staff surveys. He will have more information at the March meeting. Mr. Staples reported that there has been discussion amongst staff regarding the tiered reading intervention program and the only available time for extra work would be incorporating it into the already established Friday School a more robust Friday School program can be developed to capture those students who need additional help.
He plans to have high school student present at the March meeting on the status of their Legacy projects for graduation.
 - B. Governing Board – J.Benson – Board roles & responsibilities, and agenda items. Yavapai County Board Presidents round table meeting.
Mrs. Benson reported on attending the Presidents Round Table meeting last week at Tim Carter’s office. With the topic of discussion, focusing on Board members’ roles and responsibilities she thought is a good time to discuss and remind the Board of their roles and responsibilities. As Board members, individually, we don’t have any more rights than any individual tax payer. As board members, individually we do not have any more rights or power than any other taxpayer. Individually we do not supervise the school, direct the staff, and or are able to ask for anything that any other taxpayer would not be entitled to. For instance, any reports that we individually would like have to be something that is already prepared and available. We cannot request that any special reports or documents be prepared for us. If we want something special, it must be put on the agenda and the board has to vote to request it from the Superintendent or the Business Manager.

It is only the collective board that has the authority and responsibility to request special information, request special action, and/or approve special requests. Individually we are not to contact staff to request action, information, or any research. All such requests must go through the board to the Superintendent. This is important because as individuals and as a collective board, we are not aware of all the happenings in the school. That is not our responsibility, and it is overstepping the boundaries of our responsibilities vs the Superintendent’s responsibilities.

As we all know, and we agree, we have an incredible staff whom the board has approved. They work really hard to keep this school running. They are faced daily with new challenges, such as an incredible influx of ELL students. What we don't want to do is pepper them with individual requests for information which takes them away from the job they were hired to do, that is to teach our students and give them the ability to be successful in life. An "A" rating for all 3 schools is rare. In Yavapai County only Prescott Unified School District and Ash Fork have that rating. In Coconino County, only Ash Fork. This tells us again that our staff are doing an outstanding job, and we need to not distract them from that work and just help enable them .

Another thing I wanted to bring up, per school policy, the agenda is prepared by the Superintendent and the Board President. This is a standard practice among districts. If there is something a board member would like on the next agenda, it can be requested during the board meeting when we ask for future board agenda items or it can be requested from the Superintendent or Board President between meetings. Due to time constraints and not wanting to make the board meetings hours long, if that item has already been addressed in a previous board meeting and there is nothing new to discuss, it will not be put on the agenda.

It is my understand that this is standard practice and this is how it should work for future board meetings.

VI. Presentations Haley Atkinson, Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) refer to board packet for presentation. Mrs.

Atkinson went on to present a synopsis of the last few weeks the EOP team has been fine-tuning the Districts EOP. This was done in preparation for the Auditor General survey being issued later this month. The team has set a practice and drill schedule, conducted a threat assessment of the campus and met with community stakeholders.

Evelina Acosta reported on the influx of English Language Learner (ELL) students to the District in the past few months. Before break in November, we were at 31 students. Since coming back from holiday break and up to today is date, we have 44 ELL students. We have been in the progress of re-building the EL program from the ground up to service these students. It has been myself, Haley Atkinson developing the curriculum, and Cristina Santoyo who is the in classroom para delivering the instruction. We have developed a 2-hour model. Integrated and targeted. Part of the day is spent in class and then a part under direct instruction with Cristina.

VII.Call to the Public

Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism, or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

VIII. Old Business – none

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 the Board will vote to convene in executive session to review legal and/or personnel matters

Susan Barnes made the motion to convene into executive session at 5:48pm to discuss with Mr. Hanson legal matters pertaining to the bus barn. Laurie Granger seconded it. Yay votes: Jodie Benson, Joe Fairchild, and Deborah Hunt. Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved.

**** Executive Session**

- a. SJ Anderson company notice of claim – Ledbetter Law Group
- b. Withdrawal of proposal – Brian Stimatze, 3Ten Architecture – Tennant improvements Bus Barn

**** Regular Session**

The Board went back into regular session at 6:11pm

Due to time constraints and the class of 2024 officers waiting to speak, Laurie Granger made the motion to move item # 5 the 2024 senior class trip to follow executive session. Deborah Hunt seconded. Yay votes: Jodie Benson, Joe Fairchild and Susan Barnes. Nay votes none. Unanimously approved.

Senior class President, along with eight other officers and classmates presented before the board their plan to go to San Francisco CA for their senior trip. They plan to rent a VRBO to keep costs down; they will reimburse the District for gas while using the school vehicles and will have plenty of money left over for sightseeing and food. They plan to be gone for 4 nights and 5 days at the end of May. 19th – 23rd.

Deborah Hunt made the motion to approve the 2024 senior class trip to San Francisco. Laurie Granger seconded. Yay votes: Susan Barnes, Joe Fairchild, Jodie Benson Nay votes: none unanimously approved

IX. Action Items

A. Consent Agenda Items *(All those items listed below may be enacted by one motion and approved as Consent Agenda items with or without discussion. All or individual items may be pulled from the consent agenda and discussed individually)*

Consideration to Ratify Vouchers (pg. 1-22)

- a. Payroll Voucher: #20 \$83,072.49 - #21 \$91,315.86 - #22 \$6,352.56
- b. Expense Voucher: #2429 \$16,516.68 - #2430 \$39,999.50 - #2431 \$25,734.89 - #2432 \$12,149.09
- c. Auxiliary Account Check Detail
- d. School Fundraisers – none

Laurie Granger made the motion to approve consent agenda items a, b and c. Deborah Hunt seconded. Yay votes: Jodie Benson, Joe Fairchild and Susan Barnes, Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved.

B. Non-Consent Agenda Discussion/Action Items

1. District Financials

- a. Cash and Budget balances (pg. 23-27)
- b. Student Activities Report (pg.28)
- c. Small School Adjustment and FY24/25 Budget implications – discussion

Business manager, Sue Atkinson discussed with the board the implications on the FY25 budget if the small school adjustment was to go away. The FY25 budget is not due to ADE until June 15th. We will keep an eye on the enrollment numbers in the upcoming months to determine our course of action.

Laurie Granger made the motion to approve non-consent agenda items a and b. Deborah Hunt seconded. Yay votes: Jodie Benson, Joe Fairchild and Susan Barnes, Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved.

2. Discuss/Approve The recommendation Hiring Orcutt/Winslow Architects for tenant improvements – Bus Barn through the 1-GPA cooperative (pg.29-31)

The current architect Brain Stimatz unexpectedly quit leaving the District with having to design tenant improvements for the bus barn because when Mr. Stimatz applied for the current permit he removed everything from the building and only received approval on the shell only. The admin team met with Orcutt-Winslow architects and were very satisfied and grateful that they agreed to take over the design component of the bus barn so we can finish the project.

Laurie Granger made the motion to approve the recommendation Hiring Orcutt/Winslow Architects for tenant improvements – Bus Barn through the 1-GPA cooperative. Deborah Hunt seconded. Yay votes: Jodie Benson, Joe Fairchild and Susan Barnes, Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved

3. Discuss/Approve the District Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) – handout

Laurie Granger made the motion to approve the District Emergency Operations Plan. Deborah Hunt seconded. Yay votes: Jodie Benson, Joe Fairchild and Susan Barnes, Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved.

4. Discuss/Approve - 2024-2025 School Year Calendar (pg 32)

Susan Barnes made the motion to approve the 2024-2025 school year calendar. Deborah Hunt seconded. Yay votes: Jodie Benson, Joe Fairchild and Laurie Granger, Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved.

5. Discuss/ Approve - 2024 Senior Class Trip – moved up in the agenda

6. Discuss/Approve 1st reading of Policy Advisories 763-786 – handout

Laurie Granger made the motion to approve the first reading of policy advisories #763-786. Deborah Hunt seconded. Yay votes: Jodie Benson, Joe Fairchild and Susan Barnes, Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved.

7. **Personnel**

i. New Hires:

ii. Resignations – none

iii. New Positions: none

iv. Additional Duty Stipends:

Coaching stipends:

High School Girls and Boys Basketball – Floyd Martin, Di Rudnick, Erika Acosta

Middle School Boys Basketball Head Coach – Erika Acosta

Susan Barnes made the motion to approve the additional duty coaching stipends. Deborah Hunt seconded.

Yay votes: Jodie Benson, Joe Fairchild and Laurie Granger, Nay votes: none. Unanimously approved.

VIII. Information and future discussion items (NO Action taken)

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

CNA proposal with Dr. Wing

Spartan Legacy update from students

B. Date of next meeting. March 12th, 2024

XI Adjournment

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

MINUTES APPROVED ___ WRITTEN/___ AMENDED, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 MEETING*

Jodie Benson - President

Joe Fairchild, Vice-President

Susan Barnes, Clerk

Deborah Hunt, Member

Laurie Granger, Member

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