

**PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, District Administration Center, 150 District Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264, September 28, 2021.

This meeting was held in-person and livestreamed.

AGENDA – CLOSED SESSION (4:00 PM)

1. CLOSED SESSION OPENING CEREMONY:

The Closed Session meeting was called to order by President Wood at 4:00 pm with the following persons present:

Tim Wood	President
Madonna Gerrell	Clerk
Karen Cornett	Member
Sergio Espericueta	Member
John Gerardi	Member

Mike Swize, Ed.D.	Superintendent Designee
Brian Murray, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Tony Signoret, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Simone Kovats, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

2. CLOSED SESSION:

At this time, the Board of Education went into Closed Session to take up matters identified on the Closed Session agenda.

3. HEARING SECTION:

There were no public comments.

4. RECESS FROM CLOSED SESSION:

Closed Session was recessed at 4:44 p.m.

5. STUDY SESSION (4:30 PM)

a. 5.a. MONITORING REPORTS, GOVERNING POLICIES: R-2.1 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT; CORE ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (R-2.1) AND R-2.2 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN CORE ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES IN MATHEMATICS (R-2.2)

Simone Kovats, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Education Services, Mark and other dude a PowerPoint of the update to the Monitoring Reports; Governing Policies: R-2.1 Academic Achievement in Core Academic Disciplines in English Language Arts (R-2.1) and R-2.2 Academic Achievement in Core Academic

Disciplines in Mathematics (R-2.2)

The Annual work Plan requires that the Results Policy on Academic Achievement to meet or exceed state standards in Achieving Proficiency be monitored each year.

RECESS FOR BREAK AT 5:38

6. REGULAR MEETING OPENING CEREMONY (6:00 PM):

- a. The Public Session meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm with the following persons present:

Tim Wood	President
Madonna Gerrell	Clerk
Karen Cornett	Member
Sergio Espericueta	Member
John Gerardi	Member

Mike Swize, Ed.D.	Superintendent Designee
Brian Murray, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Tony Signoret, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Simone Kovats, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

In accordance with the California Education Code Section 35144 and Brown Act, written notices of the meeting were delivered to the Board, news media, and a copy posted seventy-two hours in advance of the time of the meeting.

b. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Member Madonna Gerrell led the Pledge.

c. **Mission Statement**

Board Member John Gerardi read the Mission Statement.

7. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS:

Member Garrell – nothing to report

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Gerardi moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

9. SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

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9.a. The Governing Board wishes to recognize the 2021/2022 Student Board Members and administer the Oath of Office.

Sophia Gonzales, Cathedral City High School
Stephanie Romero, Rancho Mirage High School
Keona Corona, Palm Springs High School
Ramon Salado, Desert Hot Springs High School

10. PRESENTATION:

a. ETIS SECURITY REVIEW

Will Carr, Director of Tech Services & Eric Arline, ETIS Tech presented on the IT security layers deployed at PSUSD to include email, internet, ransomware, student online safety and hacking. ETIS has also included specific usage data on email, zoom and visited websites.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Clerk Gerrell stated that no written comments were received.

Telephonic Comments: The following individuals provided a telephonic comments:

- 1) Edith Duran, Parent
- 2) Roger Monte Alegre – Parent

In-person Comments: The following individuals provided in-person comments:

- 1) Angelina Telles – Parent
- 2) Karen Johnson – PSTA
- 3) Tamera Handwerk – Parent
- 4) Stephanie Avant - Parent

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Member Espericueta: On September 22, attended Desert Round Table with Dr. Swize. Member Cornett was the distinguished speaker. I was a good opportunity to learn.

Member Cornett: Currently talking to different community groups and attended Desert Round Table with Member Espericueta. Wanted to say thank you to students parents staff and community for their in-person learning and public comments

Member Gerardi: Wanted to address public comment from earlier who feel's that I do not take the safety of our children seriously. It's unfortunate that you have that perception as it could not be further from the truth. I have spent many years doing this and the success and safety of out students and wouldn't if I did not care. As a Board member I am going to have to be a public guardian that this district is using their resources was wisely as we can to make sure children are safe. We are very close to finalizing the contracts with he different entities and we have a good evaluation plan for this year to make sure they're doing what they're supposed to be doing and that they are a value to our school district.

Member Gerrell: I would like to formally thank Dr. Denise Ellis who has been promoted to Coachella Valley Unified School District. Welcome to new teachers and substitutes, we are happy that you are starting your career with us. Welcome and don't leave and if doesn't fit try a different school or a different position. Thank you for all of the motivation and excitement on attendance awareness month.

Member Wood: no comments

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Public Health Update. Slight decrease in the case rate at 24.5 out of 100k. At our highest point we were at 34 out of 100k. Public Health is reporting that we have an increase in ICU beds. We have had a few positive cases at our school sites but our rates remain low and across the district they're at their lowest point since school opened. We constantly keep monitoring public health guidance and trends. We have had come outbreaks related to athletics at eh highs school level so we look at that very closely. We also look at the California Department of Public Health and they recommend that testing be used for athletes in communities where there is a moderate or higher spread and that is certainly the case for us here in Palm Springs and throughout Riverside County. We are instituting athlete testing for the safety of our students and our staff. I do want to emphasize that the testing is voluntary but is also required if you want to participate in extracurricular activities. We are also continuing vaccination verification across the district with all our staff including all us Board Members. We have free COVID testing at school sites as well as here in the District office.

I would also like to provide a very brief SRO update. We are steadily moving forward. Tomorrow night at the Cathedral City Council meeting they will be looking at the revised MOU and then on September 30th Palm Springs City Council will be looking at the MOU. Riverside County has a very different contract process and Desert Hot Springs is also moving forward. Our plan is to bring those forward at the next Board meeting including how the metrics will be evaluation.

I would like to take a moment to talk about the bus incident Friday, September 17th. One of our Schools First student buses was involved in a bus accident when returning home from a football game and I bring this up this evening to really comment the employees of both the district but also Schools First who really helped ensure that the accident wasn't much worse and the first student staff assisted and district staff assisted at the scene of the accident late into the evening to make sure our student's got home safely.

14. BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

14.a. APPROVAL OF EXPULSION CASE 2021/2022-001, RECOMMENDATION AND FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSION OF LAW (OE-11)

Member Cornett moved and Member Gerardi seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

14.b. APPROVAL OF REJECTION OF CLAIM NO. 2021/2022-01; JANE DOE (ZJ) VS. PSUSD (596496) (OE-7)

Member Espericueta moved and Member Gerrell seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

14.c. APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES (OE-6)

Member Gerardi moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

14.d. APPROVAL OF ASSIGNMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW (SB 435) 2021/2022 SCHOOL YEAR (OE-4.4)

Member Gerrell moved and Member Gerardi seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

14.e. APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATED AND CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS (OE-4.4)

Member Cornett moved and Member Gerrell seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

14.f. APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY (BP) 6158; INDEPENDENT STUDY (OE-10)

Member Gerardi moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

14.g. APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION OF BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH - OCTOBER 2021 (OE-10)

Member Gerardi moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

15. SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS:

15.a. APPROVAL OF ARCHITECTURAL FIRM SELECTION PER RFQ NO. 22-01: ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES (OE-6.2)

15.b. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS OR MORE AND OTHER CONTRACTS (OE-6.2)

15.c. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS UNDER TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (OE-6.2)

15.d. APPROVAL OF DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY REPORT PER RESOLUTION NO. 2021/2022-02 (OE-7.9)

15.e. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDER REPORT (OE-6.2) 15.f. APPROVAL OF NEW JOB DESCRIPTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – NUTRITION SERVICES (OE-4.7)

15.g. APPROVAL OF NEW JOB DESCRIPTION, BEHAVIOR ANALYST – STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (OE-4.7)

15.h. APPROVAL OF NEW JOB DESCRIPTION, CHEF MANAGER – NUTRITION SERVICES (OE-4.7)

Member Gerardi moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

16. BOARD CONSENT ITEM:

a. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2021

Member Gerardi moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

17. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no suggestions for future agendas.

18. SETTING OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING:

a. Regular Board Meeting:

Regular Session: October 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

21. DEBRIEF:

None

22. ADJOURNMENT:

Member Cornett moved and Member Gerrell seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Recorder: Erika Barragan