

**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, December 14, 2021.

This meeting was held in-person and livestreamed.

AGENDA – CLOSED SESSION (3:30 PM)

1. STUDY SESSION OPENING CEREMONY:

The Study Session was called to order by President Wood at 3:30 pm with the following persons present:

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

2. CLOSED SESSION:

The Closed Session meeting was called to order by President Wood at 4:15 pm with the following persons present:

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

3. CLOSED SESSION:

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

4. HEARING SECTION:

There were no public comments.

5. RECESS FROM CLOSED SESSION:

Closed Session was recessed at 5:38 p.m.

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	Board President
Madonna Gerrell	Clerk
Karen Cornett	Board Member
Sergio Espericueta	Board Member
John Gerardi	Board Member
Ramon Salado	Student Board Member, Desert Hot Springs High School
Sophia Gonzalez	Student Board Member, Cathedral City High School

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

Student Board Member Ramon Salado led the Pledge of Allegiance.

c. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed for student from Julius Corsini Elementary School.

d. Mission Statement

Student Board Member Sophia Gonzalez read the Mission Statement.

7. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS:

Member Gerrell reported there were no actions to report.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Gerardi requested that item 16.a is moved before item 13. Member Gerrell seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

9. SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

9.a. The Governing Board wishes to recognize and commend the following Employees of the Month for December, 2021:

Classified: Yadira Milward, School Administrative Assistant - Agua Caliente Elementary; Juanita Garner Paraprofessional - Bilingual - Katherine Finchy Elementary.

Certificated: Stephen Castillo, Counselor - Agua Caliente Elementary School; Mary Vaughan, Intervention Teacher - Katherine Finchy Elementary School.

9.b. The Governing Board wishes to recognize Erin Graham, Carlston Family Foundation Outstanding Teacher of America Award Recipient

Erin Graham was one of just five teachers in the nation selected to receive a 2021 Outstanding Teacher of America award from the Carlston Family Foundation. The award is \$20,000, of which \$5,000 goes to the school. A check will be presented by Beverly Young from the Carlston Family Foundation.

10. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT:

The Student Board Member Reports were presented by Cathedral City High School Student Board Member Sophia Gonzales and Desert Hot Springs High School Student Board Member Ramon Salado.

11. PRESENTATION

Dr. Brian Murray, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented on the First Interim Report (OE-5)

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Board Clerk Gerrell stated that no written comments were received.

Executive Assistant, Erika Barragan stated that no telephonic comments were received.

In-person Comments: No Public Comments

16. BOARD ACTION ITEM:

16.a. APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATED AND CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS (OE-4.4)

Member Cornett moved and Member Gerardi seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Espericueta, Gerardi, Gerrell
NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Member Cornett:

- I just want to let everyone know how grateful I am for our school district. Not only for the staff, the parents, the students, but also our administration and our School Board members. The School Board and our Superintendent had a great opportunity to go down to San Diego and participate in the California School Boards Association Conference and really got to meet other Boards and Superintendents from different districts and just to listen to their experiences with back to school in person instruction and comparison to ours. I really have to say thank you to everyone because we are really, I think, blessed in our district.
- I also want to say that we do always welcome input from parents and students and staff and our community.
- We are continuing with testing for COVID and our vaccination clinics throughout our district so again I'd like to thank our nursing staff and also our administration and each school for having that available.

Member Gerardi:

- I would like to offer our deepest condolences to the parents and the staff over at Julius Corsini Elementary School. I don't have a lot for words for it. Words can't describe that tragic event, but I think all of our hearts and prayers are with everybody involved.
- I would like to thank our Student Board Members for their excellent presentations tonight. It's always wonderful to hear what's happening at our local high schools. So thank you both very much for that.
- The CSBA Conference was excellent, they offer a lot of good professional development opportunities for Board members. Just as important as it is important for all of our staff members to continuously be involved in professional development. I think that it's important for Board members and thank you for that opportunity.
- I want to encourage everybody to have a very safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

Member Espericueta:

- I want to thank the District for registering me for the CSBA Conference and Trade Show. I want to highlight topics they covered at that convention for example community engagement and advocacy, equity, opportunity funding, finance, and leadership through governance. It was a very complete tradeshow. We had the opportunity to talk to difference vendors that provide services around the state.
- Tomorrow will be my one-year anniversary here and I want to thank the administration and the board for the support they have given me to learn about what is happening to support our children.

Member Gerrell:

- I would like to show appreciation for Barbara Cruz from Kathrine Finchy, a third grade teacher. She started a movement with just one book called "Can I Be Your Dog" and that started a trend and they raised money for the animal shelter. Taking

a book from a classroom to doing a good deed in the community was demonstrated by Barbara Cruz and the third graders at Katherine Finchy.

- Cathedral City athlete player of the week Frankie Valentino, watch for him in the pros because he caught a 55-yard touchdown and is a talented offensive receiver and we need to honor all of our students across the district who are being recognized by our news channels.
- Teacher Tiffany Cobb nominated herself for the Walter Clark honors and won \$500 which she said she would use for art materials for her students.
- Festival of lights parade which included every middle school and high school, dance teams and drill and cheer. It was amazing to see everyone out there.
- We have a Foundation Bad Santa event collection tomorrow, and we will be donating some toys tomorrow afternoon there.
- Welcome to all of the new administrators in the district.

14. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Public Health Update: Currently in Riverside County the numbers have started to go back up a bit even here in Palm Springs. At our last board meeting our district dashboard reported 18 students as having a positive COVID case and as of today it was at 44. And as you can see that number is increasing. Another number that I heard from the County Public Health that I wanted to share that I would like to increase even more, is the percentage of your people who are vaccinated in Riverside County. Students over the age of 12 there are only 60% of the students in Riverside County who are fully vaccinated who are eligible for the vaccine over the age of 12. For the 5-year-old to 11-year-old group that number is only four percent of students that are fully vaccinated. So, there is a long way to go and as Member Cornett, said we are continuing to offer vaccination clinics giving that third booster so please everybody make sure you get that third booster and also making it available to our families with young children or school age children.
- I did my first "Mornings with Mike" where I went to a local coffee shop and that was set up by our amazing Joan Boiko and the incredible team of Monica and Erika in the office with me. It was very nice to get to talk to someone at a coffee shop about our school district and was able to actually sit down and have a conversation. I am looking forward to continuing that in other communities. It will be once a month, so we will get back at it in January.
- As Member Gerardi said, our deepest sympathy and condolences to everyone impacted by the very tragic accident that took place out near Desert Hot Springs last week. I do want to share that being able to be at the school the next day, the school site principal along with district staff and a crisis response team from the district did an excellent job being there for all of the staff members and for all of the students. Although this is a terrible, something that is very difficult for all of us to process, I have to say I was very proud of our district team who was there to help families, students and staff members deal with this really devastating news. That support will continue well past just the first few days after that accident.
- I want to welcome our new administrators, as somebody already said, but I want to call attention to something that Bhavini Patel said this evening when she was being named the Education Technology Coordinator. She said something about this is a district where I've learned and grown, and I am so proud to be a part of this district

and that really echoed with me from last month when we had another new administrator in the district say “I love this district because it is a place that I have grown”. So I really just wanted to take a minute to acknowledge the district’s logo of ‘lifelong learning starts here’ is not just about school-age children, it’s about staff members, it’s about family, and it’s about board members. So we really embody that here in Palm Springs and I couldn’t be more proud of that.

- The CSBA conference was great. It was fun to get to spend some time with the Board outside of this setting. But I want to make my public commitment to the Board. I was very jealous of the school districts that were receiving Golden Bell’s. It has been a while since we’ve received that recognition, but I assure you, we will be back up there. We have so many great programs in this district. Hey really need to be recognized.

15. ANNUAL BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

15.a. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Board President Wood opened the nominations.

Member Cornett nominated member Gerardi to serve as President of the Governing Board for 2022. Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

15.b. ELECTION OF CLERK OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Board President Wood opened the nominations.

Member Cornett nominated member Gerrell to serve as Clerk of the Governing Board for 2022. Member Gerardi seconded approval

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

15.c. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ANNUAL COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Board President Wood opened the nominations.

Member Gerardi nominated member Cornett to serve as Representative for the Annual County Committee on School District Organization for 2022. Member Espericueta seconded approval

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

15.d. SELECTION OF DAY, TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

Member Gerrell moved the day, time and place of regular meetings as presented.
Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

15.e. APPROVAL OF CALENDAR OF DATES FOR REGULAR MEETINGS

Member Gerrell moved the day, time and place of regular meetings as presented.
Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

15.f. APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES

Member Cornett moved and Member Gerardi seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

16. BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

16.b. APPROVAL OF FINAL PAR REPORT FOR 2020/2021 (OE-4.4)

Member Gerrell moved and Member Gerardi seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

16.c. APPROVAL OF THE EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS BLOCK GRANT PLAN (2021-2026) (OE-10)

Member Gerardi moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

16.d. APPROVAL OF POSITIVE CERTIFICATION OF SOLVENCY FIRST INTERIM REPORT FOR FY 2021/2022 (OE-5)

Member Gerardi moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

16.e. APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM TO ASSIGNMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW (SB 435) 2021/2022 SCHOOL YEAR (OE-4.4)

Member Gerardi moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

16.f. APPROVAL OF BUDGET INCREASE AND CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 WITH RENOVA ENERGY CORPORATION FOR ASSESSMENT, DESIGN, INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS AT MT. SAN JACINTO HIGH AND RIO VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AGREEMENT NO. C0003875 (OE-12.7)

Member Cornett moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

16.g. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021/2022-79 CERTIFYING INDEPENDENT STUDY CURRICULUM

Member Gerrell moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

16.h. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021/2022-80; AUTHORIZATION OF INCOME AGREEMENT C1008280 WITH THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR PARTICIPATION IN HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START FEDERAL PROGRAMS (OE-10.8)

Member Cornett moved and Member Gerardi seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

16.i. APPROVAL OF EXPULSION CASE 2021/2022-020, RECOMMENDATION AND FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSION OF LAW (OE-11)

Member Gerardi moved to approve item 16.i with modifications. Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

16.j. – 16. I APPROVAL OF EXPULSION CASE 2021/2022-021, 2021/2022-022 and 2021/2022-023 RECOMMENDATION AND FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSION OF LAW (OE-11)

Member Espericueta moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

17. SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS:

17.a. APPROVAL TO AWARD BID NO. NS-22-04; REFRIGERATED DELIVERY TRUCKS (3) (OE-6.3)

17.b. APPROVAL OF RECOGNITION OF QUALIFIED SCHOOL-CONNECTED ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (OE-6.7)

17.c. APPROVAL OF WORK-BASED LEARNING BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS (OE-10.5)

17.d. APPROVAL OF NEW JOB DESCRIPTION, HUMAN RESOURCES DATA SPECIALIST (OE-4.7)

17.e. APPROVAL OF NEW JOB DESCRIPTION, SENIOR HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST (OE-4.7)

17.f. APPROVAL OF REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION, SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (OE-4.7)

17.g. APPROVAL OF REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION, SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – HUMAN RESOURCES (OE-4.7)

17.h. APPROVAL OF REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION, SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE (OE-4.7)

17.i. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS UNDER TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (OE-6.2)

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

17.k. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDER REPORT (OE-6.2)

**17.I. APPROVAL OF DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY REPORT PER
RESOLUTION NO. 2021/2022-02 (OE-7.9)**

Member Cornett moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

18. BOARD CONSENT ITEM:

a. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – November 23, 2021

Member Cornett moved and Member Gerardi seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

19. INFORMATION

**19.a. FIRST READING OF THE DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR 2022/2023 SCHOOL
YEAR (OE-10.9)**

**19.b. SUBMISSION OF EARLY HEAD START AND HEAD START REPORTS PER
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HEAD START ACT FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER
2021(OE-10.1)**

20. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no suggestions for future agendas.

21. SETTING OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING:

18. a. Regular Board Meeting:

Regular Session: January 11,2022 at 6:00 p.m.

22. DEBRIEF:

None

23. ADJOURNMENT:

Member Gerardi moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Recorder: Erika Barragan