

**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, January 25, 2022.**

***This meeting was held in-person and livestreamed.***

**1. OPENING CEREMONY:**

The Study Session was called to order by President Gerardi at 4:00 pm with the following persons present:

John Gerardi	President
Madonna Gerrell	Clerk
Karen Cornett	Member
Sergio Espericueta	Member
Timothy S. Wood	Member

Mike Swize, Ed.D.	Superintendent of Schools
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. STUDY SESSION:**

Julie Arthur, Executive Director - Facilities Planning and Development will presented an update of the Facilities Bond and Redevelopment Projects.

**3. HEARING SECTION:**

There were no public comments.

**4. CLOSED SESSION:**

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

**5. RECESS FROM CLOSED SESSION:**

Closed Session was recessed at 5:35 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:

John Gerardi	President
Madonna Gerrell	Clerk

Karen Cornett	Member
Sergio Espericueta	Member
Timothy S. Wood	Member

Mike Swize, Ed.D.	Superintendent of Schools
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 President Wood led the Pledge.

**c. Moment of Silence**

A Moment of Silence will be observed for the following individual: David Brashear

**d. Mission Statement**

Board Member Espericueta read the Mission Statement.

**7. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS:**

**Gerrell:** There were no actions to report

**8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Member Wood moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**9. PRESENTATION**

**a. THE FOUNDATION MID-YEAR UPDATE (OE-10)**

Ellen Goodman, Foundation Director presented a mid-year update on the Foundation's activities, goals and annual budget.

**10. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

The Student Board Member Reports were presented by Desert Hot Springs High School Student Board Member Ramon Salado and Rancho Mirage High School Student Board Member Stephanie Romero.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Clerk Gerrell stated that no electronic comments were received.

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

Member Gerardi stated there are no in-person comments.

**12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- Member Espericueta:
  - I want to thank the student board members, Stephanie Romero and Ramon Salado.
  - On January 18<sup>th</sup> I had a small informal meeting with the President of the Senior Center in Cathedral City, Geoff Corbin, with the intention to promote the senior center and the region they cover.
  - I have also been partnering with the organization Lift to Rise, they are working hard to make more affordable housing. That is important for the population that we give the service to our students and families that need more affordable housing.
  - On January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> we had the board retreat and had a very comprehensive superintendent update. We discussed the goals and priorities for the next year and made updates to our existing policies to adapt to the current needs of the school district.
- Member Cornett:
  - I would also like to thank Ramon and Stephanie, we love hearing from our student board members.
  - Also, thanks to Ellen and the Foundation for always supporting our students and bringing new ideas in to support our students.
  - I would like to thank the administration for arranging our board retreat last Thursday and Friday. And thank you Dr. Swize for the update, it was quite comprehensive.
- Member Gerrell
  - Earlier today we had a study session about what's happening with our district and all the updates in our facilities. To the team in facilities, Dr. Murray, Julie Arthur, all of the people that helped to raise our district up and improve all of our environments for students. That is a board priority that our students are in healthy, awesome environments. If you have the chance to open the report and see -the changes that are coming, its impressive.
  - 13 PSLA leaders have been recognized by PSLA and they will be going to future competition. They include Laura Dyson, Tanisha Taylor, Teresa Haga, Karen Dimick, Eric Antuna, Mark Arnold, Deanna Keulian, Denise Fenton, Sue Drummond, Brad Seiple, Rob Nichols, Lisa Todd and Jessica Whiteman. We appreciate their strength and leadership.
- Member Gerardi
  - I want to thank whoever is responsible for inviting me to the Spelling Bee. It was a great event and I want to publicly congratulate our first place winner Jaylen Mezza an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student from Cielo Vista Charter School and our second place winner Ivan Labrador Escobar, 4<sup>th</sup> grader from Cathedral City Elementary School. I think he is going to be a force to be reckoned with in the next few years.

**13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

- Public Health Update: On December 18<sup>th</sup> our case rate was 14.9/100k residents in Riverside County, we all left for winter break very optimistic that we would return for 2022 with a fresh start and rested students and staff. While we were away for our three-week winter break the case rate increased tenfold. On January 11<sup>th</sup> there were 138.6/100k. This morning when I looked at Riverside County's website there are 259.1/100k. I want to thank our staff and families for returning in these challenging times with a very positive attitude. We received new rules from the California Department of Health on quarantine procedures and isolation and testing. We have worked with Cabinet and make a very rapid change to our practice. I want to thank all of our families and staff for embracing those changes so quickly. We continue to hold daily COVID testing and we have vaccination clinics taking place across our district.
- Trustee Area Update: Our goal is to have over one thousand clicks on the website. We have board presentations both in Spanish and English that you can click on. We have a recorded webinar both in English and Spanish that talks you through the maps and through the four scenarios which are available on our YouTube channel as well. You can provide comments on individual scenarios or on the general redistricting.

**14. BOARD ACTION ITEMS:**

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

Motion to approve the following employment agreements and certificated and classified employee transactions:

Employment Agreement with: Danielle McClain-Parks, Coordinator of Mental Health; Salary Range 35, Step 2, Effective date: January 26, 2022

Employment Agreement with: Selene Ahumada Tirado, Director of Purchasing, Warehouse, and Reprographics; Salary Range 37, Step 1, Effective date: TBD

Member Cornett moved and Member Gerrell seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**14. b. APPROVAL OF AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021 (OE-6.7)**

Member Wood moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**14. c. APPROVAL OF COMPROMISE AND RELEASE AGREEMENT #21/22-06 BETWEEN PARENTS AND DISTRICT DATED DECEMBER 22, 2021 (OE-6.1)**

Member Gerrell moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**14.d. APPROVAL OF EXPULSION CASE 2021/2022-024, RECOMMENDATION AND FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSION OF LAW (OE-11)**

Member Wood moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**14. e. APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (OE-4)**

**14. f. APPROVAL OF THIRD ADDENDUM TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES (OE-4)**

**14. g. APPROVAL OF THIRD ADDENDUM TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES (OE-4)**

**14. h. APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (OE-4)**

Items 14.e – 14.h Member Cornett moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**15. SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS:**

**15.a. APPROVAL OF NEW JOB DESCRIPTION, SUPERVISOR – MAIL SERVICES/REPROGRAPHICS (OE-4.7)**

**15.b. APPROVAL OF NEW JOB DESCRIPTION, SUPERVISOR - DAY CUSTODIAL (OE-4.7)**

**15.c. APPROVAL OF NEW JOB DESCRIPTION, TEACHER ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT - TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM (OE-4.7)**

**15.d. APPROVAL TO AWARD BID NO. 01-22; BLACK BOX THEATER LIGHTING UPGRADE PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL (OE-6.4)**

**15.e. APPROVAL TO FILE NOTICE OF COMPLETION WITH R DEPENDABLE CONSTRUCTION INC, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW OFFICE ADDITIONS AT BELLA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AGREEMENT NO. C0004156 (OE-12.14)**

**15.f. APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS (OE-6)**

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

**15.h. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDER REPORT (OE-6.2)**

Member Wood moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**16. BOARD CONSENT ITEM:**

Regular Board Meeting  
January 25, 2022

**a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2022**

Member Cornett moved and Member Wood seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Gerrell, Wood, Cornett, and Espericueta

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Gerardi

ABSENT: None

**17. INFORMATION**

**17.a WILLIAMS CASE-REPORT OF COMPLAINTS (OE-4.12, OE-10.12, AND OE-12.10)**

**17.b. FIRST READING OF REVISIONS TO ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 3513.1; CELLULAR PHONE REIMBURSEMENT (OE-8.1)**

**18. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

February 8, 2022 – Study Session on Trustee Areas

**19. SETTING OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

**a. Regular Board Meeting:** February 8, 2022

**20. DEBRIEF:**

No Debrief

**21. ADJOURNMENT:**

Member Gerrell moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Recorder: Erika Barragan