

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

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, Desert Hot Springs High School Auditorium
65850 Pierson Blvd, Desert Hot Springs, CA, 92240, March 8, 2022.**

This meeting was held in-person and livestreamed.

1. OPENING CEREMONY:

The Study Session was called to order by President Gerardi at 4:30 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. HEARING SECTION:

There were no public comments.

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. RECESS FROM CLOSED SESSION:

Closed Session was recessed at 5:25 p.m.

5. 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

Sophia Gonzales Cathedral City High School Student Board Member
Keona Corona Palm Springs High School Student Board Member

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 Keona Corona led the Pledge.

c. Mission Statement

Student Board Member Sophia Gonzales read the Mission Statement.

6. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS:

Gerrell: In Closed session, the Board took action to issue notices to the following certificated administrative employees that they may be released from their administrative positions and reassigned to classroom teaching positions pursuant to Education Code section 44951, effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, and directed the Superintendent or Designee to send out appropriate legal notices. Employee Number: 256417, Current position: Assistant Principal, Reassigned Position: Teacher.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: John Gerardi, Madonna Gerrell, Karen Cornett, Tim Wood, Sergio Espericueta

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Gerrell moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

8. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

The Student Board Member Reports were presented by Cathedral City High School Student Board Member Sophia Gonzales and Palm Springs High School Student Board Member Keona Corona.

9. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

9.a The Governing Board wishes to recognize and commend the following employees of the month for March 2022.

Classified:

- Cindy Tomassi, Admin Secretary III, DHSHS
- Paula Clark, Campus Safety Officer, DSMS
- Linda Gallegos, Behavior Paraprofessional, PHMS

Certificated:

- Elizabeth Boucher, Special Education Teacher, DHSHS
- Rebecca Tartaglino, Counselor, DSMS
- Norman McKee, Teacher, PHMS

10. PRESENTATION

10.a A-G COMPLETION IMPROVEMENT GRANT PLAN PRESENTATION (OE-10)

Dr. Jim Feffer, Director of Assessment and Data Analysis, presented information on the A-G Completion Improvement Grant Plan.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Clerk Gerrell stated that no electronic comments were received.

Member Gerardi stated there are no in-person comments.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Member Espericueta:
 - On March 5th I attended an event where I was invited by Ellen Goodman, the PSUSD Foundation Director. It was a dinner and a show to talk about the I Love Lucy learning tool they have available for the district. This morning I attended Cathedral City Elementary School to see a presentation connected to this proposal. I was very impressed because the first thing that I see is Lucy Arnaz speaking to the children and kept their attention the entire time. It was impressive to see how they connect the show to make the children learn math, history and even English. I was very impressed and think that will be a good program to have in our district.
- Member Cornett:
 - I want to thank the Desert Hot Springs High School Principal Tinoco, for hosting us tonight. I know it is a lot of work to get ready for us to come. So, thank you very much.
 - Thank you to our student board members for their excellent presentations. Sophie and Keona.
 - On March 1st at the Parent Advisory Committee, Dr. Feffer gave an excellent overview of the LCAP and many positive suggestions were provided by the group

that night. Thank you for doing that. I want to thank our parents and students and staff for their continued support for our district.

- Member Wood
 - I thought the student members did a fantastic job this evening.
 - I have been noticing that things are getting back on track, we are seeing more traffic, more restaurants open and so full they cannot get enough staff. So, it feels like we are getting back to normal. One of the things is that the food insecurity here in the community has grown by almost double. During the pandemic the number of people attending our food banks was high. I commend the schools for the way we have feed out families and our students. If any of you out there are interested, the food banks locally still need your help. I would just ask that you think about that and help if you can.
- Member Gerrell
 - It is so refreshing to be back in the theatre. Gratitude to all of you in the district that brought us together because this is really special.
 - I was so excited to be invited to do a reading with a Read Across America group at two classrooms in a Zoom at Della S Lindley Elementary School. A kindergarten class and a 4th grade class.
 - I want to thank our CTE teachers. They put together a digital newsletter that was forwarded to us. It was exciting, creative and eye catching as well as a Special Education newsletter that was informative.
 - I would like to congratulate the Teachers of the Year. Della Lindley Elementary's Elizabeth Coats, Mount San Jacinto High EWEC's Jackie Mantz and DHSHS 1st Sgt. Nichelle Webb.
 - I would like to congratulate KESQ athlete of the week, Alejandra Garcia for softball.
 - We are very proud of everyone being recognized and for all of their hard work.
- Member Gerardi
 - I would like to express my regrets for missing the Taste of Soul event at the high school. I know that's a very special event and I wasn't able to make it but I am sure it was a fantastic program.
 - I also want to thank the staff at Desert Hot Springs High School and out district staff for putting this on today. I know the logistics of it coming to this auditorium and putting on our meeting is difficult and challenging. All of the hard work is appreciated.

13. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

- Public Health Update: Public Health Update: On 2/22 it was at 37.9/100k with a positivity rate of 13.2%. The case rate has decreased since last reported and is currently at 9.8/100k and the positivity rate is at 4.4%. The current district dashboard shows 28 students and 1 staff member with current COVID-19 cases. We continue to offer vaccination clinics and testing for our staff and students.
- Mask Mandate: As of March 14th, the mask mandate is moving from being a requirement to being strongly recommended. A letter was sent to staff on March 2nd with details and emphasizing being respectful through this transition with masks.
- Thank you to Student Board Member Ramon Salado and the DHSHS USB for attending the Board meeting.

14. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

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

Employment Agreement with: Susan Drummond, Principal - Desert Springs Middle School; Salary Schedule 212, Column 1, Step 7, Effective date: 03/09/2022

Employment Agreement with: Vera Johnson, Assistant Principal, Desert Hot Springs High School; Salary Schedule 212, Column 1, Step 7, Effective date: 03/09/2022
Member Cornett moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

Member Wood moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

14.b. APPROVAL OF MONITORING REPORT OE-12, GOVERNING POLICY; OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS, FACILITIES (OE-8.1)

Member Cornett moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

14.c. APPROVAL OF POSITIVE CERTIFICATION OF SOLVENCY SECOND INTERIM REPORT FOR FY 2021/2022 (OE-5)

Member Cornett moved and Member Wood seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

14.d. APPROVAL OF REJECTION OF CLAIM NO. 2021-2022-04_JOHN DOE (ET) VS. PSUSD_(603557)_(OE-7)

Member Wood moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

14.e. APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 WITH POWERFLEX SYSTEMS, INC. FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF BATTERY STORAGE UNITS AT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION CENTER, CATHEDRAL CITY, DESERT HOT SPRINGS, PALM SPRINGS AND RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOLS, AGREEMENT NO. C0004206 (OE-12.7)

Member Cornett moved and Member Gerrell seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

14.f. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO SITE AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN TOWER, LLC FOR COMMUNICATION TOWER AT CATHEDRAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL (OE-12.1d)

Member Gerrell moved and Member Wood seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

14.g. APPROVAL OF EXPULSION CASE 2021/2022-036, RECOMMENDATION AND FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSION OF LAW (OE-11)

Member Gerrell moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

15. SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS:

15.a. APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF AN INVITATION TO

BID THE DESERT LEARNING ACADEMY 500 BUILDING PROJECT (OE12.9)

15.b. APPROVAL OF REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION, PARAPROFESSIONAL - TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT (OE 4.7)

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

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

Items 15a – 15d: Member Espericueta moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

Member Espericueta moved and Member Wood seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

17. BOARD CONSENT ITEM:

17.a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2022

Member Cornett moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

18. INFORMATION

17.a. SUBMISSION OF EARLY HEAD START AND HEAD START REPORTS PER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HEAD START ACT FOR DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022 (OE-10.1)

17.b. PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ANNUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Member Gerrell: I would like the Read with Me founders to come and present to the board and maybe invite them to tell us more about the program. I would like to request that Dr. Nicole Anderson and the equity committee work with the Board and our student board members to help us understand what we can do to support equity and help as a board.

19. SETTING OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Regular Board Meeting
March 8, 2022

a. Regular Board Meeting: March 22, 2022

21. DEBRIEF:

Member Cornett: I would like to discuss maybe discontinuing telephonic comments. Is that something we can bring to the board or agree on now.

Board consensus to stop telephonic comments mobbing forward and suggest community members email or present their comments in person.

22. ADJOURNMENT:

Member Cornett moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Recorder: Erika Barragan