

Coconino County Accommodation School District

Public Board Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2024

The Governing Board of the Coconino County Accommodation School District held a meeting in person and virtually, March 6, 2024, at the office of the Coconino County Superintendent of Schools which resides at 2384 N Steves Blvd., Flagstaff, AZ 86004.

Attendees: Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President; Dave Dirksen, CCASD Superintendent; Les Hauer, Ponderosa High School Principal; Michelle Despain, Board Secretary; Erin Tutay, Director of Business Services; Anna Eskridge, Executive Assistant

VIRTUAL Attendees: Traci Parker, Tse' Yaato' High School Principal

I. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Superintendent Cheryl Mango-Paget called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

II. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No public comments were made.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Written Reports

**Please note that our monthly board reports serve the purpose of updating both the board of education and the public on the recent and forthcoming activities, events, and initiatives across the five entities that constitute the CCRASD.*

1. Dave Dirksen, District Superintendent

Dave Dirksen shared highlights from his report. He reported that this past month, he attended a webinar on school safety and emergency operations planning. Dave also completed and submitted a school safety special study report to the attorney general's office.

2. Les Hauer, Ponderosa High School

Les Hauer shared highlights from his report. He reported that he formalized plans for a Navajo Language and Youth Empowerment course to be offered in the fourth quarter. Additionally, students participated in a tour of Little America and participated in culinary demonstrations.

Cheryl thanked Les for his work. She explained that she shared the Navajo Language and Youth Empowerment course idea with the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, and they were thrilled to hear about the planned class.

3. Traci Parker, Tse' Yaato' High School Principal

Traci Parker shared highlights from her report. She reported that Tse'Yaato' High students participated in a Service-Learning Day where the students tied over 40 quilts for the Quilts for Cuddles organization. Additionally, Ms. Fitch's class updated their resumes and visited the

Page library to utilize resources for employment and resume building. Traci reported that 75-80% of students now have an up-to-date resume to use as they apply for summer jobs.

Cheryl thanked Traci and expressed congratulations on the Service-Learning Day. Cheryl also stated that it is great to hear about the resume building with students.

4. Erin Tutay, Director of Business Services

Erin Tutay shared highlights from her report. She reported that she completed the USFR annual audit with Heinfeld and Meech. She also submitted the tax revenue report to the Arizona Department of Education early.

5. John Phelps, Director of Exceptional Student Services

John Phelps was unable to attend the board meeting.

Erin Tutay shared highlights from his report. She reported that John facilitated the Little America field trip for Ponderosa High School. He also scheduled AZELLA testing for the week of March 4th.

6. Emily Morton, District AOI Coordinator

Emily Morton was unable to attend the board meeting.

Dave Dirksen shared that Emily completed a rodeo eligibility report for the online students who compete in the junior rodeo. Emily also compiled a list of potential spring graduates. She is also generating a list of students who would be interested in summer school should the district choose to offer that this summer.

Cheryl stated that the rodeo sounds interesting and that she would like to learn more about that.

B. Governing Board/County Superintendent of Schools Summary of Current Issues

Superintendent Cheryl Mango-Paget stated that the Helping Empower All Learners conference is coming up in June with national and local speakers and encourages everyone to attend. It will be held at no cost at the Coconino Community College.

Cheryl expressed appreciation to the district leadership team for the information given her which allowed her to present on the accommodation district at the county budget presentation. She explained that the presentation was well received, and the Coconino County Board of Supervisors were open to looking at additional funding. The Board of Supervisors were also interested in learning more about the 4-day school week and leveraging that 4-day school week to look for opportunities in terms of work force development.

C. Approval of February 7, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved the February 7, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.

IV. **PRESENTATIONS**

No presentations were made.

V. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Discuss the recommendation to accept Christopher Sullivan's resignation as Plato Lab Manager for Tse' Yaato' High School effective March 15, 2024.

Dave reported that Christopher Sullivan was hired to manage the Plato lab and has now submitted his resignation to Ms. Parker.

Traci Parker explained that Mr. Sullivan is sad to go, but ultimately, he could not make the salary and hours work for his family. He will try to sub in the future as his family situation allows.

- B. Discuss the recommendation to accept Pete Holloway's resignation as Ponderosa High School math teacher effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Dave Dirksen explained that he reviewed the resignation/retirement letter for Pete Holloway and recommends it be approved.

Les Hauer stated that Mr. Holloway is a cornerstone at Ponderosa High School and that they are sad to see him go but wish him the best.

Cheryl stated that Mr. Holloway is very good with the students, and he will be missed.

- C. Discuss the recommendation to approve the appointment of volunteer instructors to teach the new Navajo Language & Youth Empowerment course at Ponderosa High School.

Dave explained that he approached Mr. Hauer about this program last semester. The program is based out of the Sunnyside neighborhood, and they have a certified teacher and program manager.

Les Hauer explained that they are very excited about this opportunity to help students connect with their culture and learn new things. Volunteer instructors have completed applications and submitted fingerprint clearance cards for district files.

Dave stressed that this is a volunteer service that will occur during the last period of the day and provide a way for students to investigate their language and participate in cultural experiences.

Les stated that 10 students are currently signed up for the class.

Cheryl stated that this is a good move for the district and that the Board of Supervisors was excited to learn of this opportunity for the Ponderosa High students as well.

- D. Discuss the recommendation to approve the Tse' Yaato' High School Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

Dave Dirksen explained that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee has charged the auditor general's office to conduct this survey with district and charter schools.

Cheryl thanked Traci for taking the time to complete the report. She stated that the plan looks professional and well thought through.

- E. Discuss the recommendation to approve the Ponderosa High School Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

Dave explained that this plan began last spring when Robin Pete was principal. Les Hauer took over in the fall to complete the report. It looks like Tse'Yaato's report because they are both based on a template from the state.

Les Hauer explained that Lauren Genevro helped to complete this plan and expressed appreciation for her efforts. He also thanked Traci for providing advice that helped him complete the report.

Cheryl stated that the report looks wonderful and thanked Les and Traci and those that supported them for their efforts.

- F. Discuss the recommendation to approve the district posting for the position of Social Studies Teacher for Ponderosa High School for the 2024-2025 school year.

Dave Dirksen explained that because of Mr. Holloway's resignation, Ponderosa High School has the opportunity to put a Social Studies teacher back on the roster. Dave further explained that when the previous Social Studies teacher, Leah Claw left, the district did not replace her, so this is an opportunity to do that now and bring a social studies teacher back.

- G. Discuss the recommendation to increase pay for substitute teachers and substitute administrators at Ponderosa High School from \$100 per day to \$135 per day- to become effective upon Board approval.

Dave Dirksen explained that the neighboring school district's current substitute rate is \$125/day. It is challenging to find substitutes and so the district wanted to increase the substitute rate to attract substitutes when needed. This will have a minimal impact on the budget at a \$35 increase.

Cheryl stated that at first, she had sticker shock over the increase but that she agrees the district needs substitutes and needs to be able to attract the quality substitute that will work well with the students.

- H. Discuss the recommendation to increase pay for substitute teachers and substitute administrators at Tse' Yaato' High School from \$100 per day to \$175 per day- to become effective upon Board approval.

Dave Dirksen explained that Page Unified's current substitute rate is \$165/day. The accommodation district pay rate is so much lower than PUSD's that it has been difficult to find substitutes as needed. The impact on the budget will be minimal. This will allow Tse'Yaato' to be competitive and attract substitutes.

- I. Discuss the recommendation to approve a \$2,000 stipend for Kori Fitch to serve as a Plato teacher at Tse' Yaato' High School during the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Dave Dirksen explained that he worked closely with Traci on this because of the resignation of the Plato lab manager. Kori Fitch helped as a Plato teacher in addition to her other teaching duties gratis during the second quarter, but Dave felt it was reasonable to compensate her for her work during the 4th quarter.

- J. Discuss the recommendation to approve a \$2,000 stipend for Josh Adams to serve as a Plato teacher at Tse'Yaato' High School during the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Dave Dirksen explained that Josh will work with Kori and pick up the time that Christopher Sullivan would have been there as the Plato lab manager. The district will save money by not hiring someone for this position. It is a cost savings due to no additional benefits to pay and the stipends are less than Mr. Sullivan would have been paid for this position.

Cheryl asked Traci if her teachers were okay to give up their prep hours to serve as Plato teachers.

Traci stated that the teachers were on board and that she was appreciative of their willingness to jump in and help as needed.

- K. Discuss the recommendation to approve Denise Bolden as a substitute teacher at Tse' Yaato' High School.

Dave Dirksen explained that he has reviewed Denise Bolden's application and recommends approval of this item.

Traci explained that Denise was a long-time math teacher at PUSD and continues to be a substitute for them. The potential change in substitute fees made her apply to be a substitute with Tse'Yaato'. This change in substitute pay is already proving fruitful in helping Tse'Yaato' obtain substitutes.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved to accept Christopher Sullivan's resignation as Plato Lab Manager for Tse'Yaato' High School effective March 15, 2024.
- B. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved to accept Pete Holloway's resignation as Ponderosa High School math teacher effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- C. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved the appointment of volunteer instructors to teach the new Navajo Language & Youth Empowerment course at Ponderosa High School.
- D. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved the Tse'Yaato' High School Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

- E. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved the Ponderosa High School Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- F. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved the district posting for the position of Social Studies Teacher for Ponderosa High School for the 2024-2025 school year.
- G. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved to increase pay for substitute teachers and substitute administrators at Ponderosa High School from \$100 per day to \$135 per day- to become effective upon Board approval.
- H. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved to increase pay for substitute teachers and substitute administrators at Tse' Yaato' High School from \$100 per day to \$175 per day- to become effective upon Board approval.
- I. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved a \$2,000 stipend for Kori Fitch to serve as a Plato teacher at Tse' Yaato' High School during the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.
- J. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved a \$2,000 stipend for Josh Adams to serve as a Plato teacher at Tse' Yaato' High School during the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.
- K. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved Denise Bolden as a substitute teacher at Tse' Yaato' High School.
- L. Cheryl Mango-Paget, Board President, approved Payroll and Accounts Payable Vouchers for CCASD
 - a) FY 24: AP Voucher # 2431: \$10,347.19
 - b) FY 24: AP Voucher # 2432: \$5,803.33
 - c) FY 24: AP Voucher #2433: \$21,911.22
 - d) FY 24: AP Voucher # 2434: \$26,950.70
 - e) FY 24: AP Voucher # 2435: \$15,136.29
 - f) FY 24: Payroll Voucher #15: \$70,248.32
 - g) FY 24: Payroll Voucher #16: \$71,235.24

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dave stated that the new salary schedules for future employees who join the district will be at one of the upcoming meetings. He explained that the new salary schedules put the accommodation district more in line with neighboring districts. Prior to placing it on the agenda, Dave and Erin will meet with Cheryl to review.

Erin stated that she will present the certified and classified employee contracts for the upcoming school year at the next board meeting.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITIONS

Cheryl announced that Noah Cordova is a finalist for Rookie Teacher of the Year. She expressed that he did well on the interview stage. She stated that it is exciting to have the district represented.

Erin acknowledged Anna Eskridge for completing the civil rights data report. Cheryl congratulated Anna on a good job.

Traci gave kudos to Tina Beckwith the new Tse'Yaato' Registrar. Traci stated that Tina is doing a bang-up job.

Cheryl stated that it is good to end on a positive note and it expressed that it is good to have Dave Dirksen back in full swing.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Superintendent Cheryl Mango-Paget adjourned the meeting at 5:26 pm.

Next Meeting date: Regular Board Meeting will be held on April 3, 2024, at 3:15 pm.

Dated this 3 day of April, 2024.

By: Cheryl Mango-Paget
President Cheryl Mango-Paget