

MINERAL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
751 A. STREET
Hawthorne, Nevada 89415
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 27, 2022

The Mineral County School District held a public meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 beginning at 5:42 the Arlo K. Funk District Services Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Candice Birchum, Juanita Diede, Tyler Viani, Keith Neville, Kathy Castagnola

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS: Andre Ponder, Superintendent; Jeff Wales, Principal, HJH/MCHS; Stephanie Keuhey, HES Principal; Lance West, Principal SES

OTHERS PRESENT: Crystal Sasser, Jaren Stanton, Larry Grant, Erika Sanchez, Breanna Hatfield, Kaiti Gentry, Christy Romero Grant, Ann Kee, Phillip Jaramillo, Drew Schaar, Tricia Schumann, JayDee Porras-Grant, Claire Hayhurst, David Ziegler, Helen Sanchez, Kristin Reeves, Karry Larramendy, Michelle Hudson, Darla Miller, Jamarr Covington, Kerie Morgan, Shannon Campos, Steven Hudson, Felicia Skvarna, Amber Blinco, Shari Berry, Bryan Morgan, Jazzmin Bryan, Diana Isom, Lance West, Jezzan Penas, Tricia Schumann, Janina Easley; Online: Kristy Bekiares, Kellie Harry, Tommy Martinez, Shannon Williams, Courtney Isom, MaryJo Gemelke, JayDee Porras-Grant, Audrey, Will Gemelke, Staci Teeter, Many, Attie West, Taylor Doolin, Brooke Sterns, Allen Gumm, Chris Porras, Juanita Carr-Diede, Taralyn Musselman, Holly Pellett, Brandy Keenan, JW, Stephanie Keuhey, Audrey

Keith Neville read, "I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on traditional lands of the Paiute People, and pay our respect to elders both past and present".

Board and Staff will utilize an online presence as well as social distancing for this meeting.

Please Note: The Board reserves the right: (1) to take agenda items in a different order, (2) to combine two or more agenda items for consideration, and (3) to remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time, in order to accomplish the business on the Agenda in the most efficient manner.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

1. Certification of Public Notice, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Ponder submitted his resignation to the School Board. His last day will be September 30, 2022.

Items 2, 3 and 4 are tabled. The next meeting we will plan to hire an interim Superintendent.

ACTION ITEMS: (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

1. **Recommendation:** Discussion and Possible Action relative to Superintendent report on compliance with Individual Education Plans, services provided, and plan to secure services.

Mr. Ponder read the packet of information. Conversation between the board and Mr. Ponder.

Comments made by: Kathy Castagnola, Jazzmin Bryan, Kristin Reeves, Janina Easley, Bryan Morgan, Stephanie Keuhey, Drew Schaar

Tyler Viani made a motion to table items 2 and 3. Agenda item next meeting to accept the resignation.

Candice Birchum second the motion.

Candice Birchum-Y, Juanita Diede-Y, Tyler Viani-Y, Keith Neville-Y, Kathy Castagnola-Y; 5-0-0

2. **Closed Session** – Pursuant to NRS 241.030(1) to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence, and/or physical or mental health of Superintendent Andre Ponder.

3. **Recommendation:** Discussion and Possible Action relative to accepting the combined evaluation of Superintendent Andre Ponder for the school year 2021/2022 and possible action including, but not limited to, termination, suspension, demotion, reduction in pay, reprimand, endorsement, engagement, retention, or 'no action'.

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Comments made by: Drew Schaar, Bryan Morgan, William Bruni, Jaren Stanton, Karry Larramendy, David Ziegler, Jazzmin Bryan, Kristin Reeves, Kerie Morgan,

4. **Recommendation:** Discussion and possible action to set the goals and directives for Superintendent Andre Ponder for the 2022/2023 school year and to use used during the future evaluation of the Superintendent for the 2022/2023 school year.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bryan Morgan – Special Ed issues

David Ziegler – Issues with Mr. Ponder’s contract. Disappointed in the board.

Janina Easley – Kids with IEP’s

Diana Isom – Disappointed with the board.

Kristin Reeves – Issue with Mr. Ponder

Tommy Martinez – Retaliation against staff.

Stephanie Keuhey – HES did not have a voice.

Jazzmin Bryan- Mr. Ponder not knowing who she was.

Stephanie Keuhey – Reaching out to Jaren.

6:17PM Tyler Viani made a motion to go into Closed Session. Candice Birchum second the motion. Candice Birchum-Y, Juanita Diede-Y, Tyler Viani-Y, Keith Neville-Y, Kathy Castagnola-Y; 5-0-0

6:43PM Keith Neville made a motion to go back into Open Session. Tyler Viani second the motion. Candice Birchum-Y, Juanita Diede-Y, Tyler Viani-Y, Keith Neville-Y, Kathy Castagnola-Y; 5-0-0

Juanita made a motion to proceed on items 2, 3, and 4. Kathy second the motion.
Motion withdrawn.

Tyler Viani made a motion to proceed on items 2 and 3. Juanita second the motion.
Candice Birchum-N, Juanita Diede-Y, Tyler Viani-Y, Keith Neville-N, Kathy Castagnola-Y; 3-2-0

Keith Neville made a motion to adjourn. Juanita Diede second. All approved.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:04PM

Respectfully submitted:



Juanita Diede, Clerk