

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES – February 21, 2024

A. Meeting Opening – 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mr. Montero called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Armando Montero (President), Sarah James (Vice President), Amanda Steele, Andres Barraza, and Berdetta Hodge.

Adoption of the Agenda

On motion of Mr. Montero, seconded by Mrs. Steele and passed 5-0 (Mr. Montero: aye; Mrs. James: aye; Mrs. Steele: aye; Mr. Barraza: aye; Ms. Hodge: aye), the Governing Board approved the meeting agenda.

Mr. Montero moved agenda item D-1 – School Safety/Social Emotional Wellness to go after agenda item F-1 – Public Comment.

B. Executive Session

The Governing Board did not meet in Executive Session.

C. Reconvene

Welcome—Mr. Montero welcomed everyone.

Presentation of Colors/Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence—TUHSD JROTC cadets, under the command of Major Robert Fore presented the colors. Mrs. James led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Land Acknowledgement—Mrs. Steele read a statement acknowledging Tempe Union’s presence on the ancestral lands of the Akimel O’odham and Pee Posh Indigenous peoples.

E. Report from Acting Superintendent

E-1—Career & Technical Education (CTE) Programs

- Dr. Wilson introduced Career and Technical Education programs (CTE) Director, Eric Sorenson, and recognized February as CTE Month.
- Mr. Sorenson thanked Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Hilgers and all CTE teaching staff and content specialists for their hard work. Mr. Sorenson said there are 62 CTE programs across all six schools and that recently the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) reported all 62 programs were compliant, and 59 programs were labeled as “distinguished quality”, the highest attainable rating.
- Mr. Sorenson invited students Casey Hoffland (CDS); Skyler Love (MHS); Amelia Smack (DV); and Hannah Watkins (MDN) up to the podium to share their experiences as CTE program participants.

F. Public Comment

- Katie Merrill, mother of Myra Merrill, said she was disappointed and upset about the closing of the Innovation Center and urged the district to revisit their decision.
- Myra Merrill, student, said the district has the power to change lives, and she felt the Innovation Center was doing just that. Ms. Merrill said she didn’t feel that students were being put first or future generations.
- Eden Enger, student, said that a startup business takes 3-5 years to be profitable and feels that the Innovation Center should be considered in the same manner. Ms. Enger urged board members to use their power for good and asked if there was a plan in place for project-based learning.

D. Presentation

D-1—School Safety/Social Emotional Wellness

- Mr. McDonald reviewed physical safety protocols and said the schools conduct three lockdowns per school year and the district is compliant with safety drill regulations.
- Mr. McDonald thanked the day and night surveillance team and said over 700 cameras across campuses and the district office are managed.
- Mr. McDonald reviewed layers of safety and said vaping sensors, weapons detection systems, and Knox boxes for the police department are under consideration.
- Mr. McDonald said in the future his team would be exploring bullet resistant laminate and a partnership with the City of Tempe’s Real-Time Operations Center (RTOC). Mr. McDonald invited board members to tour the City of Mesa’s RTOC in the near future.
- Mr. McDonald reviewed the threat assessment per school site: THS: 0; MHS: 0; MDN: 13; CDS: 1; MTP: 5; DV: 2, none of which were higher than “moderate”.
- Mr. McDonald reviewed psychological safety by school and said that over 60% of our student population was involved in an athletic activity.
- Mr. McDonald said that on average 60% of our students are engaged in activities, and Corona del Sol alone had over 80 clubs for students to participate in.
- Mr. McDonald reviewed Care Solace key performance indicators (KPIs) and provided a breakdown of total utilization since the start of the partnership in March 2022:

	Total
Inquiries received	5,814
Communications saved	31,530
Warm Handoffs	690
Family Initiated Cases	50
Total appointments into care	384
Anonymous searchers	233

- TUHSD staff received a Net Promoter Score (NPS) of 89, meaning “World Class”.
- During Fall 2023, Care 7 served 632 students and had 4,471 student interactions.
- Mr. Barraza thanked Mr. McDonald for the TUHSD District Office lobby renovation and said it helped promote psychological safety for staff. Mr. Barraza asked about the Emergency Management Structure (EMS) and how frequently its updated. Mr. McDonald said each school has a specific EMS and updates are made as needed and plans are revisited yearly.
- Mrs. Steele thanked Mr. McDonald for the presentation and asked for the average number of staff members who are trained in crisis/trauma.
- Ms. Hodge thanked Mr. McDonald and his team for their hard work.
- Mrs. James asked about the opportunity to renew existing grants that contribute to safety. Mr. McDonald said he works directly with Dianne Welling, Grants Coordinator, on available grant opportunities and said grants have gotten difficult to obtain with ESSER funding going away. Mrs. James asked how the perception to the bot technology has been received. Mr. McDonald said so far, it’s been effective with 9th and 10th graders and that the research is continuing, but effective life skills will always be important to our students.

G. Consent Agenda

Mr. Montero moved approval of Consent Agenda Items G-1 through G-11. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hodge and passed 5-0.

G-1— Minutes – Governing Board Executive Meeting – February 7, 2024

The Governing Board approved the submitted February 7, 2024, Governing Board executive meeting minutes.

G-2—Minutes – Governing Board Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2024

The Governing Board approved the submitted February 7, 2024, Governing Board meeting minutes.

G-3—Student Travel

Group 1	RESUBMITTAL FOR INCREASE IN COSTS, ADD NEW ITINERARY, CORRECT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND ADD MUSIC CELEBRATIONS AS THE VENDOR FOR ARRANGEMENTS (Originally approved on 12/13/23) MDN Band/David Willers (not to exceed 32 students; 0 school days missed)
Destination/Dates	Los Angeles, CA/March 21-March 24, 2024
Purpose	To perform at the Forum Music Festival
Financed by	Total trip cost not to exceed: \$37,347.20. Financed by: Tax Credit Funds, Gifts/Donations, Parents and Fundraising. Total trip amount includes cost for Staff.
Lodging	To be arranged by Music Celebrations
Transportation	To be arranged by Music Celebrations
Chaperones	Staff: Joe Barragan, David Willers, Myra Johnson, Betsey Sieveking
Group 2	CDS We the People/Alison Rund (not to exceed 22 students; 4 school days missed)
Destination/Dates	Washington, DC/April 11-April 16, 2024
Purpose	To compete in the 37 th annual Center for Civic Education’s National We the People Finals.
Financed by	Total trip cost not to exceed: \$78,650.00. Financed by: Dual Enrollment/Rio Funds, Tax Credit Funds, Gifts/Donations, Parents, Student Club Funds and Fundraising. Total trip amount includes cost for Staff.
Lodging	Arranged by World Strides
Transportation	Arranged by World Strides
Chaperones	Staff: Alison Rund Garman, Justine Centanni, David Dotts, Tom Bristol
Group 3	CDS Winterguard/David DuPlessis, Afsoon Noshirivan (not to exceed 22 students; 0 school days missed)
Destination/Dates	Beaumont, CA/March 14-March 17, 2024
Purpose	To perform in the WGI (Winterguard International) West Power Regional Championship.
Financed by	Total trip cost not to exceed: \$18,800.98. Financed by: Tax Credit Funds, Gifts/Donations, Parents, Student Club Funds and Fundraising. Total trip amount includes cost for Staff.
Lodging	Holiday Inn Express & Suites Beaumont; 1864 Oak Valley Village Circle; Beaumont, CA; 951-769-3600
Transportation	Jet Limousines; 480-423-5466 (Traveling on the same bus as Desert Vista)
Chaperones	Staff: David DuPlessis, Afsoon Noshirivan, Sarah Berrett Volunteers: Joanne Malik, Tina Milyiori, Adam Malik
Group 4	DVH Winterguard/Keith Casey (not to exceed 23 students; 0 school days missed)
Destination/Dates	Beaumont, CA/March 14-March 17, 2024
Purpose	To perform in the WGI (Winterguard International) West Power Regional Championship.
Financed by	Total trip cost not to exceed: \$10,916.19. Financed by: Tax Credit Funds, Gifts/Donations, Parents, Student Club Funds and Fundraising. Total trip amount includes cost for Staff.
Lodging	Holiday Inn Express & Suites Beaumont; 1864 Oak Valley Village Circle; Beaumont, CA; 951-769-3600
Transportation	Jet Limousines; 480-423-5466 (Traveling on the same bus as Corona del Sol)

G-4—Ratification of \$3,535,828.46 Expense Vouchers

The Governing Board approved ratification of the submitted expense vouchers:

EXPENSE VOUCHERS:

Fiscal Year	Voucher #	Voucher Date	Amount
2023-2024	1278	2/8/2024	\$139.41
2023-2024	1281	2/1/2024	\$423,780.15
2023-2024	1282	2/1/2024	\$5,006.76
2023-2024	1283	2/1/2024	\$135,238.55
2023-2024	1284	2/1/2024	\$299.50
2023-2024	1285	2/8/2024	\$1,942,806.87
2023-2024	1286	2/8/2024	\$238.25
2023-2024	1287	2/8/2024	\$1,019,975.40
2023-2024	1295	2/8/2024	\$8,343.57
Summary			\$3,535,828.46

G-5—Request Approval of Personnel Actions

The Governing Board approved the following submitted personnel actions:

Barela	Christine	Executive Director Innovation Academy	Innovation Center	2/6/2024	RTW	Rehire
Cooper	John D	Auxiliary Coach Track	CDS	2/8/2024		New Hire
Aguirre	Alondra	Paraprofessional	MDN	2/8/2024		New Hire
Montiel	Francisco	Auxiliary Coach Baseball	MDN	2/7/2024		New Hire
Rivas	Arnold	Safety and Security Officer	MDN	1/2/2024		New Hire
Wolff	Michael C	Coach Junior Varsity Baseball	MDN	2/14/2024		Rehire
Barcenas Villalobos	Viridiana	Attendance Student Data Specialist	MHS	2/15/2024		New Hire
Leket Mor	Shaul	Musical Music Director	MHS	2/1/2024		New Hire
Lopez	Valerie	Safety and Security Officer	MHS	2/20/2024		New Hire
Sosa	Clarissa	Food and Nutrition Custodian	Food and Nutrition	2/26/2024		New Hire

Asevo	Ryan A	Bus Driver	Transportation	2/9/2024		New Hire
Jenkins	Chance E	Safety and Security Officer	MHS	2/5/2024	From Para	Change
Pease	Elizabeth C	Teacher Physical Education	CDS	7/2/2023	Dance Stipend	Extra Duty
Werner	Scott A	Teacher Music Instrumental	CDS	2/28/2024	Camps/ Clinics Instructor/ Coach	Extra Duty
Kelly	Trina M	Teacher Special Education	DVH	2/23/2024	Event Worker	Extra Duty
Molander	Andrew M	Teacher Physical Education/Social Studies	DVH	4/22/2024	Head Coach Varsity Football Spring	Extra Duty
Myers	Lilyann	Teacher Science	DVH	2/5/2024	Auxiliary Coach Volleyball	Extra Duty
Blodgett	Carly H	Teacher English	MHS	2/10/2024	Workshop Participant	Extra Duty
Christ	James F	Teacher English	MHS	2/10/2024	Workshop Participant	Extra Duty
Cornwell	Timothy	Teacher CTE Technical Theater/Drama	MHS	2/5/2024	Musical Director	Extra Duty
Coronado	Melinda L	School Counselor	MHS	1/3/2024	Coach Junior Varsity Cheer/Spirit line Spring	Extra Duty
Kerley	Kelsey	Teacher Social Studies	MHS	2/16/2024	Curriculum Writer	Extra Duty
Kieser	Kylee	Teacher Social Studies	MHS	2/16/2024	Curriculum Writer	Extra Duty
Kriston	Micah M	Teacher Physical Education	MHS	2/1/2024	Musical Choreo- grapher	Extra Duty
Leonhardt	Amanda L	Teacher Music Instrumental/Drama	MHS	2/1/2024	Musical Orchestra Director	Extra Duty
ONeil	Karen M	Teacher English	MHS	2/10/2024	Workshop Participant	Extra Duty

Pugh	Kathleen	Teacher Social Studies	MHS	2/16/2024	Curriculum Writer	Extra Duty
Reeves	Michele	Teacher English	MHS	2/10/2024	Workshop Instructor	Extra Duty
Sapp	Mandy S	Student Services Coordinator	MHS	1/3/2024	Additional Responsibilities	Extra Duty
Rowe	Amy L	Student Services Coordinator	THS	1/3/2024	Additional Responsibilities	Extra Duty
Zinke	Laura	Content Specialist World Languages	Teaching and Learning	1/3/2024	Head Coach Varsity Cheer/Spirit line Spring at MHS	Extra Duty
Bachelder	Zachary W	Safety and Security Officer	DVH	2/8/2024	Civic Center Safety and Security Officer	Extra Duty
Gonzales	Martin	Safety and Security Officer	MDN	2/14/2022	Assistant Coach Softball	Extra Duty
Molina	Valerie A	Native American Education Coordinator	MDN	2/9/2024	Civic Center Auditorium Manager/Site Supervisor	Extra Duty
Molina	Valerie A	Native American Education Coordinator	MDN	2/9/2024	Civic Center Auditorium Manager/Site Supervisor at MHS	Extra Duty
Bueno	Joseleon C	Safety and Security Officer Roving	MTP	2/5/2024	Auxiliary Coach Baseball	Extra Duty
Lauer	Eric C	Prevention Coach	MTP	4/22/2024	Head Coach Varsity Football Spring	Extra Duty
Ortega Garcia	Josie A	Safety and Security Officer	CDS	2/7/2024	Policy GCCC - FMLA Intermittent	Leave of Absence
VillaReyes	Magdalena	Food and Nutrition Manager	Food and Nutrition	1/3/2024	Policy GCCC - FMLA	Leave of Absence
Foote	Margaret	Teacher Music Vocal	DVH	5/24/2024		Resignation

Greva	Hana	Teacher English	DVH	2/23/2024		Request for Release
Spoth	Thomas	Teacher English	MDN	5/24/2024		Resignation
Castaldi	Patricia	Teacher Math	MHS	2/14/2024		Medical Separation
Rosales	Kayria	Teacher Science	MHS	2/23/2024	Revised Date	Request for Release
Christian	Joy	Paraprofessional HQ	DVH	2/9/2024		Medical Separation
Carbajal	Viviana	Guidance Assistant	MHS	1/23/2024		Resignation

G-6—Gifts and Donations

The Governing Board approved the following submitted gift and donation items:

- \$1,000.00 to every Campus including District Office totaling \$7,000 from Landings Credit Union
- \$747.35 to MHS from Sharon Shindel
- \$150.00 to CDS from Bring Change 2 Mind
- \$30.00 to CDS from Brett Nunn
- \$20.00 to DVH from Tricia Rothery
- Parents Supporting Children and Their Music to MDN – Deposit for the Spring Band Tour in Los Angeles, CA March 21-24, 2024 est. value \$1,500.00
- Desert Vista Thunder Band Booster to DVH – Registration fee for the West Power Regional in Palm Desert, CA March 14-17, 2024 est. value \$840.00
- Carla Briggs to DVH – Disco ball for prom décor est. value \$75

G-7—Approval of Contract Award for STEAM Supplies

The Governing Board approved the award of bid 24-012EE-29IFB for STEAM Supplies to AccuCut, LLC, CounterTrade Products, Inc., Eagle Creek Capital, Goodmans Interior Structures, Mackin Educational Resources, Nasco, Palmer Hamilton, PASCO Scientific, PCS Edventures, Pitsco Education, LLC, School Specialty Inc, STEAManiacs, STEMfinity, and Virco Inc.

G-8—Approval of Student Placement Agreement with The University of Arizona

The Governing Board approved the Student Placement Agreement with The University of Arizona for placement of university student interns at district campuses through June 30, 2028.

G-9—Ratification of Terms and Conditions of Building Renewal Grant Fund Application with the Arizona Division of School Facilities for the Design Phase to Boiler Replacement (BRG-005523) at McClintock High School

The Governing Board approved ratification of the Building Renewal Grant Fund Application Terms and Conditions for acceptance of monies from the Arizona Division of School Facilities for the Design Phase to Boiler Replacement (BRG-005523) at McClintock High School.

G-10—Restated Easement Agreement with NCWPCS MPL 26 - Year Sites Tower Holdings, LLC, for the telecommunications facility at Marcos de Niza High School

The Governing Board approved the Restated Easement Agreement with NCWPCS MPL 26 - Year Sites Tower Holdings, LLC, for the telecommunications facility at Marcos de Niza High School through December 17, 2028. The Governing Board also approved Roland Carranza, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, be authorized signer for the easement agreement and related documents.

G-11—Restated Easement Agreement with T-Mobile West Tower, LLC for the telecommunications facility at Desert Vista High School

The Governing Board approved the Restated Easement Agreement with T-Mobile West Tower, LLC for the telecommunications facility at Desert Vista High School through February 23, 2030. It is also recommended that Roland Carranza, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, be designated as authorized signer for the easement agreement and related documents.

H. Teaching & Learning

H-1—Horizon Practice ACT Student Achievement

- Dr. Aleksic reviewed the growth models for all school sites, as well as by subject matter, and walked through the predictive model and expected growth across all sites.
- Dr. Aleksic referenced science and said all grades and subgroups are showing growth.
- Fall and winter Horizon Practice ACT results were discussed as Dr. Aleksic pointed out that fall testing is to see what students know, and winter testing is to allow students to practice with timing, challenging their endurance at 4+ hours of testing.
- 11th grade English proficiency shows Native and Black-African American students having a decline in proficiency.
- The Horizon ACT fall English 2023-2024 pivot table shows the majority of students are maintaining.
- In the subject of reading, there is a decrease in the percentage of proficiency for 11th graders.
- In math, there is an increase of student percentages of proficiency for 11th graders.
- For SPED students, Dr. Aleksic said the data is reflective in decreasing proficiency, but said that they want to see how SPED students do in a traditional test setting before accommodations are made. Dr. Aleksic said once accommodations are considered the data will likely be more positive.
- Ms. Hodge said she would like to meet privately with Dr. Aleksic and look deeper into the data presented. Dr. Aleksic welcomed a meeting with Ms. Hodge.
- Mr. Montero asked for a breakdown by grade cohort and asked for more information on why the growth pattern is decreasing for 10th graders. Dr. Aleksic referenced previous presentations and said historically the 10th grade cohort struggles more with discipline and higher absenteeism which contribute to the decline.

I. Board Policies

I-1—CBI – Evaluation of Superintendent (Second Reading)

Ms. Hodge moved approval of Board Policy CBI – Evaluation of Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mrs. James and passed 5-0.

J. Business Services

Mr. Montero moved approval of Business Services Agenda Items J-1 through J-3. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Steele and passed 5-0.

J-1— Approval for Fencing Replacement

The Governing Board approved the quotes submitted by Associated Fence Company and Biddle & Brown Fencing for bond-funded fencing projects using the 1GPA cooperative contract #22-12P.

J-2— Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Peer Solutions and Tempe Union High School District No. 213 for the provision of the Trauma Informed Primary Prevention Program

The Governing Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Peer Solutions and Tempe Union High School District No. 213 for the provision of the Trauma Informed Primary Prevention Program (TIPP) through December 31, 2025.

J-3— Approval for Science Laboratory Renovations

The Governing Board approved the proposal submitted by Chasse Building Team for long-lead items needed for the science laboratory renovations on 1GPA cooperative contract #23-15PV-02.

K. New Business

K-1—Governing Board Members Committee Assignments

- Mr. Montero opened up the floor for comments from board members on the assignments for the Long-Term Budget Committee.
- Ms. Hodge nominated Vice President James.
- Mr. Barraza said he'd like to be considered.
- Mrs. James said she was interested in serving on the committee because she will not be running for a board member seat after her current term ends. Mrs. James said she wanted to dedicate time to serving on the committee.
- Mrs. James nominated President Montero to serve on the committee and said she felt Mr. Montero could help with ensuring Open Meeting Law wasn't violated with regards to agenda setting.
- Mr. Ellel said he had no concerns over both the President and Vice President serving on the committee or concerns regarding agenda setting.
- Mr. Montero said he was okay with sitting out of the committee as long as Mrs. James and Mr. Barraza could commit to all the meeting dates. Mrs. James and Mr. Barraza both agreed they would attend all meetings.

Ms. Hodge moved approval of Mrs. James and Mr. Barraza serving as representatives for the Long-Term Budget Committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Steele and passed 5-0.

K-2—Resolution – Commitment to Equity and Inclusion for Special Education Students

- Mr. Montero said there was public comment regarding New Business agenda item K-2. Jennifer Jarvis, community member spoke in support of the governing board acting on the Resolution re: Commitment to Equity and Inclusion for Special Education Students. Ms. Jarvis said she wanted to share her appreciation.
- Mr. Barraza said he wanted to thank Dr. Wilson and Mr. McDonald for their support.
- Mr. Montero said he had some proposed revisions to the resolution. Mr. Montero suggested striking "TUHSD No. 213", and replacing with "The Governing Board" and "Board" subsequently. Mr. Montero said he didn't want to speak on behalf of district administration since it was a board resolution.
- Mrs. Steele said she took the same verbiage from the LGBTQ resolution that was previously adopted.
- Mr. Montero said the context of the LGBTQ resolution was specific to legislative action for a house bill.
- Governing board members exchanged suggestions on language in sections 2 and 4 where the word "specific" was used to emphasize the SPED student group. Members directed questions to Mr. Ellel, asking if this emphasis could marginalize a specific student group. Mr. Ellel responded that it's the Board's resolution and legally the proposed language was fine either way.
- Board members agreed with the statement "with a distinct focus on our special education students".
- Board members exchanged ideas regarding section 7 and the use of the word "dehumanize". Mrs. Steele said this was the exact language from the LGBTQ resolution. Mrs. James said the LGBTQ resolution was based off legislative action and the intent of this resolution was positive and should be reflective of that.
- Ms. Hodge asked Dr. Wilson what her opinion was on the word choice. Dr. Wilson said this was a board resolution and board members would need to talk their way through it until they reached an agreement.
- Mrs. Steele, Mr. Barraza, and Ms. Hodge said they were okay with the current language.

Mrs. Steele moved approval of the Resolution re: Commitment to Equity and Inclusion for Special Education Students. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barraza and passed 5-0.

L. Information Items

L-1—Requests for Future Agenda Items

- None.

L-2—Governing Board Committee/Conference Update

- None.

L-3—Financial Reports through February 15, 2024

- No questions/comments.

M. Communications

M-1—From Governing Board Members

- Ms. Hodge said she received a 97% in her CTE class with her baby doll.
- Mr. Barraza said he appreciated what the district is doing and wished all a wonderful weekend.
- Mrs. Steele said she also wanted to say thank you.
- Mrs. James said she wanted to congratulate all the students who participated in regionals. Mrs. James read the gifts and donations.

M-2—From Acting Superintendent and Executive Team

- None.

N. Meeting Closing

Next Regular Meeting – March 6, 2024.

Adjournment – On motion of Mr. Montero, seconded by Mr. Barraza and passed 5-0 (Mr. Montero: aye; Mrs. James: aye; Mrs. Steele: aye; Mr. Barraza: aye; Ms. Hodge: aye), the meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Armando Montero, President
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Sarah James, Vice President