

Minutes of Governing Board Working Meeting/Retreat

Friday, February 28, 2025 @ 8:00 am

Prescott Unified School District Governing Board

A Working Meeting/Retreat of the Governing Board of Prescott Unified School District was held Friday, February 28, 2025, beginning at 8:00 am in the Boardroom of the PUSD District Office.

All supporting documents/attachments can be found by visiting our website:

<https://www.prescottschools.com/>

Board Members present:

Governing Board President, Stan Goligoski
Jane Robertson, Vice President (arrived at 8:20 am)
Andy Fraher, Member
Jennifer Bergamini, Member
Brett Mangum, Member

Others present:

Clark Tenney, Superintendent
Brian Moore, Chief Financial Officer
Andy Binder, Assistant Superintendent/Human Resources
Kelsey Secor, Assistant Superintendent/Instruction
Sarah Torres, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent and Governing Board

2. CALL TO ORDER - Governing Board President, Stan Goligoski called this working meeting/retreat to order at 8:00 am.

3. OPENING CEREMONY

3.A. Welcome - Governing Board President, Stan Goligoski welcomed everyone in attendance.

3.B. Pledge of Allegiance - Governing Board President, Stan Goligoski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Governing Board President, Stan Goligoski

4.A. Consider approving the agenda, as presented.

RELEVANT INFORMATION: Board Policy requires the approval of the agenda.

Governing Board President, Stan Goligoski noted, I'll take a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Andy Fraher noted, so moved. Jennifer Bergamini seconded the motion.

Stan Goligoski:	Aye
Andy Fraher:	Aye
Jennifer Bergamini:	Aye
Brett Mangum:	Aye

5. **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5.A. Report from Brett Mangum and Jennifer Bergamini regarding Lunchtime Listening tours.

Abia Judd Elementary:	January 23 rd
Prescott High School:	January 27 th
Taylor Hicks Elementary:	January 30 th
Discovery Gardens & District Office:	February 5 th
Lincoln Elementary:	Thursday, February 6 th
Granite Mountain:	Thursday, February 13 th
Prescott Mile High Middle School:	Thursday, February 27 th

Governing Board Members Jennifer Bergamini and Brett Mangum shared what they experienced at each site they visited. They visited sites during the lunchtime hour and welcomed everyone who wanted to, to visit with them. Employees shared positive things about the district as well as some concerns they had. Jennifer and Brett both noted that the majority of the conversations were extremely positive, and the comment that PUSD is a great place to work, was reiterated many times.

5.B. Board work on PUSD Vision and Mission Statements.

A Mission Statement is a simple description that describes the purpose of an organization. The mission statement was initially brought to the board in January, during review of the Governing Board Operations Manual. Board Members approved the manual with exception of the Mission/Vision Statements and requested that administration bring the PUSD Mission Statement to the Retreat as an agenda item for further review. There was discussion between Governing Board members and administration that the statement should be

something easy to remember. It was the general consensus of the board that the Mission Statement should be:

Rigorous · Supportive · Safe Every Child, Every Day

The board will be asked to approve this at the March 4, 2025 Regular Study & Voting Session Meeting.

5.C. Board Thoughts on FY 2026 budget recommendations.

Superintendent Tenney noted, DAT met individually with Board members on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. We were very intentional about getting input for our staff. We provided content and a specific format. We strongly requested their input on recommendations which was new and unique. We shared the budget document with staff. This format was developed by Joe Howard and Brian Moore. Other districts have asked to use this template.

The budget document will be placed on the March 4, 2025 Governing Board agenda for approval.

5.D. Mid-year review of Superintendent's goals. Superintendent Tenney shared an update of this goals:

C. Tenney Superintendent Goals 2024-25

Each main goal is followed by action items to support progress toward attaining the goal.

1. Maintain Academic Focus in all PUSD Schools with Emphasis on Increasing Student Achievement

- Support and oversee new Math curriculum adoptions, K-4 and 9-12.
- Continue implementation and support of District-wide PLCs and use of Beyond Textbooks
- Facilitate regular discussions in DLT about Interventions & Academic Improvement strategies
- Increase public awareness of CTE programs and strengthen PUSD-MICTED relationship
- Increase focus on supporting Special Education instruction, through coaches and new Director

2. Ensure Student and Staff Safety at All Schools

- Ensure appropriate staff training on student safety and emergency response
- Work toward a more equitable IGA with City of Prescott, ensuring continuation of 2 SROs
- Work toward sustainable in-district plan for Student Well Being programs
- Continue program oversight of Student Safety Officers at each K-6 school
- Coordinate with PPD for threat analysis at each site, and begin to respond to reports received

9:48 am - Governing Board President, Stan Goligoski suggested a break.

10:00 am – Meeting resumed.

3. Enhance Communication and Collaboration of PUSD Governance Team

- Continue to share a shorter Superintendent Board Report most Fridays
- Share draft agendas with Board 1-2 weeks in advance of public postings
- Update Board Operations Manual, implement use in January
- Update PUSD Vision and Mission Statements, begin update of Strategic Plan
- Consult with Board about consideration of a 2026 Bond/Override measure

4. Lead Outreach to Community about PUSD Successes and Areas for Growth

- Continue regular Courier columns, radio shows, community presentations
- Oversee PUSD's marketing campaign, including monthly media articles
- Continue discussions with PUSDEF for much greater PUSD Alumni involvement
- Initiate PUSD Distinguished Alumni program

5. Maintain and Improve PUSD's Staff Retention and Development

- Recommend from DAT to Board:
 - competitive compensation for Teachers and support staff
 - appropriate class sizes to support academic achievement and teacher satisfaction
 - key programs that attract, engage, and support students
- Continue to survey staff, and work with principals to respond to needs identified
- Continue to provide excellent Principal support with new DAT structure

5.E. Consideration of establishing Governing Board goals.

Governing Board Members were supplied with a blank S.M.A.R.T Goals document and a blank copy of the Governing Board Self Evaluation. Jane Robertson and Jennifer Bergamini noted that they have done S.M.A.R.T Goals in the past and that once the goals are established, they are rarely looked back on. The suggestion was made to create goals like those on Superintendent Tenney's goal document, with underlined headers (main goal) and bullet points to support the main goal.

The main topics discussed here were building trust with the community and parents. The possibility of open forums at each school site, inviting parents and students to those to ask their questions, share their concerns, etc.

5.F. Initial consideration of a future budget override and/or bond request.

Governing Board Members and PUSD Administration discussed a future budget override and/or bond request. Jennifer Bergamini noted that she was part of the committee in 2013 (Bond/Override failed) and in 2015 (Bond/Override passed). Community members have shared in the past their opposition to a raise in taxes. Mr. Brian Moore shared with Governing Board members the tax implementation at the time the override passed, the involvement of the Citizens Tax Committee and the time frame we would be looking at.

12:02 pm – Governing Board President, Stan Goligoski recessed the meeting

12:15 pm – Meeting resumed – working lunch.

5.G. Data from Benchmark tests. Kelsey Secor, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction shared the following data with Governing Board members.



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Data.pdf

It was noted that some of the data shared was the same for different grade levels. Kelsey will bring this to District Testing Coordinator, Kayla Rangel and report back to Governing Board members at a later date.

5.H. Potential future change in a policy services provider.

Superintendent Tenney, Administrative Assistant, Sarah Torres, Assistant Superintendent, Andy Binder and Chief Financial Officer, Brian Moore each shared a policy from The Trust Model Policy Program, comparing it to the ASBA policy that is in the current PUSD Policy Manual, the crosswalk provided by the Trust and costs involved.

The Governing Board asked to invite representatives from ASBA and The Trust to future board meetings to share how they support the district and what is included in their services.

5.I. Board input for future school calendars.

Superintendent Tenney, the District Administrative Team and Governing Board Members discussed the option of a 4-day school week. They went over the following attachment:

Possible Positive points of 4 days	Possible Negative points of 4 days
*In other school districts where a 4-day week has been implemented: • Schools are better able to recruit high quality teachers and staff • Student attendance improves • Employee attendance improves • Staff morale increases • Employee turnover decreases • Cost savings--approx 2% of annual budget (\$400K - \$500K) ◦ Utilities ◦ Substitute Teachers ◦ Bus drivers ◦ Custodial service • Transition from a 4.5 day week to a 4 day week requires only minimal shifts in instructional time, with total instructional hours still <u>far</u> exceeding state requirements. • Studies do not show causation between a 4-day week and decrease in student academic achievement • About 2,100 schools in nearly 900 districts nationwide (mostly rural) successfully follow a 4-day school week model • 84% percent of families and 95% percent of students in 4-day week districts would continue to choose a 4-day week over their previous schedule. (RAND Corp survey, 2019) • Over 80% ongoing parent approval in neighboring Chino Valley USD • Families cite increased time with family, reduced stress, and flexibility for appointments • Longer school day better matches with parents' work hours on school days • Local CTE (HS vocational) program options expand significantly for students on Fridays • Could allow for Friday Morning School additional academic interventions • Larger maintenance projects can be tackled on Fridays • PUSD may gain enrollment with a 4-day week • CVUSD, Sacred Heart, Tri-City Prep, Northpoint, Skyview, La Tierra, Mountain Oak, Willow Creek Charter in Prescott (as well as Skull Valley, Kirkland, Yarnell, Ash Fork, Seligman, Bagdad, Wickenburg, Liberty, Cartwright, Casa Grande SDs, etc.) are all 4-day weeks	*In other school districts where a 4-day week has been implemented: • Longer days for students and staff ◦ Student days would likely increase by approx 1 hour, with school days 7:30 hours to 7:45 hours long. (Currently 6:25 to 6:45 long) ◦ Likely 9.5 hour days for full-time employees (example: 7:30am to 5:00pm), plus one 5-day week per quarter for staff development • Increased demand for child care for families, on non-school days ◦ <i>(Neighboring CVUSD offered childcare for 2 years. It was so lightly used it was discontinued.)</i> • Some students may have a hard time retaining info over a longer weekend • Additional training needed for teachers (how to effectively teach a longer day) • Local community may not appreciate all the kids on Fridays. ◦ <i>(How does this differ from Saturdays, Sundays, and summers?)</i> • When students do miss M-Th, they miss 1 more hour of more instructional time • Much of cost savings comes from hourly employees' wages • PUSD would need to work out numerous logistics in order to successfully move from 4.5 day to 4-day week (school schedules, staff PD, new custodial contract, possible additional academic intervention schedule, SpEd minutes per day, etc.) • PUSD may lose enrollment with a 4-day week • HUSD, Primavera, Trinity Christian, Basis, AAEC, Acorn Montessori, Franklin Phonetic have 5-day weeks * Data from interviews of nearby district leaders and NWEA research

Board members shared that after this discussion, they are not completely opposed to this idea and requested that a survey be sent to Parents and Staff asking for their input on 4-day school weeks. The data will be shared at a future meeting.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – Hearing no objections, Governing Board President, Stan Goligoski adjourned this meeting at 2:31 pm.

Sarah A. Torres, Governing Board Secretary