

NOTICE OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
HEBER-OVERGAARD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6

May 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board President Tim Leedy at 7:04 pm. Mrs. King led the prayer, and the pledge was led by Mr. Blackburn

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance were: Tim Leedy, Wendy Hall, Craig Blackburn, Patty Weber, Christin King, Ron Tenney, Jim Maner, Reed Porter, Andrea Despain and Laura Tomlinson

CALL TO PUBLIC

Mr. Leedy-rules and guidelines to the public for the public comments-

1. Identify if the matter you wish to speak about is on the agenda. If the topic is on the agenda, you will be asked to address the Board when that item comes up.
2. You will have 2 minutes in which to address your thoughts and opinions. At 1:45 you will get a verbal notice that you have :15 seconds left. Once you hear the "bell" your time is up.
3. In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective & efficient manner, a max of 30 minutes of public participation will be permitted at this Board meeting
4. No more than 15 minutes will be devoted to any one topic, unless a majority of the Board votes to continue the discussion.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Hall made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda and Mrs. Weber seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

Leadership Team Information

GOOD NEWS

MMPS and Capps

Mr. Maner-Million word readers. Handing out tokens a week from tomorrow for the book vending machine. Teacher appreciation week was last week, we appreciate our community for recognizing our teachers. American Legion poppy poster contest. NEHS painted the US map on the sidewalk in front of the gym. Our school was recognized as a Capturing Kids Hearts rising star, both schools. Calendars attached, wax museum is tomorrow night. Talent show, field days, etc.

Mogollon High School

Mr. Reed Porter-Senior projects, I felt like the great majority put a lot of time into them. It is a really good opportunity for the kids to network. Choir concert, kids did great and showcased their talent. Spring sports are done. Kids placed in track. Baseball and softball qualified in state playoffs. AIA website we had we received 136 ratings for sportsmanship and on a 5. Scale we were at a 4.87, on terms of officials we did a good job. Awards banquet last night, local businesses, families, organizations offered \$59,000 (more or less) in local scholarships.

Business Manager Information

Levy Funds

Financial Review

Our cash balance is still holding and we are doing good with finances. Vix consulting is working with the county trying to get it figured out before the end of the year. We are doing great getting taken care of and

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resolved at the district level. We are wrapping up with expenditures for the end of the year. ESSR III has been a roller coaster but we are wrapping it up.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Tenney-Senior presentations was awesome to see, the different things presented. Zeniff property, Radix law firm to help us with that, working with Lawyers Title to get a litigation guarantee from them, this tells who needs to be listed in that (if anybody). We are also working with Painted Sky for the surveys with the 2 parcels just south from here. Updating our policies to switch. I visited with a different cell tower person who will possibly get another proposal.

Governing Board

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Blackburn made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented and Mrs. Weber seconded the motion. No Discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes for the Board Meeting on April 16, 2024 are presented for Governing Board approval.

Auxiliary and Student Accounts for March 2024 are presented for Board approval.

Vouchers

Payroll Vouchers for April 2024

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Voucher # 21 | \$ 185,707.37 |
| Voucher # 22 | \$ 172,083.14 |

Expense Vouchers April 2024

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Voucher # 7035 | \$ 17,879.42 |
| Voucher # 7036 | \$ 46,150.02 |
| Voucher # 7037 | \$ 30,317.07 |
| Voucher # 7038 | \$ 47,103.06 |

Resignation

Holly Pearce – 1st Grade Teacher

New Hire / Reassignment

Drew Gamboa – Head Football Coach
Nikki Woley – Summer School Teacher, CMS
Sharon Baker – Summer School Teacher, MMP
Jennifer Taylor – Summer School Teacher, MMP
Sheila Young - 1st Grade Teacher
Jennifer Taylor – Kindergarten Teacher
Nathan Hall – History Teacher, MHS
Reese Parry – Boys Basketball Coach, MHS

Administrative Out of State Travel

REGULAR AGENDA

Student Retention for Non-Academic Reasons

Calls to the Public-

*Valerie Reynolds-Problem with athletics, taking opportunity from other girls, I will advise the JH coach to have limited time playing to give other girl's time. I don't think it is fair for the teachers, they have already taught them, and they might get bored. In the future we might have bigger groups of kids asking to be held

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back. It doesn't look good for the district that 6 kids are being retained. I agree that it is the parents' choice to do what is best for their kids but it is our choice to fight what's best for our kids.

*Levi Talerico-I am in 8th grade and current class president. People will be affected by being held back, academics and athletics. I know that some of the kids are doing well academically. 6 kids are being held back, I know 4 of them are academically sound and do well in classes. This may not allow my 7th grade classmates the opportunities they deserve. Percentages and comments presented. Not fair for kids playing sports.

*Amanda Crandell-Proud of the girls that wrote letters to the board recently, they saw something that was unfair and they spoke up. This is what we should be teaching our kids, to speak up rather than finagling the system to get more playing time in junior high sports. I was verbally attacked by another parent at the awards banquet and was yelled at in front of other people and my kids. I am here to show my kids I will not back down to a bully. If a parent has a valid reason to retain their kid, that parent should not have a reason to verbal assault someone. Having this many kids retained should be a concern to the teachers in the district, close to 20% of the students in one grade are being held back. How does this look to the quality of our teachers. Do I need to be concerned of the quality of education that my kids are getting here at Mogollon? How does this look to anyone in our district looking from the outside? I feel that our teachers are better than this and that the higher retention rate only effects negatively on them. The teachers have to teach to the level of the classroom, if the majority of the kids are faster because they already know the content then that affects my kid having to keep up and going too fast for her. If there is a need, where is the documentation? Are there IEPs in place? If the students are retained are they taking all of the 8th grade classes, is there going to be a possibility of a release hour so they can attend off campus seminary? Only high school students should be allowed to have a release hour for seminary. How is this fair? We all know that the majority of these kids being held back is only benefiting them for sports time, they will be getting 3 years to play instead of just 2.

*Dave Talerico-Thank you for the opportunity to speak, I have 3 students in the district. I'm in front of you to address what appears to be a growing issues within our school system, the issue of children not moving on in their school career and being held back. I'm told it is the policy of the school system to leave the choice of continuing on or delaying the student's career up to the parents. I have an old phrase that I am fond of "My rights end where yours begin". It is my belief that holding a student back for not academic reasons diminishes the opportunity available for the upcoming underclassmen. The student that was held back will have an advantage, academic advantage, physical advantage, mental advantage over their new classmates, putting them in a lead position for scholastic activities and athletic pursuits and to the detriment of those that are likely younger than them but now find themselves in competition with them. While a parent who wishes their child to be held back, doing so in belief that it is the best for their child, what right does the underclassmen's parent have to advocate for their own child, to not have their opportunities diminished. I don't believe in coincidences in the odds of a child not needing to be held back in K-7, but multiple children needing it in the 8th grade are quite slim. The district wide mission statement for the school is for children, school is for people developing, school belongs to the community and self-effort educates, I don't see what holding children back accomplishes any of those goals.

*Lena Porter-My husband and I would like you to know our reasons to hold our child back and repeat 8th grade. There are many reasons we would like to hold our child back, we would love to have him in our home for one more year before he goes out to the world. We feel it would be best for his maturity, social emotional development, academics as well as his self confidence in preparedness to leave our home. In regards to sports, we are concerned for his safety because of his size. If he moved on to high school he would basically be missing out a year in eligibility in sports, which he loves as we would not want him to be playing football weighing 85 lbs. We held our twins back in 8th grade who are very similar to Detmer and it was the best decision that we made for them but that they made for themselves regardless of what anyone else thinks. We have seen how this has blessed our twins in more ways than just sports and we know it would do the same for their brother. I talked to them on Monday and asked them again if they regret being held back and they said no and they want to make sure their younger brother was, they see the benefits and I'm not talking about sports, I can see their leadership qualities that have and the things that they are pursuing and I can see where it has blessed their lives. We are abiding by all the rules with White Mountain League and not breaking any board policies by holding our child back. We feel this matter of the parents' choice and in a

world where too many kids are making irrational choices for themselves we feel it is our responsibility to make the best decision possible for our children. Members of the board, regardless of what you decided, whether I can hold my child back or not, because I don't feel good about it, he will not move on to 9th grade. I have no problem holding my child back and homeschooling him for a year if it makes it easier for everybody because of all the controversy but by state law if I homeschool him you still have to let him play sports. I am also hearing coaches saying if your son or daughter comes, they are going to punish them, I won't stand for that.

Discussion among the board-I appreciate your attendance and comments, as an overview of what's best for everybody. We as a board are trying to do what the community wants us to do for our district, for our area, for our town. As an overview of what's best for everybody, not just one or six or four.

*Everybody in hear seems to know how these students are doing academically.

*I would surmise that the students just know how they do in their classes.

*I tried to reach out to all the students' parents that are holding their students back, I was able to (I believe) talk to 4 of them and not one of them said they were holding them back for sports. A lot of them said it was for personal family reasons, some mentioned maturity. I think one of the students would be graduating when they are 17 years old. We spend a lot of time fighting for what we call local control. We fight against state and federal mandates, and then I feel we're taking rights away from our parents that make a personal decision in their home what's best for their child. I am concerned about discrimination law suites and funding.

*The algebra class has been resolved. Current 8th grade has 47 kids, 7th grade has 43. White Mountain League, any students allowed to participate as long as they don't turn 15 before September 1st of that academic year, there is a guideline from them. Is there any affect that would hurt us if they are retained,

*No. My heart is breaking for both sides, I understand the 7th graders coming up. Prior to this evening we have had other students retained or advancement, it has been done in the past. Discussion of what has happened in the past and what could happen in the future.

Mr. Blackburn made a motion to approve the right to allow parents to choose their child's placement as presented and Mrs. Weber seconded the motion. Ms. Hall opposed the motion.

Budget Revision #1 FY23/24

I sent you all the budget revision via email. Went over grant funding, did adjustments. We have had a ton of changes to our grant allocations with title I, title II & title IV. Increased food service, we spent more money than we budgeted. Also increased civic center funds. There was a few changes in our budget 25 did not capture all of AFR rollover, around \$600,000 we needed to recapture. Our tax rate was changed after we accepted our budget so I changed that. I would propose that you approve my budget revision #1

Ms. Hall made a motion to approve the Budget Revision #1 FY 23/24 as presented and Mrs. King seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Tower Agreement

Having visited with Spencer Davis, we still don't have anything to act on at this point. If we don't have 3 then we can move forward with 2.

Mrs. Weber made a motion to Table the Tower Agreement as presented and Ms. Hall seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Land Survey

Painted Sky Engineering and Survey to help us with the parcels across the road from Capps. We will have them move one parcel to not include the road and dedicate the road to the county, clean up the two parcels to have them straightened out. Then we would divide the parcels in half and sell 4 parcels instead of 2 and keep it under \$50,000 per parcel.

Mrs. King made a motion to approve to work with Painted Sky Engineering and Survey as presented and Mrs. Weber seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Call for Bond

I would like to make a motion that we postpone the bond election, we need to be a little more prepaid with the cost to get it on the ballot and other costs. Later on this year maybe we will see some changes, better circumstances that we can look at it then. Revisit it in the fall.

Mr. Blackburn made a motion to approve to cancel the Call for Bond as presented and Mrs. King seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Trust Policy Services Second Viewing and Adoption Work Study Session

Ms. Hall made a motion to approve the Trust Policy Services Second Viewing and Adoption that was discussed in the work study session and Mrs. Weber seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Include the revisions from the work study

EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)

Executive Session was held prior to this meeting.

REGULAR SESSION

Possible Motion from executive session

Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract Renewal A.R.S. 15-503

FY 23/24 - 3 year renewal, 2% increase this year FY24/25 with additional years based on other certified staff increases, cell phone at \$850 per year, travel allowance stays the same, Federal programs increase to \$18,000 and final year FY26/27 any unused leave payout option and performance pay 5% on base pay for all 3 years.

Mr. Leedy made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract Renewal A.R.S.15-503_as discussed in Executive session and Mrs. Weber seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Add Agenda Items Next board meeting

NONE

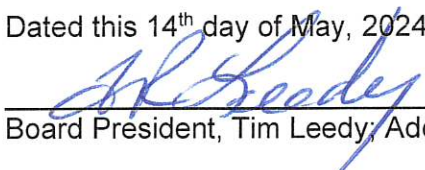
LAUNCH

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Leedy seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously adjourning the meeting at 8:14 pm.

Next Regular scheduled Board Meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2024, Budget Hearing at 6:45 and regular meeting at 7:00 located in the Performing Arts Center at Capps Middle School.

Dated this 14th day of May, 2024.


Board President, Tim Leedy, Adopted June 25, 2024.

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