

**SPECIAL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES – August 9, 2021**

**A. Meeting Opening**

Call to Order

Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Brian Garcia (President), Andres Barraza (Vice President), Berdetta Hodge, Sarah James, and Armando Montero. Absent: None.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

**B. Arizona House Bill 2898**

Dr. Mendivil said administration is committed to keeping students in school every day. His expectation is that employees, students, and families will do their part to ensure there is continuity of instruction for students. The Board is being asked to discuss and take action on a resolution in response to restrictions that have been placed on the district to make decisions for the safety and wellbeing of students and staff. Dr. Mendivil read the draft resolution. Mr. Garcia asked for members' suggestions to the draft resolution and for their comments. Some Governing Board comments:

- Mrs. James said changing the word “supports” in the first sentence to “expects” will reflect what we’re trying to put forward. She said we need masks in our schools and anything with an opt out provision can’t be called a mandate. Mrs. James said she hopes to see staff, students, families and community members dedicate themselves to the safety of the community. She “implore[d]” the district to consider stipend pay as soon as possible with no strings attached for all the extra work staff has taken on.
- Mr. Montero said he supports Mrs. James’ suggested change to the resolution. He said the Board and district have set clear expectations for students, staff and the community; all have a responsibility to make sure we can keep students in person five days a week. He said he is disheartened to see proven mitigation strategies become politicized. Mr. Montero said he is proud of the robust and comprehensive mitigation strategies Mr. McDonald put together. He supports the resolution.
- Ms. Hodge said the Governor has stripped Arizona school boards of making decisions for their communities. She said that when parents email the Board they should also write to Governor Ducey. Ms. Hodge said the resolution is the only thing the Board can do. She supports it and challenges the community to hold the Governor accountable. Ms. Hodge said she would like the resolution to include superintendent authority to make decisions if something changes without having to wait for a board meeting.
- Mr. Barraza said we all care about students. He said a safety measure has become political as we were told it is illegal to implement mandatory masks. Mr. Barraza said we see the value of students being in the classroom. He wants to stay in school five days a week, but we don’t know what we’ll be faced with in the fall. Mr. Barraza said he would like to be able to implement a mask mandate if numbers increase and then remove the mandate when numbers go down.

Mr. Ellel said until we get new guidance from the Governor or the legislature, the statute doesn’t allow for flexibility in implementing a mask mandate. He said the Board’s August 5, 2020, resolution giving the superintendent authority to act is still in effect. Dr. Mendivil said he will continue to consult with the Board when decisions have to be made.

Mr. Garcia said Board members take very seriously their responsibility to make sure students and staff are safe and healthy; anything to the contrary is offensive. He said the current and previous Boards have always wanted students to be in person. Mr. Garcia said he appreciates the expectations that are contained in the resolution and

that it's going to take all of us to get through this. He said the level of misinformation continuing to spread is detrimental to students. Mr. Garcia said that in order to have a successful year to please wear a mask and get vaccinated if eligible.

**Mr. Garcia moved to amend the draft resolution changing the word "supports" in the first sentence to "expects." The motion was seconded by Ms. Hodge and passed 5-0 (Mr. Barraza: aye; Mr. Garcia: aye; Ms. Hodge: aye; Mrs. James: aye; Mr. Montero: aye).**

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

**C. Meeting Closing**

Adjournment – On motion of Mr. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Hodge and passed 5-0 (Mr. Barraza: aye; Mr. Garcia: aye; Ms. Hodge: aye; Mrs. James: aye; Mr. Montero: aye) the meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

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Brian Garcia, President

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Andres Barraza, Vice President

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