

CATALINA FOOTHILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tucson, Arizona

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
Carole Siegler Boardroom at Valley View Early Learning Center
3435 E. Sunrise Drive - Tucson, Arizona
Tuesday, April 11, 2023 - 6:30 PM

Regular Meeting Minutes

NOTICE OF MEETING

Announcement of the meeting was posted at Catalina Foothills High School, Esperero Canyon Middle School, Orange Grove Middle School, Ventana Vista Elementary School, Canyon View Elementary School, Manzanita Elementary School, Sunrise Drive Elementary School, Valley View Early Learning Center, and on the CFSD website (www.cfsd16.org) on April 4, 2023.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Eileen Jackson, President
Amy Krauss, Vice President
Amy Bhola, Board Member
Doug Hadley, Board Member
Gina Mehmert, Board Member

District Administration

Mary Kamerzell, Superintendent
Chad Knippen, Assistant Superintendent

District Personnel

Amie Sams, Administrative Assistant
Sheryl Castro, Director of Curriculum and Assessment
Julie Farbarik, Director of Alumni and Community Relations
Ryan Koch, Network Systems Technician I
Lynn Pence, Director of Educational Technology

Visitors

Nousha Aldhefery	Erik Fink	Tamar Rala Kreiswirth	Eileen Pastorious	LD Troutman
Ezri Alfie	Joy Fischer Williams	Monique Laraway	Katie Pawloski	Mary Troutman
Lori Althoff-Weeks	Gene Fisher	Cyndi Laurie	Kristen Pawloski	Daniel Trujillo
Neil Bauer	Karen Floyd	Connie LeBlanc	Andrew Peterson	Lizette Trujillo
Larina Baumann	Ben Garren	Hannah Levin	Carol Peterson	Kim Tucker
Leslie Beckett	Tara Gibson	Randi Levin	Renee Maxine Polson	Lance Ussery
Heather Blakely	Abbe Goncharsky	Laura Lewnes	Jody Ponzo	Fynn Vanegas
Rev. Rebecca Boardman	Jason Ground	Nick Lockwood	Cullen Rae	Kathleen Walker
Larry Bodine	Kathy Ground	Chris Lopez	Emma Rial	June Webb-Vignery
Thomas Bossert	Anne Gruber	Gabe Lopez	Bridget Riceci	Cal Weeks
Alexa Cann	Naomi Hartman	Lori Lundberg-Leung	Maria Saavedra	Allison Wexler
Tyler Cann	Scott Hawkins	Ian McNichols	Ayah Sadideen	Michael Wexler
Miles Cannon	Colin Holmes	Matthias Mehl	Larissa Sah	Sage Wexler
Malcolm Cohen	Jerry Holmes	Rev. Louis Mitchell	Rex Scott	Debra Whalen
Donald Cole	Michael Hutchins	Teresa Moreno	Lori Shepherd	Nicole Whelan
Oliver Cole	Nina Isaac	Calista Morrison	Gwen Shetlar	Deborah Whitaker
Alina Cumberworth	Olivia Isaac	Carolyn Murphy	Rex Shetlar	Patricia Wiedhopf
Lynn Davis	Katherine Jacobson	Bella Mygrant	Mikey Shock	Jim Wiltbank
Jacquelyn Davoli	Meredith Joubert	Casey Mygrant	Jayanthi Sunder	Ruby Wray
Peter DeLuca	Laura Kaim	Tyrion Mygrant	Mallika Sunder	Helena Yip
Meg Dugan	Judy Keagy	Necoe Otto-Parkinson	Charles Tatun	
Katie Fidel	Rick Keagy	Patricia Overall	Fable Taylor	

1. OPENING

1. 1. Call to Order and Welcome
President Jackson called to order the governing board meeting at 6:30 p.m.
1. 2. Pledge of Allegiance
President Jackson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
1. 3. Rules of Order for Governing Board Meetings
President Jackson read the Rules of Order for governing board meetings.
1. 4. Outstanding Achievements
Superintendent Kamerzell shared the following student and staff achievements.

Choir

Eight (8) Esperero choir students participated in the Arizona Music Educators Association Junior High All-State Choir on March 25: Sopranos - Abigail Carnahan and Charlotte Gordon; Altos - Ivy Buffalo and Abigail Sinclair; Tenors - Eli Schmidt and Calvin Wright; and Basses - Zach Bailey and Julian Merheb. Their choir director is Julia Higgins.

Orchestra

The high school Sinfonia Orchestra earned a Superior with Distinction at the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association Area Festival on March 7. Members are Sophie Bian, Isabelle Bleakley, Matilda Caballero, Hannah Campa, Miah Chavez-Hernandez, Lauren Dodds, Lilian Franz, Sara Garcia, Wesley Geary, Stephen Henderson, Maximilian Henry, Chihiro Kazui, John Kettelle, Jennifer Kim, Emma Lindsay, Gabrielle Matty, Oliver Moeller, Andrew Nairn, Nilay Patel, Nina Raju, Lily Rhodes, Tomas Salazar, Alejandro Tavera-Reyes, Aiden Wilt, and Zoe Wung. Their director is Ryan Watson.

Percussion

Each year, the Arizona Percussive Arts Society holds a festival with clinicians and a solo/ensemble competition. CFHS senior Tyler Kebo and his friend Campbell Stewart from Pusch Ridge were selected to perform in this year's Showcase Concert.

Photography

CFHS photography student Allison Witt won "Special Recognition" at the Pima County Library Art Invitational. Her entry was displayed at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library in Tucson. CFHS photography teacher is Mark Cook.

Poetry Contest

The following students and their poems were winners in the 2023 CFSD District Poetry Contest: Farrah Elias, "Upon the Lovely Blue" (kindergarten, VV); Olivia Barone, "Desert Poem" (1st grade, MZ); Felix Terry, "The Outside Showers" (2nd grade, CV); Audrey Fraser, "Monsoon Season" (3rd grade, CV); London Emerson, "Come and Go" (4th grade, VV); Eleanor Fellrath, "Hope" (5th grade, MZ); Zen Shah, "My Loyal Friend" (6th grade, OG); Julia Ellis, "DejaVu" (7th grade, OG); Sam Yetka, "The Mule on a crumbling road" (8th grade, OG), Calista Morrison, "What am I?" (9th grade); Natalia Ortiz, "[Maybe it's time to let go]" (10th grade); Amy Cao, "Indulgence" (11th grade); Tuko Goes, "Sobra Sobradinho" (12th grade)

Science

The following CFSD students and their projects were winners at the Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Foundation (SARSEF) science fair: Canyon View - Autumn Andrews-Hanna, "What things affect plant growth?" (2nd place); Isabelle Babst, "Alfalfa growth in a warmer future" (1st place); Olivia Babst, "Do young plants suffer from car exhaust fumes? Let's ask alfalfa!" (1st place); Myla Closterman, "The Beak of the Bird" (3rd place); Krish Kedia, Alekasandr Sudakov, Caris Wiegand, "Loop Bike Path Lights" (3rd place); Margaret Kennedy Morris, "Plant Growth Results Using Different Kinds of Liquids to [Water] the Plants" (3rd place); Levi Siemens, "How do kids learn better - Google Slides vs.

Active" (1st place); Jocelyn Smerz's class, "The Great Pencil Problem" (1st place); Linus Wright, "Mobile Energy Generator" (Award of Excellence). Catalina Foothills High School - Josiah Holguin, Zakary Gruber, "Genetic Diversity in Duplicate Genes Produced by Ancient Whole Genome Duplications" (3rd place); Brandon Martz, Henry Roth Gordon, "Agrivoltaic Efficiency in Selected Lettuce Varieties During Drought Conditions" (2nd place); Nicole Richards, Sophia Tsai, "The Effect of a Labellum on the Success of Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*) Landings" (1st place). Manzanita - Maura Baker's class, "Wonderful Water" (2nd place); Ella Winter, "How does music affect my heart rate and breathing rate?" (3rd place); Lilah Winter, "Family Germs: Do family members really share the same microbiomes with one another?" (1st Place). Sunrise Drive - David Bui, "Comparing Balloons Filled with Different Gases" (1st place); Katharina Mangelsdorf, "Trebuchet Science Experiment" (3rd place); Madi Myers, "How can marshmallows sink in water?" (Special recognition); Amelie Puell, "The battery consumption of my toy car" (1st place); Aaheli Shil, "Floods, Floaties, and Lives" (3rd place); Westyn Spear, Adilyn Navarro, "SF2022WESTYN&ADILYN" (Award of Excellence); Melissa Touma, "How Far Can It Stretch" (3rd place); Zachary Tucker, "Fiberglass Casts: Does Temperature Matter?" (2nd place); Abrielle Zoucha, "Which Location Is the Best to Slow Down the Rotting Process of a banana?" (Special recognition); Ventana Vista - Maura Baker's class, "Beating Buffelgrass" (1st place); Jaxson Burhans, "Gasses in Plant Growth" (2nd place); Tzipora Chorny, "Nailed It" (Resilience Through STEM Award); Jennings Cluck, "What makes a plant grow faster? A nerite snail or a labiste guppy?" (3rd place); Kai Concannon, "Deflategate 2014" (2nd place); Emily Dockins, "Dog Treats" (3rd place); Zoe Frankfort, "Tooth Truth" (2nd place); Naomi Hudgens, "The Five Second Rule" (2nd place); Natasha Jain, "Healthy eating at school (specifically snack)" (2nd place); Chris Job, "How much water is in your fruit?" (3rd place); Michael Montoya, "Do plants grow better in hot or cold?" (1st place); Dexter Potter, "Cardinal Cafe" (2nd place); Brecken Schlenker, "Bad chemicals. Healthy eats?" (3rd place); Arlo Tofte, "Does Beyblade Size Matter" (2nd place); Ariana Wallace, "Why Are Astronauts Weightless on the International Space Station?" (2nd place).

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following people addressed the board and expressed concerns about students' right to privacy; support of CFSD board; support of CFSD's non-discrimination policy; support of all CFSD students:

Malcolm Cohen	Laura Lewnes	Renee Maxine Polson	Lizette Trujillo
Oliver Cole	Chris Lopez	Cullen Rae	Kathleen Walker
Alina Cumberworth	Gabe Lopez	Emma Rial	Allison Wexler
Peter DeLuca	Matthias Mehl	Larissa Sah	Sage Wexler
Nina Isaac	Bella Mygrant	Rex Scott	Nicole Whelan
Katherine Jacobson	Casey Mygrant	Mallika Sunder	Jim Wiltbank
Tamar Rala Kreiswirth	Andrew (Andy) Peters	Daniel Trujillo	Ruby Wray
Hannah Levin			

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Amy Krauss and a second by Gina Mehmert, the governing board approved the following items on the consent agenda: 3.1 the governing board April 4, 2023, regular meeting minutes, as presented; 3.2 the governing board April 4, 2023, executive session meeting minutes, as presented; 3.3 the expense voucher memorandum, as presented; 3.4 the field trip request memorandum, as presented; 3.5 the personnel memorandum, as presented; 3.6 the acceptance, with gratitude, of the gifts and donations memorandum, as presented; 3.7 the award of RFQ 23-04-28, as presented; 3.8 the award of RFP 23-03-28 Electrical Services to two vendors, Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest and Gilbert Electric Co. with an estimated annual contract value of \$40,000.00, as presented.

Amy Bhola - Yea; Doug Hadley - Yea; Eileen Jackson - Yea; Amy Krauss - Yea; Gina Mehmert - Yea; Motion carried 5-0.

3. 1. Approval of April 4, 2023, Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes Memorandum
On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the regular governing board meeting minutes for April 4, 2023.

3. 2. Approval of April 4, 2023, Executive Session Governing Board Meeting Minutes Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the executive session governing board meeting minutes for April 4, 2023.

3. 3. Approval of Expense Voucher Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the following expense vouchers.

Expense Voucher	23164	\$	1,519,470.77
Expense Voucher	23168		293,183.00
Expense Voucher	23169		1,409,154.32
Expense Voucher	23171		147,963.15
Expense Voucher	23172		224,774.27
Expense Voucher	23173		97,026.59

3. 4. Approval of Field Trip Request Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the following field trips.

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>
Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS)			
Student Council	Students will attend AASC Summer Camp	Prescott, AZ	6/11/2023 to 6/16/2023

3. 5. Approval of Personnel Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the personnel.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- New Hires/Rehires
 Andrea Tellez, 1.0, Assistant Principal, CFHS
 Denise Bartlett, 1.0, Associate Superintendent, MAC
- Resignation
 Chad Knippen, 1.0, Assistant Superintendent, MAC

CERTIFIED STAFF

- Resignations
 Holly Crawford, 1.0, Math Teacher, CFHS
 Brett Smith, 1.0, Math Teacher, CFHS

CLASSIFIED STAFF

- New Hires/Rehires
- Correction
- Status changes

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- New Hires/Rehires
- Declined

3. 6. Approval of Gifts and Donations Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board accepted, with gratitude, the following gifts and donations.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DONOR</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PURPOSE/ITEM</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/20/2023	Sujata Sarkar	Community Schools	Misc. costumes, craft supplies, office supplies, puzzles, coloring	\$352.50

			books, jewelry, crayons and markers for the CARE/Summer program	
3/22/2023	Sunrise Drive Elementary School (SD) Family Faculty Organization (FFO)	SD	Transportation for 3rd Grade Field Trip to Reid Park Zoo	\$600.00
3/22/2023	SD FFO	SD	Transportation for Kindergarten Field Trips to Sabino Canyon	\$870.32
4/3/2023	American Online Giving Foundation	Canyon View Elementary School	Instruction	\$50.00
			TOTAL	\$885.12

3. 7. Approval of Award of RFQ 23-04-28 Architectural and Engineering Services
 On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the award of RFQ 23-04-28 to four architectural firms and two engineering firms as follows: BWS Architects; Breckenridge Group; DLR Group; Swaim Associates LTD Architects; Kelly Wright Associates; PC Mechanical Engineering and Martin White Griffis Structural Engineers. The district will use this pre-selected pool of architects and engineers from which awards will be made on specific individual projects using Bond or Facilities M&O funds.
3. 8. Approval of Award of RFP 23-03-28 Electrical Services
 On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the award of RFP 23-03-28 Electrical Services to two vendors, Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest and Gilbert Electric Co. with an estimated annual contract value of \$40,000.00.

4. DISCUSSION / REPORTS

4. 1. Fiscal Year 2024 Maintenance & Operations Budget Proposal
 Superintendent Kamerzell presented the administrative proposal for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Maintenance & Operations (M&O) budget. Four revenue assumptions were made when drafting the proposed budget. First, the current Average Daily Membership (ADM) of 4,912 was used as the basis for a per pupil funding. The district is funded based on ADM (Kindergarten students = .5 FTE so ADM is lower than actual enrollment). The October 2021 K-12 enrollment was 5,113 and in October 2022, enrollment was 5,066, a decrease of 47 students year over year or less than 1%. Second, basic state funding will increase by 2%, a mandatory inflation adjustment and the maximum amount allowed in the Arizona school finance formula. Third, the carry forward for FY24 will increase by \$159,364 from the FY23 budgeted \$1,156,419 for a total of \$1,315,783. Fourth, at this time, there is no proposal to transfer District Additional Assistance (DAA) funds to M & O, which is the revenue line used to balance the budget in response to any changes that may result in increases to M & O expense without a corresponding offset in revenue. Next year’s Classroom Site Fund’s per pupil amount is \$758 which is an increase from \$708 in FY23. This additional \$50 per pupil allocation will be used in part to pay for the FY24 teacher salary increase.

Five expenditure assumptions were made. First, the budget proposal sustains all student programs and services, including the expansion of programs previously approved by the governing board. Second, the proposal includes funding salary/wage increases for all employees and sustaining the district’s contribution for medical insurance premiums. The new significant expenses related to increased employee compensation is projected in the amount of \$2,150,417. Third, the recommendation increases our school’s per pupil budget allocations by 20% due to higher costs for supplies and equipment. The proposed elementary

and middle school per-pupil amounts are \$75.60, and the high school per-pupil amount is \$91.80. Fourth, an increase of \$50,000 to contingency is proposed for a total of \$400,000. This is only 1% of the M & O budget. Fifth, numerous other miscellaneous expenditure adjustments, both deletions and additions, to the proposed FY24 budget will be made.

Dr. Kamerzell and the governing board reviewed the comparison of the FY2023 Budget approved in July 2022 versus the proposed FY2023 budget summary of revenues and expenditures line by line.

A board member commented that the priority to maintain programs and services is consistent with the priorities set by the board, as well as maintaining enrollment to support these programs and services. The priority to continue to pay our teachers and our staff what they are worth, which we can never really do, but we try our best, is also consistent with the board's priority. From the feedback previously received from staff, salary is what enables them to feel valued members in this community, and they choose to work here. To find two million dollars in the budget and then sustain it is a testament to the Superintendent's work and the financial stewardship of the district.

Dr. Kamerzell responded that we do survey teachers every year, and that over the many years of surveying, salary and the professional environment in which they work with their peers were the top two reasons why teachers choose to work in CFSD.

A board member commented that being able to provide medical insurance coverage for employees that can cover two different plans offered by the district is a real benefit, and it also reflects the priorities of the board.

A board member commented that increasing each school's per pupil budget is very important as in many schools, teachers pay those uncovered expenses out of their own pocket.

Board members thanked the administrative team for their time and effort and expertise in compiling the budget proposal.

The detailed budget information is available in this meeting's agenda materials posted online. The Governing Board will continue its deliberations about next year's budget at each board meeting until the final adoption of the budget in late June.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5. 1. Approval of Professional Salary Schedule for 2023-2024

Assistant Superintendent Knippen presented the proposed 2023-2024 professional salary schedule. The schedule increases the beginning base salary to \$50,000.00 for teachers in their first year. Increments between steps on the schedule have remained at \$910.00. The professional salary schedule will result in an increase cost to the M & O budget of \$1,482,639.00. Returning certified employee salaries increase by \$4,341.00, a combination of an increase to the base salary and a vertical one step movement on the salary schedule. The salary change will be an increase of 5.35% to 9.32% for returning staff depending upon an individual's placement on the salary schedule.

The requirement for the Masters Addendum on the Professional Salary Schedule has changed from "MA addendums of \$1000 will be paid when the degree matches the content of the primary professional assignment and the degree in combination with the Bachelor's degree represents a second degree in the content area taught", to "MA addendums of \$1000 will be paid when the Bachelor's degree matches the content of the primary professional assignment and the Master's Degree is in either education/teaching or the content of the primary professional assignment." This change will increase eligibility for twenty certified staff members.

Upon a motion by Doug Hadley, and a second by Amy Bhola, the governing board approved the proposed Professional Salary Schedule, as presented.

Amy Bhola - Yea; Doug Hadley - Yea; Eileen Jackson - Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Gina Mehmert - Yea. Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion by Doug Hadley, and a second by Amy Bhola, the governing board approved the vertical step movement for all certified employees on the proposed Professional Salary Schedule.

Amy Bhola - Yea; Doug Hadley - Yea; Eileen Jackson - Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Gina Mehmert - Yea. Motion carried 5-0.

5.2. Approval of District Contribution to Cafeteria Plan of Employee Benefits

Dr. Knippen presented the proposed benefit renewal options for qualifying employees for 2023-2024. Prior to conducting an RFP for medical benefits, the current medical insurance provider Arizona School Boards Association Insurance Trust (ASBAIT) Meritain Health, offered a 6.16% increase in rates with no provider disruption, and \$15,000.00 towards a wellness plan. The proposal included the recommendation that the district continue to provide \$5,458.00 toward the annual premium cost for eligible employees. Employees will be offered four benefit plans: two “buy up” plans requiring an employee contribution: Co-Pay Gold, which is only available to employees hired prior to the 2022-2023 school year who had initially selected this plan, continuing with it to date, and Classic Gold; and two lower-cost plans fully funded by the district: Value Gold and a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with a Health Savings Account (HAS). ASBAIT included the Health Savings Administration, COBRA administration and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at no additional cost to the district.

A board member asked if the goal was to eventually phase out the Co-Pay Gold plan. Dr. Knippen responded that it eventually would be phased out, however, it is the most popular plan among employees. Dr. Kamerzell confirmed that it would likely not phase out soon.

A board member asked how the \$15,000.00 is used for the wellness plan. Dr. Knippen shared that the money has been used in prior years by Community Schools to provide opportunities for employees and students to stay healthy during COVID. This year the money was used to provide immunization clinics and on-site mammograms clinics. These funds are overseen by the Human Resources Department and the Assistant Superintendent.

Dr. Knippen reported that several other offerings under the district’s cafeteria plan of benefits would be with the same providers at their current rates: Employer Dental Services and Delta Dental. A new vision provider Avesis was recommended over the previous provider Delta Dental Vision. Although rates increased 7.49%, or \$0.39 per month for an employee. Avesis includes a larger network of providers such as Costco and Walmart, and a decrease to the copay for progressive lenses from \$75 to \$50. The continued Basic and Voluntary Employee and Dependent Life insurance provider Minnesota Life was recommended due to a decrease to the Basic Life insurance rate of 4.12% and no increase to the Voluntary Life insurance rate for the 2023-2024 school year. Metlife, a new provider for Pet Care, was recommended. The previous provider United Pet Care was a discount program that did not provide a quote for renewal. Metlife is pet insurance. Although fees have increased, coverage has also. The recommendation for Flexible Spending Account management was given to the current provider ASI Flex for administrative services, with no change to the monthly rate. TSA Consulting Group will administer the tax shelter annuities for the 403(b) and 403(b) Roth accounts at no administrative cost to the district.

A board member inquired about the number of participants in the tax shelter annuities program offered by TSA Consulting Group. Dr. Knippen acknowledged that our profession currently sets aside Arizona State retirement, however, this is another option offered to employees.

A board member asked if the employee has the option to purchase additional life insurance coverage. Dr. Knippen responded that there is an option for employees to obtain additional coverage up to \$250,000 without a pre-existing health screening. Minnesota Life does not have any age reduction schedules in place for employees.

A board member highlighted the relationship with the Banner network being a cost savings through the ASBAIT Meritain Health medical insurance provider.

Upon a motion by Amy Bhola, and a second by Doug Hadley, the governing board approved to provide full-time benefit eligible employees \$5,458.00 toward a cafeteria plan of benefit options available from July 1, 2023 until June 30, 2024 to employees working between 30-40 hours prorated based on their respective full-time equivalencies. The governing board also approved the list of benefit providers, as presented.

Amy Bhola - Yea; Doug Hadley - Yea; Eileen Jackson - Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Gina Mehmert - Yea. Motion carried 5-0.

5.3. Approval of First Round of Certified Contracts for 2023-2024

Dr. Knippen presented the list of professional staff proposed to be offered contracts and addenda for the 2023-2024 contract year. Two hundred and forty-five contracts were presented for board approval on the first round.

A board member asked what percentage of returning teachers are listed in the first round of contracts. Both Dr. Knippen and Dr. Kamerzell responded that 75% of returning teachers are listed.

A board member asked about the number of student registrations received for the upcoming school year. Dr. Knippen responded that we are ahead of where we were at this time last school year with the number of registrations received.

Upon a motion by Doug Hadley, and a second by Amy Krauss, the governing board approved the first round of certified contracts for 2023-2024, as presented.

Amy Bhola - Yea; Doug Hadley - Yea; Eileen Jackson - Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Gina Mehmert - Yea. Motion carried 5-0.

5.4. Consideration of Revisions to Policy and Regulation JFABDA, JFABDA-R Admission of Students in Foster Care (first reading)

Dr. Kamerzell presented revisions to Policy JFABDA and Regulation JFABDA-R to conform with the law that educating students in foster care is a collaboration between schools, child welfare agencies, and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Mandated collaboration includes assigning a district point of contact for children in foster care and notifying ADE of that district point of contact. Definitions of "children in foster care," "school of origin," and "best interest determination" are amended, or added, to reflect U. S. Department of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance regarding students in foster care. ADE has been notified that the district point of contact for children in foster care in the Catalina Foothills School District is the Director of Special Services Dr. Erin Matyjasik. Presently there are five students across K-12 that are in foster care, which is typical compared to previous school years.

Children in foster care remain enrolled in their school of origin. If a child is in our school before being placed in foster care, then the child continues in our school unless a determination is made that it is not in such child's best interest.

A board member asked if the five students in foster care were in their school of origin or if they were placed with families in our school district. Dr. Kamerzell confirmed that these students are living with residents within the boundaries of our school district.

A board member inquired about transportation for these students to the school of origin if the families moved out of the district. Dr. Kamerzell shared that in the past, the district has used cab services or has provided reimbursement to the family for transportation. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis as to what is in the best interest of the child to transport them to and from school.

This policy will return for a second reading on April 25, 2023.

6. **DISCUSSION / REPORTS (CONTINUED)**

6. 1. 2023 Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity

There was no discussion regarding 2023 Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity.

7. **FUTURE AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS**

There were no requests for future agenda considerations.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Gina Mehmert and a second by Doug Hadley, the governing board adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Amy Bhola - Yea; Doug Hadley - Yea; Eileen Jackson - Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Gina Mehmert - Yea; Motion carried 5-0.

Approved: April 25, 2023

Amy Krauss, Vice President