

MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
1801 East Fir, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
Mingus Union High School Library
Thursday, August 7, 2025, 6:00 PM

Governing Board:

Ms. Taylor Bell
Ms. Ashley Koepnick
Mr. Austin Babcock
Mr. Frank Nevarez
Mr. Will David

Also Present:

Superintendent Herne

I. OPENING

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Moment of Silence
5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by to adopt Vice President Ashley Koepnick the agenda as presented. The second was made by the Board Member Austin Babcock

Roll Call Vote:

President Taylor Bell – Aye
Vice President Ashley Koepnick – Aye
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye
Board Member Frank Nevarez – Aye
Board Member Will David - Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

II. STUDENT RECOGNITION

1. Savannah Tobias for representing our nation in women's basketball in Europe
2. Zechariah Olesky over the summer, participated in ALLECA, a prestigious program that is very hard to complete. It is set up for students interested in Law Enforcement or Military Careers. Zechariah completed the program as a Cadet Advisor.
(Principal Beery).

III. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

1. Erick Quesada for representing our nation in coaching at the World Baseball Cup (Principal Beery)

IV. REPORTS

The Superintendent and Board Member(s) reports will consist of brief summaries of current events. These reports will be without any discussion or feedback.

1. **Superintendent 's Report:** RECOGNITION International Service Trip for Interactor • Candace Basham, a 2025 MUHS graduate • June 2025 traveled to Mexico • Participated in multiple service events organized by the Interact District 5495 in conjunction with the non-profit organizations Crutches 4 Africa and ALEM (Autonomous Freedom of Movement) • The MUHS Interact Club's Walkathon helped sponsor this life-changing, meaningful trip.
RECOGNITION Yavapai County Learn and Earn and Learn Program • Seven-week program giving youth a second chance • This is Mingus Union's fifth (5th) year helping with the Learn and Earn Program • Many thanks to Mr. Jim Erick
RECOGNITION Pre-Service Days July 28-30, 2025 • Mingus Union High School District #4 Welcomed Back Faculty and Staff on July 28 • We celebrated Years of Service-recognizing 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 40 years of service for Mingus Union employees • All staff participated in First Aid/CPR Training resulting in over 80 staff members receiving their CPR Certification Card; Thank you to Ms. Anguiano, and Verde Valley Firefighters Joe Odell and A.J. Purinton
RECOGNITION Freshman Day July 30, 2025 • About 260 Freshmen participated • 55 Link Crew Leaders (Juniors and Seniors) guided the Freshman through activities and then tours of the campus • Freshmen had lunch and then rotated through each of their classes; they were able to spend 15 mins in each class
RECOGNITION USA Baseball 12U World Championship • Erick Quesada, Mingus Teacher and Varsity Baseball Coach, traveled to Taiwan with the USA Baseball 12u National Team as their Assistant Coach • The team won the WBSC World Championship Gold Medal, defeating Japan 7-1 on Monday, August 4, 2025 (Taiwan time) • The team went 8-1 in the tournament and produced the tournament's MVP, Christopher Chikidroff
UPCOMING EVENTS •Involvement Fair (Lunch)—August 12th Clubs, Organizations, Sports—100 Hallway •Open House/Community Forum— August 12, 2025 •New Marauder Parent Session—5:00PM •Open House/Community Forum—5:30PM •Board Work Session – August 2nd 5:00- 7:00PM

2. **Board Member Report(s)** Board members will report on their participation at the July 28th Pre-Service events

Vice President Koepnick expressed her appreciation and thanks she was grateful they were invited, she also expressed gratitude to the teachers at MUHS.

President Taylor Bell also stated how thankful she was and reminisced on how fun it was talking with some of her old teachers.

Board Member Will David said it was "Delightful" He was only able to attend the first portion of the event but was able to speak with 4 teachers that shared their background and passion for being at MUHS.

Board Member Frank Nevarez stated what really gave him a sense of excitement and what really stood out was the story from our teacher Elle Gray. This was her first year teaching with MUHS. She attended school at MUHS and she is now teaching here. He would like to see us highlight more possibly through social media outlets teachers that share the same story, who had such a good experience with MUHS that they made it their life passion and now return to Mingus as a teacher.

V. PRESENTATION AND INFORMATION

1. Administration Information (5 minutes) Updates on the beginning of the school year (Principal Beery)

Start of School Updates

- Cell Phones-Principal Beery thanked the board for listening last year to Administrators and Teachers regarding this policy, He feels now that we are ahead of the curve regarding MUHS Student Behavior. There has been very little resistance. Communication has been good and consistency has not appeared to be an issue.
- Staff -Expectations clear- Processes explained and trained well
- August Events8/1 Freshmen Dance
 - 8/12 Involvement Fair, Open House/Community Forum- So important for our school
 - 8/13 Anti-Vaping Presentation
 - 8/19 Fall Sports Parent Meeting
 - 8/21 Picture Day
 - 8/27 Bus Evacuation Drills (Annual Requirement)
 - 8/29 First Home Football Game

VI. BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

1. Board Meeting Minutes Not Previously Approved

July 17th 2025 - Regular Meeting

Motion was made by President Taylor Bell to adopt the Consent items, as presented. The second was made by the Board Member Austin Babcock

Roll Call Vote:

President Taylor Bell – Aye

Vice President Ashley Koepnick – Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Board Member Frank Nevarez – Aye

Board Member Will David - Aye

Motion passed 4-0.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At the conclusion of the call to the public, Board members may respond to any criticism made by an individual who addressed the Board. Board members may also direct staff to review the concern or request the item be discussed at a future meeting. Board members may not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during this open call to the public. If you have submitted a Request to Speak form, the Board President will call upon you and ask that you **please identify yourself by clearly stating for the record your name and address**. Citizens are asked to restrict their comments to three (3) minutes. Groups wishing to speak should select a spokesperson to represent the view of the group. **(Board President may refrain from reciting this section if no RTS forms have been submitted).**

Jason Teague MUHS Art Teacher spoke:

Since the April Board Meeting when the Board approved moving forward with the Override even though it was not an easy decision. Mr. Teague would like to point out that from his perspective the Board made the right decision, it was in the May board meeting you really made the decision based off the presentations of all our extracurricular programs success. President Taylor Bell really resigned with him when she stated to latch onto your passions now so they are strong in growth by the time the students graduate. Mr. Teague

expressed his gratitude to the Board for giving our students these type of opportunities. Without that support he believe he may not even be standing here today. He thanked the Board one last time.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT

1. Approval of Routine Vouchers

1. Expense

#1002 \$127,148.98

#1003 \$68,928.40

Encumbrance

#1048 \$1,443,702.49

2. Payroll

#3 \$119,963.69

3. Bookstore Activity

2. Personnel - HR Report

3. Re-submission of Dual Enrollment Stipends -correction to the amount submitted in July 17th 2025 Board Meeting.

4. Policy 2nd Reading Volume 37, Number 6 policy advisory for 906,907, and 908

5. Donation

1995 Grand Cherokee donated to Auto classroom

Motion was made by Board Member Austin Babcock to adopt the Consent Agenda. The second was made by President Taylor Bell

Roll Call Vote:

President Taylor Bell – Aye

Vice President Ashley Koepnick – Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Board Member Frank Nevarez – Aye

Board Member Will David - Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

IX. ACTION ITEMS - DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Interscholastic Eligibility or Non-Enrolled ESA students (5 Minutes) Possible approval for ESA students to participate in Mingus Union High School -AIA-sanctioned athletics for the 2025-2026 school year

If we bring back for a vote this will be for the 2026-2027 school year – discussions tonight – open for discussion.

President Taylor Bell stated that she was still struggling with this as far as the timeline. She stated that there was no specific verbage/language that implies this. President Taylor Bell asked why would we have to wait to implemnet this until 2026-2027.

President Taylor asked if we could ask Athletic Director DeVore how this would impact the current school year.

Superintendent Herne states at this time there is no data proving one way or another on how this would impact the current school year as we do not currently allow ESA students to participate in AIA sanctioned athletics.

Athletic Director DeVore agrees. His biggest concern regarding implementation of this is that there are no protections in place. Since there are no Bylaws someone could decide to challenge this and it could lead to forfeiture of games.

Board Member Will David states that the real question is Do we allow ESA students? He believes we lack a lot of guidance on this. He asked for Conflict of Interest information. He also believes that we should not allow ESA students to participate in MUHS sports as the parental choice of not enrolling in our schools has already been made. He also believes it could be a conflict of interest. The ESA program was originally created for student with disabilities. The Board needs to table this item until a later time.

Board Member Frank Nevarez stated that other schools are allowing ESA students to enroll in athletic programs for a fee to include Mesa schools, Yuma schools, Fountain Hills and Flagstaff, AZ along with other multiple districts that are considering allowing ESA students to enroll in athletics. He also stated that he know ESA may have started out for disabled students but this program is evolving and changing and can be used for athletic programs.

Vice President Ashley Koepnick expressed that we need to consider that we may not necessarily know why people are choosing to home school their children. They may have reasons that are not due to how they feel about Public schools but the reasons could be individual, based on the child's needs that have nothing to do with us at MUHS.

President Taylor Bell does believe that this should be opened up to the community for a fee. This was part of our Strategic plan and would be for good for our community as an option. Especially since just in July we are giving this option to online charter students. Also regarding Board member Will David's statement she does not believe we should close the door or punish the child because the parent decided to home school them. They should have access to this program.

Athletic Director Yancy and Superintendent Herne confirmed that there are no Bylaws protecting us if we open up this program or insurance options that would cover the ESA student. We need to be willing to have these hard conversations, the only concern he has is if we had a challenge and he has to file an appeal it could lead to forfeiture.

President- WD is out of line- So punish the kid? WD stating his objection- Vice President- we don't know why someone chose to home school a student – That parent is making the decision. We don't know why the parent chose. The kid also still wants to belong. FN it may have started for kids that are disabled – ESA funds can be used for athletics- I think ESA is evolving and expanding- WD our job is not to speculate on ESA –

Superintendent Herne would like to touch base on a few things to consider. Right now there is nothing in law or AIA bylaw that allows ESA students. There is nothing in regards to the insurance stated. There is nothing against ESA students, we would have to follow through on challenge and see where it takes us. Regarding the Conflict of interest our attorneys made a recommendation which was shared with the Board via email. There are no policies currently in place and there is no legislative rulings to fall back on if there was a challenge.

Board Member Austin Babcock would recommend tabling this item and bringing it back up in June of 2026
Superintendent Herne stated that action was called for previously by Board Member David.

Motion was made by Vice President Ashley Koepnick to Table the ESA students to participate in Mingus Union High School-AIA-sanctioned athletics for the 2025-2026 school year and the second was made by the Board Member Austin Babcock

Roll Call Vote:

President Taylor Bell – Nay
Vice President Ashley Koepnick – Aye
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye
Board Member Frank Nevarez – Nay
Board Member Will David - Aye
Motion passed 3-2.

X. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Policy 1st Reading Volume 37, Number 7 PA No. 909,910, 911, 912, 913, and 914

Policy Advisory

Policy EB — Environmental and Safety Program

**Expansion of purchasing options for school safety programs; **Expansion of program proposals supporting school officers;

**Expansion of definition for School Resource Officer; and
inclusion of a “School Safety Officer”

**HB 2074 also added A.R.S. 15-154.02 to include requirements for school districts to develop an Emergency Response Plan and conduct a safety assessment every five years.

Policy GCQF — Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members

**SB 1659 amended A.R.S. 15-350 to include new guidelines for a school or school district requesting information from the Department of Education about allegations of misconduct by an employee who resigned or otherwise separated from employment with the district

Policy IKF — Graduation Requirements

**HB 2540 amended A.R.S. 15-741 to include requirements regarding high school assessments conducted by a source outside of the school district or charter school and allowances for a written assessment

Policy JLC — Student Health Services and Requirements

**SB 1383 amended A.R.S. Title 15, Chapter 1, Article 5 by adding A.R.S. 15-160.03

**Requires districts or charter schools that provide routine health care services to students to provide health care credentials, and districts or charter schools to provide emergency response training information upon request of a parent or guardian

**A.R.S. 15-160.03 does not require the school or district to release personally identifiable information of school employees or health care Providers

Policy JLCD — Medicines/Administering Medicines to Students

SB 1440 amended A.R.S. 15-157, 15-189.04, 15-203, 15-341, 32-1706, 32-1854, 32-1901.01, 36-2201, 36-2226.01 and 36-2226.02

**Replaces the term “epinephrine auto injectors” with “epinephrine delivery systems” and provides a definition for this new term

Acknowledgement was made by Vice President Ashley Koepnick.. The second was made by the Board Member Austin Babcock.

Roll Call Vote:

President Taylor Bell – Aye

Vice President Ashley Koepnick – Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Board Member Frank Nevarez – Aye

Board Member Will David - Aye

Acknowledgement of Board Members 5-0.

XI. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – June 2026 revisit ESA participation with the enrollment 15.3 bylaws

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by President Taylor Bell to adjourn at 7:38pm PM. The second was made by Vice President Ashley Koepnick Austin.

Roll Call Vote:

President Taylor Bell – Aye

Vice President Ashley Koepnick – Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Board Member Frank Nevarez – Aye

Board Member Will David - Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

Board President

Vice President