

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

GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING

Mingus Union High School Library
Wednesday, December 11, 2024 6:00 PM

Governing Board:

Lori Drake
Misty Cox
Anthony Lozano
Carol Anne Teague
Austin Babcock

Also Present:

Melody Herne, Superintendent
Bridget Hillman, Admin Asst.
Josh Fant, IT Director

OPENING

Call to Order

Board President Drake called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

Roll Call

Board President Lori Drake, Vice President Misty Cox, Board Member Carol Anne Teague, Board Member Anthony Lozano, and Board Member Austin Babcock and are all present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was led by Paula Herald.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Vice President Cox to adopt the agenda as presented. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

Roll Call Vote:

Board President Lori Drake - Aye
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Aye
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

Other Information for Reading

December/January Newsletter

Swearing In New Board Members

Yavapai County Superintendent Tim Carter thanked the outgoing board members for their service. He directly addressed Board Member Lozano. Superintendent Carter has known Board Member Lozano for decades and acknowledged his many years of work on the Clarkdale-Jerome and Mingus Union High School Governing Boards. Yavapai County Superintendent Tim Carter stated the newly elected members have signed their documents and as of January 1, 2025, they will be fully vested. Then Yavapai County Superintendent Tim Carter conducted the swearing in of newly elected board members; Frank Nevarez, Ashley Koepnick, and Taylor Bell.

Yavapai County Superintendent Tim Carter thanked all present at the board meeting.

President Drake thanked Yavapai County Superintendent Tim Carter and congratulated the newly elected members.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Herne recognized the out-going members, President Drake, Board Member Teague, Board Member Lozano, with a plaque and special tribute for their hard work and dedication to Mingus Union High School District #4. She also expressed her appreciation to the newly elected board members; Frank Nevarez, Ashley Koepnick, and Taylor Bell.

Board Member Report(s)

Board President Drake – President Drake thanked the community, teachers, staff, administration and community for their support. She stated that the teaching staff at Mingus Union High School is second to none. President Drake is deeply grateful to the parents and community for entrusting her to service on the Mingus Union High School Governing Board for the last eight years. A special acknowledgement to her husband, daughters, and family for their unwavering support throughout her time on the Board. President Drake stated it has been a pleasure to serve with the current board and past board members. She also welcomed newly elected members and thanked them for their commitment to the Mingus Community. Lastly, Board President Drake extended her gratitude to Superintendent Herne.

Board Member Teague – Board Member Teague thanked the community, teachers, staff, administration and community for their support. She also echoed President Drake's statement.

Board Member Lozano- Board Member Lozano stated that he was blessed with the privilege of serving our community, students, and our Verde Valley. We have been blessed with a wonderful community. This community is filled with wonderful young people, young adults, and senior citizens who support education and that will drive forward the future of many others blessed to live here. Board Member Lozano stated his thanks to everyone, tonight is a difficult time, it is time for him to make a change for the goals he has and for the goals of his family. When he is out among the people of the Verde Valley, he knows he has a huge family. Board Member Lozano gave a heartfelt thank you.

Board Member Babcock – Board Member Babcock stated it has been a great honor to have worked with the current board members and a special thank you to the three outgoing members: Board Member Lozano, Board Member Teague, and President Drake. Board Member Babcock took this time to acknowledge his appreciation for the wisdom he has received from the outgoing board members, knowing in their hearts they always held fast to the philosophy of making Mingus the best it can be.

Vice President Cox- Vice President Cox commend the service of the outgoing board members. She states that it is a very selfless thing to serve and knowing the many years all have served is very commendable. Decisions are not always easy but because you have the interests of our children at heart, our community is a better place. Vice President Cox stated that is has been a pleasure to serve with the outgoing board members. Their passion and dedication to Mingus Union High School District is evident and greatly appreciated. She also welcomed newly elected board members and looks forward to what they can accomplish in the upcoming year.

Public Comments

Michael Macedo – Mr. Michael Macedo applauded the service of the outgoing Governing Board Members and Newly Elected Governing Board Members. He states democratic elections can cause strife between both parties. However, once elected, board members represent all people of the community not just one side. He then quotes Proverbs 1.7, and he is praying for wisdom for all. When making decisions be gentle and kind and work decisions through with boldness. The board represents the community of the Verde Valley.

Jason Teague – Mr. Jason Teague has been a teacher in Cottonwood for 20 years with the last 15 years at Mingus Union High School. Mr. Teague stated his sincere thanks to all board members especially to the three outgoing board members. Board Member Lozano has been a part of many challenges during his time on the board. His years of service, love for Mingus and teaching has been a true inspiration. President Drake earned Mr. Teagues respect during the consolidation process. He thanked President Drake for her integrity and speaking up for the students, staff and teachers during consolidation because it was not always easy. Mr. Teague thanked his mother, Board Member Teague for her steadfast vision and understanding of her core values and having the wisdom and strength to not break but find compromise when needed. Even when the political discussions over the last few years were difficult, she never lost her compass. Mr. Teague thanked his mother for her service to the staff, teachers, and students.

Frank Nevarez – Mr. Frank Nevarez thanked all the people present and all who gave him encouragement during his run for the school board. He also thanked all outgoing board members for all they have done for the school and community. Their commitment inspired him to run for the school board. Mingus Union High school has done a lot for his family. When running for the school board he kept thinking what can he do to give back and being a boardmember is something he can do. Mr. Nevarez is looking forward to working with Board Member Babcock, Vice President Cox, and Superintendent Herne. The bottom line is if we can work together, we can get a lot of things done. He vows to work for the success of our teachers, staff, administration, students and families for those present and in the future.

Ashley Koepnick – Mrs. Ashley Koepnick thanked all who were present for their support, encouragement, and belief in her. Without them she could not have done it. A special thanks to her family, husband and boys for their love and encouragement. Mrs. Koepnick thanked the current board for their dedication, commitment, and service to Mingus. She promises to focus on what truly matters, academic excellence, student safety and supporting all the dedicated teachers. Finally, Mrs. Koepnick thanked her family, friends, and community for standing behind her and believing in her vision.

Taylor Bell – Mrs. Taylor Bell thanked all present and members of the community for their encouragement and support, it was truly amazing. She is very honored to hold the position of a board member. As a parent Mrs. Bell thanked the current board members for their service, time, and dedication they have given to the kids of this community and school to make it a better place. She expressed her

excitement to work with Board Member Babcock, Vice President Cox, and Superintendent Herne. Together we can get a lot of things done. A special thank you to her family and her husband. He has been her biggest support person, and she is very grateful for that. Mrs. Bell states when you choose to put yourself out there on a public stage people are watching, young people are watching, our kids are watching, and it is important to not sacrifice your morals and values. We are here for service and our hearts are in it for that reason. Mrs. Bell is looking forward to this opportunity and thanks everyone very much.

ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT

(Specific information on routine vouchers and personnel will be available at the District Office 24 hours prior to Board Meetings. Please see the Governing Board Secretary during regular office hours. All items listed hereunder are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be discussed separately.)

7.1 Approval of Routine Vouchers

Expense, Payroll, Bookstore Activity

7.2 Personnel - HR Report

HR Report, Certified, Classified

7.3 Donation

Girls Soccer Program, Hope Center Report October and November

Policy Second Readings

- Policy Advisory 797
- Policy Advisory 801-807

Motion was made by President Drake to approve the Action Items on the Consent Agenda. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

Roll Call Vote:

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Aye

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

Requests for Future Agenda Items

(The Board will not propose, discuss, comment, or take legal action during the meeting)

President Drake asked for new agenda items for the January meeting. She also states any item may be sent directly to Superintendent Herne.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by President Drake to adjourn the meeting. Second was made by Board Member Teague.

Roll Call Vote:

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Aye

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment: 6:43pm

Board President Lori Drake

Vice President Misty Cox

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