

AZTEC MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 2  
SPECIAL MEETING – Discharge Hearing  
MINUTES **Draft – Not Official**  
July 8, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Fran Dobey, President  
Jimmy Dusenbery, Vice President  
Katie Buchholz, Member  
Amanda Sutherland, Member  
Laci Newland, Secretary

SCHOOL PERSONNEL PRESENT: Lauren Laws, Superintendent  
Jason Miller, Director of Technology  
Jonathan Acrey, Deputy Superintendent  
Jarrell Botello, Teacher

VISTORS: Brenda McNeal  
Elena Gallegos, Walsh, Gallegos, Kyle Robison & Roalson PC  
Dina Holcomb, Holcomb Law Office  
Richard Mast, Liberty Counsel  
Marvin Graves  
Diana Graves

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Board President Mrs. Fran Dobey in the Board Room at Central Office. The Aztec Board of Education welcomes you to this meeting. This meeting is streamed live on the Aztec Schools Website via Zoom.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM/ROLL CALL

|            |                                 |      |
|------------|---------------------------------|------|
| Roll call: | Fran Dobey, President           | HERE |
|            | Jimmy Dusenbery, Vice President | HERE |
|            | Laci Newland, Secretary         | HERE |
|            | Amanda Sutherland, Member       | HERE |
|            | Katie Buchholz, Member          | HERE |

APPROVAL OF AGENDA\*

Board President Mrs. Fran Dobey presented and recommended to approve the agenda as presented. Board Secretary Mrs. Laci Newland made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; second Board Member Ms. Amanda Sutherland; vote unanimous. Discussion was held.

|            |                                 |     |
|------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| Roll call: | Fran Dobey, President           | AYE |
|            | Jimmy Dusenbery, Vice President | AYE |
|            | Katie Buchholz, Member          | AYE |
|            | Laci Newland, Secretary         | AYE |
|            | Amanda Sutherland, Member       | AYE |

Motion carried.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

I will take a motion and second for the Board of Education to Convene In A Closed Executive Session For The Following Purpose: Executive Session (1) Executive Session (With Roll Call Vote To Go Into Executive Session\*) - The Board of Education Will Convene In A Closed Executive Session Pursuant To NMSA 1978, 22-15-1(H)(2) Of The New Mexico Opens Meeting Act A. To Discuss Limited Personnel Matters As Permitted Under Section 10-15-1(H) Of The New Mexico Open Meetings Act; Specifically, To Conduct A Discharge Hearing Pursuant To NMSA 1978, 22-10A-27 (In The Matter Of Jarrell Botello) Unless The Employee Demands A Public Hearing, In Which Case The Board Will Hold The Hearing In Open Session Rather Than Closed Executive Session. B. To Discuss Personally Identifiable Information About Any Individual Student In Connection With The Discharge Hearing Proceeding As Permitted Under Section 10-15-1(H)(4) (Personally Identifiable Student Information). C. For The Board To Deliberate In Connection With The Discharge Hearing As Permitted Under Section 10-15-1(H)(3) (Administrative Adjudicatory Deliberations); Specifically: 1. For The Board To Engage In Deliberations During The Discharge Hearing Regarding Such Matters As How To Rule On Motions And Objections; And 2. At The Conclusion Of The Hearing, For The Board To Engage In Deliberations In Reaching A Final Decision as presented:

Board President Mrs. Fran Dobey recommended the Board of Education Convene In A Closed Executive as presented. Board Vice President Mr. Jimmy Dusenbery made a motion to Convene Into Executive Session as presented; second Board Member Mrs. Katie Buchholz; vote unanimous.

|            |                                 |     |
|------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| Roll call: | Fran Dobey, President           | AYE |
|            | Jimmy Dusenbery, Vice President | AYE |
|            | Katie Buchholz, Member          | AYE |
|            | Laci Newland, Secretary         | AYE |
|            | Amanda Sutherland               | AYE |

Motion carried.

The Board went into Executive Session at 1:27 p.m.

Board Secretary Mrs. Laci Newland made a motion to return to the Special Meeting at 9:36 p.m.; second Board Vice President Mr. Jimmy Dusenbery; vote unanimous. No decisions were made.

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|------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| Roll call: | Fran Dobey, President           | AYE |
|            | Jimmy Dusenbery, Vice President | AYE |
|            | Katie Buchholz, Member          | AYE |
|            | Laci Newland, Secretary         | AYE |
|            | Amanda Sutherland               | AYE |

Motion carried.

### ACTION ITEMS\*

Board Member Ms. Amanda Sutherland made a motion to discharge Mr. Botello based on the Superintendent having proved by a preponderance of the evidence, that just cause existed at the time of the notice to recommend discharge; second Board Secretary Mrs. Laci Newland; vote 3- 2.

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|------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| Roll call: | Fran Dobey, President           | NO  |
|            | Jimmy Dusenbery, Vice President | NO  |
|            | Katie Buchholz, Member          | AYE |
|            | Laci Newland, Secretary         | AYE |
|            | Amanda Sutherland               | AYE |

Motion carried.

Board President Mrs. Fran Dobey moved to direct legal counsel to draft a written decision for the Board President's signature reflecting the decision of the Board. Vice President Mr. Jimmy Dusenbery made a motion to direct legal counsel to draft a written decision for the Board's signature reflecting the decision of the Board as presented; second Board Secretary Mrs. Laci Newland; vote unanimous. Discussion was held.

|            |                                 |     |
|------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| Roll call: | Fran Dobey, President           | AYE |
|            | Jimmy Dusenbery, Vice President | AYE |
|            | Katie Buchholz, Member          | AYE |
|            | Laci Newland, Secretary         | AYE |
|            | Amanda Sutherland               | AYE |

Motion carried.

### ADJOURNMENT

Board Secretary Mrs. Laci Newland made a motion to adjourn the meeting; second Board Vice President Mr. Jimmy Dusenbery; Vote 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

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|------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| Roll call: | Fran Dobey, President           | AYE |
|            | Jimmy Dusenbery, Vice President | AYE |
|            | Katie Buchholz, Member          | AYE |
|            | Laci Newland, Secretary         | AYE |
|            | Amanda Sutherland               | AYE |

Motion carried.

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Fran Dobey, President

ATTEST TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laci Newland, Secretary