

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

GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING

Mingus Union High School Library
Thursday, September 11, 2025 6:00 PM

Governing Board:

Also Present: Superintendent Herne

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

Meeting Start Time 6:00PM

Ms. Taylor Bell- Here
Ms. Ashley Koepnick- Herne
Mr. Austin Babcock- Here
Mr. Frank Nevarez Not Present
Mr. Will David- Here

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

Motion—Vice President -I motion to adopt tonight's agenda

Second—Board Member Babcock

Vote

Ms. Taylor Bell- Aye
Ms. Ashley Koepnick- Aye
Mr. Austin Babcock- Yes
Mr. Frank Nevarez Not Present
Mr. Will David- yes
Passed 4 to 0 Board Member Nevarez not present

II. **STUDENT RECOGNITION** September 2025

Marauder of the Month

Jorge Meza – Mingus Academics (ESS)
Orlando Torres – English & Literature
Coco Zuniga - Science
Julian Chavez Smart - Mathematics
Finn Herald – Social Studies
Jordan Watson – Physical Education
Pablo Escobar – Foreign Language
Isabel McKean – Performing & Visual Arts
Alijah Bernard - Career & Technical Education
Rachel Rudert - AVID

Senior Spotlight

Ambar Anaya Martinez – Senior

III. **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION** Paige Bodam - Staff

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**

2. **Board Member Report(s)**

Board Members will report on the Open House/Community Forum and ASBA Law Conference.

Vice President Koepnick—Three days at the ASBA Law Conference. Purpose of law conference is to join together to support the job of Board Members. Attended a session on Curriculum/textbook adoption and met the Paradise Valley Assist. Supt.

Board Member Bell—Open House Really enjoyed, passed from students of what they are involved in.

Board Member David—Divide and Conquer approach as there were so many breakout sessions at the Law Conference, full of lawyers. Conference allowed for cross districts to learn a lot, discuss common issues, find solutions, make friends, and network with other Board Members. Delegate Assembly—purpose review and vote on ASBA's Political Agenda for 2026. The Mingus Board vetted the items, in concurrence with everyone votes were 90% to 1%. One item, which would have eliminated references to gun violence, they wanted to strike this, the delegates did not support striking the agenda, delegates supported recognizing issues with gun violence which occur in public schools.

Board Member Babcock Open House—Tenth time at Open House. Good to see the energy for Back to school. Shout to all employees who put on Open House.

V. **PRESENTATION AND INFORMATION**

1. **Administration Information**

NWEA Benchmark updates (Principal Beery).

Summer spoke of the NWEA partnership

Timeline--- Test is the MAPGrowth, results give zone of proximal development, math, reading science,

July 31 Planning

Aug 12 Training

Aug 25 Picked the test

Sept 2 Testing Meeting—

Sept 4- Sept 12 Testing Window

Sept 10 Follow up on the various reports, logistics of reading the report

Data will be forthcoming

December—First Week Winter Benchmark

Feb-March—Spring Benchmark—want this assessment prior to ACT to help with ACT prep/bootcamp

Objectives---measuring student achievement and preparedness

Score reports to give specific standards for courses prioritize and fine tune FLEX

2. **Student Council Presentation** - Student Council members will be presenting current Student Body events and future activities. Items Include: Spirit Conference, Blood Drive, Senior Sunrise.

Student Representative gave highlights on:

Blood Drive collected 98 units, 30 first time donors Made changed to how people enter campus, Kudos to Ms. Forbes and Security Team

Spirit Conference—Work with councils from Flagstaff Area

Senior Sunrise—Welcomed Seniors to the Football Field

Bring Back School Spirit—having STUCO go to home sports events---create posters for the player and Teas

Octo 31 Homecoming Game

Nov 1 Homecoming Dance

3. **Finance Information**

FY2026 Budget Updates (Finance Director Leonard).

Budget Updates--- Grad Solutions, Academy, School Finance Reports come out in October

ADM loss of 9

Prop 123 –distinction between what goes to Capitol vs M&

4. **Other Information for Reading**

September 2025 MUHS Newsletter

VI. BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

1. **Meetings**

2. DRAFT Minutes: August 21, 2025 Work Session

Motion: Vice President Koepnick Approve with correction to include six individuals who did call to the public

Second—President Bell

Vote

Ms. Taylor Bell- Aye

Ms. Ashley Koepnick- Aye

Mr. Austin Babcock- Yes

Mr. Frank Nevarez Not Present

Mr. Will David- Yes

Passed 4-0 Board Member Nevarez Not Present

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).**

Anthony Lozano--- turned in a request to speak, but left prior to comment

VIII. ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT

1. Approval of Routine Vouchers

1. Expense

Vouchers 1006, 1007, 1008, and Encumbrance Voucher 1050

2. Payroll

Payroll Vouchers 2, 4, 6, and 7

3. Bookstore Activity-- Account Summary

2. Personnel - HR Report

3. Donation

Hope Center Monthly Report

4. Agreements--

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Mingus Union and Bannock Creek School District Algebra I

Motion—Vice President I motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Second—Board Member Babcock

Vote

Ms. Taylor Bell- Aye

Ms. Ashley Koepnick- Aye

Mr. Austin Babcock- Yes

Mr. Frank Nevarez Not Present

Mr. Will David Yes

Passed 4-0 Board Member Nevarez Not Present

IX. ACTION ITEMS - DISTRICT BUSINESS

X. Policy Advisory First reading of Policy Advisory Volume 37 Number 8 with recognition of Board Members reading the Policy Advisory (Superintendent Herne)

Motion—President Bell—I motion the acknowledgment of Board Members Reading and Reviewing the Policy

Second—Vice President Koepnick

Vote

Ms. Taylor Bell- Aye

Ms. Ashley Koepnick- Aye

Mr. Austin Babcock- Yes

Mr. Frank Nevarez Not Present

Mr. Will David Yes

Passed 4-0 Board Member Nevarez Not Present

XI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy The Board will discuss a Policy specific to Artificial Intelligence in the academic setting along with an Honor Code.

Board Member David--- AI is not new, it engenders a lot of reactions. Spent time reading material from all who are involved in AI, to include those who are naysayers. Attached a conference where some were not in favor as well those that liked it. Reality will fall somewhere on the continuing. How do we prepare those to deal with AI. Create a policy that embraces AI Literacy. May need to bring someone on board to help with this. Weak and Strong AI. Empower students to use these AI applications constructively, teachers know what is allowed in their room. Used ChatGPT to create a document which was shared with the Board Members.

Board Member Babcock—Read an article about those who are best equipped know how to use AI. People will be needed to run things. Need to help people to learn how to use this. Big debate in his day was use of calculator, One fear is that this takes creativity out of things, not sure how to balance this. He used AI in his office this week to create a document. Took five mins. Thinks its important to make our students AI Literate.

Board President Bell—Agrees with items, AI is here, not going to get rid of it. Board's role should be to approach with caution. This will be a changing document. What types of AI are we Ok with? Not a free for all. Should be a vetting process—who is involved in the vetting process. Consent from parents to use AI on campus. Professional Development for teachers. Good uses for AI, specific to our policy, we need to lay out what we are ok with and what not ok with. What is the repercussion when abusing AI.

Vice President Koepnick—Likes the Honor Code created by Board Member David. Place how we can use AI, what is appropriate, we have great stuff here.

Board President Bell—Document what we have, we need to focus on edits, additions, removing items we are not comfortable with. Anything specific we can discuss.

Vice President Koepnick—Dr. David and Vice President Koepnick have a similar document. Start with how we are going to use AI.

Board President Bell—Brief definition of what AI is

Board Member David—College haven't figured this out. Yavapai college has done a nice job. KISS—Keep It simple. This Board can come together and modify as needed. Define AI go to the textbook and pull out the official definition. Let the draft become our document then solicit stakeholder input.

Board President Bell—Narrow down some of the unanswered questions. What is the process for those who want to use an AI, once a tool is selected, is there a request and an approval

Board Member David—Teachers need greater voice in approval of the AI products students are using. Very pervasive, hard for the Board to approve everything. Talk about the policy after a few months of use, get feedback from teachers

Board President Bell—Cautious of us rolling out a Policy before we know more. Bring an expert for guidance. Don't want to clog the system by any means, just wants more guidance

Board Member Babcock—Don't know that it exist

Superintendent Herne—ASBA has had Keynote Speakers and Panel at previous conferences, but not experts in the field

Board Member David—People at ASBA do not have experts in the field of AI

Board President Bell—Need an expert, need to see training for teachers

Vice President Koepnick—Teacher responsibilities—clearly state if AI is prohibited or allowed for various assignments. Getting too much in the weeds, the realm of AI is endless. Probably not going to use AI in the classroom to the extent it is available in the World. Used to help start papers.

Board President Bell—Is there a system to verify if papers were created using AI is needed

Principal Beery—yes, but there is inaccuracies

Board Member David—“Turn It In” is used at universities. Needs to keep pace with all the changes. Efforts to ensure the integrity of AI, we will need to do the best we can. Many bodies out there to see what is available

Board Member David—Will do the work to find out what is available

Board President Bell- Teacher to get parent permission if AI is to be used on an assignment.

Board Member David—doesn’t agree, kids use AI when they use Google

Board President Bell—parents want to know, if we step into a realm where more than Google is used, we need permission

Board Member David—Teachers and Students already use ChatGPT

Board President Bell—not a good idea to leave parents out of this decision.

Board Member David—roll this out in public forum, people will know

Board President Bell—place it in handbook the use of AI in the classroom

Board Member David—Would it be helpful to go through some of these items

Board Member David—Went through the ChatGPT document he created.

Vice President Koepnick—Acceptable uses—Use AI responsibly and aligns with District mission and vision

Board Member David--- Unacceptable consequences Honor Code—used at large on all school items. Character and academic integrity. Not just for AI

Vice President Koepnick agreed the items covered everything

Board Member David—Teacher decide if AI use on the assignment is allowed. Teacher responsibilities

Board Member Babcock--- non AI assignments need to be completed in the classroom that day

Board Member David—Need to be consequences. Tailored to Mingus AI used responsibly ChatGPT may be producing erroneous information

Vice President Koepnick—Consequences—notify parents of the offense, Honor Code is important.

Board President Bell—Consequences There are pieces in the Discipline Matrix for plagiarism

Vice President Koepnick—Academic Dishonesty. Vice President will send to Superintendent to share with other Board Members

Board Member Babcock—We will have to revisit, every year will be different

Vice President Koepnick—This may not be used as much as we think

Board Member Babcock— plagiarism will become more of an issue

Board Member David—Honor Code is perfect tie-in . AI Literacy carries more weight than the bumper sticker. AI is the world our students are moving into. We can get this close, it is moving fast. It is ok to use this stuff, need to empower the teaching staff. AI is powerful. Graduates will run with this, let's get them up to speed.

Board President Bell--- Honor Code—

Board Member David—Honor Code—Mingus specific, guides work, character based, values embrace Strategic Plan

Board President Bell—I would not go as far to say we don't have an Honor code as there are items in the Student Handbook.

Board Member Babcock- How many parents read through the Student Handbook

Board Member David—new look by this Board. May drive changes to other documents

Vice President Koepnick—Student Handbook about cheating—she read the document.

Board President Bell—spelled out clearly in the Handbook. The Honor Code is what we have students commit to

Board Member David—cheating, plagiarism, many examples to show students; overarching Honor Code-- cheating is more than plagiarism; the Honor Code will address everything

Board President Bell—what changes need to be made

Board Member David—Honor Code is separate from the AI Policy don't try to connect the two

Board Member Babcock—what I have to sign each year as a parent, hard to read everything

Board President Bell—Student signatures have students and parents sign

Board Member David—Used ChatGPT to create the Honor Code

Board President Bell—Refer to the Handbook and use same of the language

Board Member David—Read the Honor Code Document modify to make it specific to Mingus

Superintendent Herne --- Like the idea of an Honor code, need to solidify it and then roll out for FY2027 the Handbook which is Board Approved has multiple pieces of this

Board President Bell—agrees and chasing after families for signatures may be difficult. We have many of the Honor code items in the Handbook

Board Member David—I don't see how this is so hard. January is a clean break.

Board Member Babcock—Sees it both ways, understands Superintendent’s point that all of this is in the handbook. Doesn’t feel students/families read the handbook

Board President Bell—additional request of getting signed; May want to revisit this document once it is rolled out

Board Member David—Give them something simple

Vice President Koepnick—Sees both sides, starting at an academic year would be easier. Work on it

Board President Bell—If this is the document, can we finalize this, push it out to parents,

Board Member David—interim step, clean up the document, this document got the discussion going

Vice President Koepnick—each Board Member needs to add items.

Board President Bell—We need to get Board Member Nevarez’s thoughts

XII. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future Items Notes to Superintendent on Board Members’ feedback suggestions for A.I. Policy and Honor Code

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President-Motion to adjourn the meeting

Second: Board Member David

Ms. Taylor Bell- Aye

Ms. Ashley Koepnick- Aye

Mr. Austin Babcock- Yes

Mr. Frank Nevarez Not Present

Mr. Will David—Yes

Passed 4-0 Board Member Nevarez Not Present

Meeting Ends: 7:56AM

Board President

Vice President