

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

GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING

Mingus Union High School Library
Thursday, April 24, 2025, 5:00 PM

Governing Board:

Austin Babcock
Ashley Koepnick
Taylor Bell
Frank Nevarez
William David

Also Present:

Melody Herne, Superintendent
Lynn Leonard, Finance Director
Shannon Patterson, Admin Asst.
Josh Fant, IT Director

OPENING

Election of a temporary President for the current Governing Board Meeting - Governing Board will elect a temporary President to open the April 24th Work Session meeting. (Superintendent Herne)

Motion was made by Vice President Ashley Koepnick to elect Board Member Taylor Bell as Temporary President to open the April 24, 2025, Work Session Meeting. Second was made by Board Member Frank Navarez.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Call to Order

President Taylor Bell called the meeting to order at 5:00PM

Roll Call

Temporary President Taylor Bell, Vice President Koepnick, Board Member Austin Babcock, and Board Member Frank Nevarez, and Board Member Will David are all present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was led by Board Member Babcock

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed

Adoption of Agenda

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

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.

Swearing In New Board Member

Yavapai County Superintendent Steve King conducted the swearing in of Board Member Will David.

Action Item - District Business

Selection of the 2025 Governing Board President - The Board will consider and appoint a President for the remainder of the 2025 Calendar Year. (Superintendent Herne)

Board Member David: request to postpone the appointment of a President for the remainder of the 2025 Calendar Year. He can't vote for anyone at this time for president due to gathering information and on-boarding of this position. He encourages the Board to not rush this decision and move this item to the May meeting.

Motion made by Board Member David to move this vote to the May meeting. No one seconded this motion.

Motion was made by Vice President Koepnick to appoint Board Member Taylor Bell as the President for the remainder of the 2025 Calendar Year. Second was made by Board Member Navarez.

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 – Abstain

Motion passed 4-1.

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).**

No Public Requests

ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT

Personnel - HR Report

Agreements

- IGA for Substitute Consolidation Services with YCESA through ESI
- Waiver of Conflict of Interest regarding agreements with Yavapai County through the Yavapai County School Districts

Travel Request – FFA out of state travel to Indianapolis, Indiana from October 28th - November 1st, 2025 to the National FFA Convention.

Motion was made by Board Member Nevarez to approve the consent Agenda as presented. Second was made by Board Member 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.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Tennis Presentation

Coach Andrea Meyer and students give presentation about their love for tennis. Students gave stories about their amazing experiences being on the tennis team. Coach Meyer promotes assertiveness but to not be angry mean players.

Be A Beast Motto

B: Body language

E: Energy

A: Attitude

S: Self Help

T: Team Work

Coach Meyer indicated that she has a no cut team. Anyone who tries out is accepted. Board Member Navarez commended coach regarding the no cut policy.

AVID - Presentation will be given to the Board regarding the AVID program from Adam Poirier, AVID Implementation Strategist and Valerie Angus, Executive Director Desert Southwest Team. (Gretchen Wesbrock, Adam Poirier, and Valerie Angus)

Valerie Angus not able to attend.

Adam Poirier presents information regarding AVID program and it's benefits.

Director of Student Services Wesbrock and nine other teachers went to the Summer Institute in Dallas, TX in year 2017 to learn about AVID and how to implement AVID strategies into the classrooms. Mingus decided to make AVID available to all students and not just a small group. More AVID teachers will be needed if the current momentum continues. AVID was instrumental in helping students with organizational skills.

Adam Poirier: There are 19 AVID seniors on Mingus campus this year and all 19 have been excepted into college. Of those 19, 11 of them were only exposed to AVID this year.

Vice President Koepnick: Do you track students after high school to see their progress.

Adam Poirier: Its difficult to tack once they have gone to college, but they do have an AVID alumni which gives feedback.

Traditional teaching is teachers give knowledge. AVID is more of a student centered classrooms. Students own their learning. They are more of the facilitator.

Board Member David: do you have those who are not responsive to this approach.

Adam Poirier: Yes, we need the right teachers/students in the classroom. Gave example of students who were exposed to it and had to part ways. They weren't interested. Some of those students joined again later when they were ready.

Board Member Babcock: You mentioned 70% of students move onto college. Are there any statistics that show how many of them actually completed their schooling.

Adam Poirier: Its hard to track that.

Education Forward Arizona - Education Forward Arizona will present information to the Board regarding resources and partnerships offered to help with the work of education improvements in Arizona. (Ms. Rosensweet with Education Forward Arizona and Director Wesbrock)

Rosensweet: Gave a presentation about EFA with a slide show. EFA has mentoring programs after high school.

Director of Studen Support Gretchen: Gave brief statement about FAFSA grants.

Rosensweet: Concluded her presentation.

ACTION ITEMS - DISTRICT BUSINESS

Final report and recommendations of the 2025 Meet and Confer Committee - The Board will receive an update regarding recent meetings of the 2025 Meet and Confer Committee and will consider approval of the SY2025-26 recommendations of the committee. (Superintendent Herne)

Motion was made by Board Member Naveraz to approve the SY 2025-26 recommendation of the Meet and Confer Committee. Second was made by Board Member David.

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.

Job Descriptions - The Board will discuss and possibly approve revisions to current job descriptions. (Superintendent Herne)

A.P. Curriculum and Instruction

Dean of Students

Athletic Director

Director Career and Technical Education

Director Exceptional Student Services

Director Student Support Services

Board President Bell: How feasible is it for those who need to complete education within two years.

Superintendent Herne: Very possible according to the Department of Education allows two years for the interim administrative credentials and two is comparable for teacher certification

Board President Bell: Ok

Board Member Babcock: Is this typical of most districts?

Superintendent Herne: That is correct. You would have your administrators' holding Administrative certificates for those positions.

Board President Bell: I see we have some teachers with us. Would anyone like to make a statement of any kind

Athletic Director Yancey DeVore: spoke about the academic route he took. The credentials that I took are from National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. That is a nationally recognized Cognia Certified Program. Nationally recognized and Certified program. This is preferred nationally over the AP route. AP route isn't going to cover legal issues in high school athletics.

Board Member Babcock: how long was the certification process?

Athletic Director: It took me three years. AIAAA and Department of Education, the CEA certificate that I hold are not under the Administrators umbrella, but I believe some states have gone with that and make it a requirement.

Board President Bell: I would like to move to the Executive Session to ask specific questions.

Superintendent Herne: Or do you want to Agendize it for an Executive Session for the next meeting; needs to be agendized correctly

Board Member Navarez: I want to ask more questions about Yancey DeVore background.

Director of Student Services Gretchen: I have 15 years in Administration at NAU. I have a master's degree in counseling. That pathway does not lead to an Administrators Certification. I don't hold a Supervisor's Certificate. I will be retiring in 5 years and going back to school at this point is a great commitment.

Dean of Students Forbes: Extra duties put on a small administrative team will be a lot.

Board: discussed how to proceed with job descriptions motion.

Superintendent Herne: Suggested tabling this and doing one on ones and then move to executive session.

Motion can't be reached regarding Athletic Directors job description. The board has further questions specific to Athletic Director DeVore.

Motion was made by Board Member Nevarez to table the revisions to the Athletic Director's job description. Second was made by President 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.

Motion on all other Job Description:

Motion was made by President Bell to approve the revisions to the A.P. Curriculum and Instruction

Dean of Students

Director CTE

Director ESS

Director Student Support Services

job descriptions as presented. Second was made by Board Member Nevarez.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1),(3) and (A)(4) for the purposes of (1) discussion or consideration of employment and salary of Superintendent (2) obtaining legal advice regarding the employment contract of Superintendent.

Motion was made by Board Member Babcock for the Board to move into Executive Session. Second was made by Board Member Will.

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.

Convened to Executive Session: (6:35PM)
Reconvened from Executive Session: (7:53PM)

Action Item - District Business

Superintendent's Contract - Authorization for legal counsel for the Governing Board to proceed as instructed by Governing Board in executive session

Motion Made by Board President Bell to advise Attorney to move forward with agreed upon legal advice.
Motion Seconded by Vice President Koepnick
Board Member Babcock asked for clarification of the motion. Superintendent and Board President clarified and Board President stated the motion again. Board Vice President seconded.

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.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
ADJOURNMENT 7:58PM

Board President

Vice President

DRAFT