

# CASA GRANDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

220 West Kortsen Road  
Casa Grande, Arizona

The Governing Board of the Casa Grande Elementary School District No. 4 met Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the Governing Board Room, Elementary Administration Building, 220 West Kortsen Road, Casa Grande, Arizona.

## 1.01 **Call to Order:**

Mrs. Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## 1.02 **Roll Call:**

Present:

Rachel Hernandez  
Gilberto Mendez  
David Snider  
Dolores Kinser  
Judee Jackson, President

JoEtta Gonzales, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Tom Wohlleber, Chief Financial Officer  
Andrea Muñoz, Director  
Jennifer McClintic, Director  
Brenda Tijerina, Director  
Lisa Bradshaw, Director  
Mike Cruz, PIO  
Sherrie Gill, Secretary

Also Present:  
See Exhibit 1

Celie Downey-Foye, Principal  
Tracy Robbins, Principal  
Melissa Pieper, Principal  
Barbara Wright, Principal

Press: Rodney Haas  
Casa Grande Dispatch

1.03 Mrs. Kinser led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 A moment of silence was observed.

## 2.01 **Agenda Adoption:**

Mrs. Kinser moved that:

"The agenda be accepted and adopted, as presented."

Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion. Board members voted as follows and the

motion passed:

<b>Board member</b>	<b>In Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>
Rachel Hernandez	X	
Judee Jackson	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
David Snider	X	
Dolores Kinser	X	

3.01 Mrs. Jackson called for objections from Board members, staff, and the public regarding consent agenda items.

Ms. Hernandez moved that:

"The agenda items marked with an asterisk be approved and/or ratified."

Mrs. Kinser seconded the motion. Board members voted as follows and the motion passed:

<b>Board member</b>	<b>In Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>
Rachel Hernandez	X	
Judee Jackson	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
David Snider	X	
Dolores Kinser	X	

\*4.01 The minutes of the March 12, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved by the Governing Board.

\*4.02 The minutes of the March 12, 2019 study session were approved by the Governing Board.

\*4.03 The minutes of the March 12, 2019 Executive Meeting were approved by the Governing Board.

\*4.04 The minutes of the April 2, 2019 Special Meeting and Executive Session were approved.

**5. Audience with Groups or Individuals:**

5.01 Dr. Gonzales recognized the Casa Grande Rotary Club students of the month for April, as follows: Alex Ybarra, 8th grade, Cactus; Camilla Cervantes, 8th grade, Casa Grande Middle School; Austin Graffius, 8th grade, Villago. Mrs. Kinser assisted in presenting certificates to the students.

5.02 Norm Sam from the Sunrise Optimist Club recognized fifth grade students from Cottonwood Elementary School as students of the month for April. The students

must be in good standing with positive leadership traits, must have an active interest in community service, and must be considered role models. The following students were recognized: Carlos Reyes and Emely Pulido.

- 5.03 Corey Graham, along with mock trial students from Casa Grande Middle School were recognized.

Donna McBride of Juvenile Court Services commended the Casa Grande Elementary School District for their involvement in the competition. The three middle schools have been instrumental in bringing it up to the next level, to the point that they have had to reorganize the way they do the competition.

Corey Graham, the Casa Grande Middle School Mock Trial coach, introduced students who competed in the Pinal County Mock Trial Competition, Division A middle school competition. The team took first place and CGMS team members earned the following individual awards: Best Cross Examination – Justine Diaz, Best Opening Statement – Naderah Nassar, Best Closing Statement – Stephanie Perez. He commended the students and the entire mock trial program.

The administration and Board members commended Mrs. Flores, Mr. Graham, and all the students involved in the mock trial program.

- 5.04 Dr. Gonzales recognized #BeKind Award recipient: Saguardo kindergarten teacher, Robin Thomas.

- 6.01 The Superintendent recommended the Board accept the following donations:

The APS Foundation awarded a grant to CGESD in the amount of \$144,000 to help fund district wide availability and implementation of ST Math.

Heritage Motors donated \$600 worth of used fencing for the pending garden/chicken coop project to Cactus Middle School.

Chili's donated twenty \$5 meal voucher coupons to Cactus Middle School to be given out for weekly Fri-YAY awards nominations.

Mr. & Mrs. Danzy donated a wooden OT/PT stairs unit to Mesquite Elementary.

A very nice anonymous lady donated three cases of copy paper to the school office of Evergreen Elementary.

Mr. Mendez moved that:

“The donations be accepted, as read.”

Mr. Snider seconded the motion. Board members voted as follows and the motion

passed:

<b>Board member</b>	<b>In Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>
Rachel Hernandez	X	
Judee Jackson	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
David Snider	X	
Dolores Kinser	X	

- 6.02 One of the tasks from the Department of Teaching and Learning this year has been to analyze and update K-5 math resources in the district to better fulfill the needs of our learners in mathematics. Mrs. Muñoz, Ms. Dempsey and our elementary math coaches walked the board through the math pacing guides that they have been working on and answered questions. The pacing guides are interactive for teachers in that they are able to click on active links in the guide that will take them directly to online resources that are matched to the standards.

The Board commended the team for the many hours that has been put into the development of the pacing guides and recognized what a valuable tool they will be for the teachers.

- 6.03 A 2019-20 budget development update was included in the Board's information.

Mr. Wohlleber provided an update regarding development of the 2019-20 budget with a focus on budget reduction strategies.

A total of \$1,242,000 in budget reduction strategies, both at the school and district level, have been identified. Budget reduction strategies still need to be identified to address the increase for support staff and administration and any market compensation study adjustments.

- 6.04 Copies of the District's 2017-18 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), a letter from Heinfeld, Meech & Co., the single audit reporting package, and the Uniform System of Financial Records, were provided to Board members prior to the meeting. The District's financial statements, which are included in the CAFR, received an unmodified opinion from the auditors.

Brittany Williams and Kara Curtis from Heinfeld, Meech and Co. provided an overview of the FY 2018 reports and stated that the audit is important in keeping school districts compliant with state and federal regulations. A slide presentation was provided covering each report.

- 6.05 A list of the proposed priorities to submit to the Arizona School Boards Association for the 2020 political agenda had been included in the Board's information.

Dr. Gonzales stated that each year, Board members are invited to provide legislative priorities to the ASBA, and are invited to identify the top five to seven priorities for submission.

Some of the priorities Board members may want to consider include:

- Fully funding full-day kindergarten and include kindergarten students in the override calculations.
- Repealing any program that gives public funds for private schools, vouchers (Empowerment Scholarship Accounts) and private school subsidies (Student Tuition Organizations) and prevent any further expansion.
- Revising the School Finance formula to:
  - Provide a stable, dedicated revenue source less reliant on the general fund or annual legislative appropriation.
  - Ensure the formula addresses the unique financial needs of schools serving students in poverty and in rural schools.
- Advocating to preserve and protect the voters’ original intent of Proposition 301.
- Providing additional state funding for nationally competitive salaries to attract, recruit, and retain talented teachers.

Mrs. Jackson stated that she would be interested in including proposals for ramped up funding for Special Education school counselors in particular, early intervention and screenings; and, more strategies and interventions to support reading proficiency by third grade.

Mr. Snider moved to:

“Table agenda item 6.05 until the May 14, 2019 Board meeting.”

Mr. Mendez seconded the motion. Board members voted as follows and the motion passed:

<b>Board member</b>	<b>In Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>
Rachel Hernandez	X	
Judee Jackson	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
David Snider	X	
Dolores Kinser	X	

\*6.06 A memorandum from Mrs. McClintic regarding the recommendation move the location of one preschool specialized classroom from the ECLC to McCartney Ranch Elementary School was included in the Board’s information. Relocating preschool aged students with autism to McCartney Ranch will give the students the

potential of having the same staff working with them for three years. Board members approved the movement of the one classroom of specialized preschool programming from the Early Childhood Learning Center to McCartney Ranch Elementary School.

- \*6.07 A memorandum from Mr. Wohlleber regarding the authorization to award RFP for dental services was included in the Board's information. After learning that dental services would be increasing significantly under a contract extension with the current provider, the District solicited a RFP for dental services for the FY 19/20. Delta Dental has proposed an annual premium of \$242,003.00 based on rates of \$22.46 for employee only and \$50.69 for employee plus family. Additionally, Delta Dental has proposed a two year cap of these costs if awarded a contract. Board members authorized the award of RFP #181-1519 for dental services to Delta Dental of Arizona as proposed.
- \*6.08 A memorandum from Mr. Wohlleber regarding the authorization or order long-lead items related to the School Safety and Security Projects was included in the Board's information. This authorization will allow SD Crane Builders to proceed with the ir submittal process and ordering of long-lead items needed for the building entry renovations prior to presenting the GMP for approval. Ordering the long-lead items is desired to avoid delivery delays that may extend the entire project schedule. Board members authorized the ordering of long-lead items needed for the building entry renovations as proposed.

**7. Instructional Programs:**

No items this meeting.

**8. Personnel:**

- \*8.01 The following certified personnel actions were ratified by the Governing Board:

Employment of Casa Grande Middle School Principal: Mr. Christopher Laughland, effective July 1, 2019.

Abandonment of Certified Personnel Contracts: Christian Xanthopoulos, Cactus Middle School; Jennifer Xanthopoulos, Cottonwood/Cholla.

Ratification of Certified Personnel Resignations Effective May 22, 2019: Rochelle Ashcroft, Special Education, Saguaro; Cynthia Beck, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Cottonwood; Kasey Burns, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Evergreen; Jamie Calhoun, 8<sup>th</sup> Science, Cactus; Rhonda Carter, 8<sup>th</sup> Resource, Villago; Cori Chavez, K-3 Resource, McCartney Ranch; Robert Cummings, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, McCartney Ranch; Janelle Degn, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Desert Willow; Sunshine Diaz, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Desert Willow; Angela Hamilton, 6<sup>th</sup> Language Arts, CGMS; Alan Hergott, 6<sup>th</sup> Social Studies, CGMS; Alexi Lara Maestas, Special Education, McCartney Ranch; Michael Limon, Physical Education, Cactus; Taylor

Lungren, Kindergarten, McCartney Ranch; Jordan Paustian, 6<sup>th</sup> Social Studies, Cactus; Jason Rust, 8<sup>th</sup> Math, Cactus; Johanna Tuggay, 6<sup>th</sup> Math, CGMS.

Request to be Released from Certificated Contract: Ms. Alicia Behrens, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Desert Willow, effective March 20, 2019.

Notification of Intent to Retire Effective at Conclusion of Contract Year 2018-19/Request for Benefits: Janice Gibby, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Saguaro; Sandi Spoon, ELA Content Coach, Mesquite/Evergreen.

Authorization to Employ Elementary Literacy Coach/Student Support Specialist for Evergreen Elementary School: Due to the retirement of the ELA Content Coach at Mequite and Evergreen, the coaching model at the schools is going to be restructured. An existing teaching position at Mesquitewill change from being a full-time student-support coach to being a half-time elementary literacy coach and half-time student support coach. In turn, the Evergreen coach position will be the same structure. It is recommended the Evergreen Literacy Coach/Student Support Specialist be funded with Title I monies.

\*8.02 The following classified personnel actions were ratified by the Governing Board:

Proposed Work Schedule Changes for Nutrition Services Staff: After a review of current staffing, Nutrition Services Director Alysia Ruelas is recommending schedule changes for SY 2019-20 as follows: Managers and Assistant Managers have two days added to the beginning of their contracted days; all staff members return on Friday, August 2 for three hours for all staff meeting to review policies and procedures; reduce the Accounting Assistant position by two weeks, so the position would report one week prior to the start of school; due to the significant amount of meal applications received the week prior to school, it is recommended the Office Assistant report three days prior to the first day of school.

Authorization to Employ Apprentice Teacher: Clarissa Costales is presently serving as a Special Education Specialist – ILT in a Special Education (Extended Resource) classroom at Mesquite. She is pursuing teacher certification and has been invited to become part of the District's "Grow Your Own" program starting in SY 2019-20. It is recommended Ms. Costales be issued an Apprentice Teacher contract for next school year.

Exempt Staff Retirement: Jose Parra, Custodial Operations Manager, effective June 30, 2019.

Request to Rescind Retirement Scheduled for May 22, 2019: Last month, the Governing Board accepted Gloria Flores' letter announcing her retirement at the conclusion of SY 2018-19. Gloria has since had a change of heart and is requesting to rescind her planned retirement.

Classified Personnel Employment: April Blaine, Bus Driver, Transportation; Stephanie De La Cruz, Noon Assistant, McCartney Ranch; Nicole Derhammer, Educational Asst./CG/NA, Palo Verde; Kim Fallis, Transportation Assistant/Van Driver, Transportation; Danny Hodges, Bus Driver Trainee, Transportation; Victoria Rodriguez, Special Education Specialist, McCartney Ranch; Laura Torres, Bus Driver Trainee, Transportation.

Superintendent's Acceptance of Classified Personnel Resignations: Alana Bayles, ECEP Educational Assistant, ECLC, effective March 11, 2019; Phillip Ronquillo, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective April 5, 2019; Roberta Sullivan, Senior Accountant, Financial Services, effective April 12, 2019; Karin Williams, Nutrition Services Worker, effective March 15, 2019.

Reclassification of Classified Personnel: Destiny Stewart, Educational Assistant-Special Education, Saguaro; Angelica Wilson, Educational Specialist KinderPlus, Saguaro.

**9. Pupil Personnel**

No items this meeting.

**10. Buildings and Grounds:**

No items this meeting.

**11. Reports:**

11.01 The student activities report for March, 2019, had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

\*11.02 The financial report for March, 2019 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

\*11.03 The lunch menu for students had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

\*11.04 The vehicle status report for February 16, 2019 to March 15, 2019 had been provided in the Board's information.

\*11.05 The vehicle maintenance report for February 16, 2019 to March 15, 2019 had been provided in the Board's information.

\*11.06 The weekly attendance reports for March 13, March 27, and April 3, 2019 had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting.

\*12.01 The vouchers presented at the meeting, listed in Exhibit 2, were approved by the Governing Board.



13.01 The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

**14.01 Call for Audience Questions Pertaining to Agenda Items and Items of Interest**

Lisa Flores announced that she is stepping down as the Association president and introduced the new president, Anne LaMoureaux. The Board thanked Lisa for the endless hours she has put in for the District and its employees.

Dr. Gonzales announced and introduced the new principal for CGMS, Mr. Christopher Laughland. Mr. Laughland shared some information about himself and shared his excitement for coming to CGMS and CGESD.

**15.01 Vote to Conduct Executive Session Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A) Contracts**

Mrs. Kinser moved that:

“The Board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A) Discussion with Designated Representatives Regarding Contracts.”

Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion. Board members voted as follows and the motion passed:

<b>Board member</b>	<b>In Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>
Rachel Hernandez	X	
Judee Jackson	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
David Snider	X	
Dolores Underwood	X	

16.01 Mrs. Jackson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Approved: 5/14/19

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President