

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, May 11, 2021, 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:

Mr. Mendez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.02 Roll Call:

Present:

Jerry Stabley
Adelphia Sisson
Gilberto Mendez, President
Blanca Varela

JoEtta Gonzales, Ed.D., Superintendent
Tom Wohlleber, Chief Financial Officer
Lisa Bradshaw, Director
Jennifer McClintic, Director
Aaron Whittle, Business Officer
Andrea Baker, Director
Robert Quiñones, Director
Stacy Howell, Director
Mike Cruz, Communications & Marketing
Sherrie Gill, Executive Assistant

*absent:
Tom Ramsdell

Also Present:
See Exhibit 1

Reporter: Suzanne Adams-Ockrassa
Casa Grande Dispatch

Azure Sullivan, Principal
Joanne Kramer, Principal

Scott Raymond, Principal
Rebecca Romo, Principal

1.04 Mrs. Varela led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.05 A moment of silence was observed.

2.01 Agenda Adoption:

Mr. Stabley moved that:

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

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

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

Mr. Stabley asked that item 3.19 be removed from the consent agenda and Mr. Mendez asked that item 3.04 be removed from the consent agenda.

Mr. Stabley moved that:

"The agenda items marked with an asterisk be approved and/or ratified with the exception of items 3.04 and 3.19."

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

*3.02 The minutes of the April 13, 2021 Regular Meeting and Study Session were approved by the Governing Board.

*3.03 The minutes of the April 21, 2021 Special Meeting were approved by the Governing Board.

3.04 Ms. Lisa Demarest, teacher at Villago Middle School, addressed the Board and asked to have the \$2,000 in liquidated damages waived. She is moving to the High School district. As a single parent, \$2,000 is a lot. She has been in the district for 10 years and has accumulated sick leave days for which she will not be receiving pay.

Dr. Gonzales commented that if we waive the fee for Ms. Demarest, we must be consistent across the board for all teacher requests.

Mrs. Varela thanked Ms. Demarest for her service.

Mr. Mendez thanked Ms. Demarest for her service to the district. We have to be fair and consistent to all teachers. With the teacher shortage we are in, we have to take the contract as written.

The following certified personnel actions were approved/ratified by the Governing Board:

Authorization to Employ 12 Permanent Site Specific Guest Teachers: In an effort to build our Guest Teacher capacity, administration is requesting the employment of site specific Guest Teachers.

Authorization for 5/6th Contract-Band Positions for the 2021-22 School Year: In an effort to grow the CGESD band program, and prevent the need for hiring a part-time band instructor, the administration is requesting offering both Blanche Meister and Claire Thorpe a 5/6th contract for the 21-22 school year.

Ratification to Offer Teacher on Assignment Position: Linette Caroselli

Authorization to Release Certified Teachers from 2021-22 Contract: Corey Graham, CGMS, effective 5/20/2021, assess liquidated damages; Lisa Demarest, Villago Middle School, effective 5/20/2021, assess liquidated damages.

Authorization to Rescind Retirement: Brenda Cruz has decided it is not in her best interest to retire at this time.

COVID-19 Rate of Pay Change for Guest Teacher: In hopes of enticing more guest teachers to work during this ongoing pandemic, the administration is proposing to continue with a daily rate increase of \$25 per day, until our sub pool has increased and the negative impacts of the pandemic have lessened.

Ratification of Certified Personnel Resignations, 2020-21:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.	Effective
Boremi, Victoria	Counselor	Palo Verde	5/24/2021
Demarest, Lisa	PE	Villago	5/20/2021
Finucane, Romina	4th Grade	CGOLA	5/20/2021
Graham, Corey	Social Studies	CGMS	5/20/2021
Wong, Gabe	Assistant Principal	McCartney Ranch	6/1/2021
Young, Malcolm	Assistant Principal	CGMS	5/3/2021

Mrs. Sisson moved to:

"Approve the Superintendent's recommendations with regard to certified personnel."

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

***3.05 Classified Personnel**

The following classified personnel actions were approved/ratified by the Governing Board:

Authorization to Employ Technology Assistants: As we prepare to receive new technology purchased with ESSER funding, there is a need for additional staff to assist with assessing, sorting, and preparing both current devices and new devices for the next school year. We are proposing 12 positions, to be paid a flat rate of \$12.50 per hour and a maximum of 160 hours each to be worked between May 21- July 21.

Site Technology Liaison: We are proposing 3 Site Tech Liaisons to primarily serve each middle school: Cactus, CGMS, and Villago; and provide assistance as needed to the elementary schools starting at \$14.41 per hour.

Reclassification of Technology Services Administrator in Digital Learning and Strategy to IT Manager: Technology Services Administrator, exempt pay grade 5 starting at an annual salary of \$66,847 reclassified to an IT Manager, exempt pay grade 6 starting at an annual salary of \$70,774. The title change will provide for more communication and collaboration opportunities outside the district with a more common industry title.

Authorization to Employ a Family Support Position for our Indigenous Population JOM Family/School Liaison 2021-22: After consulting with the Indigenous Education Committee, it was unanimously decided that families of our indigenous students would like the support of a family liaison. The position will be funded out of the Johnson O'Malley Grant.

Authorization to Align Pay Schedule for Certified Occupational Therapist Assistants (COTA) to Speech Language Pathologist Assistants (SLPA): It was recommended that we align the SLPA and COTA base salary to be \$22.23 starting in the 2021-2022 school year.

Authorization to Continue with Day Assistants for 2021-22 School Year: The Governing Board approved the employment of Day Assistants during the September 2020 board meeting, for the balance of the 2020-2021 school year.

Administration is requesting to continue with these positions for the 2021-22 school year.

Authorization for Pay Increase for Vehicle Mechanic Lead: James Wiltbank, Lead Vehicle Mechanic has recently obtained his Master Level Auto Service Excellence (ASE) Certification. Administration is requesting to increase his pay to \$25.98, retroactive to April 15, 2021. There are 3 levels of the ASE Certification, Entry Level, Professional, and Master. Administration is requesting \$1.00 per hour increase for both Entry and Professional, and \$1.75 for Master.

Request to Maintain Salary for One Transition Year after Reclassification: CGESD made a commitment that all Evergreen staff would remain employed after their repurposing. Three employees found positions earning less than their current salary. It is requested that the CGESD Governing Board approve the salary maintenance for one academic year. After the 2021-2022 school year, the rate of pay would return to the reflective salary of their new position.

Authorization to Employ Transportation Assistant: Currently, transportation services has been utilizing a Substitute Transportation Assistant on a special needs route. It is recommended that the Governing Board approve the employment of a permanent Transportation Assistant for the 2021-22 school year.

Ratification of Classified Personnel Resignations:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.	Effective
Allende, Marianela	Cafe Cook	CGMS	5/20/2021
Altamirano, Valorie	Health Technician	Saguaro	5/20/2021
Bryant, Shannon	Education Assistant-Inclusive Education	ECLC	5/22/2021
Campos, Alma	Transportation Assistant	Transportation	5/3/2021
Celaya de Caballero, Sonia	Custodian	Facility Services	6/30/2021
Cowsar, Stephanie	Transportation Asst/Van Driver	Transportation	4/12/2021
Fulton, Brianna	Ed. Assistant-MOWR/Noon Asst.	McCartney Ranch	5/20/2021
Guadian, Juan	Grounds & Landscape Specialist	Facility Services	6/30/2021
Hahn, Karen	Administrative Assistant	Cactus	5/28/2021
Kinnard, Xan	Associate Instructor	Cactus	5/20/2021
Meston, Cheryl	Education Assistant/Crossing Guard	Evergreen	5/20/2021
Montiel, Joseph	Cafe Site Manager	Nutrition Services	4/16/2021
Woods, Jazmine	Education Specialist-Inclusive Education	CGMS	5/20/2021
Zavala, Trinity	Noon Assistant	McCartney Ranch	5/20/2021

Ratification of Classified Personnel Employment:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.
Blaine, April	Bus Driver Trainee	Transportation
Bojorquez, Candice	Education Specialist-Inclusive Education	CGMS
Cabrera, Michael	Bus Driver	Transportation
Garcia, Carlos	Grounds & Landscape Specialist	Facilities
Havener, Shannon	Education Assistant/Crossing Guard	Saguaro
McDonald, Jazmynn	Education Assistant/Crossing Guard	Cholla
Otto, Bonnie	Transportation Assistant/Van Driver	Transportation
Rodriguez, Manuel	Custodian-Midday-ECLC/McCartney	Facilities

Ross, Kimberly	Cafe Cook	Mesquite
Spicer, Glenda	Noon Assistant	Mesquite

Ratification of Reclassification of Classified Personnel:

Employee	New Position	Campus/Dept.
Alley, Vanessa	Digital Literacy Assistant	Evergreen
Blaine, April	Bus Driver Trainee/Dispatcher	Transportation
Husted, Natasha	Day Assistant	CGMS
Macias, Desirae	Day Assistant	Cactus
Ramos Laboy, Laura	Cafe Site Manager	Mesquite
Ranch, Laurence	Special Needs Bus Driver	Transportation
Virgen, Michelle	Cafe Site Assistant Manager	Mesquite

- *3.06 Acceptance of Administrative Resignation: Christopher Laughland, Principal, Casa Grande Middle School, effective June 30, 2021, assess liquidated damages.
- *3.07 The student activities report for April, 2021, had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *3.08 The financial report for April, 2021 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *3.09 The vehicle inventory report for April, 2021 had been provided in the Board's information.
- *3.10 The vehicle maintenance report for April, 2021 had been provided in the Board's information.
- *3.11 The weekly enrollment summaries for April 14, April 21, April 28, and May 5, 2021 had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting.
- *3.12 The vouchers presented at the meeting were approved by the Governing Board.
- *3.13 A copy of the 2021-2022 school calendar was included in the Board's information. The previously adopted version of the calendar was missing an early release date on May 26, 2022. The Board adopted the revised 2021-2022 school calendar as proposed.
- *3.14 Second Reading, Revision of Policy JFB-Open Enrollment - The Governing Board approved revision of Policy JFB, as proposed.
- *3.15 Second Reading, Revision of Policy JICH-Drug and Alcohol Use by Students – The Governing Board approved revision of Policy JICH, as proposed.
- *3.16 Second Reading, Revision of Policy JICG-Tobacco Use by Students – The Governing Board approved revision of Policy JICG, as proposed.

- *3.17 A copy of Combined Resolution Affecting County Treasurer Transactions for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. The Governing Board approved the Combined Resolution Affecting County Treasurer Transactions for Fiscal Year 2021-22.
- *3.18 A memorandum from Mr. Wohlleber regarding Authorization for Recycling of Surplus Textbooks, was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. Textbooks will be recycled through ASDD Document Destruction and the District expects to receive 42% of pulp revenues after processing costs. The Governing Board authorized the recycling of surplus textbooks, as proposed.
- 3.19 A memorandum from Mr. Wohlleber regarding Authorization for Benefit Contract Extensions was provided to Board members prior to the meeting.

Mr. Stabley questioned the need of the district's short-term disability provider UNUM's 89% increase to rates for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Wohlleber addressed Mr. Stabley's question. When the district first contracted with UNUM in 2018 the company was 57% below the incumbent carrier. They also provided a three-year rate guarantee. Working with the district benefits consultant, the 89% increase is justified based on claims experience and current market rates.

Mrs. Varela moved to:

"Authorize the extensions of RFP #175-1518, RFP #176-1518, RFP #181-1519, RFP #186-1520 and RFP #187-1520 for the benefit services identified above for the 2021-2022 school year."

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

- *3.20 A memorandum from Mr. Wohlleber regarding Authorization to Use Cooperative Contracts for Therapist Vacancies was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. Board members authorized the use of the SAVE and GPPCS cooperative contracts to fill Special Education therapist vacancies for the 2021-2022 school year as proposed.
- *3.21 A memorandum from Mr. Wohlleber and Mrs. Bradshaw regarding Authorization to Use Cooperative Contract for Technology Inventory Management Platform was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. Board members authorized the use

of NCPA's cooperative contract awarded to Hayes Software Systems for the technology inventory management system and physical inventory in the amount not to exceed \$123,788.50, plus applicable taxes, as proposed.

- *3.22 A memorandum from Mr. Wohlleber regarding 2021-22 Line of Credit was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. The Governing Board approved the Borrowing Request agreement with Wells Fargo and the Pinal County Treasurer for a line of credit during the 2021-22 fiscal year and authorized Thomas Wohlleber, Chief Financial Officer, to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the District.
- *3.23 Information regarding Consideration of Proposed Priorities to the ASBA Legislative Committee was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. The Governing Board moved to communicate the following priorities to the ASBA:

The following items are proposed:

- Adequately and Equitably Fund District Schools to at least the National Median per Pupil Funding
- Preserve and Strengthen Local Control
- Improve Outcomes for All Students
- Require Public Accountability for Taxpayer Dollars Spent on Education
- Manage the Impact of COVID-19 on Public Schools

Additionally, our Board may propose two additional items. The items recommended are as follows:

- Fully fund full-day kindergarten and include kindergarten students in the override calculations
- Hold school districts harmless for significant enrollment losses for school year 2020-2021

- 4.01 Dr. Gonzales recognized #BeKind Award recipient: Cholla Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Annalisa Urias.
- 4.02 Dr. Gonzales recognized Guest Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Sonja Thompson.
- 5.01 Call to the Public

Ms. Lisa Flores addressed the Board regarding the challenges of this school year and asked the Board to consider the challenges the year brought to district employees when talking about the budget and employee compensation.

Mr. James Fults addressed the Board regarding his concerns about the Educational Justice PLC which is being offered to CGESD employees.

6.01 The Superintendent recommended the Board accept the following donations:

- Home Depot donated \$50 worth of masking tape for the annual Maker Showcase.
- Arizona Complete Health donated 100 hygiene packs, 5 water bottles, 500 youth face masks, 500 adult face masks and 80 child face masks.
- Orsted Energy Company donated \$500 to the CGESD Summer Career Camp.
- Barnes & Noble donated 8 books valued at \$95.
- The Casa Grande Valley ELKS Lodge #1957 was awarded the ENF Gratitude Grant in the amount of \$3,000.00 to purchase supplies for students who are attending summer school.
- Mr. Scott Saxton with Neighborhood Loans donated \$2,000 for the CGESD Excellence Awards event for catering and gifts to CGESD Excellence Award winners.
- Mr. Michael Cyrino with Allwell from Arizona Complete Health donated \$500 for drinks and desserts for the Retirement Ceremony and CGESD Excellence Awards Ceremony.
- Zonta International donated \$1,950 toward shade structures for CGMS.
- Walmart donated a \$100 gift card for the hygiene product drive.
- The Coolidge Safeway donated 50 packs of Bick Pens (5 per pack) and 100 mini bottles of hand sanitizer valued at \$250.00.
- Mrs. Amber Cordova Had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$410. The project was titled, "Makers Gonna Make".
- Mrs. Amber Cordova was awarded an SRP Learning Grant for the project Entrepreneurial Pathways to Build School Community for \$4,371.92.
- The following businesses donated gift cards/certificates to Palo Verde for weekly teacher appreciation gifts: Cook E Jar, Ricardo's, Creative Café, Panda Express, Cracker Barrel, and L'Grande Café.
- Peter Piper Pizza donated 8 large pizzas for Palo Verde teachers.
- An anonymous donor donated 100 cases of water bottles to Saguaro.
- For Teacher and Staff Appreciation week at Saguaro: Chick-fil-a of Casa Grande donated 75 meals to the Saguaro Staff valued at \$569.25; Ken McCue from Neighborz Hot Dogs donated 140 combo meals for all Saguaro and CGMS staff valued at \$850; Terry Fry from Fry's Kettle Korn donated a shaved ice to all Saguaro staff valued at \$240.

Mrs. Sisson moved that:

"The donations be accepted, as read."

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

6.02 Information pertaining to the revision of the 2020-2021 Expenditure budget had been included in the Board’s information. The public hearing provides the general public an opportunity to provide input with regard to the proposed revisions.

Mr. Mendez declared that the public hearing for the proposed revision of the 2020-2021 budget be opened at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Whittle presented information regarding the 2020-21 Budget Revision #3.

There was a reduction in the distance learning reduction formula. The district got back \$761,000 from the State.

Budget revisions are to show the community where the district stands in a financial standpoint. The May revision is a must and with this May revision, it will close out the 2021 fiscal year.

Mrs. Varela asked about the special education being reduced. Mr. Whittle commented that because we were working remotely, the budget did go down a little.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public. Mr. Mendez closed the public hearing at 6:44 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

6.04 Authorization to Revise the 2020-2021 Budget

It is recommended that the Board approve the revision of the 2020-2021 budget, as presented

Mr. Stabley moved to:

“Approve revision #3 to the 2020-2021 budget.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

- 6.04 A copy of the 2021-22 Budget Planning Update was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. Mr. Wohlleber presented the changes to the 2021-2022 Budget Development Update. The budget is being built based on an increase of 295 students. The budget balance carryforward has been revised to \$3,000,000. We are still waiting on the state budget to be finalized.

Mr. Mendez had some general questions about the budget which Mr. Wohlleber addressed.

- 7.01 The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

8.01 **Superintendent's Report**

Last Thursday Dr. Gonzales attended the A+ celebration for Palo Verde. It was a beautiful event and amazing celebration of their accomplishment. Mrs. Kramer arranged an outdoor BBQ and the mayor was able to serve the students hotdogs.

The AARP Experience Corp volunteers were celebrated via Zoom. It was exciting to see retired volunteers interacting together and enjoying videos watching them in their roles and student testimonials.

Dr. Gonzales has been visiting schools one day each week since students have been back in person. One thing that has been noticed is that teachers are working hard and students are engaging. Teachers have reinvented how education is being projected.

Summer school is open to all students and AARP volunteers will be working with summer school students as well.

9. **Executive Session:**

- 9.01 Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session

Mr. Mendez moved that:

“The Board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.”

The meeting was closed to the public at 7:33 p.m.

At the conclusion of the executive session, the open meeting was reconvened at 8:56 p.m.

10.01 Mr. Mendez adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Approved: 06/08/2021

President