



Grand Canyon Unified School District #4

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Special Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Minutes are recorded as annotations of the agenda, as indicated in gray background and left paragraph bars (bars have been added because the gray background may not copy)

This meeting will be conducted online and telephonically

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the public that the Governing Board of the Grand Canyon Unified School District #4 will convene for a Special Meeting. The Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Please click the link below to join the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94130768914>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16699009128,,94130768914# or +12532158782,,94130768914#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 941 3076 8914

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/94130768914>

The Governing Board reserves the right to move into Executive Session for discussion and consideration of employment, assignment, promotion, demotion, salaries, etc., and/or legal advice with its attorneys for any item listed on the agenda, in person or telephonically, pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) or (A) (3). ***All items on the agenda may be discussed or considered at this meeting.***

AGENDA

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Motion by: Ms. Kathryn Morris

At: 06:00 PM

Motion: Call to Order

Second: Ms. Jessica Warren

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan				X
Kathryn Morris	X			
SuZan Pearce	X			
Jessica Warren	X			

B. ROLL CALL

The High School, where the Board Room, room number 405 is located, is scheduled for significant construction to repair roofing supports. As a result, the Board Room is currently unavailable, and Board meetings will be held virtually through Zoom webinars until further notice.

The Board Meeting phone/web conference information was provided for the public in the posted meeting agenda.

Board members present:

- Ms. Kathryn Morris
- Mr. Kevin Hartigan; Mr. Hartigan was not available for the meeting.
- Ms. SuZan Pearce
- Ms. Jessica Warren

District staff members present:

- Tosca Henry, JD, Legal Counsel
- Shonny Bria, Ph. D., Superintendent
- Mr. Matt Yost, Principal
- Mr. Thomas O’Connor, Program Director, Acting Board Secretary
- Ms. Brenda Thomas-Martinez
- Mr. Ivan Landry, Director of Transportation and Maintenance
- Mr. Thomas Washington, Middle School English Language Arts Teacher
- Ms. Emily Petrie, 4th Grade Teacher
- Ms. Elna Perkins, Middle and High School Social Studies and History Teacher

Guest Speaker

- Mr. Craig Wadsworth, High School Senior

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by: Ms. Kathryn Morris

At: 06:00 PM

Motion: Approval of the Agenda as presented.

Second: Ms. SuZan Pearce

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan				X
Kathryn Morris	X			
SuZan Pearce	X			
Jessica Warren	X			

Motion Passes

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on current educational models (Pod, Hybrid, four-day In-Class Instruction, On-Line) and recommendation and possible decision by the Board for model(s) to be used for the rest of the 2020-2021 school year – Mr. Matt Yost, Dr. Shonny Bria

Note: What follows is a brief description of the discussion, questions and answers, and key points from an hour and 50 minute discussion. This is provided to convey the general sense of the discussion and should not be interpreted to be a literal transcription of the discussion.

Mr. Yost started the discussion by introducing Ms. Petrie, who provided a tour of her classroom and discussed how she leads in the classroom and online Zoom sessions.

Mr. Washington then provided a tour of his classroom, and discussed how he works with his in-person and remote students.

Ms. Perkins then provided a description of how she manages her classroom. Ms. Perkins was not able to demonstrate her classroom as she was connected by telephone.

Mr. Yost entertained questions on student capacity and the ability of the school to host students, assuming both six-foot physical distancing, and three-foot physical distancing as now recommended by the CDC.

Mr. Yost also invited Craig Wadsworth, one of our high school seniors to share his experience. Mr. Wadsworth shared his experience in a hybrid model, and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be back in-person with his teachers for at least part of the week. He entertained questions from several Board members, with responses summarized as follows:

- He likes the hybrid model, he feels it provides sufficient contact with his teachers
- If his choice was limited to either 4-day/week in-person or distance, he would choose in-person
- In-person encourages accountability not found when totally on-line
- In-person provides more opportunities for collaborating with peers, not having to wait for a response from a busy teacher

- In-person provides more direct, faster response to questions of his teachers

A question was raised to Mr. Yost and Dr. Bria about the hybrid and pod approach meeting the requirements of Executive Order 2021-04.

Mr. Yost responded that, in discussions with Kate Wright from the Arizona Department of Education, our approach is acceptable in terms of intention of the Governor's executive order.

Board President Morris asked for clarification from Ms. Henry (the district legal counsel), if once we move to a less restrictive model, the hybrid to 4-day model for example, do we have the option of going back to a hybrid if the community spread metrics worsen. What are we required to do, and how much flexibility do we have?

Ms Henry made the following points:

- We have less local control, less ability to make decisions than we did at the start of the pandemic.
- We can only close at the direction of a local health department, and doing so requires a significant outbreak.
- We should ask that question of the health department. I don't believe the EO allows us to shift from model to model.
- The combination of pods (students physically on campus, with direct instruction from their teachers via Zoom) for two-days a week, and two-days directly with the teacher is within the realm of the Executive Order.

Board member Pearce asked: From a discussions in December, she understood that we could get into problems if we allow some groups to do one thing, and other groups to do something else; is there an issue there?

Ms. Henry responded: The Executive Order differentiates, so, as long as we keep to the outline of the Executive Order, we should have no problems with differentiation.

Board President Morris asked: Is a hybrid OK? Are we OK continuing what we are doing, particularly at the high school level? Could we say, no more pods for elementary, only 4-day or on-line but continue status quo for MS and HS.

Ms. Henry replied: I believe that to be yes, so long as we are carrying out steps to follow the order, which means specifically that elementary students need to be in in-person teacher- led instruction. Differentiating between grade levels is within the intent of the order.

Motion by: Ms. Kathryn Morris

At: 07:53 PM

Motion: Approve moving Pre-K through 5th grade to 4-day a week in-person (only) or on-line (only) learning model, and discontinuing the hybrid learning model and learning pods for Pre-K through 5th grade beginning on April 19, 2021. There is no change at this time for Middle School and High School learning models.

Second: Ms. Jessica Warren

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan				X
Kathryn Morris	X			
SuZan Pearce	X			
Jessica Warren	X			

Motion Passes

B. Approval of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school calendars – Mr. Matt Yost

Mr. Yost introduced calendars for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Key points included:

- These calendars were developed with the help of former Principal Tom Rowland.
- We have traditionally started in the middle of the week, these calendars start on a Monday at the recommendation of the faculty.
- The calendars are designed to allow a number of contiguous weeks before each long weekend.
- Snow days were added the last week of April or early May. If not used, we can use them to give students a break after AzM2.
- We want to try graduation on Thursday. For visitors, it should help offset the cost of hotel room rates which go up starting Friday of the Memorial Day weekend
- For the 2022-2023 calendar, we are proposing moving the start of school a week earlier to get as much instruction as possible before AzM2. This would also push graduation a week early, and would enable a real summer session within the fiscal year.

There was considerable discussion on the topic of the 2022-2023 calendar year. A key point of the discussion was focused on a gradual move to full-year schedule (year-round school).

The Board chose to table the 2022-2023 calendar at this time.

The Board directed staff to prepare a presentation on past research supporting a year-round schedule, and explore the current community feelings on a full-year schedule.

Motion by: Ms. Kathryn Morris

At: 08:14 PM

Motion: Approve the 2021-2022 Grand Canyon school calendar as presented.

Second: Ms. SuZan Pearce

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan				X

Kathryn Morris	X			
SuZan Pearce	X			
Jessica Warren	X			

C. Approval to open all school playing fields to the public, beginning the weekend of April 17, 2021 (Saturday) – Mr. Matt Yost

Mr. Yost explained that the school had closed the fields in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic when the mode of transmission was not well understood. The latest CDC guidelines indicate transmission risk from surfaces is very low, community spread rates are low, and spring has finally sprung. He recommended that it was time to open the fields to the community when not in use by the school.

Motion by: Ms. Kathryn Morris
 At: 08:17 PM
 Motion: Approve the opening of all school playing fields to the public when not in use by the school, beginning the weekend of April 17, 2021.
 Second: Ms. Jessica Warren

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan				X
Kathryn Morris	X			
SuZan Pearce	X			
Jessica Warren	X			

Motion Passes

D. Approval to begin the 400 Building Roof Beam Rehabilitation Project – Mr. Ivan Landry

Mr. Landry briefly described the Building 400 Roof Beam Rehabilitation project. It has been approved by the Arizona School Facilities Board. He recommended approval of the project by the Board.

Motion by: Ms. Kathryn Morris

At: 08:21 PM
 Motion: Approval to begin the 400 Building Roof Beam Rehabilitation Project as presented.
 Second: Ms. SuZan Pearce

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan				
Kathryn Morris	x			
SuZan Pearce	x			
Jessica Warren	x			

3. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Ms. Kathryn Morris
 At: 08:22 PM
 Motion: Adjourn
 Second: Ms. Jessica Warren

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan				x
Kathryn Morris	x			
SuZan Pearce	x			
Jessica Warren	x			

Motion passes, meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Board Secretary

Date _____

Kathryn Morris
Board President

Jessica Warren
Board Member

Suzan Pearce
Board Clerk/Vice President

Kevin Hartigan
Board Member

<Open Position>
Board Member