



Grand Canyon Unified School District #4

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Special Meeting

Due to the pandemic, 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, January 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Please click the link below to join the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82205342106>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +12532158782,,82205342106# or +13462487799,,82205342106#

Or Telephone:

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

US: +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 720 707 2699 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 822 0534 210

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.

MINUTES

The following minutes are not, and should not be considered, direct transcriptions of what was said by participants. Comments are included to describe the general content and nature of the discussions.

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. CALL TO ORDER

TIME: 6:02 p.m.

MOTION: President Ms. Morris called the meeting to order.

B. ROLL CALL

Ms. Morris	Yes	Donny Cone	Yes
SuZan Pearce	Yes	Mr. Hendrix	Yes
Mr. Hartigan	Yes		

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

TIME: 6:02 p.m.

MOTION: Approve the Agenda as presented – Ms. Morris

SECOND: Donny Cone

VOTE:

Ms. Morris	Yes	Donny Cone	Yes
SuZan Pearce	Yes	Mr. Hendrix	Yes
Mr. Hartigan	Yes		

Motion passes 5-0

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the resignation of position from Board Member, Ms. SuZan Pearce

TIME:6:03

Ms. SuZan Pearce stated that her resignation was tendered in December. She has served more than six years on the Board - a wild ride on which she has learned a lot. This was a difficult decision with COVID and Shonny passing away. Her daughter is a senior and will be graduating in May. She feels like it is time for some new blood on the Board, maybe a parent with younger children. It will be good to get fresh people in so that they understand the function of the Board. Most of the people [coming before the Board] have been very professional, but a few have been less than respectful. Board members are in volunteer positions, and negativity is distressing. Community

needs to remember to be respectful to each other, particularly in hard times. Ask good questions but show respect. She wishes the school and its Board all the best.

Ms. Morris: Thank you for your service. We will have a plaque for presentation next week.

Mr. Hartigan thanked SuZan Pearce for endless hours and tireless effort put in over all these years. She has definitely been a rock for the Board and so helpful through challenges and successes the district has experienced.

MOTION: Approve resignation of SuZan Pearce – Ms. Morris

SECOND: Donny Cone

VOTE:

Ms. Morris	Yes	Donny Cone	Yes
Mr. Hartigan	Yes	Mr. Hendrix	Yes

Motion passed 4-0

3. Board Organizational Responsibilities

A. Election of Board Officers, President and Vice President/Clerk

President Ms. Morris explained that the Governing Board must organize every year between January 1st and 15th. For 2021, she served as President while SuZan Pearce served as Vice President/Clerk.

Ms. Morris read Policy BDB – Board Officers that lists the duties of the President. This Board fills two positions: President and Vice President/Clerk.

MOTION: Nomination of Ms. Morris as President and Mr. Hartigan as Vice President/Clerk - Donny Cone

Ms. Morris accepted the nomination, and Mr. Hartigan declined.

SECOND: Mr. Hartigan seconded the nomination of Ms. Morris as President

VOTE:

Katie Morris	Yes	Donny Cone	Yes
Kevin Hartigan	Yes	Daniel Hendrix	Yes

Motion passed 4-0

MOTION: Nomination of Mr. Hendrix as VP/Clerk – Ms. Morris. Mr. Hendrix accepted the nomination.

SECOND: Mr. Hartigan seconded the nomination of Mr. Hendrix as Vice President/Clerk

VOTE:

Katie Morris	Yes	Donny Cone	Yes
Kevin Hartigan	Yes	Daniel Hendrix	Yes

Motion passed 4-0

President Morris continued as the newly-elected presiding officer at this point in the meeting.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding Board member Conflict of Interest Form

TIME:6:18

Ms. Morris explained that Board Secretary, Susan Kerley, had sent these forms to all Board members and asked that they complete, sign and return them to Susan.

Attorney Tosca Henry noted that no action was needed on this agenda item.

C. Discussion and possible action on the recording of Governing Board Meetings

TIME: 6:19

Ms. Morris introduced this item by saying that years ago, meetings were recorded. Now they can be recorded through Zoom. Having a recording would increase accuracy in notetaking. Many school districts are using Zoom to record and can post recordings to website or You Tube.

Attorney Tosca Henry added that there are pros and cons. Recordings must be maintained per records retention rules. Additional staff time may be required when records requests are made. Her strong recommendation is to continue with written minutes.

Ms. Morris pointed out that, If we had video permanently housed on our website, then requesters could access it themselves.

Mr. Hartigan looked at pros and cons. Pro: It could help the Board conduct general discussions between Board and public and provide understanding and maintain professional manner. Con: It would add cost to the district, and he does not know if it is beneficial to have all meetings recorded. What is said in public meeting should be available to the public. He suggested extra costs might include more data usage, storage, and retention, the need to comply with public records requests, and time needed to research/provide requested materials.

Mr. Hendrix believes there would be no problem with recording meetings. He would want to know who's responsible for keeping records and where, and how it will be backed up. Do we have the capacity to do it right now? He does not want to bring on an extra person to manage video recordings for the website. If it can be done easily, yes. He

would like it to be something that is in addition to how we keep our other public records. This would just be adding to the catalogue.

Ms. Morris asked Thomas O'Connor if he knows that process with Zoom.

Mr. Hartigan asked if we have equipment to handle in-person meetings if we were doing Zoom.

Mr. O'Connor replied that it would be relatively inexpensive to add.

Mr. Yost added that we have some devices ready to go.

Mr. O'Connor believes that we have a wide-spectrum capability with an existing camera or could purchase a voice-following camera (about \$1,000).

Ms. Morris asked the difference in maintaining paper and electronic records.

Mr. O'Connor replied that there are specific requirements for electronic record retention.

Ms. Morris asked him to find out if BoardDocs is considered an official recordkeeping system.

Ms. Morris concluded: BoardDocs does a great job with posting agendas, but we need to get into electronic records. Please add this item to next week's agenda.

MOTION OR DIRECTION: It was suggested that Derrick Tutt, IT Director, has experience with large school districts and would have information about this subject.

4. Review and discuss job description for the Interim Superintendent position and offer direction to staff

Ms. Morris introduced this item: We need to finalize and give direction to Susan, our Interim HR Director. We started a process after the last meeting per legal counsel that Susan could work with Board members on job description. Concern was expressed so it was put on tonight's agenda. She asked for Board Members' comments.

Mr. Hartigan believes this is a great document for a permanent superintendent. It is fully within the law for the Board to hire whomever they want as interim. Having been on the Board with two interims, he saw that not much was done to move the school forward. It was more just keeping afloat. He cannot see where it is fruitful to go down this path.

Mr. Hendrix: Whatever we have, let's post it and move forward, looking at resumes next meeting. We want somebody who can do the job, but we are not currently looking for a person to be superintendent for the next 3-5 years. We need to find someone to be superintendent for the next 6 months.

Ms. Morris: Daniel, were you saying just post this job description? We could post with ASBA. Donny and Daniel, do you want to post what we have?

Mr. Cone: What is established in the job description is satisfactory for the time period an interim will be in the job.

Mr. Hendrix: What Kevin might be saying is that the job description that we have is very much for a permanent superintendent and might cause some who would apply for interim to shy away from it. If we want to abbreviate it a little bit, that would be fine, too.

Mr. Hartigan: Yes, I think it might keep candidates who would be a good fit from applying. The only requirement is a fingerprint clearance card. This keeps us in a tiny box.

Ms. Morris: Would it be beneficial to say "Preferred, but not required" and that would open it up.

Kevin: We need an interim superintendent. If you guys want to pick it apart and then discuss its merits, but I don't have valid thoughts or input for that type of discussion.

Ms. Morris summarized the discussion: In the past we have used "preferred" rather than "required." We owe it to our students to not just take applications from anyone. We owe it to our school to do it correctly. My thought is to put "preferred" under everything, experience and education, and submit it the way it is.

She added that the Board does need to make sure we are starting the process for permanent superintendent search. We prefer it to be only five months, but we don't know how long it will take to locate a permanent superintendent. An Interim might need to serve for a longer time. She believes it puts us in a better situation to do it right, however long it takes.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: Edit the job description with "preferred" and submit it to ASBA's website and post it on the school's website.

Ms. Morris asked the Board for thoughts on length of the process.

Mr. Hendrix suggested they review applications as they come in and use "open until filled."

Ms. Morris asked if they might take applications until January 31st, then have a special meeting on Wednesday, February 2nd, to review applicants.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: Change "required" to "preferred" in the job description. Post it through ASBA and on the GCUSD website through January 31, 2022. Meet on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, to review applications received.

5. COVID-19 Reports

A. Updated County COVID Report – Mr. Thomas O’Connor
Power Point Report attached.

Ms. Morris requested this be on tonight’s agenda because Omicron has been spreading, including in the Park. Matt Yost will talk about what the school is doing and how the spike is impacting us. It seems to be spreading pretty quickly.

REPORT:

At the state level, it reached a peak during the first week of January, but that may be a factor of delayed reporting. Death rate is usually two to four weeks behind. Case rates are up substantially and may be underreported as a result of under testing. Omicron is less likely to send those affected to the hospital, but hospitals are over capacity. Unvaccinated are most like to need hospitalization.

B. Updated School COVID Report – Mr. Matt Yost
Power Point Report attached

We are following procedures to have students do temperature checks. Students are being sent to the office where staff checks for symptoms and notifies parents. Parents are communicating with the school when students are being kept home because of symptoms and being tested.

Once notified of a positive case, Mr. Yost works with Ms. Morris and Ms. Henry. They send letter to class parents and teachers about positive cases, not giving specific information. The letter has a link to CDC guidelines. It asks parents to follow these and their healthcare providers’ guidance. We Work with GC National Park and Coconino County Health Department.

We have been working with PLC teams to make campus safer and better for students. One example is that desks have been moved farther apart. We doubled down on increased airflow, opening windows to have more crosswinds, and are enforcing proper wearing of masks. Teachers are committed to keeping school open.

In the discussion that followed, it was noted that Board members and members of the public can access this data from the reports that are readily available on the County’s website. Updates will continue at each regular Board meeting. Mr. O’Connor hopes to get a draft of an updated Mitigation Plan to Board Members tomorrow. That will set the trigger that would result in an emergency Board meeting to determine how to proceed should staffing fall below acceptable levels to safely support students. Ms. Morris asked that he send the draft to Ms. Henry for review before next week’s meeting. She added that upcoming events should be included. Ash Fork cancelled their game with us. Today’s game had no spectators. Homecoming Dance is coming up. Board does not typically approve things like that. Do we want to have approvals of things like that at the Board level? Any ideas on upcoming homecoming activities?

Mr. Hendrix noted that, if they’re considering closing the school for more than a couple of days, that should be a Board decision. Other than that, if it is an emergency situation, staff should rely on their protocols and let the Board know after the fact.

Ms. Morris: Tosca might weigh in on whether staff can shut school down.

Ms. Henry weighed in on whether staff can shut school down: We do have provisions for temporary closures already in place. The Board has significant decision-making authority and appropriately so.

Ms. Morris noted that it sounds like we would need an emergency Board meeting if it came down to that.

6. ADJOURNMENT TIME: 7:38 p.m.

MOTION: To Adjourn Meeting at 7:38 p.m. – Ms. Morris

SECOND: Mr. Hendrix

VOTE:

Katie Morris	Yes	Donny Cone	Yes
Kevin Hartigan	Yes	Daniel Hendrix	Yes

Motion passed 4-0 and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By _____
Board Secretary

Date _____

Kathryn Morris
Board President

Daniel. Hendrix
Vice President/Clerk

Mr. Hartigan
Board Member

Donny Cone
Board Member