



Grand Canyon Unified School District #4
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

The 400 Building, including the Governing Board Room (#405), will be closed due to renovation of the gym, and all Board meetings will be held on Zoom until further notice.

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 Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 2021. For members of the public wishing to join the meeting, Zoom connection information follows.

Please click the link below to join the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82017601205>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +13462487799,,82017601205# or +17207072699,,82017601205#

Or Telephone:

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

US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 720 707 2699

Webinar ID: 820 1760 1205

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. 38431.03(A) (1) or (A) (3).

MINUTES

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. CALL TO ORDER (TIME: 6:01 p.m.)

MOTION: Katie Morris: To call the meeting to order

SECOND: SuZan Pearce

VOTE: 5-0

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

B. ROLL CALL

Katie Morris	Present
SuZan Pearce	Present
Kevin Hartigan	Present
Donny Cone	Present
Daniel Hendrix	Present

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Katie Morris – To Switch Items 2. Executive Session and 3. Reconvene to Regular

Session on the Agenda to come after Item 4. COMMUNICATIONS, A. Call to the Community, and to approve the Agenda with this modification.

SECOND: SuZan Pearce

VOTE:

Katie Morris	Yes	The motion passed 5-0.
SuZan Pearce	Yes	
Kevin Hartigan	Yes	
Donny Cone	Yes	
Daniel Hendrix	Ye	

2. COMMUNICATIONS

A. CALL TO THE COMMUNITY

We value input from our community. Members of the public may speak to the Board regarding items that are not on this Agenda. To do so, a Public Participation at Board Meetings form must be completed and emailed to Board Secretary, Susan Kerley at skerley@grandcanyonschool.org before 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 8, 2021. The form may be found on the school's website at www.grandcanyonschool.org,> Governing Board>Public Participation Form.

When you join the meeting by phone or computer, notify the host that you have submitted a form and wish to speak during the Call to the Community. When the President of the Board calls upon you, please limit your comments to three minutes.

Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A. R.S. 38-431.01 (H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date. Please remember, this is not an appropriate place to evaluate, discuss, or criticize District personnel.

1. Ms. Janna Radarian teaches social studies. She has had 12 years of organizing and managing student trips to D.C. She would love to create a tradition of an 8th grade field trip to D.C. if the Board approves. Twelve parents have had discussions with her about such a trip, and she has documents available for review.
2. Ms. Amelia Walls represents Middle School Student Council and the 8th grade class. She wants to go to D.C. to inspire her and her classmates to make change and to see historical landmarks. She believes that, as a country, we need to learn to work together. Traveling to D.C. gives a chance to be in this place of change, and D.C. could be their inspiration. She wants to see historical documents in the National Archives and learn more about the world and our history.
3. Mr. John Gregory, parent of enrolled students, objects to the appointment of Interim Superintendent. He requested that the Board rescind their decision and select someone who meets the qualifications.
4. Mr. Martin Christiansen has lived in the community for five years and is the Program Administrator at Albright Training Center. He asked that the Board's offer to Thomas O'Connor be rescinded and that current qualifications be upheld in a new selection.
5. Ms. Dana Sullivan has been a community member for almost eight years and is a parent of a student in the Class of 2023 and another who was the Class of 2020 valedictorian. She asked that the Board please rescind its offer for Interim Superintendent and consider the other two candidates if they meet the qualifications.
6. Ms. Dana Sullivan as proxy for Ms. Kate Densmore read a statement:
Ms. Densmore is the parent of two Grand Canyon students. She objected to the appointment of the Interim Superintendent. She would encourage the Board to expect excellence at every level.
7. Ms. Dana Sullivan voiced support for Peg Lyle to be ESS Director. Peg Lyle is highly qualified and has earned the trust of the community.
8. Mr. John Gregory voiced support for Peg Lyle as ESS Director. His son has Down's Syndrome and is transported daily to Williams for a fair and equitable education. Ms. Lyle has spent countless hours coordinating this and has been

100% supportive – not placing her in that position would be a grave disservice to the community.

- 9. Mr. Jason Morris is father of Grand Canyon students. In reference to the selection of an Interim Superintendent, he believes a good superintendent should lead students as well as administration and should possess good interpersonal skills and be accepted by staff and students. He does not understand the Board’s process that did not include public input. A quick meeting and a quick decision look suspicious. Did the decision need to be made right away? Was this the right decision for students and staff? Board Members should ask themselves, “Did I make the right choice?” Will you maintain public trust with this decision?
- 10. Mr. John Venn’s daughter is a Grand Canyon student. He shares concerns that have already been voiced. It appears as if the position description was changed to fit the candidate rather than finding a candidate who fits the position description. He would like the Board to rescind its offer and consider the other two candidates to find someone more competent and qualified to hold the Interim position

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. The Board may vote to enter Executive Session, pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03 (A)(1) for discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee and (A) (3) discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney of the public body, regarding succession planning, including an offer for Thomas O’Connor to undertake the Interim Superintendent duties, possible discussion of a Special Education Director and Human Resources Specialist.

MOTION: Katie Morris - Enter Executive Session. (TIME: 6:46 p.m.)

SECOND: Donny Cone

VOTE:

Katie Morris	Yes	The motion passed 5-0.
SuZan Pearce	Yes	
Kevin Hartigan	Yes	
Donny Cone	Yes	
Daniel Hendrix	Yes	

4. RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION (TIME: 9:54 p.m.)

MOTION: Katie Morris – Reconvene Regular Session

SECOND: Donny Cone

VOTE:

Katie Morris	Yes	The motion passed 5-0.
Donnie Cone	Yes	
Kevin Hartigan	Yes	
SuZan Pearce	Yes	
Daniel Hendrix	Yes	

Mr. Thomas O’Connor addressed the Board: While he appreciates the confidence the Board showed in him, he knows he needs the backing of the community to succeed. As a result, he declines the offer from the Board to serve as Interim Superintendent.

President Morris noted that Mr. O’Connor handled the situation with grace and dignity and is thankful for his professionalism. She appreciates all he’s doing for the district.

Board Member Hartigan felt that there was an opportunity to continue the business of the district seamlessly. He appreciates the community speaking out even though it was pretty rough. He gave his sincere apologies to all and wished it had gone in a different direction.

Vice President Pearce: Her intent was to bring someone in from the outside so her “no” vote was not about Mr. O’Connor personally.

President Morris: The intention of the Board last week was to always do what was best for the students and to make certain the district runs smoothly. Perhaps they did not take the time to have a thoughtful process to select an interim.

President Morris opened the floor for any discussion Board Members wanted to have on the path to take.

Vice President Pearce: She believed the Board’s intentions were good, wanting to move fast to get a replacement, but she didn’t feel good right after the meeting in how quickly action was taken. She feels there is a need to slow down and consider the qualifications desired in an Interim Superintendent.

Board Member Hendrix: He echoed Ms. Pearce’s thoughts and believes that, maybe if we could get more community involvement in the process, it would go a long way in preventing the avoidance of a repeat of what happened tonight.

Board Member Hartigan: He appreciates the community input on a long-term Superintendent, but not on an Interim. He thinks we should be going in a different direction.

President Morris: The process of how the Board operates – it is important to talk about the process. Some information cannot leave Executive Sessions. At the same time, there is a struggle to balance the public seeing the Board make these decisions while not violating making personal information public. She wants to move forward, making the process very clear as to what can be done in public versus executive sessions. She wants to take time for the public to express their opinions and to make certain the public knows how Open Meeting Law works as the Board moves forward in selecting an Interim Superintendent and Superintendent.

A. The Board may take possible action on the items discussed in Executive Session 2.A.

Board Member Hartigan called a point of order on accepting Mr. O’Connor’s declination of the Board’s offer to serve as Interim Superintendent. He stated that the Board should take action to withdraw its offer.

MOTION: Katie Morris – Withdrawal of offer of Interim Superintendent position to Mr. Thomas O’Connor.

SECOND: Donny Cone

VOTE:

Katie Morris	Yes	The motion passed 4-1.
SuZan Pearce	Yes	
Kevin Hartigan	No	
Donny Cone	Yes	
Daniel Hendrix	Yes	

MOTION: Katie Morris - Grant signature authority to Thomas O’Connor for items in the business office and signature authority to Matt Yost for education requirement items.

SECOND: Suzan Pearce

VOTE:

Katie Morris	Yes	The motion passed 5-0.
SuZan Pearce	Yes	
Kevin Hartigan	Yes	
Donny Cone	Yes	
Daniel Hendrix	Yes	

President Morris noted that two other personnel items were discussed in Executive Session:

1. SPED Director – Ms. Lyle was appointed as SPED Director, effective on November 1, 2021, at the July Regular Board Meeting. A transition will need to be made. There is no need for a motion, just direction from the Board. A pay structure is needed for Peg Lyle. She performed two jobs [5th grade teacher and SPED Director] for a good portion of this semester. President Morris recommended a stipend to compensate Ms. Lyle for her extra work during that time.

Motion: None

2. HR Specialist – The District needs an HR Specialist. Susan Kerley worked with Shonny Bria on Human Resource issues, but she lacks official authority to proceed.

MOTION: Kevin Hartigan - Approve Susan Kerley as having HR authority consistent with the Board's policies

SECOND: Katie Morris

VOTE:

Katie Morris – Yes

The motion passed 5-0.

Kevin Hartigan – Yes

SuZan Pearce – Yes

Donny Cone – Yes

Daniel Hendrix – Yes

5. PRESENTATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE/DISCUSSION

A. Presentation of Prop 301 Plan – Mr. Matt Yost (10:26 p.m.)

The Governor opened up the Prop 301 Plan for school districts to offer to those covered options for creating a plan. This plan has two parts that address the requirements.

1. We would prefer a walk-through process rather than formal observations. This has a positive effect on instruction. They are short, focused observations on students, teachers, and the classroom environment. Teachers must have a total of 10 walk-throughs starting in January 2022.
2. Professional Responsibility
A minimum of 24 hours must be accumulated by full-time teachers in a school year to qualify for a full 50% of the award.

We would like 50% of the payout made prior to Christmas, based on professional responsibilities and activities outside of the school day. 96% of teachers approved of this plan. Thanks to Committee Members who worked with Matt on the Plan: Juliana Fontenot, Christine Chavez, Sarah Lisa-Petrauschke, Peg Lyle, Adrian Alvarez, Brad Houston, and Lori Rommel

B. Presentation of Construction Update/Discussion of re-opening the 400 Building and possible direction to Staff from Board – Mr. Ivan Landry

Mr. Landry stated that we can move forward with re-opening. There is some work remaining, like in the locker room and carpet replacement, but arrangements for installation have already been made.

President Morris gave direction to Staff: The Board authorizes school staff, including Principal Yost, to open the 400 building as it becomes feasible and to include the volunteer use of students in moving and arranging furniture.

C. Discussion by Board regarding out of state travel using commercial transportation. (Board may wish to direct Administration to develop a travel Regulation for 2021-2022 school year.)

President Morris explained that Shonny Bria had requested this item be on the agenda, partially because of the D.C. trip since travel is not discussed in our COVID mitigation plan

President Morris gave direction to Matt Yost to coordinate and develop a travel regulation for this year and present it at the next Board meeting.

6. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

- A. Principal Report – Mr. Matt Yost
- B. IT Report - Mr. Derrick Tutt
- C. Maintenance & Operations Report - Mr. Ivan Landry
- D. Food Services Report - Ms. Barb Shields
- E. School Resource Officer Report (SRO) – Officer Jason Morris
- F. COVID-19 Report – Mr. Thomas O'Connor

President Morris noted that, due to the lateness of the hour, the Board will read the written reports.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Governing Board Meeting Minutes:(BEDG, BEDG-R)

October 20, 2021 – Regular Meeting - Corrected Minutes Re-Submitted for Approval

November 29, 2021 – Regular Meeting

December 2, 2021 – Special Meeting

B. Approval of Payroll Vouchers:

FY21-22 #10 \$ 141,622.61

FY21-22 #11 \$ 126,774.13

C. Approval of Expense Vouchers:

FY 21-22 #5019 \$ 58,665.09

FY 21-22 #5020 \$ 58,567.21

D. Approval of Fiduciary Disbursements:

Student Activities — November 2021 Revolving — November 2021

Auxiliary – November 2021 Food Service —November 2021

E. Approval of Donations: 2021 – David & Mary Joan Lewis - \$400 – High School Athletics

F. Human Resources:

1. Acceptance of resignations: Mr. Shaun Shields, SPED Aide – Effective immediately

Ms. Jennifer Wadsworth, SPED Aide – Effective December 16, 2021

G. Approval of deferral of non-wage final payout to Dr. Shonny Bria’s estate until after the first of the year at the written request of her spouse, Mr. Gary Talkington

MOTION: Katie Morris - Accept Consent Agenda items as presented (TIME: 10:45 p.m.)

SECOND: Daniel Hendrix

VOTE:

Katie Morris	Yes	The motion passed 5-0.
SuZan Pearce	Yes	
Kevin Hartigan	Yes	
Donny Cone	Yes	
Daniel Hendrix	Yes	

8. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and possible action on the 2021-2022 Prop 301 Plan (TIME: 10:46 p.m.)

President Morris asked that, in the future, the plan be presented by the end of the school year then everyone knows what it will be for the coming year.

MOTION: Katie Morris - Approve the Prop 301 Plan as presented

SECOND: Donny Cone

VOTE:

Katie Morris – Yes	The motion passed 5-0.
Donny Cone – Yes	
SuZan Pearce – Yes	
Kevin Hartigan – Yes	
Daniel Hendrix - Yes	

- B. The Board will discuss, consider and give direction on voting on one bylaw change proposal from The Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA). After discussion and determining their position on the bylaw change, the Board will give direction to Ms. Susan Kerley to vote electronically in the manner the Board has approved.

Direction: Susan Kerley should vote "yes" on this ASBA bylaw change.

10. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

President Morris asked Board Members to reach out to Susan Kerley to put items on the agenda for the next regular Board meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT – 10:51 p.m.

MOTION: President Morris – Motion to adjourn

SECOND: SuZan Pearce

VOTE:

Katie Morris – Yes

SuZan Pearce – Yes

Kevin Hartigan – Yes

Donny Cone – Yes

Daniel Hartigan – Yes

The motion passed 5-0, and the meeting adjourned at 10:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By _____
Board Secretary

Date _____

Kathryn Morris
Board President

Daniel Hendrix
Board Member

SuZan Pearce
Vice President/Board Clerk

Kevin Hartigan
Board Member

Donny Cone
Board Member