



Grand Canyon Unified School District #4

Thursday, September 3, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Special Board 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).

Due to the pandemic, this meeting will be conducted telephonically/electronically

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 Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 3, 2020.

Members of the Governing Board will attend by computer or conference call. Members of the public who wish to attend the Public Hearing may join by computer, tablet or smartphone.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3605747112?pwd=eXNBNEk2UkxiTWpFV2FuTVRhU3VjUT09>

Meeting ID: 360 574 7112

Passcode: gc2020

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,3605747112# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,3605747112# US (Houston)

Dial in

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Alternate Dial In Number

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

-----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).

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Mr. Kevin Hartigan at: 6:10 p.m.

Motion: Call to order.

Second: Mr. Pete Shearer

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan	X			
SuZan Pearce				X
Joe Rabon	X			
Pete Shearer	X			
Kathryn Morris	X			

2. ROLL CALL

***** Note on Virtual Meetings *****

In compliance with social distancing and stay-at-home recommendations issued by the Center for Disease Control and directions from Federal and State governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Board meeting was held virtually by phone/web conference.

Designation of “present” in the roll call indicates these members were identified as active members in the conference call.

The Board Meeting phone/web conference information was provided for the public in the meeting posting. As a result not all individuals who called into the meeting were identified. Only Board Members and district staff who actually reported to the Board are identified in the roll call.

Board members present:

- Mr. Kevin Hartigan
- Mr. Joe Rabon
- Ms. SuZan Pearce was not available, noted as “NA” in vote tallies.
- Mr. Pete Shearer
- Ms. Kathryn Morris

District staff members present:

- Ms. Tosca Henry, JD, Legal Counsel
- Dr. Shonny Bria, Superintendent
- Mr. Matt Yost, Principal
- Ms. Karen Lehman, SPED director
- Mr. Thomas O’Connor, Program Director, Acting Board Secretary
- Mr. Ivan Landry, Transportation and Maintenance Director
- Ms. Judi Beckerleg, Acting Business Manager
- Ms. Cynthia Moreno, Athletic Director
- Mr. Tom Rowland, Consulting advisor to the Principal

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Kevin Hartigan at: 6:11 p.m.

Motion: Approve the Agenda as presented.

Second: Ms. Kathryn Morris

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan	X			
SuZan Pearce				X
Joe Rabon	X			
Pete Shearer	X			
Kathryn Morris	X			

Motion passes

4. Human Resources

A. Approval of Jonathan Triggs' transition to a 12-month employee, retroactive to July 13, 2020

Motion by Mr. Kevin Hartigan at: 6:12 p.m.

Motion: Approval for the transition for Mr. Jonathan Triggs retroactive to July 13.

Second: Ms. Kathryn Morris

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan	X			
SuZan Pearce				X
Joe Rabon	X			
Pete Shearer	X			
Kathryn Morris	X			

Motion passes

5. Discussion and possible decision on whether to hold fall athletics (soccer and volleyball)

The Principal, Mr. Matt Yost and the Athletic Director, Ms. Cyndi Moreno discussed the current situation with the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA), as well as athletic competition plans of other surrounding school districts.

The Board asked several questions*, including:

Q: What are AIA recommendations for transportation if we participate in competitions?

A: The AIA is advising against school bus transportation, recommending parent or if appropriate, student self-transportation to minimize contact on long drives to competition.

Q: On AIA membership, do we still need to pay dues?

A: Ms. Henry: We are still working on this. We would be hard pressed to be held to payment for amounts owed. Ms. Moreno: We have two forms of payment, membership dues and competition dues. If we expect to participate in sports possibly in Spring of 2021, we should pay the membership dues, but if we cancel soccer and volleyball, we would not make participation payments.

Board member, Mr. Shearer expressed a concern that athletics are a motivator for students who are otherwise performing marginally academically. He did acknowledge that the health and safety of our students is priority, so he supported the action, but wanted to suggest the school consider other means of ensuring student effort in academics.

(*) These are not intended as verbatim quotes, rather they are presented here as a general nature of the question and answer, as understood by the recorder.

Motion by Mr. Kevin Hartigan at: 6:25 p.m.

Motion: Cancel fall AIA athletics (soccer and volleyball) for the remainder of 2020.

Second: Ms. Kathryn Morris

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan	X			
SuZan Pearce				X
Joe Rabon	X			
Pete Shearer	X			
Kathryn Morris	X			

Motion passes

6. Discussion of condition of 400 building

Mr. Ivan Landry, Maintenance Director, discussed the current status of the 400 Building.

In the process of air conditioning unit replacement this summer, it was discovered that several support beams in the 400 building have cracks. The beams have been temporarily shored up, however at this time we are not considering the building to be safe for students.

We are waiting on further engineering evaluation by the Arizona School Facilities Board. Potential repairs could consist of epoxy glue repair, or glue repair with additional support steelwork, to full beam replacement.

Mr. Landry will update the School Board when additional information is available.

7. Use of Policy BGF (Suspension/Repeal of Policy) to suspend Policy IKF (Graduation Requirements) for the 2020-2021 school year

The Principal, Mr. Matt Yost discussed graduation requirements, as possibly affected by Distance Learning. Because the Distance Learning schedule does not include Phantom Academy, there are two current GCHS students who transferred into GCHS, who are short credits to graduate in 2022-2023.

Mr. Yost recommended suspending the graduation requirements of Policy IKF until the school returns to in-person learning.

Mr. Yost also noted that community service requirements are being affected by the social distancing requirements of the pandemic, and recommended that the class of 2020-2021 be exempt from the current 40-hour requirement.

After discussion, the Board tabled action until next board meeting and gave directions to staff as follows:

Prepare a modification of policy IKF to address phantom academy and community service, prorating service requirements for new arrivals. There should be a short term, and long term policy.

8. Discussion and possible decision on Coronavirus Tax Relief

Ms. Judi Beckerleg, Acting Business Manager, reported to the Board her recommendation on action regarding the US Presidential, Coronavirus Tax Relief Memorandum. Ms. Beckerleg reported that the program would take effect on September 1 and run through December 31, 2020. Employers and employees have the option to defer withholding, deposit and payment of Social Security tax for the four months the program would be in effect.

An important aspect of this program is that it is a deferral, not a forgiveness of tax liability. Unpaid tax would have to be collected and repaid by April 30, 2021. Ms. Beckerleg reached out to our auditors who recommended we not participate. Employees who would most benefit from the program, will be the

most impacted in the new year when deferred taxes would be deducted from their pay. Based upon the information obtained, it was Ms. Beckerleg’s recommendation that the District does not enter into the program.

The Board also heard comments from the school attorney, Ms. Tosca Henry, Esq., regarding her analysis of the Presidential Memorandum on Deferring Payroll Tax Obligations issued on August 8, 2020, and, the Notice 2020-65 implementing the Memorandum and the potential impact to the District. Ms. Henry echoed Ms. Beckerleg's recommendation against participating in the program, as the District would ultimately remain responsible to ensure that the deferred amounts were repaid between January 1, 2021 and April 30, 2021, in addition to the usual withholdings per pay period.

The direction given to staff was not to participate in the program.

9. Food Services Update – Good News!

The Food Service Director, Barb Shields was not available, so Dr. Shonny Bria filled in. Dr. Bria notified the Board that the Federal Government removed limits on food payment for ALL students until the end of the 2020 calendar year. As a result, we will be providing breakfast and lunch to all students beginning on September 8.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Kevin Hartigan at: 7:11 p.m.

Motion: Adjourn

Second: Ms. Kathryn Morris

Vote Tally

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	NA
Kevin Hartigan	X			
SuZan Pearce				X
Joe Rabon	X			
Pete Shearer	X			
Kathryn Morris	X			

Motion passes

Respectfully submitted by, _____
Board Secretary

Date _____

Kevin Hartigan
Board President

Pete Shearer
Board Member

SuZan Pearce
Board Clerk/Vice President

Kathryn Morris
Board Member

Joe Rabon
Board Member