



**Grand Canyon Unified School District #4
Due to technical difficulties with Zoom**

**Monday, November 2, 2020
6:00 p.m.
Special Board Meeting**

(This Meeting was rescheduled from Thursday, October 29, 2020 6:00 p.m.)

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).

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-341.02, notice is hereby given to the public that the Governing Board of the Grand Canyon Unified School District #4 will convene for a 6:00 p.m. Special Board Meeting. The Special Meeting will be held Monday, November 2, 2020. Members of the Governing Board may attend by telephone call or GoToMeeting.

Join Meeting

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03.(A) the Governing Board may vote to go into executive session on any agenda item pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03.(A)(1) personnel matters and/or A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3) discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body.

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03.(A) the Governing Board may vote to go into executive session on any agenda item pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03.(A)(1) personnel matters and/or A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3) discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body.

Special Board Meeting Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER

Motion: Call to Order
 By: Mr. Kevin Hartigan
 Second: Ms. SuZan Pearce
 At: 6:04 PM

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

Motion Passes.

II. 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
- Ms. SuZan Pearce
- Mr. Joe Rabon was not available at the start of the meeting, joining at 6:07.
- Mr. Pete Shearer
- Ms. Kathryn Morris was not available, noted as “NA” in roll call votes.

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
- Ms. Brends Thomas-Martinez
- Ms. Judi Beckerleg, Acting Business Manager

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approval of the Agenda as presented
 By: Mr. Kevin Hartigan
 Second: Ms. SuZan Pearce
 At: 6:05 PM

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

Motion Passes

Mr. Joe Rabon joined the meeting at 6:07 PM.

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SCHOOL SAFETY OPERATIONS

A. Data Update – Mr. Thomas O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor presented a short slide deck covering the October 22, 2020 changes made by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to the criteria for "Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction." Mr. O'Connor also briefly discussed the additional change made by ADHS on October 30. See Attachment A.

Mr. O'Connor noted that the changes do not alter the safe opening criteria, though they do give governing boards some leeway in considering mitigation strategies in their opening decisions. The major changes included:

- Updates the research basis for the recommendation
- Provides explicit guidance for recommended instruction model based on current state of community spread
- Provides guidance on when to return to distance learning model
- Emphasizes mitigation strategies as a decision basis for in-person instruction

The updates do not change the in-person instruction criteria

Mr. O'Connor also covered current COVID-19 incidence rate in comparison to the safe opening criteria:

- The number of cases have declined from 7 two weeks ago, to 3 last week, and as of the report, no new cases in the Grand Canyon area
- The case rate at 161/100,000 is still above the opening criteria, though decreasing week-over-week
- The percent positivity rate at 6.2% is within the opening guideline, though it needs to be in this range for 2 weeks before the school meets the opening criteria

Mr. O'Connor addressed the concept of "acceptable risk," and who defines it. The ADHS, by establishing opening criteria, has established this standard. Mr. O'Connor advised that from his past experience in risk management, deviating from this standard poses a risk of changing the focal point of who defines acceptable risk, and advised that varying from the standard should be done with the advice of competent legal counsel.

Ms. Tosca Henry, the school's legal counsel, noted that the Board has been granted great latitude in opening decisions, and all decisions are fraught with risk. Opening before meeting ADHS guidelines risks a lawsuit if a student or staff member gets sick, and failing to open, and thus potentially not meeting the educational needs of students also constitutes a risk. Ms. Henry pointed out that these are difficult, complex decisions.

B. School Update/AIA – Mr. Matt Yost

Mr. Yost discussed current attendance for the school's distance learning program and actions the school is taking to address students' social and emotional needs. These include curriculum-based programs during regular class, and also described some purely social activities which have occurred or are planned.

One of those extracurricular activities for example, was a pajama party, nighttime storytelling social over Zoom. Other planned activities include game nights, and possibly a virtual dance party.

Mr. Yost updated the Board on possible options for winter sports, specifically basketball.

- The gymnasium has been confirmed as usable for basketball
- Bus travel, if utilized, would be restricted to players and coaches only in order to enable social distancing
- Other school districts have had sports even though the school remained closed for in-person instruction, with the team members kept separate as a “pod” from other students

While Mr. Yost noted that we could provide basketball, he recommended against it because of the indoor nature of basketball in a pandemic increased risk of transmission, and it risked a perception that we focused on athletics over academics.

C. Discussion and possible action

Discussion:

The following is a brief overview of the topics which were discussed during this period. It is provided here to represent the general nature of the discussion, should not be considered a verbatim transcription of the discussion.

The discussion began with a statement from Mr. Hartigan that he would like to see students back in school in-person. He didn't feel that students were making adequate progress in a full-distance learning program. After making this statement, he opened the discussion to comments from other Board members.

The discussion generally covered options for when to bring students back for in-person learning. Key points made, which included invited comments from the school Principal and Superintendent, included:

- If in-person instruction began on Nov 16, this would result in a disruption of learning while staff and teachers were learning new processes. Then there would be a break for Thanksgiving. Do we want to have students on campus after possibly traveling for the holiday? If we waited till the following week, we'd have two weeks of instruction before winter break.
- We could start in-person instruction after winter break; however, there is the similar risk of starting right after Thanksgiving, heightened risk of virus spread from families traveling, suggesting a delay for in-person to the second week of January.
- This is only 3 weeks before the end of the semester, and disruptive just before end of semester finals and second quarter benchmarks.
- Dr. Bria suggested that we could shorten the semester, and transition to in-person learning earlier in January.
- There was discussion about starting preschool in-person instruction on Nov 16, since the focus of preschool is social interaction, not testable academic growth.

- Ms. Tosca Henry, school legal counsel, noted that while the Board has broad leeway in decision-making on when to return to in-person instruction, whatever criteria the Board uses for their opening decision, it needs to be uniform across the grades.
- The Board accepted input from the Preschool teacher on starting preschool students in November.
- The Board accepted input from the audience in attendance, and heard input from:
 - Ms. April Krombeen – Preschool Teacher
 - Ms. Rebecca Markstein – Second Grade Teacher
 - Ms. Adrian Alvarez – Middle School Science Teacher
- The Board also discussed the pros and cons of offering winter sports, specifically basketball and if it was appropriate to sponsor athletics when the school was not in session for in-person instruction.

Mr. Hartigan concluded the discussion with the below motion.

Motion: Continue distance learning until the end of the first semester, January 28, 2021. Delay sports for the remainder of the first school semester. Continue to consider the ADHS guidelines, utilizing official reports from Arizona State and Coconino County and/or distribution of vaccine.

By: Mr. Kevin Hartigan

Second: Ms. SuZan Pearce

At: 7:50 PM

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

Motion carries.

Directions to the staff:

Create uniform criteria for preschool and/or other appropriate grade levels to return for in-person instruction before the second semester, for discussion at the next regular board meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Adjourn
By: Mr. Kevin Hartigan
Second: Ms. SuZan Pearce
At: 07:55 PM

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

Motion passes, meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by, _____
Board Secretary

Date _____

Kevin Hartigan
Board President

Pete Shearer
Board Member

Joe Rabon
Board Clerk/Vice President

Kathryn Morris
Board Member

SuZan Pearce
Board Member

Attachments:

- A: ADHS Changes to safe opening criteria