



ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

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GOVERNING BOARD

Pam Reicks, President ■ Natalie Veidmark, Clerk
Laura Arita ■ Patti Hussey ■ Patty Kennedy

SUPERINTENDENT

Brian Capistran

Governing Board Study Session Administrative Center/Board Room January 20, 2024

In compliance with ARS 38-431.01, and consistent with the requirement set forth in ARS 38-431.02, notices of this study session held in public were appropriately posted.

Call to Order: President Reicks called the study session to order at 9:01 am.

Governing Board Present: Pam Reicks, President; Natalie Veidmark, Clerk; members Laura Arita, Patti Hussey and Patty Kennedy.

Also Present: Allison Mattingly, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Matt Belden, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Resources; Justin Tarver, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Amanda McAdams, Executive Director of Academic Support and School Safety; Kim Mesquita, Executive Director of Community Relations; and Joie Eddings, Administrative Assistant to the Governing Board.

Welcome/Overview: Ms. Mattingly welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the agenda.

Academic Achievement – Allison Mattingly, Associate Superintendent

The *Curriculum & Instruction Department* is made up of curriculum coordinators for each content area. They support our learning system with workshops, a C & I website which provides content information, campus visits, individual cross-content teacher support, professional learning communities, sub-committees, professional development for first thru third year teachers and collaborating with instructional specialists. The coordinators have started working in sub-committees to better prepare and support each other in larger group meetings. They have been attending conferences to receive professional development in current trends, curriculum and technology. The team's positive dynamic has been a great benefit.

Career & Technical Education has many singletons and are focusing on bringing the groups together to create a district-wide PLC (Professional Learning Community) to support these teachers. There has been TQI (Total Quality Improvement) monitoring this year with positive results. CTSO (Career & Technical Student Organization) groups were provided training for student officers.

Special Education has had a strong focus on their State audit. IEP (Individualized Education Plans) writing training has been an area of focus on purposeful student growth.

Information & Technology has their security team working diligently and proactively in mitigating possible threats to network security. The instructional team works with teachers by using a ticketing system for support and resolving issues. We are a data driven organization, and they work to make that data understandable and useful to teachers to support student success.

Letter Grades were reviewed and how letter grades were calculated.

Student Success & ACT is a focus and achieved by embedding skills in all curriculum areas, high standards, first instruction, intervention programs, data driven decisions and continuous improvement.

College, Career & Life Readiness timeline was reviewed touching on portrait of a graduate, career pathways, work-based learning and internships and a Capstone project. The Major Clarity program assists with tracking data, college application letters, scholarship information and many other resources.

Empowering All Students for the Choices and Challenges of the Twenty-First Century

Apollo ■ Cortez ■ Glendale ■ Greenway ■ Independence ■ Moon Valley ■ Sunnyslope ■ Thunderbird ■ Washington ■ Online Learning Academy

Finance - Nate Bowler, Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Bowler reviewed the different areas of finance – budgets/finance, student nutrition, payroll, employee benefits, purchasing/inventory, accounting/audit. He highlighted the District continues to receive honors for excellence in financial reporting from Arizona School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association.

He gave an overview of 2023 projected classroom spending report percentages. That report projects that classroom spending has increased and non-classroom spending has decreased. He previewed financial challenges including projected declining enrollment, inflation and economic conditions.

Mr. Bowler gave an overview of minimum wage challenges and stated that in 2016 minimum wage was \$8.05 and as of January 2024 is \$14.35 which is a 78.3% increase. He reviewed classified wages and the projected effect of minimum wage increases on the rest the classified salary schedule as well as the overall District budget. He gave an overview of revenues versus expenditures for food service funds noting the significant increase in food costs. There was information about opportunities for part-time employees to increase their hours by working with other departments.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a program we are researching. If we qualify, it allows for free breakfast and lunch to be served to all students with no applications. The State determines Identified student populations (ISP) and whether the District qualifies for CEP.

Operations and Resources Matt Belden, Assistant Superintendent

Relevant Athletics was an overview of participation rates, increased offerings, achievements, high expectations and sportsmanship.

Bond Projects that have been completed, progress of current projects and future projects were reviewed noting that all campuses have been touched by bond improvements.

Elections have made these projects possible for our schools. The Board could consider going out for a bond election in 2024. Mr. Belden presented data as to how inflation has negatively affected bond dollars with increased costs. He suggested future bond projects might include school safety, building improvements, land acquisition and capital equipment. He reviewed the process and timelines for a 2024 bond election.

Community Relations - Kim Mesquita, Executive Director

Ms. Mesquita explained he department communicates with internal and external audiences through direct mail, email, website, social media and handles all crisis communication. These efforts promote our great work, increase/retain student enrollment, teacher recruitment/retention and manage our positive reputation.

Advertising in and for our District includes social media ads, Google™ ads, geofencing, retargeting, billboards, creating attendance campaign materials and various fliers and folders for events.

Districtwide events include Back to School Rally, Achievement Above All events, Future Freshman Night, Pathways to America's Top Colleges and Universities, GUHSD Career Fairs, 25-Year/Retiree event and graduations.

Marketing provided a review of data of users, followers and subscribers for our website, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Ms. Mesquita reviewed website dashboard data from July 1, 2023 to the present in a little more detail.

Academic Support & School Safety – Amanda McAdams, Executive Director

Federal Grants: These support our Core Value that all students can learn. She reviewed the different areas, people and programs that support student achievement through the Title Federal grant funds. Through Federal grant funds we support students and community in freshman transitions, through parent engagement and the McKinney-Vento program. She reviewed data for extended media center hours and ParentVue engagement.

Project AWARE: Mental health agencies/student and staff wellness, Kagan and Link training, social worker professional development and Lead district social worker are areas supported by the grant. GUHSD Parent University was very successful last year. We have scheduled three Parent University events this semester about fentanyl, vaping and cyber security which will include digital footprint.

School Safety: We are developing and implementing a safety checklist for possible events/scenarios, cameras, law enforcement teaming to encourage common terminology and build communication, FEMA training and ADE content training.

Human Resources Justin Tarver, Assistant Superintendent

Staff: Mr. Tarver processed how we attract quality people with our teacher job fair, support staff screening day, marketing and relationships are just some of the ways. We have strong relationships with educational institutions across our State. We provide opportunities for student teachers and interns to work with our teachers many of who elect to apply to teach in our district upon completion of their degrees.

Attendance Campaign: There has been a strong focus on improving attendance. The campaign was very successful resulting in 4,941 fewer absences first semester in 2023 in comparison to first semester in 2022.

Safe & Orderly Campuses: Monthly meetings with Assistant Principals for Discipline & Attendance, new APDA training, principal professional learning community and culture building help to maintain safe and orderly campuses. Digital citizenship has been implemented through our technology department which alert APDAs when there are frequent suspect searches by students in an effort to keep students safe.

Professional Development: Instructional leadership training, new-hire orientation for classified, instructional assistant training and aspiring administrator workshops foster and support growth.

Calendars/Legislative Update/Policy Advisories

Calendar: Ms. Mattingly reviewed the calendar information for the remainder of the semester.

Legislative Update: Ms. Mattingly let the Board know that we are monitoring bills that impact education.

Policy Advisory: Ms. Mattingly explained that we will be adding policy revisions to upcoming agendas.

Summary

Ms. Mattingly closed by thanking the Board for the opportunity to share information and successes.

Board Comments: Expressed appreciation for the information and hard work.

Adjournment: President Reicks adjourned the meeting at 3:17 pm.

APPROVED:

Pam Reicks, President _____

Natalie Veidmark, Clerk _____

Laura Arita, Member _____

Patti Hussey, Member _____

Patty Kennedy, Member _____

Joie Eddings
Administrative Assistant
Governing Board