

**MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**1801 East Fir, Cottonwood, AZ 86326**

**GOVERNING BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
Mingus Union High School Library  
Thursday, July 11, 2024 6:00 PM

**Governing Board:**

Lori Drake  
Misty Cox  
Anthony Lozano  
Carol Anne Teague  
Austin Babcock

**Also Present:**

Melody Herne, Superintendent  
Lynn Leonard, Finance Director  
Bridget Hillman, Admin Asst.  
Josh Fant, IT Director

**OPENING**

**Call to Order**

Board President Drake called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

**Roll Call**

Board President Lori Drake, Vice President Misty Cox, Board Member Carol Anne Teague, and Board Member Austin Babcock are present. Board Member Anthony Lozano was not in attendance.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge was led by Superintendent Melody Herne.

**Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Board President Drake asked for any changes to the agenda. Superintendent Herne states we have one change and one announcement. Superintendent Herne requested Item 6.7 under the consent agenda be removed due to duplication of this agenda item. Announcement for Item 7.5 this item came before the board in May and June will have an update to reflect current superintendent as Superintendent Melody Herne once adopted.

**Motion** was made by Board President Drake to adopt the agenda with the removal of item 6.7 due to duplication and revision of item update to reflect current superintendent. Second was made by Vice President Cox.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye  
**Motion** passed 4-0.

### **Board Meeting Minutes Not Previously Approved**

**Motion** was made by Board Member Teague to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for June 13, 2024 and the Work Session Minutes of June 25, 2024, as presented. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye  
**Motion** passed 4-0.

### **PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Herne gave an update on upcoming current events for the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. The board is formally invited to attend the District welcome on July 30, 2024.

#### **Administration Report**

**Interim Principal Dave Beery and Dean of Students Katherine Forbes highlighted changes to the approved SY2024-2025 Student Handbook.**

Interim Principal Dave Beery and Dean of Students Katherine Forbes reviewed changes to the 2024-2025 Student Handbook. Board President Drake and all members expressed a job well done. The work session was very successful.

#### **Public Comments**

Andrea Meyer asked the board to consider placing the Smart Access court reservation system on the August board agenda. The Smart Access program is nationally endorsed by the US Tennis Organization, will promote safety of court use during school hours, bring goodwill to the community, and has had large success in the Prescott District and other districts. The Smart Access program also had the support of former Superintendent Mike Westcott.

#### **Public Hearing**

**The board moved into Public Hearing at 6:10 p.m.**

Public Hearing and discussion regarding the FY25 MUHSD Expenditure Budget. As authorized by A.R.S 15-905, on request of any person, the Governing Board and or Finance Director Lynn Leonard shall explain budget.

There were no questions brought forward regarding the FY25 MUHSD Expenditure Budget. **Public Hearing was closed at 6:15 p.m. The board returned to the regular meeting at 6:16 p.m.**

**ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT** *Specific information on routine vouchers and personnel will be available at the District Office 24 hours prior to Board Meetings. Please see Governing Board Secretary during regular office hours. (All items listed hereunder are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board Member requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be discussed separately.)*

**6.1 Approval of Routine Vouchers**

Expense, Payroll, and Bookstore Activity

**6.2 Personnel**

HR Report, Classified, 2024-2025 Extra Duty Report, Stipends, and MUHSD Personnel Handbook SY2024-2025.

**6.3 Donation**

1981 Mercedes-Benz 380SL donated to the Auto Department.

**6.4 Policy Second Readings**

Second Readings of ASBA Policy Advisory 787 as it pertains to modifications to District Policy IJNDB - Use of Technology Resources in Instruction and ASBA Policy Advisory 716 as it pertains to new District Policy JLDAB - Referrals to Other Agencies and modifications to Policy IIE - Student Schedules and Course Loads.

**6.6 Agreement**

FY25 School Resource Officer Agreement with the City of Cottonwood

Board Member Babcock request to pull Item 6.5 Textbook Supplemental.

Vice President Cox asked for clarification that a hard copy of the Personnel Handbook is on file at the District Office. Superintendent Herne stated that a hard copy is present at the District Office and is sent out to staff. The staff will also sign a form at the beginning of the year indicating their knowledge of the Personnel Handbook.

**Motion** was made by Board President Drake to approve the Consent Agenda excluding Item 6.5 Textbook Supplemental. Second was made by Board Member Teague.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

## ITEM 6.5 – Textbook Supplemental

Board Member Babcock has questions regarding the supplemental text. Board Member Babcock asked if he could ask a few hypothetical questions, and Superintendent Herne to answer. If he were to write a book and travel back in time, then decided to blame all the problems of society on one particular group for example Jews. Would that be a book that we would be comfortable teaching at Mingus? Superintendent Herne answers based on our Judeo Christian beliefs which govern a lot of what we do in a seven day week, five day work week, and resting on the seventh that it probably would not be the best choice. Board Member Babcock asked so what if we decided to blame all of societies' problems on Islam and the Islamic culture. Would that be any better than blaming it on the Jews? Superintendent Herne answered just in good faith to being loving neighbors we never want single out any one group to point blame on. This would also not be a book we would want in the public school system. Board Member Babcock asked what if the book blamed all society problems on the LGBTQ community, their way of life, choices, and leaders. Would that be a book we would want in the public school system? Superintendent Herne answers we want to make sure everyone has a sense of belonging in the public school system. No, we would not want to signal out one group on anything. That is not a book we would want in the public school system. Board Member Babcock asked Board Member Teague as a strong advocate of the LGBTQ community if she would share the same sentiments. Board Member Teague agrees. Board Member Babcock also agrees that he would not want that type of books taught or in our school. Board Member Babcock asked when in history has it worked well when a group has been marginalized? When has it been helpful to stigmatize people for their differences? Do we marginalize people here at Mingus? Is it not our motto to celebrate everyone and respect everyone. Marginalization creates division, division leads to hate, and hate leads to problems we see on the news. Board Member Babcock hopes we all share the interest of respect for others, the life they choose to live, their beliefs even if their culture and way of life is different than ours. Board Member Babcock final question does this book, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Auther's Court* by Mark Twain; blame one group of people, specifically Catholics, for the wrongs of present and past society? Board Member Babcock list several reviews that mentions Hank Morgan (the main charter) distain for the Catholic church and the signaling out Catholics for all of society's problems. Reviews mention are from Cliff Notes, Wikipedia, Univiserty of Virgina, University of New Mexico, and University of Connecticut. In conclusion Board Member Babcock asked does this book blame one group of people, Catholics, for the past and present problems of the world? It seems that it does. Due to this Board Member Babcock does not believe this book measures up to our shared interest of respect for all people. Superintendent Herne thanks Board Member Babcock for his diligence in his research of this book. She apologies for not being as diligent in her research and recommends that the Leadership Team will be more diligent in the future.

**Motion** was made by Board Member Babcock to *not* accept *A Connecticut Yankee in King Author's Court* by Mark Twain for the supplemental reading in the English Department due to the marginalization of a signal group Catholics. Board Member Babcock clarifies yes vote would be to *not accept* the vote and a no vote would be to *accept* the vote. Second was made by Board President Drake.

Board President Drake clarifies again, that a yes would be to decline this book and a no vote would allow this book.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent

Board Member Teague states that this is a hard decision due to wanting to support the recommendations of Mingus teachers and administration however, Board Member Babcock has presented a very moving case. Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**ACTION ITEMS - DISTRICT BUSINESS**

*(Specific items of District business as listed for consideration - may include various categorical areas as the business of the District necessitates Board discussion, deliberation, and action)*

**Fiscal Year 2025 Adopted Budget- Consideration and possible approval of the adopted FY25 budget for the Mingus Union High School District No. 4** (Staff Resource: Lynn Leonard)

Finance Director Lynn Leonard presented last month as proposed budget and no changes have been made.

**Motion** was made by Board President Drake to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Adopted Budget for Mingus Union High School District No.4. Second was made by Board Member Teague.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Beyond Textbooks IGA – Consideration of the District's IGA renewal with Vail Unified School District for the Beyond Textbooks Program.** (Staff Resource: Interim Principal Dave Beery and Superintendent Melody Herne)

Interim Principal Dave Beery reviewed the IGA with Vail Unified School District for Beyond Textbooks Program. Vice President Cox asked do we get our curriculum from Beyond Textbooks. Interim Principal Beery states we get our curriculum map from Beyond Textbooks. Superintendent Herne states that curriculum and state standards will come from Arizona Department of Education. There are plans for another work session where discussion will be had regarding smart goals for Class Room Site Funds and the use of Beyond Textbooks.

**Motion** was made by Board Member Teague to approve the District's IGA renewal with Vail Unified School District for the Beyond Textbooks Program. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Student Activities Fundraisers – Discussion and possible approval of categories of student fundraising activities and supervisory staff roles. (Staff Resource: Lynn Leonard)**

Finance Director Lynn Leonard reviewed the categories of the student fundraising activities and supervisory staff roles. This is done yearly and is what is instructed by auditors for compliance. Interim Principal Dave Beery as the delegate for the approval of student activities fundraising for FY25 and student activities co-treasurer. Lynn Leonard will be the student activities treasurer.

Board President Drake calls for separation of supervisory staff roles with each in a separate motion.

**Motion** was made by Board President to approve the Student Activities Fundraisers as presented. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Motion** was made by Board President Drake to approve Interim Principal Dave Beery as the delegate for the approval of student activities fundraising for FY25 as presented. Second was made by Board Member Babcock.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Motion** was made by Board President Drake to approve Finance Director Lynn Leonard as the student activities treasurer and Interim Principal Dave Beery co-treasurer as presented. Second was made by Board Member Teague.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Exceed M &O Subsections - Discussion and possible approval of the Maintenance and Operation Agreement with Yavapai County Education Service Agency.** (Staff Resource: Lynn Leonard)

Finance Director Lynn Leonard reviewed the Maintenance and Operation Agreement with Yavapai County Education Service Agency. This is done yearly.

**Motion** was made by Board Member Babcock to approve the Maintenance and Operation Agreement with Yavapai County Education Service Agency as presented. Second was made by Board President Drake.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**EdForward (BENJI) – MOU between Education Forward Arizona and Mingus Union HS District NO. 4 to increase FAFSA awareness and completion rates and to inform key stakeholders regarding financial aid and postsecondary steps. Additionally, to provide professional development for teachers, counselors, administrators, peer mentors, and community stakeholders.**

Board President Drake reiterates that contract will be updated to state Superintendent Herne.

Upon the request of Superintendent Herne, Director of Student Support Gretchen Wesbrock explains how Mingus Union High School utilizes the MOU between Education Forward Arizona. This is a free program.

**Motion** was made by Board President Drake to approve the EdForward (BENJI) – MOU as presented. Second was made by Vice President Cox.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Executive Session**

The Governing Board may vote to convene an executive session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) to consider Superintendent Evaluation Tool. If convened, only members of the Board and those individuals whose presences is reasonably necessary for the Board to carry out its executive session responsibilities may attend the executive session. All business conducted in executive session is confidential.

**Motion** was made by Board President Drake to move into Executive Session. Second was made by Vice President Cox.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**The board moved into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.**

**Motion** was made by Board President Drake for the board to come out of Executive Session. Second was made by Board Member Teague.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye  
Vice President Misty Cox - Aye  
Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent  
Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye  
Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Executive Session was closed at 7:42 p.m. The board returned to the regular meeting at 7:43 p.m.**



## **Public Meeting Notice**

**Motion** was made by Board President Drake to approve ASBA Superintendent Evaluation Tool to be used annually for Superintendent Herne. Domain #4 will be excluded, and Superintendent Goals will be added. Second was made by Vice President Cox.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent

Board Member Carol Anne Teague – Due to the removal of Domain #4 which deals with diversity, equity, and inclusion vote - Nay

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 3-1

### **Request for Future Agenda Items**

- Smart Access System
- Parking Lot
- ALICE Training
- Verkada Update
- Key Card System for access
- SFB update

### **Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Vice President Cox to adjourn the meeting. Second was made by Board President Drake.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

Board President Lori Drake - Aye

Vice President Misty Cox - Aye

Board Member Anthony Lozano - Absent

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

**Motion** passed 4-0.

**Adjournment:** 8:00 p.m.

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Board President Lori Drake

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Vice President Misty Cox