

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

GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF WORK SESSION MEETING

Mingus Union High School Library
Tuesday, June 25, 2024 5:00 PM

Governing Board: Lori Drake Misty Cox Anthony Lozano Carol Anne Teague Austin Babcock	Also Present: Mike Westcott, Superintendent Melody Herne, Superintendent Lynn Leonard, Finance Director Bridget Hillman, Admin Asst. Josh Fant, IT Director
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OPENING

Call to Order

Board President Drake called the work session to order at 5:00pm.

Roll Call

Board President Lori Drake, Vice President Misty Cox, Board Member Carol Anne Teague, Board Member Anthony Lozano and Board Member Austin Babcock are all present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was led by Katherine Forbes.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Board President Drake to adopt the agenda 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 - Aye

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Motion passed 5-0

Public Comments

No public comment paperwork was submitted for this meeting.

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 the Governing Board Secretary during regular office hours. All items listed hereunder are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by one motion. Any Board member concern about a consent agenda item can be raised with the Governing Board Secretary prior to the meeting. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be discussed and acted upon separately.)

3.1 Verkada/Oculens contract camera/detector system upgrades and maintenance plan. Superintendent Herne updated the board regarding final addendum to the end user agreement between Verkada INC. and Mingus Union High School District. This addendum had been reviewed by the attorney and given to our board members during the public meeting.

Motion was made by Board Member Teague to approve the Consent Agenda 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 -Aye
Board Member Carol Anne Teague -Aye
Board Member Austin - Aye
Motion passed 5-0

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)

Budget Reproposal

Finance Director Lynn Leonard reviewed the repropoed FY25 budget due to the current information that was released by the Arizona Auditor General.

Motion was made by Board Member Babcock to approve the repurposed FY25 budget 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 – Aye

Board Member Carol Anne Teague - Aye

Board Member Austin Babcock - Aye

Motion passed 5-0

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

(Matters about which the Board may engage in discussion but will take no action during the meeting)

Academy at Mingus presentation on processes and procedures for the Academy at Mingus (Staff Resource: Superintendent Herne and Director Gee)

Superintendent Herne and Director Gee presented the processes and procedures for the Academy at Mingus. A question answer session followed the presentation with the board and presenters.

Board Member Babcock asked if the Academy will be on the Wednesday late start schedule. Director Gee said no that is one day of week when the students will need their own transportation. Board Member Babcock asked if lunch would be the same for the Academy as the main campus and if we are comfortable with the Academy students on the main campus. Director Gee answered yes, these students are not behaviorally placed. We want to try to place them on the same schedule and structure as Mingus Union High School. Board Member Babcock asked how old a student can be at the Academy. Superintendent Herne said a student can be 22 years old with an Individualized Education Plan. Board Member Babcock asked do we want 22/23-year-olds having lunch students. Director Gee stated that currently the clientele we are selecting for the Academy are Mingus Union High School students. We do not have any students of this age at the Academy. If we had an individual of that age interested, we would steer them to Grad Solutions who we partnership with. Vice President Cox asked what the projected number is of enrollment. Superintendent Herne said we have space for 70 students; however, a complete list is not available due to students needing to go through the intake process. Students will begin the intake process in the first two weeks of school. We are hopeful to have around forty students in the Academy program. Vice President Cox asked can students choose to stay in the traditional setting if they wanted to. Superintendent Herne said if the student completes all work in the first four-hour block, they could take a period five and or six on the main campus. Vice President Cox asked how many employees will be staffed at the Academy. Director Gee answered we would have the director and two support staff. Vice President Cox asked how frequently will progress checks be performed. Superintendent Herne answered that once goals are set with the students for their classes they will meet with Director Gee at least every week and a half to two weeks. Board Member Babcock asked what we are going to do if the student is not following their plan. Director Gee answered that the goal for these students is graduation. This is not going to look like a traditional high classroom. This is a place for practically adult learners. It will be a comprehensive wrap around support for our high need students that we want to see graduate. Board Member Babcock states that he wants students to graduate too but will there be guidelines for what needs to be done. Director Gee answers yes, those are being developed and will be presented to the board for review once completed. Vice President Cox asked can the board have a quarterly report. Superintendent Herne answered yes, that is something she and Director Gee had discussed. Vice President Cox asked any curriculum apart from Edgenuity that would be brought in would need to be board

approved. Superintendent Herne answered yes. Vice President Cox asked do we have a goal for the year for the number of students in the Academy to see if this is a viable program. Director Gee asked Vice President Cox to clarify is this for an individual student. Vice President Cox answered no more total number of students. If we only have five students, I don't think that's viable. Superintendent Herne for the first year is really about the progress piece for the students. Seeing that the students have completed some courses and are moving closer to graduation. That progress would be what we are looking for instead of overall numbers. Vice President Cox asked in the student handbook talked about absenteeism would the academy be a place where students would go to make up their credits. Superintendent Herne answers the ultimate goal for the Academy is for it to be a self-standing alternative school. Even though yes, they are under the Mingus rules it could be an option, we are really trying to work within the schedule. If the student has not completed their work in the four-hour block then they could continue working during period five and six. Director Gee states we see the need to reach out into our community and get back those students who may have dropped out. We know that there is chronic absenteeism and disengagement across the country. A great point of measure for this program will be to see how many of those students we can attract and retain back into the school setting. Board President Drake states that this program is a great idea. Board Member Babcock states the Academy is really being geared for students to graduate, not a behavioral placement. Superintendent Herne answers that is correct. Board President Drake comments we do have a large group of children who have struggled coming back to school after COVID socially and emotionally. When we branded the Academy after COVID, it did work well some students came back to Mingus but some did not. Our goal is to graduate kids. Board Member Babcock asked that every student will have a one on one review of rules, plan and expectations. Director Gee answers yes and invites the board to come and see the Academy in action once it is up and running. Board Member Cox asked how closely does the Edgenuity curriculum align with the Mingus Union High School curriculum. Superintendent Herne answers when working within the schedule, period five and six will allow for direct instruction. For our juniors they will still need to take the state assessment and ACT. In the Edgenuity program there is a place where we can see how the state standards line up with the Edgenuity lessons. We then can supplement during period five and six with an ELA or Math instructor. Vice President Cox asked the student has to physical be present on campus. Superintendent Herne answers yes, students must be present in the building. This is not a remote program. Board Member Babcock asked do the students have the attendance requirements. Director Gee answers yes, we will have attendance considerations. We do not want this to be a pipeline for students to drop back out. We want to keep them engaged and focused. Back to the curriculum question our current Learning Lab teacher Stephanie Vocca worked with content area PLC's to make sure that the courses in Edgenuity align with current content being taught in the Mingus Union High School classrooms. There would not be any curriculum used at the Academy that had not been board approved. Board Member Teague thanked Superintendent Herne and Director Gee for their hard work. Board Member Teague states that Superintendent Herne and Director Gee were given some very direct questions, and the answer is that the Academy will evolve as we do this. Superintendent Herne expressed her excitement for Mingus to provide away to get students back on the campus and graduate is tremendous.

MUHS Student Handbook and Discipline Matrix Collaborative session on the FY2025 Student Handbook and Discipline Matrix. (Staff Resource: Superintendent Herne, Leadership Team, Guiding Coalition)

Superintendent Herne opens the collaborative session with the Leadership Team and Guiding Coalition members. Superintendent Herne asked the team to introduce themselves. Those present were: Interim Principal Dave Beery, Paige Bodam AVID elective teacher, Molly Quesada English teacher, Susanna Ventura AP World teacher & Instructional Coach, Academy Director Genie Gee, Stephanie Selna Science teacher, Assistant Principal Shannon Anderson, and Dean of Students Katherine Forbes.

Interim Principal Beery presented information on the Discipline Matrix. During the presentation, questions arise by the board they were answered by the panel. Dean of Students Katherine Forbes presented reviews for the SY2024-2025 Student Handbook. During the presentation, when questions arise by the board they were answered by the panel. Revisions of the Student Handbook were documented by Dean of Students Katherine Forbes. At the conclusion of the collaborative session the updates and revisions for the SY2024-2025 Student Handbook were completed.

An open discussion between the panel and the board regarding issues that the staff face on a day-to-day basis took place.

Board Member Anthony Lozano asked President Drake to be excused for the remainder of the meeting. Board Member Lozano was excused at 6:52 pm.

Motion was made by President Drake to approve the MUHS Student Handbook and Discipline Matrix with the revised edits 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

Requests for Future Agenda Items

Quarterly updates regarding the Academy and Discipline

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Board Member Teague to adjourn the meeting. 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.

Adjournment: 6:59 pm

Board President Lori Drake

Vice President Misty Cox