

# Nogales Unified School District No. 1



## NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 24, 2022 held at 4:00 p.m.

### I. Attendance:

**The following Board Members were present:**

Robert Rojas, President, Manuel Ruiz, Clerk; Members, Marcelino Varona, Jr., and Greg Lucero

Board Member not present: Cesar A. Lopez

#### a. Call to Order

**Mr. Rojas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.**

#### b. Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Parra (via zoom) led all in the Pledge.

At this time, Superintendent Parra asked for a point of order to offer their condolences to Mr. Gabriel Castillo, Technician at the District Office, for the passing of his father.

#### c. Adoption of the Agenda

Superintendent Parra recommended approval asking that item V.a-1 be continued until February's meeting due to Ms. Danitza Lopez being unable to be present at this time and setting aside Consent Agenda Item "r" for discussion.

Dr. Varona also requested to set aside Consent Agenda Items q, w, y, and z for discussion.

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Lucero for approval of the agenda with the changes requested by Superintendent Parra and Dr. Varona.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Ruiz, Lucero, Varona, and Rojas

### II. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pupil Disciplinary Review

*The Governing Board may call an executive session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431-03(A)(2) (records confidential by law), A.R.S. §15-843 Pupil Disciplinary Proceedings, District Governing Board policy JKD, and the Behavior Management Handbook for Students and Parents, to consider the student's appeal of the decision of the District appointed Hearing Officer to require a student to attend Pierson High School for the remainder of the current academic year as a result of the student's misconduct.*

Superintendent Parra recommended to exit to go into executive session with exception of his administrative team.

The Board opened for discussion regarding the Petitioner having the option of having the meeting open to the public or go into executive session.

Mr. Gonzalez, Esq., clarified that said option had been mentioned in the District's letter received and that they had agreed to have the meeting in executive session.

Dr. Varona made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Ruiz to exit the regular meeting and enter into executive session

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Varona, Ruiz, Lucero, and Rojas

**The Board exited the Board Room at 4:10pm**

**III. Reconvene Regular Meeting**

**Mr. Rojas reconvened the Regular Meeting at 5:30 p.m.**

At this time item IX-a, was discussed.

**IV. Approval of Governing Board Minutes of December 8, 2021 and Special Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2022.**

Superintendent Parra recommended approval as presented.

Dr. Varona made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Ruiz for approval.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Varona, Ruiz, Lucero, and Rojas

**V. Governing Board/Superintendent Information**

- a. Superintendent Report – Discussion, Celebration, Recognition, Announcements
  1. Public Library Information/Resources – Ms. Danitza Lopez, City of Nogales Public Library Director

**This item was continued for February's date, per Superintendent Parra's request.**

At this time, Superintendent Parra thanked the Board for their understanding and support during his absence and being working from home these past months. He thanked Alex Lopes, Technology Director, and the Technology Team for setting him up to be present at this meeting via zoom.

**2. ADHS Selection of NUSD to Receive Covid-19 Rapid Tests**

Superintendent Parra gave an overview and mentioned the District was very happy to have been chosen to receive these tests. He further mentioned that NUSD was one of the five (5) schools in the State selected to receive the tests. He, furthermore, thanked everyone Districtwide for following the guidelines on the Covid protocol.



Mr. Rojas mentioned that the consistency was the main key in receiving these tests and that he had heard very good comments from all schools of the process and the way NUSD has been testing the students.

Dr. Varona echoed Mr. Rojas comments.  
He complemented the staff and the leadership team for doing a great job and being consistent in order to have the students safe and to be successful.

Mr. Lucero mentioned it had been very hard to get tests in town and congratulated Superintendent Parra and Assistant Superintendent Canto for doing a great job.

Mr. Ruiz congratulated the District and mentioned it was important for the community to continue with all protocols.  
He further congratulated Superintendent Parra, Assistant Superintendent Canto, and staff for doing a great job.

Superintendent Parra mentioned the District had been very fortunate and that he hoped it would be able to sustain staying open without any reason to close in person teaching again.

a. Governing Board Report, Celebration, Recognition, Announcements

Mr. Lucero mentioned that now that the Legislature was back in session, that it was important to track down Legislature's ideas and give a report of which bills are being introduced that will impact the District locally.

Mr. Ruiz reported he attended the State-of-the-State Address in Tucson and mentioned that its report on schools was not good. He mentioned the highlights of what had been discussed during the session.

Dr. Varona congratulated Challenger on their board report, especially the reporting of their 100-day celebration.

Dr. Varona also mentioned that based on the report received at the last board retreat this past December, he requested the District to present a report on test results for AJ Mitchel's assessment data, faculty observation, and how the School Principal was making a difference.

He also suggested having the International Education Day Celebration at the schools highlighting the purpose of this special day and the importance it may have especially for the International Baccalaureate. He asked that a thank-you note be sent to all teachers on behalf of the Governing Board for all their hard work.

He further mentioned that Thursday was the International United Nations Holocaust Remembrance Day and stated the importance for students to be educated in this subject.

Mr. Rojas asked that during the months of February and March if in a safe and responsible way, they could do a walk throughout the schools and see the principals, and how everything is going.

VI. Call to the Public

There was no call to the public.

## VII. Consent Agenda

Superintendent Parra recommended approval as presented with exception of items q, r, w, y, & z as previously requested.

He further mentioned that a letter of appreciation would be sent to donators highlighting especially item 'r'.

Mr. Lucero made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Ruiz for approval as presented to the Board.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

Lucero, Ruiz, Varona, and Rojas

- a. Ratification of Expense/Payroll Vouchers
- b. Ratification of Student Activities/Auxiliary Operations Vouchers
- c. Student Activities/Auxiliary Operations Funds Extra Curricular Tax Credit
- d. Approval of Donation by College Knowing & Going (College Success Arizona) (\$2,250 to NHS to be used for College Success AZ Grant)
- e. Approval of Donation by Country Fair White Elephant (Alan Cram) (\$11,000. To Mary Welty Elementary)
- f. Approval of Donation by Country Fair White Elephant (Alan Cram) (\$9,000. To AJ Mitchell Elementary)
- g. Approval of Donation by Country Fair White Elephant (Alan Cram) (\$7,000. To Robert M. Bracker Elementary)
- h. Approval of Donation by Country Fair White Elephant (Alan Cram) (\$9,000. To Challenger Elementary)
- i. Approval of Donation by Country Fair White Elephant (Alan Cram) (\$9,000. To Lincoln Elementary)
- j. Approval of Donation by Country Fair White Elephant (Alan Cram) (\$12,000. To Fco. Vasquez de Coronado Elementary)
- k. Approval of Donation by Country Fair White Elephant (Alan Cram) (\$14,000. To Nogales High School)
- l. Approval of Donation by Country Fair White Elephant (Alan Cram) (\$10,000. To Pierson High School)
- m. Approval of Donation by Country Fair White Elephant (Alan Cram) (\$10,000. To Wade Carpenter Middle School)
- n. Approval of Donation by Country Fair White Elephant (Alan Cram) (\$10,000. To Desert Shadows Middle School)
- o. Approval of Donation by Country Fair White Elephant (Alan Cram) (\$10,000. To Nogales Unified School District)
- p. Approval of Donation by ASBAIT (Jessica Coffey) (\$1,125. To NUSD for Employee Health and Wellness Incentives)
- q. **Approval of Donation by Royal Automotive Group (\$12,000. To NHS for Automotive Technologies Program)**

**Motion by Ruiz and Seconded by Mr. Lucero for approval.**

**Dr. Varona mentioned it was very nice to receive this donation adding to take in consideration buying from Automotive Technologies.**



**Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Ruiz, Lucero, Varona and Rojas**

- r. **Approval of Donation by Riverview Trust Company for the John P. and Mary Jean Sinclair Scholarship Account (\$129,288. To Fund College Scholarships for Students Graduating from NUSD)**

**Mr. Lucero and seconded by Mr. Ruiz for approval.**

**Superintendent Parra gave a brief overview.**

**Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Lucero, Ruiz, Varona and Rojas**

- s. **Approval of Transfer the John P. & Mary Jean Sinclair Scholarship Account to the Nogales Education Foundation**
- t. **Approval of Cooperative Contracts**
- u. **Approval of Fixed Asset Disposals/Transfers**
- v. **Approval of Request for Quotes RFQ2122-01 Award for FY 22-23 – Structured Cabling and Cabinet**
- w. **Approval of Personnel Agenda**

**Motion by Mr. Ruiz seconded by Mr. Lucero for approval.**

**Dr. Varona thanked Mr. Carlson for his service and congratulated him on his retirement at the end of the school year. He commended him for everything he has done for NUSD.**

**He further congratulated Robert Lugo, Lapita Ruiz, Elizabeth Turner-Thomson, and Ruben Verdugo on their retirement.**

**He concluded by mentioning how he had met and encouraged Mr. Verdugo to go into teaching.**

**Mr. Ruiz thanked Mr. Carlson for his service to NUSD.**

**He also thanked Superintendent Fernando Parra for all of the years of service to NUSD. He furthermore congratulated Lupita Ruiz, Mr. Tackett, Ms. Thomson, Mr. Lugo, Ms. Valenzuela, and Ms. Norma Rojas on their retirement.**

**He concluded stating he thanked all retirees for providing great service to NUSD.**

**Superintendent Parra mentioned an anecdote on Dr. Varona, back when he was an English teacher at NHS.**

**He congratulated all the teachers retiring and thanked them for being great educators.**

**He concluding by stating that he was hoping a retirement party could be organized for the summer.**

**Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Ruiz, Lucero, Varona, and Rojas**

- x. **Teacher Evaluation System Verification Statement of Assurance**
- y. **Approval of Revision of Salary Schedule for Increase to Substitute Pay Rates for School Year 2021-2022**

**Motion Mr. Ruiz seconded by Mr. Lucero for approval.**

**Dr. Varona requested an overview of the incentive.**

**Mayra Zuñiga, Human Resources Director, gave an overview of the shortage issue all around.**

**She mentioned the exceptions and limitations that the State Board of Education is doing in order to obtain substitutes. She stated the proposals/changes made.**

**Dr. Varona thanked Ms. Zuñiga for the report.**

**Superintendent Parra highlighted the Board's support in order to make this possible.**

**Motion carried unanimously by members:**

**Ruiz, Lucero, Varona, and Rojas**

- z. Approval of Paid Emergency Sick Leave Benefit Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Retroactively for the Period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022**

**Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Lucero for approval.**

**Dr. Varona highlighted this items for the teachers in order that they may understand what the District does on their behalf.**

**Ms. Zuniga gave a brief overview explaining the benefit.**

**Dr. Varona made a clarification that the Board supports this benefit.**

**Superintendent Parra thanked Ms. Zuñiga for working on the benefit and highlighted that without the Board's approval, this would not be possible.**

**Motion carried unanimously by members:**

**Ruiz, Lucero, Varona, and Rojas**

- aa. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the Arizona Board of Regents for and on behalf of Northern Arizona University and Nogales Unified School District**

**VIII. Action – No items**

**IX. Information, Discussion and Possible Action**

- a. Consideration and Possible Action of Board Approval of a Resolution to Request the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) to Provide Information to the District on how much ASBAIT has paid on a Yearly Basis to ASBA for the Past Five-Years with Respect to Health Insurance. This request is made as a member of ASBA and ASBAIT and under the Arizona Public Records Law, A.R.S. §39-121.**

**Superintendent Parra gave an overview of the action requested.**

**Ms. Segal elaborated on the ASBA disposition proceeds and ASBAIT.**

Dr. Varona explained the reason of how this issue came about and why the Board is making such request from ASBAIT and expressed his disappointment.

He made a request for a future presentation to possibly going with another health insurance provider.

He further asked that ASBA's dues not be paid without the strict approval of the Governing Board.

Dr. Varona made a motion to authorize Ms. Segal, Esq., to draft a letter for Board President, Robert Rojas Siqueiros' signature asking how much ASBAIT has paid on a yearly basis within the last five years to ASBA on health insurance. Request is being made as a member of ASBA and ASBAIT; motion seconded by Mr. Lucero.

Mr. Lucero stated he concurred with Dr. Varona's comments and stated he was not happy with ASBAIT's method.

He also requested as a future agenda item to have all other insurance options possible available for the Board's discussion.

He further recommended not using acronyms and instead the whole meaning of said acronym be used in order that the community may know the meaning.

Mr. Ruiz expressed his opinion and agreed with the members' comments.

Ms. Segal mentioned her firm at times represents ASBAIT but that it does not constitute a conflict.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Varona, Ruiz, Lucero, and Rojas

- b. Consideration to Reschedule the Regular Governing Board Meeting of February 14, 2022 to Monday, February 28, 2022

Dr. Varona made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Lucero for approval.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Varona, Lucero, Ruiz, and Rojas.

#### X. Adjournment

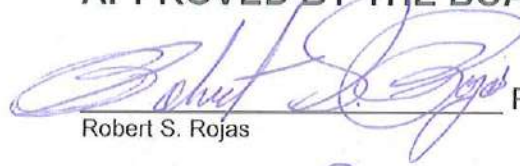
Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Dr. Varona for adjournment of the public meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

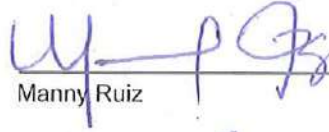
Ruiz, Varona, Lucero, and Rojas

**Session adjourned at 6.43 p.m.**

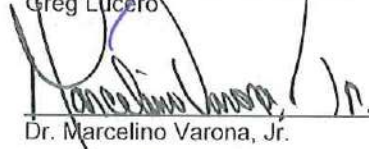
**APPROVED BY THE BOARD**


  
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Robert S. Rojas President

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary T. Lopez, Secretary  
February 28, 2022

  
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Manny Ruiz Clerk

  
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Greg Lucero Member

  
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Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr. Member

  
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Cesar A. Lopez Member

(For exact statements made during the Board Meeting, you may request a copy of the DVD)