



*Inspiring Hope and Empowering All Students To Courageously Pursue Their Goals and Dreams*

**Governing Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 4, 2021**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER THE REGULAR MEETING:** Mrs. Briceno, Governing Board Member, at 5:01 p.m., called the regular meeting to order.

Motion by Mrs. Doucet, seconded by Mrs. Briceno. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet

- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mrs. Nubia Briceno, and Mrs. Susan Doucet were in attendance. Mr. Delson Sunn was not in attendance.

Administration Present:

*Kristine Morris, Superintendent*

*Melanie Block, Director of Academic Services*

*Carrie Brandon, Director of Student Services*

*Dr. Randy Watkins- Hurley Ranch Principal*

*Matthew Haley, Network Administrator*

*Amanda McKeever, Executive Director of Business Services*

*Ana M. Avalos, Director of Human Resources*

*Michael Welsh, Union Principal- telephonically*

*Jonathan Stewart, Dos Rios Principal*

- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- IV. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Motion by Mrs. Briceno seconded by Mrs. Doucet to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet

- V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes.

*The call to the public will be restricted due to social distancing guidelines, therefore, limiting the number of participants at the meeting. This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Governing Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as a result of public comments will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.*

No public comments.

- VI. **SUPERINTENDENT SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS**

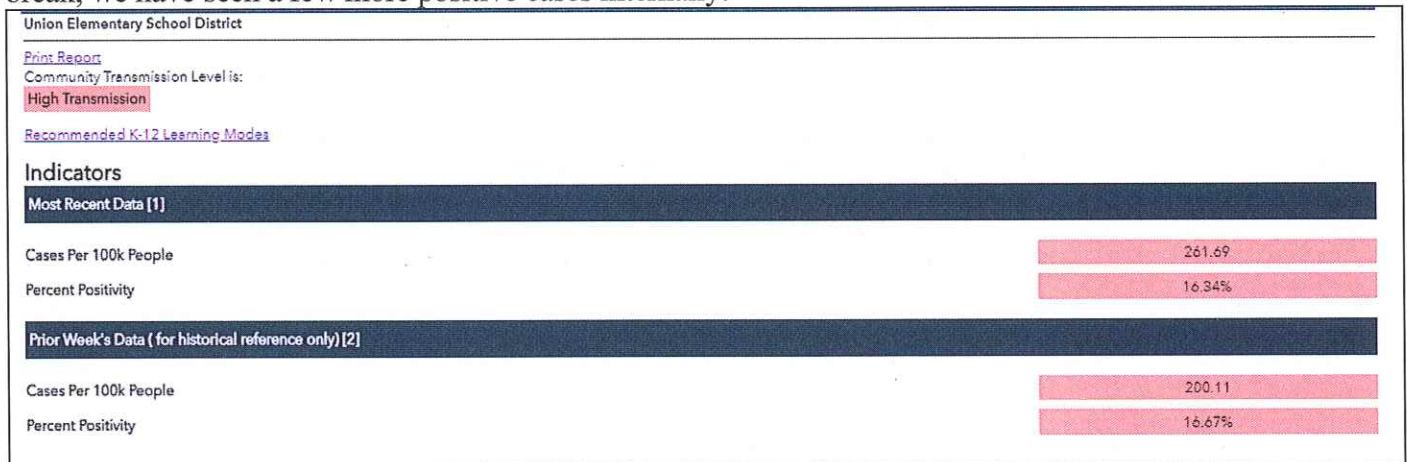
This week we started our first week of fall parent-teacher conferences. We are excited about our new format and the potential to engage families in meaningful conversations about achieving mutual goals for each child. This week we had early release on Tuesday and Wednesday, with evening conference opportunities at each site. Between now and November 12<sup>th</sup> our goal is to meet with each child's parent/guardian. Thank you to our team for providing these opportunities.

As you may recall from prior Board meetings, Union ESD was selected to participate in *Project Momentum*. A project supported by the Governor's Office that helps fund additional teacher collaboration time, professional development, and principal support. This initiative will help us strengthen our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and support our school leaders in designing structures and monitoring systems to ensure PLCs are implemented in a way that improves student learning. This week all three schools received their first visit from their principal coach. We welcomed Maria Eck, who will be working with Mr. Stewart; and Theresa West who will be working with Mr. Welsh and Dr. Watkins. We look forward to their collaboration and on-going support.

This week Arizona State Board of Education released the COVID-19 Academic Impact Report that uses data from the 2020-2021 school year to draw comparisons to prior years and identify the impact of COVID-19 on student learning. Statewide about 85% of all eligible students tested (our team tested about 97%). While data from 2020-2021 is not as complete, nor as reliable as in prior years, there are insights that the analysis gleaned. Significant takeaways mirror what we saw in Union and include the following: Early learning saw larger academic impacts; The impact to mathematics is larger than the impact of English language arts, but both were significantly and broadly impacted; Student mobility (i.e. students moving to different schools or to homeschooling) was higher compared to prior years; and English learners continue to struggle more than their English-language proficient peers.

The report went on to share that recovery and acceleration for student learning may require a broad, multi-year approach. The State Board was also legally obligated to identify below average performing schools in lieu of issuing A-F letter grades. I am happy to share that no Union ESD school was identified in that category due to the great work of our teachers, administrators, the entire support team, and our students & their families. We are hopeful that due to our tight mitigations both last year and this year that our ability to accelerate learning will give us the head start our students need.

COVID community transmission remains High (see image). Cases per 100K are up and Positivity rates are only slightly lower. This community data is also reflected in our internal numbers (Table 1). Since October break, we have seen a few more positive cases internally.



**Table 1: Union ESD Positive Cases 2021-2022 School Year**

Confirmed Positive During 2021-2022 School Year				
Week of	Number of Students & Staff	Percent of Students	Percent of Staff	Percent of All In- Person
2-Aug	8	0.35%	1.04%	0.42%
9-Aug	15	0.70%	1.56%	0.78%
16-Aug	31	1.74%	0.52%	1.62%



*8/23/2021	16	0.93%	0.00%	0.84%
30-Aug	6	0.35%	0.00%	0.31%
6-Sep	9	0.52%	0.00%	0.47%
13-Sep	11	0.46%	1.56%	0.57%
20-Sep	7	0.35%	0.52%	0.37%
27-Sep	6	0.35%	0.00%	0.31%
4-Oct	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
11-Oct	3	0.06%	1.04%	0.16%
18-Oct	3	0.17%	0.00%	0.16%
25-Oct	5	0.23%	0.52%	0.26%
1-Nov	6	0.35%	0.00%	0.31%

Dr. Joshua LaBaer, executive director of Arizona State University's Biodesign Institute, says he's concerned about persistently high levels of the COVID-19 virus in the state.

"The virus is out there and it's still transmitting to people," he said during a noon briefing on Wednesday. "We have not seen an appreciable drop in weeks now and that surprises me. So, I think that reminds us that really we're not back to normal yet. ... If you haven't been vaccinated now is the time to do it."

We will continue to keep our layered mitigations. With the newly authorized Pfizer vaccination for youth ages 5-11, rolling out this week, if enough children get the vaccination before the holiday season, perhaps we can see the numbers start to drop into low and moderate spread after the winter break.

To help make access easier, we will be sharing information with our families about vaccination locations, setting up local school-based clinics, and reminding families, that fully vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine when they are close contact. This approval comes just in time to hopefully, prevent a winter surge, and will hopefully stop this current persistence of High COVID transmission.

To close out tonight's summary of current events, I want to thank our Governing Board for their steady leadership. It is tough to lead in the current environment and they have done so voluntarily, with dedication and consistency. Thank you! I also want to celebrate Ms. Susan Doucet for continuing to learn more about her role and responsibilities as a Governing Board member. She recently was recognized at the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Maricopa County Regional meeting for her continued learning and was awarded the Certificate of Orientation and Certificate of Boardmanship with a total of 42 hours of continuing education. Congratulations Ms. Doucet!

## VII. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Mrs. Briceno seconded by Mrs. Doucet to approve the consent items. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2021
- B. Approval of Personnel Consent List
- C. Approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers
- D. Approval of Accounts Payroll Vouchers
- E. Approval of Student Activity Transaction Report
- F. Approval of Gifts and Donations

**VIII. PRESENTATION FROM DISTRICT PERSONNEL**

- A. Student Services Quarter 1 updated presented by Mrs. Carrie Brandon.  
Q. Mrs. Doucet asked if we are going to meet our timeline?  
A. Mrs. Carrie Brandon responded yes. That is non-negotiable.  
Q. Mrs. Briceno asked what is a PD?  
A. Mrs. Carrie Brandon responded that it is Professional Development.  
Q. Mrs. Briceno asked what is ADE?  
A. Mrs. Carrie Brandon responded that is the Arizona Department of Education.  
Q. Mrs. Briceno asked what kind of Professional Developments are you doing?  
A. Mrs. Carrie Brandon responded that we are focusing on English Language Learner Practices, Measurable and Aligned Annual Goals, Specialty Designed Instruction, and Prior Written Notice.
- B. Hurley Ranch Integrated Action Plan (IAP) presented by Dr. Randy Watkins.

**IX. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Motion by Mrs. Briceno, seconded by Mrs. Doucet to approve the second reading of the policy advisories. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet
- B. Motion by Mrs. Briceno, seconded by Mrs. Doucet to approve Option C for the remainder of the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet
- C. Motion by Mrs. Doucet, seconded by Mrs. Briceno to give direction on voting in favor of one bylaw change proposal from the Arizona School Boards Association. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet
- D. Motion by Mrs. Doucet, seconded by Mrs. Briceno to approve the 2021-2022 Superintendent Goals. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet
- E. COVID-19 School Learning Models & Mitigation Strategies. No action taken.

**X. INFORMATION ITEM ONLY**

1. Governing Board Financial Report
2. Superintendent Evaluation Tool

**XI. FUTURE MEETING ITEMS**

1. December 9, 2021 – Pay for Performance Plan for Teachers and Administrators (Tentative)
2. December 9, 2021 – Stifel Bond/Override Presentation
3. December 9, 2021 – Integrated Action Plan – Union Elementary
4. December 9, 2021 – Executive Session, Superintendent Evaluation
5. January 13, 2021 – Second Public Hearing on Family Life and Sexual Education
6. January 13, 2021 – Integrated Action Plan; Dos Rios Elementary

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mrs. Briceno seconded by Mrs. Doucet, to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 p.m. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet

  
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Governing Board Member

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Date 12/9/2021