



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

**Governing Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER THE SPECIAL MEETING

Mrs. Doucet Governing Board President at 5:00 p.m., called the meeting to order.

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

II. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Susan Doucet & Mrs. Nubia Briceno were in attendance.

Administration Present:

Kristine Morris, Superintendent

Melanie Block, Director of Academic Services

Michael Welsh, Union Principal

Brent Hall, Network Administrator

Melynda Martin, Director of Student Services

Tonia Immel, Executive Director of Business Services

Renee Estrella-Chavez, Dos Rios Principal

Randy Watkins, Hurley Ranch Principal

Ana Avalos, Director of HR

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. Doucet, Mrs. Briceno

V. 2024 GOVERNING BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

A. Motion made by Mrs. Briceno, seconded by Mrs. Doucet to elect Mrs. Doucet as the Governing Board President for Union Elementary School District for the 2024 calendar year. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Doucet, Mrs. Briceno

B. Motion made by Mrs. Briceno, seconded by Mrs. Doucet to approve the projected meeting dates, times, and locations for Union Elementary School District No. 62 for calendar year 2024. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Doucet, Mrs. Briceno

C. Motion made by Mrs. Doucet, seconded by Mrs. Briceno to approve the agenda posting locations for Union Elementary School District No.62 for calendar year 2024. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Doucet, Mrs. Briceno

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes.

No public comments.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS:

A. UESD Current Events Summary

Good evening, President Doucet and Ms. Briceno,

Welcome to 2024! These first couple of days back have been filled with newness, excitement, and a focus on the year ahead.

Our Transportation Yard project was completed on schedule and ready to roll on Monday. Our buses left from the old yard and returned to the new space on Monday. We have had some traffic congestion and confusion about where to enter; however, the team is figuring it out and working through the kinks. Thanks to our drivers for making the first day back run so smoothly; to Ralph King for working through the design process to help us create a functional space for our district fleet; to Daniel Moreno for working with the contractors and team to ensure we could hit our rigorous schedule, despite the rain; to Jacob Stanek for working with CORE and Union to keep steady communication and to Michael Welsh and Tonia Immel who were part of the team from the start. We also thank CORE and DLR for hitting their targets on their first project with us. Looking forward to the next phase of this project which is continuing to move full speed ahead!



Thank you to our Site and Central Office Maintenance Team who worked over break to ensure our fire inspections occurred, construction projects progressed, and other clean-up and/or repair projects moved forward.

As buses were pulling in on Monday, we also received notification that a Federal EPA grant we applied for with Canyon State, was approved! This grant will provide up to \$250,000/each for the purchase of two electric Blue Bird buses and provide additional resources for infrastructure (charging stations)! We are excited about this first step toward an electric fleet and thank our partners of Canyon State, and Veregy who connected us to the opportunity. Thanks also to Tonia Immel, Melynda Martin, and Ralph King for their work in pulling together the information required for us to participate. The teamwork is helping move us forward on this goal. We will learn more later on the timeline, next steps, and all the details of bringing the award to reality, but we are excited about this big step!! You can read more about this initiative in an article by the Litchfield Park Independent linked below, in which we were mentioned.
<https://www.yourvalley.net/litchfield-park-independent/stories/40m-law-will-bring-clean-school-buses-to-sw-valley-schools,471324?>



\$40M law will bring 'clean' school buses to SW Valley schools

Republican initiative provides for districts to invest in clean buses





Over the break, we installed new playground structures at Union and Hurley and refreshed the Dos Rios playground equipment over the break. We worked with Exerplay on the new equipment and Chasse for the refresh at Dos Rios. I had the chance to try out some of the equipment with the kindergarten students at Union. They think it is great and thanked whoever put the equipment out on the playground for them!



Students at Hurley Ranch were equally as excited about the new structures and features.



Over the break many of our third graders were busy competing and building their literacy skills as they “Read to the Final Four”. This is a reading challenge in combination with NCAA and the Arizona NCAA Final Four Host Committee to encourage students to read. Schools compete for minutes read as they read their way to prizes for the exciting upcoming NCAA Final Four Tournament. Way to go Hurley Ranch and Dos Rios who continue to read over break. Thank you teachers for encouraging our students to read and compete for their schools, and Ms. Miller for coordinating for our District. Way to go Winter Break CHAMPS!!

WINTER BREAK CHAMPIONS

High five to these schools who continued to log minutes during their winter break!

Allen-Cochran Enterprises, Inc.
Amberlea
Anasazi Elementary
Blue Horizons Elementary School
Cartwright
Desert Mirage
Dos Rios Elementary
Heatherbrae School
Holiday Park School
Horseshoe Trails Elementary School
Hurley Ranch Elementary
International School of Tucson
John F. Long

Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School
Lafe Nelson Elementary
Madison Camelview Elementary
Manuel Lito Pena
Mary C O'Brien
Metcalf Elementary
Riggs
Sheely Farms Elementary
St Theresa Catholic School
St. Timothy Catholic School
Tanque Verde Elementary School
Tomahawk

With the start of the new year, we are also starting our kindergarten and enrollment efforts for the 24-25 school year. Dos Rios and Union elementary will be hosting a series of Kinder Round Up events throughout the spring to capture early enrollments and get our youngest learners into our classrooms. These Kinder Round Up events will allow families to learn more about our schools and the comprehensive programs they provide, as well as an enrollment and screening opportunity to ensure our students are ready to start their educational journey at Union ESD. Below you will see our monthly kindergarten enrollment targets in alignment with our projected growth.

Kindergarten Enrollment 24-25						
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Dos Rios	17	34	52	69	70	75
Union	26	52	78	88	104	130

This month Union ESD joins school districts and organizations throughout Arizona in celebrating January as School Board Recognition Month. Our school board members spend countless hours of unpaid time working to provide the best possible education for our students. Projects like I shared earlier do not happen without their support and leadership.



School Board Recognition Month is one way we say thanks. School board members represent fellow citizens' views and priorities in the complex business of maintaining and running the community's public school and embody the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Arizona.

Our Board's main priority is to support student achievement. They focus on ensuring • A shared vision for what parents and citizens want their school district to become and how to make student achievement the top priority • High standards for what students must learn and be able to do • Schools achieve their goals for student learning • Alignment of human and financial resources • Collaboration to solve complex problems and to support successes • A focus on continuous improvement by questioning, examining, revising, refining and revisiting issues related to student achievement.

Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to improving student achievement and to fighting for the best for all our students. Thank you, Ms. Doucet and Ms. Briceno, for your dedicated service to our students, staff, families, and community!

VIII. 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. Doucet & Mrs. Briceno

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for December 21, 2024
- B. Approval of Personnel Consent List
- C. Approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers
- D. Approval of Accounts Payroll Vouchers
- E. Approval of Student Activity Accounts
- F. Approval of Dos Rios Water Heater Replacement BRG-005499

IX. PRESENTATION FROM DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

- A. Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for Union -Presented by Mr. Michael Welsh
- B. Playbook Update-Presented by Ms. Melanie Block & Ms. Kristine Morris

X. ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Motion by Mrs. Briceno, seconded by Mrs. Doucet to approve the 2023-2024 Contract and Notice of Appointment Language. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Doucet & Mrs. Briceno

XI. ITEMS ONLY – NO ACTION REQUIRED:

- A. Governing Board Financial Report

XII. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

- January 25, 2024- Special Meeting “Study Session on Benefits”
- February 8, 2024- Salary Schedules
- February 8, 2024- Contract/Rehire List of Certificated staff
- February 8, 2024- Contract/Rehire list of Administration staff
- February 8, 2024- Counselor Update
- February 8, 2024- 2025-2026 School Calendar

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Doucet seconded by Mrs. Briceno, to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Doucet & Mrs. Briceno

Governing Board Member

Date