

**Governing Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 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. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes.

Gyselle Gurrola- Regarding lack of resource/support for SPED students and staff.

Anaja Caicedo- Regarding the lack of SPED student support.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS:

A. UESD Current Events Summary

Good evening Governing Board,

It's National School Counseling Week! This week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for career and life.

The special week honoring school counselors provides recognition for school counselors who implement comprehensive school counseling programs, as a vital part of the educational process for all students.



School counselors actively engage in helping students examine their abilities, strengths, interests and talents; work in partnership with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising children in today's world; focus on positive ways to enhance students' academic, career and social/emotional development; and work with teachers and other educators to provide an educational system where students can realize their potential and set healthy, realistic and optimistic aspirations for themselves. School counselors are certified, experienced educators with degrees in school counseling. The combination of their training and experience makes them an integral part of the total educational program. "School counselors work with all students to remove barriers to learning by addressing students' academic concerns, career options and social/emotional skills," said Jill Cook, ASCA executive director. School counseling programs help to increase student achievement and provide a much-needed resource for students, parents, teachers, and administrators. School counselors are integral to our student's success.

Later this evening you will hear more about our school counselors and the work they do here in Union ESD. Thank you, Ms. Rutledge, Ms. Zazueta, and Mr. Barratta, for being a critical part of our student's and school's success!

Union Elementary School District Communications received two awards today at the 2024 ASPRA-tion Awards Celebration!!! An award of Excellence was given for our newsletter *Union Connects*, and we received an award of Merit for the video *Pathways to Teaching*. Thank you, Mr. Stanek, for submitting our communications for consideration and for your work to help us tell our story of inspiring hope and empowering our students to courageously pursue their goals and dreams.



We have some Girl's Basketball Champions to celebrate. After an undefeated season, the Dos Rios Girls Basketball team continued their winning streak through the playoffs, ending with a Championship season!!! Dos Rios celebrated the team with a champions assembly earlier this week. Way to go Rockets!!

Students are starting their AZELLA re-tests this week. As you may recall, last year Arizona Department of Education conducted their on-site monitoring and provided us with some corrective action, which involved changing our delivery model. Although out of corrective action, we are excited to see how the new program design worked in moving students forward in their English Language Proficiency. Thank you to our teachers and coordinators for their work to ensure the testing is conducted in a consistent and conductive manner for our students to perform their best.

We received good news this week from Project Momentum and the Arizona Department of Education. They will be continuing our funding for Project Momentum next year. This means we will be able to continue the two additional days of teacher summer work; and 8 extra days of work for school leadership teams; it funds instructional coaches, principal coaches, our data dashboards, and some professional development. Thank you to our teachers and principals who are implementing PLCs as part of the Project Momentum project, to help ensure all students are moving toward proficiency in ELA and Mathematics.

We are mid-way through quarter three and are about to begin Parent-Teacher Conferences. Of course, Valentine's week is a great time to share how much we love and care for our students. Thank you, teachers, and principals for ensuring that our conferences share the treasures and opportunities for growth within each of our students.

Design work continues for the Union and Central Office renovations/new build. At our March meeting, we will be bringing back DLR and CORE to discuss our plans and share a fly-through of the buildings as they are being designed. We are so excited about what the future holds for our Union ESD community.

After 7 years as Principal at Hurley Ranch and over 20+ years in education, Dr. Watkins will be leaving Hurley Ranch and enjoying the next phase of his life and career. He is ready to step away from the school and have the flexibility to enjoy the successes of his sons and family. Thank you Dr. Watkins for your dedication to education and to the Hurley Ranch Community. We still have several months to go, and he is committed to closing out the school year strong and supporting our next leader.

I want to celebrate that Ms. Ashley Salamacha will be the new principal at Hurley Ranch, starting July 1, 2024. Ms. Salamacha has developed as a leader in the district and has shown dedication to Hurley Ranch as a teacher, reading interventionist, coach, assistant principal, and is ready to step into the principal Role. When asked why she wanted to step into the principal role she stated that she believes so much in our students, the community and wants to help tell the story of how great she knows our Super Stars are. The interview team cited her collaboration, student-centered focus, positive energy and commitment to continuous improvement as reasons why she is ready to lead. Ms. Salamacha embodies our district's mission of inspiring hope and empowering all students to courageously pursue their goals and dreams, and as one student shared, Ms. Salamacha cares about us. Congratulations Ms. Salamacha!

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. 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 Union Sidewalk Repair/Replacement BRG-005319
- G. Approval of Gifts and Donations
- H. Approval of Out of State Travel
- I. Approval of Arizona Diamondbacks Read Your Way to the Ballpark Grant

VIII. PRESENTATION FROM DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

- A. School Counselor Program Update-Presented by Ms. Melynda Martin
Ms. Doucet

Q: Mrs. Doucet asked what does tier 3 look like?

A: Mrs. Martin responded tier 3 is a referral process that can be done by a parent, or principal. Lifeline PCS will then provide a licensed counselor to do the 1:1 counseling with the student while also working with families on any support services they might need such as family counseling, and sibling counseling.

Q: Mrs. Doucet asked if insurance is needed to receive the counseling.

A: Mrs. Martin responded this is 100% free to the student including the support services to families.

Q: Mrs. Briceno asked how much time Tier 3 students are serviced.

A: Mrs. Martin responded Lifeline PCS does 30-minute sessions with students and could be more based on student needs. Lifeline PCS is scheduled to be at each campus for half a day.

- B. Conflict of Interest -Presented by Ms. Tonia Immel

IX. ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Motion by Mrs. Briceno, seconded by Mrs. Doucet to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Doucet & Mrs. Briceno

- B. Motion by Mrs. Doucet, seconded by Mrs. Bricen to approve the Tax Credits Donation for 2023. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Doucet & Mrs. Briceno
- C. Motion by Mrs. Briceno, seconded by Mrs. Doucet to approve the 2024-2025 Certified Contract/Rehire List. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Doucet & Mrs. Briceno
- D. Motion by Mrs. Doucet, seconded by Mrs. Bricen to to approve the 2024-2025 Educational Support Personnel Notices of Appointment/Rehire List. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Doucet & Mrs. Briceno
- E. Motion by Mrs. Briceno, seconded by Mrs. Doucet to approve the 2024-2025 Administrative Offer of Contract/Rehire List. Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Doucet & Mrs. Briceno

X. ITEMS ONLY – NO ACTION REQUIRED:

- A. Governing Board Financial Report
B. Science Adoption -Pilot Programs Selected

XI. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

- February 14, 2024- Special Meeting on Salary Schedules
- March 7, 2024- 2024-2025 Benefits Package
- March 7, 2024- 2022-2023 Annual Audit Findings Presentation
- March 7, 2024- Student Spaceflight Experiments Program Out of State Field Trip

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Doucet seconded by Mrs. Briceno, to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Vote was unanimous.
Motion carried. Aye: Mrs. Doucet & Mrs. Briceno

Governing Board Member

Date