

# CASA GRANDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

220 West Kortsen Road  
Casa Grande, Arizona

The Governing Board of the Casa Grande Elementary School District No. 4 met Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Governing Board Room, Elementary Administration Building, 220 West Kortsen Road, Casa Grande, Arizona.

## 1.01 Call to Order:

Mrs. Varela called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## 1.02 Roll Call:

Present:

Blanca Varela, President  
Lorenza Martinez  
Adelphia Sisson  
Jerry Stabley (via telephone)  
Bruce Schutt

Adam Leckie, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Robert Quinones, Assistant Superintendent  
Van Ornelas, Director  
Jan Draper, Director  
Jennifer McClintic, Director  
Lisa Bradshaw, Director  
Tammy Blomquist, Director  
Sherrie Gill, Executive Assistant

1.03 Mrs. Sisson led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed.

## 2.01 Agenda Adoption:

Mrs. Sisson made a motion that the agenda be accepted and adopted as presented.

Mrs. Martinez seconded the motion. Board members voted as follows and the motion passed:

Board member	In Favor	Against
Blanca Varela	X	
Lorenza Martinez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Bruce Schutt	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	

### 3.01 Board Member Updates

Mrs. Martinez spent a day serving in different roles around the district. She rode a bus for both a morning and afternoon route, and served lunch with Nutrition Services. Mrs. Martinez stated that Ms. Darla Johnson does a great job leading her team and that in the morning the students are sleepy on the bus, however, in the afternoon they are everywhere. She asked parents to take the time to thank their bus driver. She stated that the nutrition team works great together. They prepare all meals ahead of time and every now and then they prepare meals from scratch.

Mrs. Varela thanked the district and Dr. Leckie for inviting the Board to participate in the District Spelling Bee. The competition was fierce and the students did an amazing job. Mrs. Varela also thanked the principal at Saguaro for inviting the Board to Science Night. The event was phenomenal. CGPD, APS, CGFD, Hexcel and others were there. The students were mesmerized and activities were hands on.

### 4.01 Superintendent's Report

- It's important to recognize our Board members. There are not a lot who attend school events and Board member Martinez spending a good part of her day seeing behind the scenes and some employees who are under the radar.
- A core priority area is creating strong family connections. Science Night at Saguaro is an example of how we get community together, by inviting parents to be heavily engaged in their child's education.
- Please take time to complete the family survey. The information captured is critically looked at to see how the district can improve.
- The last couple of days was spent with leaders in Continuous Improvement and reviewing how we are making improvement and where we still need to improve.
- Art work in the Board Room was provided by students from McCartney Ranch, Cottonwood and Villago.

### 5.01 The following were recognized as students, employees and volunteers of the month:

#### Villago Middle School

Students of the Month: Luis Alfaro Centeno, Traris Douglas, Ava Cochran, Aubrey Reiersen, Zaeda DeWolf

Employees of the Month: Rhonda Villaverde, Melissa Jackson

#### Cottonwood Elementary School

Students of the Month: Jazalyn Boles, Carmen Cazares, Julianna Bojorquez, Alyssa Rasmussen, Diana Pearl Hurley Valenzuela

Employees of the Month: Roshunda Higgins, Nancy Moore

Volunteer of the Month: Folasayo Oladokun-Dybowski

McCartney Ranch Elementary School

Students of the Month: Enzo Trejo, Ashlyn Kavanaugh, Sebastian Casa, Elena Lopez, Samuel Boudreau

Employees of the Month: Jenny VanBockel, Thelma Leal, Samantha Estrada

- 5.02 Mr. Sean Crawford, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher at Villago, was recognized as the first participant to complete the RISE Program.

6.01 Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public.

- 7.01 Mrs. Varela called for objections from Board members, staff, and the public regarding consent agenda items.

Board member Schutt inquired about the necessity of purchasing a new bus, noting the availability of extra buses in the district. Dr. Leckie responded, explaining that the purchase would serve as an addition to the fleet based on the district's route needs. He emphasized that not all buses serve the same purpose, and sometimes a larger bus is not required. Dr. Leckie clarified that the new bus would provide greater flexibility and efficiency in meeting transportation demands.

Mrs. Sisson moved that the agenda items marked with an asterisk be approved and/or ratified.

Mr. Schutt seconded the motion. Board members voted as follows and the motion passed:

Board member	In Favor	Against
Blanca Varela	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Lorenza Martinez	X	
Bruce Schutt	X	

- \*7.02 The minutes of the January 14, 2025 Regular Meeting were approved by the Governing Board.

- \*7.03 The following certified personnel actions were approved/ratified by the Governing Board:

Authorization to issue the following SY 25/26 Employment Contracts:

- Certified Assistant Principal and Dean of Students
- Certified Teachers, Certified Directors, Assistant Directors, and Principal
- Classified Directors, Classified Exempt
- At-Will Work Agreements

Contracts were approved, editing the liquidated damage and resignation clauses.

<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE</b>
Boettcher, Nora	Villago/Saguaro	School Psychologist	2/18/25
Loya, Sonia	Palo Verde	Teacher - 3rd Grade	2/18/2025
Washington, Arhonda	Palo Verde	Teacher - 5th Grade	1/27/2025
<b>RECLASSIFICATION</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>NEW POSITION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE</b>
Dein, Amy	McCartney Ranch	Teacher - 2nd Grade	1/13/2025
Board Certified Behavior Analyst	Student Services	Board Certified Behavior Analyst	7/1/2025
<b>RESIGNATIONS</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE</b>
Appel, Katherine	Saguaro	Teacher - PE	5/22/2025
Cantu, Savannah	McCartney Ranch	Teacher - Kindergarten	1/15/2025
Curtiss, Amy	Ironwood	Psychologist	5/29/2025
Hunt, Molly	Ironwood	Teacher - Art	5/22/2025
Kieser, Kainan	Desert Willow	Teacher - 5th Grade	5/22/2025
Larot, Lawrence	Cactus	Teacher - 8th Grade Math	3/17/2025
Leija, Vergie	McCartney Ranch	Teacher - Kindergarten	5/22/2025
Lopez, Monica	Cottonwood	Teacher - Kindergarten	5/22/2025
Reyes, Brandi	ECLC	Teacher - Sped PreSchool	1/10/2025
Salinas, Paizlie	Saguaro	Teacher - Kindergarten	5/22/2025

\*7.04 The following classified personnel actions were approved/ratified by the Governing Board:

Authorization to issue the following SY 25/26 Employment Contracts:

- Certified Assistant Principal and Dean of Students
- Certified Teachers, Certified Directors, Assistant Directors, and Principals
- Classified Directors, Classified Exempt
- At-Will Work Agreements

Contracts were approved, editing the liquidated damage and resignation clauses.

<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE</b>
Amado, Priscilla	Cactus	Attendance Assistant	1/22/2025
Cahuantzi, Noemi	Nutrition Services	Cafe Assistant - Floater	1/29/2025
Carter, Brian	Transportation	Vehicle Mechanic	1/22/2025
Flores, Jacob	Transportation	Bus Driver Trainee	2/5/2025
Gray, Colin	Mesquite	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	2/12/2025
Hursey, Demmisha	CGMS	Education Assistant - Student Support	1/22/2025
Johnson, Shaneka	Mesquite	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	1/15/2025
Klett, Salesha	Nutrition Services	Cafe Assistant	1/29/2025
Lujan, Michelle	Cholla	Education Assistant - Special Education	1/15/2025
Manzo, Ryza	McCartney Ranch	Education Assistant-Title I	1/22/2025
Ramos Sarazua, Alexandra	McCartney Ranch	Noon Assistant	1/29/2025
Sosa, Jose	Cactus	Education Assistant - Crossing Guard	1/22/2025
Tellez, Angelica	Villiago	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	1/22/2025
<b>RECLASSIFICATION</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>NEW POSITION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE</b>
Acuna, Samantha	ECLC	Associate Teacher - Preschool Sped	1/27/2025
Beene, Sofia	Transportation	Bus Driver	1/16/2025
Brown, Sarah	Transportation	Non-CDL Bus Driver/Van Driver	12/17/2024
Castro, Jessica	McCartney Ranch	Education Assistant - K-3 Reading	1/13/2025
Doing, Miriam	Desert Willow	Administrative Assistant	2/12/2025
Education Assistant - K-3 Reading (3.25hrs)	McCartney	Education Assistant - Title I	1/13/2025
Education Assistant - Title I	Saguaro	Education Assistant - Student Support	7/1/2025
Gardner, Anitra	Transportation	Transportation Training/Referral Coordinator	2/12/2025
Lead Dispatcher	Transportation	Lead Dispatcher	2/12/2025
Lovell, Paige	Mesquite	Cafe Site Manager	2/10/2025
Mena, Elodia	Transportation	Lead Dispatcher	2/12/2025
Mohler, Amanda	ECLC	Early Childhood Education Lead	1/27/2025
Monge, Samantha	Palo Verde	Cafe Assistant	2/12/2025

Moore, Heather	McCartney	Education Assistant - Title I (7.5hrs)	1/13/2025
Moore, Heather	McCartney Ranch	Associate Teacher - Kinder	1/27/2025
Relief Bus Driver /Dispatcher	Transportation	Dispatcher - Relief Bus Driver	2/12/2025
Rugg, Roger	Innovation and Technology	IT User Support Technician - Senior	2/12/2025
Transportation Training/Referral Coordinator	Transportation	Transportation Training/Referral Coordinator	2/12/2025
Van Driver	Transportation	Non-CDL Bus Driver/Van Driver	
Vehicle Mechanic Lead	Transportation	Fleet Maintenance Supervisor	2/12/2025
Whetstone, Jasmine	Transportation	Dispatcher - Relief Bus Driver	2/12/2025
<b>RESIGNATION</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE</b>
Clegg, Jenna	Palo Verde	Associate Teacher - 3rd Grade	2/7/2025
Cortes, Beatriz	Facilities	Custodian	3/14/2024
Odom, Gloria	Transportation	Bus Driver - Special Needs	5/22/2025
Perez, Jasmine	Nutrition Services	Cafe Assistant	1/29/2025
Velis, Irma	Transportation	Bus Driver	1/22/2025
Vincent, Paul III	Villago	Education Assistant - Alternative Placement Setting	2/12/2025
Walkemeyer, Adam	Facility Services	HVAC Systems Mechanic	1/30/2025
Whitmer, Dylan	McCartney Ranch	Education Assistant - K-3 Reading/Noon Assistant	1/9/2025
Wiltbank, James	Transportation	Vehicle Mechanic Lead	2/13/2025
<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE</b>
EDEP - SLPA	District	EDEP - Speech Language Pathologist Assistant	1/6/2025
Education Assistant - Title I	Villago	Education Assistant - Title I	2/12/2025
Family/School Liaison	District	Family/School Liaison	2/12/2025
Guest Teacher	CGMS	Guest Teacher	2/12/2025

\*7.05 The student activities report for January 2025, had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

\*7.06 The financial report for January 2025 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

- \*7.07 The vehicle inventory report for January 2025 had been provided in the Board's information.
- \*7.08 The vehicle maintenance report for January 2025 had been provided in the Board's information.
- \*7.09 The vouchers presented at the meeting were approved by the Governing Board.
- \*7.10 The following donations were accepted:

Cholla

Mrs. Whaling had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$349.

CGMS

Ms. Barak had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$411.  
Ms. Martinez had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$350.  
Mrs. Morris had a Donors choose project funded in the amount of \$907.  
Mrs. John had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$173.

COIL

Mrs. Logue had a Donors choose project funded in the amount of \$15.

Desert Willow

Ms. Fernandez had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$25.

McCartney Ranch

Mrs. Stone had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$20.

Mesquite

Mrs. Ashby had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$36.

- \*7.11 MOU Between CGESD and City of Casa Grande Parks & Rec Youth Basketball and Volleyball – A copy of the proposed MOU was provided to the Governing Board members prior to the meeting. The Governing Board approved the MOU between CGESD and City of Casa Grande Parks & Rec Youth Basketball and Volleyball, as proposed.
- \*7.12 A memorandum from Mr. York regarding Authorization for Purchase of 14-Passenger School Bus was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. The Governing Board authorized the purchase of a 14-passenger school bus from RWC International as proposed.
- \*7.13 Authorization to Offer Green Certification Course 1 Elective Courses at COIL – The Governing Board approved Green Certification Course 1 as an elective course, as proposed.

- 8.01 Ms. Greta Edwards, Executive Director of Casa Grande Alliance (CGA), provided an overview of CGA's work with the Casa Grande Elementary School District and the community. Ms. Edwards has served in her role since August 2024, and CGA has been an integral part of the community for 35 years. CGA currently rents a facility at Casa Grande Middle School (CGMS) and offers a wide range of services. Initially focused on drug prevention, CGA now provides various programs, including parenting and income classes, as well as the Parent Alliance Support Program (PALS) to help parents navigate challenges. The Youth Alliance Group for middle and high school students engages them in activities like CPR training, vaping prevention presentations, and social/emotional learning. In partnership with the National Guard, CGA offers a six-week curriculum aimed at youth development. They also provide free NARCAN, along with education on how to use it, as part of their efforts to combat drug overdoses. Additionally, CGA offers food, clothing, and diaper donations, and they have hosted two students from Grand Canyon University (GCU) for volunteer hours.

CGA is deeply involved in the community through initiatives like the CG Education Foundation and a backpack program in partnership with St. Mary's Food Bank. They also provide after-school activities for children and maintain a Community Advisory Board for ongoing support and input. One of their community service areas is assisting homeless families. Their outreach also includes actively counting the homeless population in the area. One notable community event organized by CGA was a Movie Night in collaboration with the CG Education Foundation, which helped engage the community and raise awareness.

Mrs. Martinez inquired about how CGA supports parents dealing with addiction, to which Ms. Edwards responded that CGA offers a reentry program specifically designed to assist parents in these situations. Mrs. Martinez also asked about CGA's approach to students with addiction, and Ms. Edwards explained that they offer a vaping prevention program, which has been particularly needed. The program encourages parents to attend with their students, providing real-life scenarios and individualized support. Mrs. Martinez expressed that she appreciates CGA more now knowing what they do.

Mrs. Varela stated it is nice to see the growth the agency has made and expressed her thanks for CGA's commitment to the foundation and backpack program, their dedication and partnership.

- 8.02 A new safety coordinator has been hired, who works with both the high school and elementary school districts. Charles Conner presented an overview of the safety management software Raptor, which is used to screen visitors, manage drill records, and track safety activities across campuses. Raptor is an integral part of daily operations, as it scans visitors' driver's licenses and prints visitor badges. The software helps keep a detailed record of all safety procedures. Regarding drill management, each school campus conducts two emergency drills per month—one for fire and one for lockdown. A discussion followed about staff awareness during



secure or hold situations, with confirmation that all staff have access to security alerts through their personal phones. The group also discussed fire evacuation procedures and confirmed that drills are scheduled monthly, with four off-site drills planned for the current month. Additionally, Cottonwood staged a student medical emergency that involved a student, with parent consent, which allowed the nurse to practice performing an emergency assessment. A Sergeant from Casa Grande Police Department (CGPD) provided training at Cottonwood. Mr. Conner has established contacts with both CGPD and CGFD to further enhance safety protocols.

- 9.01 Ms. Blomquist provided an overview of the audit process and presented a detailed report on the Financial and Compliance Audit for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2024. School district governing boards must publicly accept all audits and compliance questionnaires by roll call vote.

Mr. Stabley questioned what the district is doing to prevent the significant risks that were identified from happening in the future. The district works with an asset consultant. The risks identified in the full audit were untimely deposits by schools and use of credit card by employee without signed credit card training form.

Mr. Schutt moved to approve the Financial Audit and Compliance Questionnaire CWDL, P.C., for fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, as presented.

Mrs. Sisson seconded the motion. Board members voted as follows and the motion passed:

Board member	In Favor	Against
Blanca Varela	X	
Lorenza Martinez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Bruce Schutt	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	

- 10.01 The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

- 11.01 Mrs. Varela adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Approved: 3/11/2025

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President