

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 13, 2024, 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
Jerry Stabley
Adelphia Sisson
Lorenza Martinez
Michael Cruz

Adam Leckie, Ed.D., Superintendent
Jan Draper, Director
Nicole Wheatcroft, CFO
Van Ornelas, Director
Stacy Howell, Director
Dennis York, Director
Jennifer McClintic, 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 moved that the agenda be accepted and adopted.

Mr. Cruz 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	
Mike Cruz	X	

3.01 Board Member Updates

There were no Board Member updates.

4.01 Superintendent's Report

- The district is promoting parent engagement as we are partners in education through feedback from the parent survey and participation in parent/teacher conferences.
- The first parent advisory committee meeting of the year was held on February 8th.
- The district is making progress in its Continuous Improvement plan.
- After school activities promotes student engagement.
- The Band Gala at CGUHS will be held February 29th.
- COIL will be expanding next year to K-7.

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

Villago Middle School

Employees – Mercedes Hebda, Michelle Heimberger

Students – Dylan DeCarlo, Frida Gonzalez Martinez, Kyalee Collier

ECLC

Employees – Candace Galbraith, Laura DeTour

Students – Hermes Viezcas, Grant Cave, Ellyeanna Hodges

Cottonwood Elementary School

Employees – Jessica Vigil, Elsa DePaula

Students – Adan Ramirez-Morales, Emily Pennington-Sears, Payton Griffin

Mesquite Elementary School

Employees – Jenny Duenas, Kristen Miller

Students – Jayla Chacon Delisle, Stella Cavey, Dallas Hernandez-Rendon

McCartney Ranch Elementary School

Employees – Heather Rice, Amy Roman

Students – Mauricio Heraldez, Asha Rodriguez, Aiyana Douglas

5.02 Crystal Angel-Young, Santannah Krum, and Jessica Sanders were recognized for completing the Grow Your Own Program.

6.01 Call to the Public

Mr. Bruce Schutt spoke about agenda alignment, moment of silence before the opening of the Board meeting, and a librarian for the District. Dr. Leckie commented that the district currently employs a librarian and is looking to add a second librarian.

- 7.01 The Governing Board was provided with a copy of the Schneider Electric Investment Grade Audit Agreement and a presentation prior to the meeting. Mr. Brandon Hines and Mr. Brandon Woodward presented results from the no-cost Business Case assessment their firm performed on district properties.

The project priorities include: reduce energy/water costs and consumption, maximize operational efficiency, modernize district infrastructure and facilities, and, align with the Capital Master Plan.

The district currently has an annual utility budget of \$1.94M. Based on Schneider Electric's utility analysis, they estimate an annual utility reduction of 10.5%. This would partially be achieved by a LED retrofit of all non-LED fixtures District-Wide, replacing grass/dirt with artificial turf in strategic areas and a major turf reduction at five schools, and additional modernizations.

Discussion included: length of time to recoup costs with savings, length of time of the IGA, what are project prices based on, since project will be self-funded can costs be covered without taking dollars from students, adding EV charging stations, and additional opportunities with APS for solar.

- 7.02 Ms. Wheatcroft provided a summary outline of the district's proposed compensation plan to include salary increases and potential changes to ancillary compensation items.

2024-2025 State Budget Highlights: Current year state budget received 2.92% increase in base funding vs. 8.7% in prior year. Proposition 123 Legislation additional funding is set to expire at end of fiscal year 2025. ESSER is finished at the end of this fiscal year.

2024-2025 District Budget Highlights: The District is adding 13 certified teachers for all day kindergarten. Insurance costs are continuing to increase. Absorbing \$700,000 of ESSER salaries into M&O. General enrollment has had a small increase compared to SPED.

Compensation proposal: Base increase of 2% for all employee groups. Potential performance pay increase once Proposition 123 is settled. Adjacent compensation item examples: hard-to-fill and large classroom size stipends, reimbursement for job training, revision of years of service for leave payout, education credit for non-classroom positions.

Discussion included: the IBC group knew it wouldn't be feasible to do what was done last year and 2% is comfortable, payout on leave, state does not cover full day kindergarten in funding, what is capture rate from kinder to 1st grade, uncertainty of 123 is acceptable but want to see higher increase.

7.03 Mrs. Draper provided information on the Elementary Core English Language Arts Program for 60-day Public Review. The recommended ELA materials for K-5th grade will be available for review at the District office for a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to the Board meeting where adoption will be considered. The current ELA materials have not been updated since 2017 and are outdated. The three programs the adoption committee recommended for review are: Amplify CKLA, Houghton Mifflin IntoReading, and SAVVAS MyView. The Teaching and Learning team will compile all feedback and data gathered during the review process and present their recommendation for adoption to the Board in April.

Discussion included: will the survey capture information of who is answering i.e. community member, parent, staff, etc.; and, how does the piloting teacher switch from their current curriculum to the piloted curriculum.

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

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

Mrs. Sisson 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	
Mike Cruz	X	

*8.02 The minutes of the January 9, 2024 Study Session and Regular Meeting were approved by the Governing Board.

*8.03 The following certified personnel actions were approved/ratified by the Governing Board:

Paperwork Compliance Stipend – This stipend for highly qualified certified special education teachers will be increased \$250/semester per caseload group starting in the school year 2024-2025.

EMPLOYMENT			
NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Barrancas, Jonathan	CGMS	Teacher - 8th Social Studies	2/12/24
Higgins, Miriam	Cottonwood	Teacher - 1st Grade	1/17/2024
Molina, PennyAnn	Ironwood	Teacher - 5th Grade	1/16/2024

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RECLASSIFICATION

NAME	LOCATION	NEW POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Angel-Young, Crystal	McCartney Ranch	Teacher - Sped Resource	12/4/2023
Anzaldua, Ashley	Cottonwood	Teacher - Sped Autism	1/8/2024
Krum, Santannah	Saguaro	Teacher - Sped Resource	12/11/2023
Perry, Jamie	Cactus	Teacher - 7th Social Studies	11/27/2023
Teacher - SPED Pre-School (.5 FTE)	ECLC	Teacher - SPED Pre-School	7/1/24

RESIGNATIONS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Alexander, Emily	CGMS	Teacher - 8th Social Studies	2/8/2024
Avalos, Dianna	McCartney Ranch	Teacher - EL	5/23/2024
Back, Eva	Cactus	Teacher - 6th Math	5/23/2024
Festa, Devin	Cactus	Teacher - 7th ELA	5/23/2024
Fortune, Lauren	Saguaro	Teacher - 1st Grade	3/1/2024
Hammerstrom, Janet	CGMS	Teacher - Art	5/23/2024
Hays, Andrew	Cactus	Teacher - 7th Social Studies	5/23/2024
Kesterson, Rhonda	McCartney Ranch	Teacher - 1st Grade	5/23/2024
Kroboth, Jessica	Villago	Teacher - 6th Math	1/23/2024
Martinez, Joseph	Villago	Teacher - College and Career Coach	1/18/2024
Norton, Wade	Villago	Teacher - 6-8 PE	1/22/2024
Schroeder, Sandra	Villago	Teacher - 6th Language Arts	5/23/2024
Wohlleber, Judith	Cactus	Counselor	5/30/2024

NEW POSITIONS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Teacher - Kindergarten	COIL	Teacher - Kindergarten	7/1/24
Teacher - Kindergarten	COIL	Teacher - Kindergarten	7/1/24
Teacher - SPED Pre-School	ECLC	Teacher - SPED Pre-School	7/1/24
Teacher - SPED Pre-School	ECLC	Teacher - SPED Pre-School	7/1/24
Teacher - 1st Grade	COIL	Teacher - 1st Grade	7/1/24

Teacher - 1st Grade	COIL	Teacher - 1st Grade	7/1/24
Teacher - 2/3 Grade	COIL	Teacher - 2/3 Grade	7/1/24
Teacher - 2/3 Grade	COIL	Teacher - 2/3 Grade	7/1/24
Teacher - 2/3 Grade	COIL	Teacher - 2/3 Grade	7/1/24
Teacher - 2/3 Grade	COIL	Teacher - 2/3 Grade	7/1/24
Teacher - 4/5 Grade	COIL	Teacher - 4/5 Grade	7/1/24
Teacher - 4/5 Grade	COIL	Teacher - 4/5 Grade	7/1/24
Teacher - 6/7 Grade	COIL	Teacher - 6/7 Grade	7/1/24
Teacher - 6-8 Grade Math	COIL	Teacher - 6-8 Grade Math	7/1/24
Teacher - K-8 PE	COIL	Teacher - K-8 PE	7/1/24
Teacher - K-8 Music/Band	COIL	Teacher - K-8 Music/Band	7/1/24
Assistant Principal	COIL	Assistant Principal	7/1/24
Reading Interventionist	COIL	Reading Interventionist	7/1/24
Reading Interventionist	Cottonwood	Reading Interventionist	7/1/24
Reading Interventionist	Palo Verde	Reading Interventionist	7/1/24
Reading Interventionist	Saguaro	Reading Interventionist	7/1/24
Reading Interventionist	Cholla	Reading Interventionist	7/1/24
Reading Interventionist	Ironwood	Reading Interventionist	7/1/24
Reading Interventionist	Mesquite	Reading Interventionist	7/1/24
Reading Interventionist	Desert Willow	Reading Interventionist	7/1/24
Reading Interventionist	McCartney Ranch	Reading Interventionist	7/1/24
School Psychologist	Learning Support	School Psychologist	7/1/2024
LEAVE OF ABSENCE			
NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Hammerstrom, Janet	CGMS	Teacher - 6-8 Art	1/25/2023

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

EMPLOYMENT			
NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Aguilar, Julian	Transportation	Bus Driver Trainee	1/31/2024

Anson, Jennifer	Nutrition Services	Cafe Site Manager	1/24/2024
Camacho, Mark	Transporation	Vehicle Mechanic	1/17/2024
Dominguez-Kujawski, Alaysha	ECLC	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	1/31/2024
Fields, Jeanetta	Nutrition Services	Cafe Cook	1/24/2024
Gaona Arellano, Lesley	Nutrition Services	Cafe Cook	1/17/2024
Hairl Gatlin, Courtney	Nutrition Services	Cafe Manager - Central Kitchen	1/17/2024
Miller, Ginny	Palo Verde	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	1/17/2024
O'Neal, Alexis	Cactus	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	1/17/2024
Rivera Ramirez, Sergio	Facility Services	Custodian	1/11/2024
Riviotta, Nickolas	Facility Services	Maintenance Specialist	2/13/2024
Shaheen, Sheryl	Transportation	Van Driver	1/24/2024
Smith, Zymariae	Transportation	Transportation Assistant	1/24/2024
Thielke, Michelle	Palo Verde	Education Assistant - Special Education	1/10/2024
Vidrio-Santos, Maria	Palo Verde	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	2/13/2024

RECLASSIFICATION

NAME	LOCATION	NEW POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Johnson, Nathan	Business Services	Cell Phone Stipend	7/1/2023
Lapin, Yvonne	Nutrition Services	Cafe Assistant	1/25/2024
Perez Villarreal, Leyda	Nutrition Services	Cafe Site Assistant Manager	2/5/2024
Phillips, Bradley	Transportation	Bus Driver	1/18/2024
Sarabia, Lina	Saguaro	Education Assistant - Student Support ESSER	1/24/2024
Orr, Tammy	Business Services	Finance Director	1/1/2024
Culver, Annette	Business Services	Internal Auditor	2/1/2024
Speech Language Pathologist (.5 FTE)	Learning Support	Speech Language Pathologist	7/1/2024
Education Specialist - Inclusive (Mon, Tues, Wed)	ECLC	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	7/1/2024
Education Specialist - Inclusive (Mon, Tues, Wed)	ECLC	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	7/1/2024

RESIGNATION

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Bagley, Lou	Cottonwood	Media Center Specialist	5/23/2024
Fields, Jeanetta	Nutrition Services	Cafe Cook	2/8/2024
Flores, Lorena	Business Services	Administrative Assistant	6/30/2024
Gaona Arellano, Lesley	Nutrition Services	Cafe Cook	2/7/2024
Guzman, Graciella	ECLC	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	1/8/2024
Henry, Candice	Saguaro	Education Assistant - Student Support	1/11/2024
Markham, Joanne	Nutrition Services	Cafe Assistant	1/11/2024
Mosely, Toccara	Villago	Education Assistant - Alternative Placement Setting	1/23/2024
O'Neal, Alexis	Cactus	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	2/1/2024
Ortiz, Denice	Transportation	Relief Bus Driver/Dispatcher	2/1/2024
Quijada, Edward Jr	Nutrition Services	Cafe Assistant	2/8/2024
Tapia, Marisela	Transportation	Bus Driver Trainee	1/16/2024
Wall, Caryn	Nutrition Services	Cafe Area Supervisor	1/15/2024
NEW POSITIONS			
NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Digital Literacy Assistant	COIL	Digital Literacy Assistant	7/1/2024
Custodian	COIL	Custodian	7/1/2024
Custodian	COIL	Custodian	7/1/2024
Education Specialist - Early Childhood	ECLC	Education Specialist - Early Childhood	7/1/2024
Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	ECLC	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	7/1/2024
Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	ECLC	Education Specialist - Inclusive Education	7/1/2024
Early Education Assistant	ECLC	Early Education Assistant	7/1/2024
Health Tech	Saguaro	Health Tech	2/14/2024
ELIMINATED POSITIONS			
NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Administrative Assistant - Guest	Business Services	Employee Excellence Selection Committee	6/30/2024

Day Assistant	CGMS	Day Assistant	5/23/2024
Day Assistant	Cactus	Day Assistant	5/23/2024
Day Assistant	Villago	Day Assistant	5/23/2024
Education Assistant - Day Assistant	Palo Verde	Education Assistant - Day Assistant	5/23/2024
Education Assistant - Day Assistant	Cottonwood	Education Assistant - Day Assistant	5/23/2024
Education Assistant - Day Assistant	McCartney Ranch	Education Assistant - Day Assistant	5/23/2024
Education Assistant - Day Assistant	Ironwood	Education Assistant - Day Assistant	5/23/2024
Education Assistant - Day Assistant	COIL (Evergreen)	Education Assistant - Day Assistant	5/23/2024
Education Assistant - Day Assistant	Mesquite	Education Assistant - Day Assistant	5/23/2024
Education Assistant - Day Assistant	Desert Willow	Education Assistant - Day Assistant	5/23/2024
Education Assistant - Day Assistant	Saguaro	Education Assistant - Day Assistant	5/23/2024
Education Assistant - Day Assistant	Cholla	Education Assistant - Day Assistant	5/23/2024
LEAVE OF ABSENCE			
NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Davey, Martha	Saguaro	Education Specialist	1/30/2024

- *8.05 The student activities report for January, 2024, had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *8.06 The financial report for January, 2024 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *8.07 The vehicle inventory report for January, 2024 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *8.08 The vehicle maintenance report for January, 2024 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *8.09 The vouchers presented at the meeting were approved by the Governing Board.
- *8.10 The following donations were accepted:

Cactus
Mr. Guy Gamboa donated two 6'x8' mirrors to the Cactus Middle School dance/drama room, valued at \$1,020.

Casa Grande Middle School
Mr. Wilson had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$519.
Ms. Asis had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$595.

Ms. Barak had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$497.

Cholla

Mrs. Ward had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$312.

COIL

Mrs. Ellis had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$581.

Cottonwood

Home Depot donated 500 seed packets, estimated value of \$1,000.

Ms. Mackynen had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$306.

Ironwood

Ms. Gutierrez had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$330.

Mrs. Poecker had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$267.

Saguaro

Mrs. Thomas had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$574.

- *8.11 Approval of Student Activities Clubs' Fundraising Events – The Governing Board approved the fundraising events as presented.
- *8.12 Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Election Services – The Governing Board approved the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement, as presented.
- *8.13 First Reading, Revision of Policy GCCG Professional/Support Staff Voluntary Transfer of Accrued General (Sick) Leave – This was a first reading, no action was required.
- *8.14 A memorandum from Mr. York regarding Authorization for Purchase of COIL Classroom Furniture was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. The Governing Board authorized the purchase of the COIL classroom furniture from Arizona Furnishings as proposed.
- *8.15 A memorandum from Mr. York regarding Authorization of Investment Grade Audit was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. The Governing Board approved the Investment Grade Audit with Schneider Electric.
- 9.01 Ms. Wheatcroft 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, 2023. School district governing boards must publicly accept all audits and compliance questionnaires by roll call vote.

Mrs. Sisson moved to approve the Financial Audit and Compliance Questionnaire CWDL, P.C., for fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, as presented.

Mrs. Sisson 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	
Mike Cruz	X	

10.01 The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

11.01 Motion to adjourn to Executive Session – There was no motion.

12.01 Vote on Proposed Compensation Increases

Mr. Stabley moved to approve the compensation package as recommended.

Mrs. Sisson 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	
Mike Cruz	X	

13.01 Mrs. Varela adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Approved: 3/12/2024

President