

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, January 12, 2021, 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:**

Mr. Snider called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

- 1.02 Dr. Gonzales administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Sisson and Mr. Stabley for their election as Board members. Mrs. Caywood was absent and will be sworn in at a later date.

1.03 **Roll Call:**

Present:

Adelphia Sisson
Gilberto Mendez
David Snider, President
Jerry Stabley

Absent:
Nancy Caywood

Also Present:
See Exhibit 1

JoEtta Gonzales, Ed.D., Superintendent
Tom Wohlleber, Chief Financial Officer
Lisa Bradshaw, Director
Jennifer McClintic, Director
Stacy Howell, Director
Andrea Baker, Director
Robert Quinones, Director
Joseph Leon, Director
Jan Draper, Assistant Director
Mike Cruz, Communications & Marketing
Sherrie Gill, Executive Assistant

Reporter: Gabrielle Ontiveros
Casa Grande Dispatch

- 1.04 Mr. Mendez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 1.05 A moment of silence was observed.

- 1.06 Mr. Mendez moved to:

“Nominate Mr. Snider to serve as president of the Governing Board during 2021.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Nancy Caywood	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
David Snider	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	

1.07 Mr. Stabley moved to:

“Nominate Mr. Mendez to serve as president pro tempore of the Governing Board during 2021.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Nancy Caywood	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
David Snider	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	

2.01 **Agenda Adoption:**

Mr. Mendez moved that:

"The agenda be accepted and adopted, as presented."

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Nancy Caywood	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
David Snider	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	

3.01 Mr. Snider called for objections from Board members, staff, and the public regarding consent agenda items.

Mr. Snider asked that item 3.05 be removed from the consent agenda.

Mr. Stabley moved that:

"The agenda items marked with an asterisk, with the exception of item 3.05, be approved and/or ratified."

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Nancy Caywood	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
David Snider	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	

*3.02 The minutes of the December 8, 2020 Regular Meeting were approved by the Governing Board.

*3.03 The following certified personnel actions were ratified by the Governing Board:

Ratification of Increased Salary Compensation for Professional Growth: Ms. Jennifer Baron completed 18 credit hours at Arizona State University to qualify for professional growth advancement on the salary schedule. The Board ratified the increased salary for Ms. Baron.

Request for Release from Certified Personnel Contract: Christine Skubisz, 2nd Grade, CGOLA, effective 1/15/2021; Fawn Firestone, 3rd grade, Evergreen, effective 12/18/2020.

Ratification of Certified Personnel Employment:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.
Caroselli, Linette	Teacher On Assignment	CW/PV
Davey, Mark	School Counselor	Saguaro/Evergreen
Geerdes, Amber	1st Grade	Cottonwood
Gravenkemper, Emily	School Counselor	Ironwood

Ratification of Certified Personnel Resignations:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.
Firestone, Fawn	3rd Grade	Evergreen
Flores, Lisa	Teacher	Cactus
Skubisz, Christine	2nd Grade	CGOLA

Ratification of Reclassification of Certified Personnel:

Employee	New Position	Campus/Dept.
Adams, Lydia	8th Special Education Resource	Cactus
Higgins, Roshunda	3rd Grade	Evergreen
Siegrist, Kieran	7th SpEd Resource	CGMS

*3.04 The following classified personnel actions were ratified by the Governing Board:

Ratification of Increased Hourly Rate of Compensation for Professional Growth: Ms. Kerry Brackenbury, SLPA, has completed the American Sign Language course to qualify for professional growth through the Support Staff Development Program. The Governing Board ratified the increased hourly rate for Ms. Brackenbury.

Request for a Leave of Absence to Student Teach: Savannah Cantu, Education Specialist, Ironwood; Stephanie Branum, Associate Instructor, McCartney Ranch; Candice Bojorquez, Associate Instructor, CGMS.

Ratification of Classified Personnel Resignations:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.	Effective
Cluff, Brenda	Van Driver	Transportation	11/19/2020
Gray, Linda	Cafe Assistant	Nutrition Services	12/15/2020
Hernandez, Frank	Grounds & Land Specialist	Facility Services	12/9/2020
Hogan, Mary	Transportation Asst/Van Driver	Transportation	12/16/2020
Magallon, Eddie	Grounds & Land Specialist	Facility Services	12/9/2020
Neville, Monica	Accounting Specialist	Financial Services	1/21/2021
Ortiz, Maria	Office Assistant	CGMS	12/11/2020
Rodriguez, Sylvia	Digital Literacy Assistant	Ironwood	12/28/2020
Scavo, Faith	Education Specialist	ECLC	12/4/2020

Ratification of Classified Personnel Employment:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.
Anderson, Gerald	Crossing Guard	Cottonwood
Castro, Jassmin	Educational Assistant-ELL (BOY)	McCartney Ranch
Delseno, Jackee	Sub Bus Driver	Transportation
Torres-Mazon, Carolyn	Van Driver	Transportation
Williams, Melissa	Noon Assistant	Ironwood
Wilson, Michael	Bus Driver	Transportation

Ratification of Reclassification of Classified Personnel:

Employee	New Position	Campus/Dept.
Decker, Destiny	Education Specialist-Early Childhood	ECLC
Mejia, Ida	Cafe Site Asst. Manager	Villago

Ratification of Professional Growth of Classified Personnel:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.	Effective
Brackenbury, Kerry	SLPA	McCartney Ranch	12/14/2020

- 3.05 Acceptance of Administrative Resignation/Retirement: Tom Wohlleber, CFO, Finance & Operations, effective June 30, 2021.

The Governing Board offered their well wishes and thanked Mr. Wohlleber for his leadership of the Finance Department.

Mr. Stabley moved to:

"Accept Tom Wohlleber's resignation effective June 30, 2021."

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Nancy Caywood	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
David Snider	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	

- *3.06 The student activities report for December, 2020, had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *3.07 The financial report for December, 2020 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *3.08 The vehicle inventory report for December, 2020 had been provided in the Board's information.
- *3.09 The vehicle maintenance report for December, 2020 had been provided in the Board's information.
- *3.10 The weekly enrollment summaries for December 16, 2020 and January 6, 2021 had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting.

*3.11 The vouchers presented at the meeting were approved by the Governing Board.

*3.12 The 2019-2020 AFR – Amended was provided prior to the meeting. The Board approved the 2019-2020 amended Annual Financial Reports and authorized their transmission to the ADE for publication.

4. Call for Audience Questions Pertaining to Agenda and Items of Interest

4.01 There were no requests from the public.

5.01 The Superintendent recommended the Board accept the following donations:

Arizona Complete Health donated to the District 2,000 disposable facemasks and 500 individual hand sanitizers with an estimated value of \$1,000.

Tyler Bruso, science teacher at CGMS, was awarded a \$5,000 Diamondbacks School Challenge grant from the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation.

Ironwood Elementary received a check for \$1,000 from the Walmart “Miles for Education” program.

Mr. Mendez moved that:

“The donations be accepted, as read.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Nancy Caywood	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
David Snider	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	

5.02 On March 18, 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) was passed to help provide paid leave to employees who are affected by COVID-19 related incidents from April 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020. This provision is no longer mandatory. The financial impact of FFCRA to our District through December 31, 2020 has been \$82,762.66. The vast majority of individuals impacted have been support staff. The District believes that extending this benefit through March 31, 2021, as permissible by the FFCRA is appropriate.

Mr. Stabley moved to:

“Approve the extension of employee COVID-19 related leave, as presented.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Nancy Caywood	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
David Snider	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	

- 5.03 During the regular meeting of the Governing Board on November 10, 2020 the Board approved to move back to distance learning on November 23, 2020 and return to in-person learning January 19, 2021 if the benchmarks demonstrated a decrease in cases following the holiday season.

Benchmarks since then have increased in all three areas, deeming Arizona the worst case rate in the nation on January 4, 2021. Because of the continued increases, the District announced in-person learning would resume no earlier than February 1, 2021.

As of January 8th, we had 15 staff with active cases. There is also a large number of faculty/staff in quarantine because of family members who have tested positive or because of close contact with someone who has tested positive. A main concern is having enough staff to remain operational. We have to pay attention to the absenteeism rate as a metric as much as we do the positivity rate and COVID like illnesses.

When absentee rates begin to drop and we see trends developing in positivity of the district, that should be a signal we can begin looking at a return to classrooms. When we start to see those signs of improvement, we will be able to do some early warning to parents about the potential to return to the classroom.

It is recommended the Board continue to authorize use of the benchmarks and thresholds for making the decision to shift to in-person learning when viable.

Mr. Stabley moved to:

“Authorize the continued use of benchmarks and thresholds as recommended.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Nancy Caywood	absent	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
David Snider	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	

6.01 The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

7.01 Superintendent’s Report

Round 2 of the CARES Act was enacted on December 27, 2020. Out of that CARES Act there was an Education Stabilization fund that received an additional \$82B of which \$54B was allocated to elementary and secondary schools through ESSR. 90% of Arizona’s award must be subgranted to Local Education Agencies. We will receive an allocation based on Title 1A funds based on the 2020 SY. We expect it to aid in recovery.

AARP Experience Corp received a \$75,000 grant from AARP. This Pinal/Casa Grande group has done an excellent roll-out for our first year. Volunteers have been tutoring via Zoom. This is definitely a celebration for our district, city and Achieve Pinal.

Our Board Room sound projection system is in line to be updated. A vendor has taken a look at the system and provided quotes. They are looking at February to come and install.

Mr. Stabley reported that upon hearing about the AARP grant and in speaking with the vice president of the organization, they see the work being done in Casa Grande as a national model. They want to replicate and use the program in rural communities throughout the United States. The grant will help open up the program to other counties in the state.

9.01 Mr. Snider adjourned the regular meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Approved: 02/9/2021

President Pro Tem