

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, October 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. Mendez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.02 Roll Call:

Present:

Jerry Stabley
Adelphia Sisson
Gilberto Mendez, President
Thomas Ramsdell
Blanca Varela

JoEtta Gonzales, Ed.D., Superintendent
Aaron Whittle, Financial Officer (via Zoom)
Lisa Bradshaw, Director
Jennifer McClintic, Director
Jan Draper, Director
Robert Quiñones, Director
Stacy Howell, Director
Sherrie Gill, Executive Assistant

Also Present:
See Exhibit 1

Reporter: Aaron Dorman
Casa Grande Dispatch

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

2.01 Agenda Adoption:

Mr. Stabley moved that:

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

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

3. **Awards, Recognitions, Celebrations**

- 3.01 Dr. Gonzales recognized Cole Rice, 8th grade Cactus student, as student of the month. The other October Rotary students of the month will be recognized in November.
- 3.02 October Sunrise Optimist Club Students of the Month will be recognized in November.
- 3.03 Dr. Gonzales recognized Board Members Jerry Stabley and Adelpia Sisson for receiving their Certificate of Orientation from ASBA.
- 3.04 A proclamation declaring the month of October as National Principals' Month had been shared with Board members prior to the meeting. October is designated annually as National Principals' Month to recognize the essential role that principals play in school achievement and student success. A nationwide celebration of the principalship, National Principals Month is an initiative of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and other national organizations dedicated to school leadership.

Mrs. Sisson moved that:

"The Board approve the Proclamation of October as National Principals' Month for CGESD."

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelpia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

- 4.02 A proclamation declaring the month of October as Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) month had been shared with Board members prior to the meeting. The organization recognizes women who have proven themselves to be strong, efficient, professional teachers; to build fraternal fellowship with high standards of education; to assist in strengthening the status of the teaching profession; to sponsor scholarships and altruistic programs; and to cooperate with community projects. The proclamation was signed and disseminated throughout the District.

Nancy Harrison, Mary Peoples, Betty Jo Evers, Valdine Brower, Barbara Sundust and Rhonda Kesterson were in attendance representing Alpha Delta Kappa.

Mrs. Varela moved that:

"The Board proclaim October as Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) month in CGESD."

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

4.01 Call to the Public

Mr. Steve Hayes spoke on agenda item 7.03 and is against the Board giving Dr. Gonzales decision making authority when it comes to COVID-19 mitigation.

Ms. Lorenza Martinez spoke on agenda item 7.03 and is against the Board giving Dr. Gonzales decision making authority when it comes to COVID-19 mitigation.

Mr. Michael Cruz spoke on agenda item 7.03 and is against the Board giving Dr. Gonzales decision making authority when it comes to COVID-19 mitigation, and spoke on the supplementary curriculum review.

Mr. Steve Miller spoke on supplementary curriculum review. Mr. Miller wrote a letter to the board members. A copy is attached.

5.01 Mr. Mendez 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
Tom Ramsdell	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

*5.02 The minutes of the September 14, 2021 Special Meeting (Study Session) and Regular Meeting were approved by the Governing Board.

*5.03 The minutes of the September 21, 2021 Special Meeting were approved by the Governing Board.

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

Approval of Professional Growth Supplemental Agreements: The Governing Board approved the professional growth supplemental agreements, representing column changes on the certified schedule, for the identified staff.

Ratification of Certified Personnel Employment:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.
Abreu, Keea	Associate Teacher	Palo Verde
Flores, Janice	6th Social Studies	CGMS
Layson, Ariel	8th Language Arts	Cactus
Villaverde, Rhonda	1st Grade	CGOLA
Delcid, Alysia	Student Support Interventionist	Desert Willow

Ratification of Certified Personnel Resignations:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.	Effective
Fritchie, Kathy	5th Grade	Ironwood	9/24/2021

Ratification of Reclassification of Certified Personnel:

Employee	New Position	Campus/Dept.
Deatherage, Michelle	Associate Teacher	Evergreen
Estrada, Rahberta	.5 Associate Teacher	Saguaro
Hillman, Mikenna	Associate Teacher	Ironwood
Western, Kimberly	Associate Teacher	Evergreen
Cassalata, William	6/5 Contract (Adaptive PE)	Cactus
School Counselor FTE	Student Support Interventionist	Desert Willow
Ulrich, Diana	Teacher	Saguaro
Poehlman, Jennifer	Teacher	Mesquite
Davey, Mark	School Counselor	Cholla
Tijerina, Taryn	TOA	Cactus
Nelson, Suzan	Teacher	Ironwood / Saguaro
Tanaka, Aurora	Teacher	Villago
Gaetani, Nicole	Teacher	Ironwood
McKenzie, Panayiota	Teacher	Ironwood
Harris, Jamie	Teacher	Palo Verde
Baron, Jennifer	Teacher	Cactus
Peterson, Amberly	Teacher	Ironwood/Palo Verde

*5.05 Classified Personnel

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

Authorization to Provide Back Pay for Pay Increases: The Governing Board ratified the effective date of the specified increases to July 1, 2021.

Authorization to Reclassify 3 Site Tech Liaison Positions to 12-month Positions: The Governing Board authorized to reclassify 3 site tech liaison positions to 12-month positions as proposed.

Ratification of Classified Personnel Employment:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.
Belich, Debra	Health Office Technician	Saguaro
Casillas, Shelby	Education Specialist-Inclusive Education	Village
Dee Jr., Shawn	Custodian-P.M. Shift	Facilities
Gonzales, Ramona	Johnson O'Malley Liaison	Teaching & Learning
Gray, Jimmie	Custodian	Facilities
Melchor, Stephanie	School Nurse	Cactus
Mendoza, Zulma	Administrative Assistant	Teaching & Learning
Poecker, Meaghan	Day Assistant	Ironwood
Ramos, Milagros	Health Office Technician	Evergreen
Wood, Luke	Education Specialist-Inclusive Education	Ironwood

Ratification of Classified Personnel Resignations:

Employee	Position	Campus/Dept.	Effective
Anderson, Gerald	Crossing Guard	Cottonwood	9/24/2021
Castro, Hilda	Bus Driver	Transportation	10/8/2021
Derhammer, Nicole	Education Assistant/Crossing Guard	Palo Verde	12/16/2021
Garcia, Carlos	Grounds & Landscape Specialist	Facilities	9/28/2021
Hayward, Sharon	Cafe Cook	Nutrition Services	9/15/2021
Lawrence, Dave	Director of Facilities	Facilities	11/5/2021
McDonald, Jazmynn	Education Assistant/Crossing Guard	Cholla	9/17/2021
McIntosh, Karin	Early Education Assistant	ECLC	9/24/2021
McIntosh, Mariam	Education Specialist-Inclusive Education	ECLC	9/24/2021
Paulsen-Hill, Ashley	Cafe Assistant	Nutrition Services	10/1/2021
Pulido, Edward	Education Specialist-MOWR	Cottonwood	9/17/2021
Ramirez, Gabriela	Transportation Assistant	Transportation	10/27/2021
Ross, Kimberly	Cafe Cook	Nutrition Services	9/22/2021
Valenzuela, Stella	Office Specialist	CGMS	9/30/2021
Virgen, Michelle	Cafe Site Assistant Manager	Nutrition Services	10/1/2021
Wilson, Whitney	Office Specialist	Mesquite	10/5/2021

Ratification of Reclassification of Classified Personnel:

Employee	New Position	Campus/Dept.
Deatherage, Michelle	Education Specialist-Inclusive Education	Evergreen
Guevara, Roberto	Herbicide/Pesticide License	Facilities
Kempton, Brian	Site Technology Liaison	Digital Learning & Strategy
Mederos, Fernando	Bus Driver Special Needs	Transportation
Mejia, Roger	Relief Bus Driver/Dispatcher	Transportation
Paniagua Moreno, Erick	Grounds & Landscape Team Leader	Facilities
Schriever, Dennis	Bus Driver	Transportation
Western, Kimberly	Education Specialist-Inclusive Education	Evergreen
Williams, Dezirae	Health Office Technician	CGOLA

- *5.06 The student activities report for September, 2021, had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *5.07 The financial report for September, 2021 had been provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- *5.08 The vehicle inventory report for September, 2021 had been provided in the Board's information.

- *5.09 The vehicle maintenance report for September, 2021 had been provided in the Board's information.
- *5.10 The weekly enrollment summaries for September 15, September 22, and September 29, 2021 had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting.
- *5.11 The vouchers presented at the meeting were approved by the Governing Board.
- *5.12 Consideration of updates and changes to the Policy Manual for Casa Grande Elementary School District #4: Our Policy Manual was last adopted in November of 2009. Spring 2021 the CGESD policy manual was extensively reviewed and updated with consulting assistance from the Arizona School Board Association. No action is required at this time.
- *5.13 Consideration and Possible approval of Superintendent's Intermittent Leave Request: The superintendent is requesting leave of up to 20 hours per designated work week for the next 8-10 weeks to help care for a family member. The Governing Board approved the superintendent's intermittent leave request.
- *5.14 The following donations were accepted:

District

St. Peter's Episcopal Church donated \$1,500 worth of jackets, shoes, and undergarments for Title I students.

Cholla Elementary School

Ms. Sydnie Nagore had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$276.16. The project was titled "Building Needed Literacy skill with Scholastic News" and will purchase a Scholastic News subscription for her classroom.

Desert Willow Elementary

Ms. Heather Wilson had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$1,052.64. The project was titled "First Grade Coding with Bee Bots" and will purchase Bee Bots for her classroom.

McCartney Ranch Elementary

Ms. Crystal Young had a Donors Choose project funded in the amount of \$518.67. The project was titled "Hands-on Classroom Tools!" and will purchase hands-on learning tools that will help keep her students engaged.

- 6.01 Mr. Richard Rosales was going to be present to speak about the APS Supply My Class teacher awards. Due to his absence, this item will be placed on the November agenda.

- 6.02 Information regarding the Annual Override and Bond Funds report was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. Mr. Aaron Whittle presented the annual report on the expenditure of Budget Override and Bond Funds.

The M&O override funding priorities are maintaining class sizes within district-established guidelines, recruiting and retaining highly effective teachers and staff, and, retaining current staffing levels.

Through June 30, 2020 bond funding was used for new school construction of the Saguaro/CGMS school campus, facility/site improvements, Safety & Security and technology upgrades, and school buses.

Current projects include Cholla and Cottonwood facilities upgrades consisting of shade structures, playground equipment, landscaping, outdoor lighting and concrete.

The final issuance of bonds is expected in March 2022 at approximately \$4.5 million.

- 7.01 The Board discussed voting on one bylaw change proposal from the Arizona School Board Association. The bylaw proposal by the ASBA Board of Directors must be approved by two-thirds of the ASBA member boards to be effective. With unanimous approval of the ASBA Hispanic Native American Indian Caucus and ASBA Board of Directors, this change is being sought by the Hispanic-Native American Indian Caucus (HNAIC). It would create a seat on the ASBA Board of Directors so that Hispanic and Native American interests can be represented simultaneously on the board.

Mr. Stabley moved to:

“Vote in favor of the bylaw proposal to create a seat on the ASBA Board of Directors so that Hispanic and Native American interests can be represented simultaneously on the board.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

- 7.02 The Annual Financial Report (AFR) represents the financial activity for the 2020-2021 fiscal year as recorded by the District. A.R.S. 15-904 requires that the AFR be approved by the Governing Board and electronically submitted to ADE by October 15.

Mr. Whittle provided a brief overview of the 2020-2021 Annual Financial Report (AFR). A printed copy of the revised AFR was provided to Board members prior to the meeting.

Mrs. Varela moved to:

“Approve the 2020-2021 Annual Financial Report and authorize its transmission to the Arizona Department of Education and Pinal County Superintendent.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

- 7.03 A copy of the Ongoing COVID-19 Response document was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. The intent of CGESD is and will always be to provide in-person learning to the greatest extent feasible, while also taking the necessary actions to keep our students, staff, and community safe throughout this pandemic.

Dr. Gonzales and President Mendez addressed concerns brought forward in the Call to the Public. Board members expressed their confidence in Dr. Gonzales making the right decisions when it comes to the safety of our students. President Mendez stated that he asked Dr. Gonzales to review the plan as he does not want shut-downs. The Board cannot meet every day to review numbers to make those decisions. Dr. Gonzales suggested the board make an amendment to the motion that instead of it stating “for all” health and safety decisions, it state “for day to day” health and safety decisions.

1st Amendment

Mr. Stabley moved to:

“Grant authority to the superintendent for day to day health and safety decisions concerning COVID-19 mitigation.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

2nd Amendment

Mr. Stabley moved to:

“Amend the wording to “When a school reaches 1% positive cases (relative to school population of total student enrollment + total staff members), individuals at that school will be required to mask up for no less than 2 weeks as allowed by state law”.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

3rd Amendment

Mrs. Varela moved to:

“Grant authority to the superintendent for day to day health and safety decisions concerning COVID-19 mitigation and review on a quarterly basis.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

Mrs. Varela moved to:

“Authorize the health and safety mitigation decisions as amended.”

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

Board member	In Favor	Against
Tom Ramsdell	X	
Gilberto Mendez	X	
Adelphia Sisson	X	
Jerry Stabley	X	
Blanca Varela	X	

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

9.01 Superintendent's Report

- This year we are having our first two week fall break. What we have heard is that teachers are enjoying having the two weeks and being able to take time for themselves.
- We will start planning meetings soon for the 2023-2024 school year calendar. We will once again attend joint planning meetings with the Casa Grande Union High School District so that our calendars are aligned.
- The link for the supplemental curriculum review survey has been fixed. Mrs. Draper was able to fix the link during this meeting.

10.01 Mr. Mendez adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Approved: 11/9/2021

President



PINAL COUNTY
WIDE OPEN OPPORTUNITY

September 28, 2021

Dear CGESD Governing Board,

I am writing to take a stand on the content and curriculum that is making its way into your classrooms that include Critical Race Theory (CRT). Currently as I understand, there is no such content in the district. However, future content being considered by your district, CRT is prevalent. Now more than ever, it is vital that our elected school leaders take the lead to properly vet curriculum providers and engage in a comprehensive review of all content and curriculum. In addition, a full review of the vendor's mission, vision, and ideology needs to be considered as well. Upon review, you will find proposed curriculum that is designed to promote Critical Race Theory (CRT), divide our communities, and ultimately is against the law.

Our nation has come to a point where we are losing the moral fabric that has made this country great. Children are growing up without the ability to critically think for themselves. The idea of individualism has been forgotten. The value of being a free thinker in a free country is the reason why America is the greatest country in the world. You as a school board have the power to make a difference. It starts with introducing content and curriculum that focuses on the facts, promotes resilience, limits teachers' opinions, and does not include Critical Race Theory.

CRT was designed to examine the social constructs of America and to eliminate racism, however, it has done the complete opposite by perpetuating racism. CRT rejects the concepts of truth and merit, and furthers a "group think" mentality that privilege is associated with race. As a result, it has induced strife among our students based on our children's physical characteristics, cultures, and beliefs. These very items are what our founding fathers fought to ensure would not happen when they created the Constitution. Our founding fathers wrote the constitution to not be Red or Blue, but to hold no color. Our Constitution was designed to secure the rights and freedoms for every citizen to ensure equal opportunity.

Our children are far behind learning expectations. This pandemic has only compounded that problem pushing our children further back. More importantly, this pandemic has proven the need for curriculum that is designed to promote self-reliance, resilience, and Americanism. The best education our children can receive is the message that America guarantees everyone one thing, opportunity. Our future generations need to understand and experience capitalism and meritocracy, as they are the two key components that has made this country great.

I implore you to listen to the voice of all your students, parents, and staff. You will find that many share the same sentiment, schools need to refrain from CRT curriculum entering our classrooms. Our freedoms come with great responsibility, as a school board, it is your duty to protect these freedoms and our children from ideologies that divide our nation and defy the moral fabric of our country. Let's get back to teaching what matters most and empowering our children and parents to make decisions that are in the best interest for themselves.

I am hopeful my message will be received with optimism and a genuine care for all people. Should you have any questions or concerns about the matters above, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you

Respectfully,

Stephen Q. Miller
Chairman, Pinal County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Superintendent Dr. JoEtta Gonzales