



**YOUNG SCHOOL
DISTRICT#5**

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Patrick O'Donnell, Superintendent

**YOUNG PUBLIC SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD 4-Day School Public Hearing AGENDA MINUTES
Monday, April 10, 2023, 6:00 pm - Young Public School FFA Room**

(THE GOVERNING BOARD MAY CONSIDER ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IN ANY ORDER AND AT ANY TIME DURING THE MEETING)

Roll Call: _____ P _____ NOT
PRESENT _____
Sara Bunce, President James Bruzzi, Member

_____ P _____ NOT
PRESENT _____
Dean Bell, Member Polly Hageman, Member

_____ P _____
Linda Chapman, Member

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order, 6:07 pm- Sara Bunce
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance, led by Sara Bunce
- 3) Adoption of Agenda* motioned by Linda Chapman and seconded by Dean Bell;
Carried unanimously.
- 4) Four Day Week Public Comments
Stephanie Rider- *I just want to say regarding the four-day school week, works really well for our family. I would ask if the district adopts that, that we keep to that. Adding in the Fridays to this year was really hard because some of us have custody agreements that impact that. So, I just ask that if we are going to do a four-day school week, which we are definitely in favor of, that we stick to that four-day week, so that the kids can get their minutes in.*
- 5) Discussion/Action -- Board consideration of Four-Day Week for FY'24* Board will table number 5 until the May meeting, Motioned by Sara Bunce, seconded by Linda Chapman; Carried unanimously.
- 6) Adjournment* Motioned by Linda Chapman, seconded Dean Bell; Carried unanimously. 6:13pm

**YOUNG PUBLIC SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING AGENDA MINUTES
Monday, April 10, 2023, Immediately Following Hearing - Young Public School FFA Room**

(THE GOVERNING BOARD MAY CONSIDER ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IN ANY ORDER AND AT ANY TIME DURING THE MEETING)

Roll Call: _____ P _____ NOT

PRESENT _____
Sara Bunce, President

James Bruzzi, Member

PRESENT _____ P _____

Dean Bell, Member

NOT

Polly Hageman, Member

_____ P _____
Linda Chapman, Member

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order, 6:14 pm Sara Bunce
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance, led by Sara Bunce
- 3) Adoption of Agenda* motioned by Dean Bell, seconded by Linda Chapman; Carried unanimously. Recess at 6:17pm to 6:23pm.
- 4) Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting September 21, 2022, Special Meeting November 23, 2022, Regular Meeting December 12, 2022, Work Session December 28, 2022, Special Meeting December 28, 2022, Regular Meeting February 13, 2023, Regular Meeting March 6, 2023*- It was brought to the attention of the Board that the recording of November 14th minutes was damaged and unable to be heard. The Board requested if anyone had a personal recording to drop it off anonymously and the Minutes would be transcribed. Motioned by Sara Bunce, seconded by Dean Bell; Carried unanimously.
- 5) Administrator Report- Mr. O'Donnell reported that Starla had secured a \$5000.00 grant for the cafeteria. Young Public School is getting a new internet line installed. The elementary students had two field trips, 3rd-5th to Tonto Basin and K-2 to the Musical Instrument Museum. After school sports was a success and is finished for the year. The after school sports served 40+ students this year twice per week. Cafeteria AFR is completed and submitted. The staff has continued to work to improve our efforts on the 90-day letter from Auditor General's Office. The warm weather has allowed students to move out the flag pole outside for the morning meeting. The yearbook is now almost complete for the year. Mr. O'Donnell and Deputy Lahti are working on a safety plan for lock down situations.
- 6) Teacher Report- Shelia Davis presented that standardize testing has been going on and the students have been doing well with it. The younger kids enjoyed the fieldtrips! Kindergartens, 8th graders and seniors are getting ready for their graduation. 2nd graders are working hard learning money and sentence fragments. 3rd-5th are making posters for their wax museum that will be on the same day as the science fair. They have chosen someone from American history to be. 6th-8th are working on periodic table in science and exploring science fiction in language arts. Highschool students are working on polynomials and exponential functions in math and electromagnetic radiation in science. Highschool students are learning about Shakespeare in Language Arts.
Katie Clemmer was present and update the board herself on the preschool update. The Preschool is at full capacity with 4 children on the waitlist. The preschool has been recently accepted into Quality First Program. She urged the Board members to look into funding for the preschool and look into braiding federal and local funds.
- 7) PTO Report- Patrick O'Donnell presented the PTO report. The PTO hosted the last skate night. They will work on scheduling more though-out the summer.

8) Call to Public – Public comments or concerns may be heard, but no Board Action may occur-

Laurie Skurka: *Hi my name is Laurie Skruka and I did not plan on speaking tonight but we talked about security in the school and not doing drills. I want to know if the staff has plans for shelter in place. I'm an educator and having a plan a shelter in place, evacuation. I know we have bus evacuations but I do think it is important that at least the staff has an idea of how we would perform.*

Sara Bunce: I would encourage you to bring one of these to the next meeting? (held up a Public Participation- request to address the board form) because I appreciate your comments but they have to be attached to a form.

Laurie Skruka- *OK, thank you.*

Sara Bunce- Thank you. Ok I have three forms the first of which is going to be Ms. Shelia Davis. This is regarding emergency snow days and organization at school. Are we needing to tie that to specific agenda item?

Linda Chapman: It would be on the school calendar.

Sara Bunce: Ok I get it.

Sheila Davis: *It is actually more of a compliant verse a complaint.*

Sara Bunce: It just has to be coded so we are going to put it as a discussion for the calendar. Please proceed.

Shelia Davis: *I just wanted to thank you for the opportunity to address you at this meeting. Since coming to the school in January. I have been continually impressed and touched by so many things that occur here. And what follow is just a couple of examples that make this school so special. During the winter months I was fascinated. I have taught over 40 years and I have never seen something like watching our administration and our facilities personal as they worked efficiently as they organized and prepared meals, rides and notifications whenever we had unexpected changes. The kindness and the calmness that they bring, touches me. They helped so many children be calm when their world was changing. And it made the children feel safe and secure about the adjustments that are occurring. The attention to detail regarding the students' needs is a marvel to behold. I've never been at a school where there are hooks placed outside so students can hang their coats up as they play. Nor have I ever been at a school where they have booster seats and car seats that make it possible for everyone to go on field trips. The attention to our students needs have demonstrated so many ways each and every day. It has been an honor to work here at this fine school. And I hope appreciation is shown for all who make this school such a special place. And I wish to thank you as the board for all your time and effort to make Young Public School so special. And I say this for the bottom of my heart.*

Linda Chapman: We are glad to have you.

Sara Bunce: I will say during the power outage. Your students were comforting the younger ones. And you have a good way with them. Thank you. Ok, we are going to move on the Ms. Stephanie Rider, regarding L the 90-letter response.

Stephanie Rider: *And if I may since it was brought up about the November meeting. I would like to make a comment about that. Can I start with that?*

Sara Bunce: This would be the time.

Stephanie Rider: *The November 14th regular meeting the Board each received a copy of two formal complaints from me. All of the Board received that, Mr. O'Donnell received that, using the form from district policy, the district has never once addressed, investigated, or even acknowledged that you received those in November, but that was part of that November 14th meeting. I also have recordings of it. If the*

school would like to send me a written request to consider, I am more than happy to consider that as well.

For the 90-day letter one:

April 10, 2023

*YPS Governing Board Members, Members of the Community,
At the March meeting it was shared that Mr. O'Donnell that the district received a 90-day correction notice from the Auditor's General Office. The list that was shared was the initial findings that we have received from the Auditor's General Office on their initial thing that they wanted documents pulled, it was something presented to the Board at the very start of this audit. Having worked with Auditor's General's audit team, alongside Mr. O'Donnell, I was shocked to hear of this 90-day notice. Mr. O'Donnell and I worked together for almost a year with their audit team. They were pleased with processes we developed and had implemented; they thought our procedures we had developed were in line with their expectations. They did tell us numerous times that they would spot check and make sure procedures we had were being followed and processes were consistently followed. That was right before my accident.*

So, it sounds like their spot check showed things not in order, hence the 90-day notice and potential consequence of the state taking over as Mr. O'Donnell shared the last meeting. While there are still many unresolved between myself and the district, I am aware of the grave impact this would have on our district, teachers, students, especially given all the work that has been done in recent years to get the district to a healthy place financially. I am offering to help the district get things in line financially and avoid the state taking over the district office. My work ethic, and quality of the work I did for the district has never been questioned. I also have extensive knowledge of the district's finances over the past 4 years through working with Carrie to transition in to the role that I had. And I bring the experience of already having developed and implanted procedures and processes that met the audit requirements. So, I just wanted to offer that up.

*Respectfully,
Stephanie Rider*

Sara Bunce: And now we have Christi Rider regarding 5 admin report. Unanswered request for information from first week of September 2022.

Christi Rider: I'm just putting a brief description on there.

Sara Bunce: Oh sure, also item L is the 90-day letter. Are you looking for minutes that we did not approve tonight?

Christi Rider: No! You all are aware and have been aware because I have brought it up at every single Board meeting in my call to public that I returned, I submitted in the first week of September, two requests for information with several documents on each. No response. Months ago, Linda said "you have got to get that to her" that the most I have heard about it anytime. So, at what point if we weren't here at April 11th maybe November 14th minutes wouldn't be so important because we could remember what happened. But we are this many months past and now we know there is a problem. So, at what point do you start cycling this stuff around and requiring. You guys are the ones saying fill out a request for information, that what you have to do. Ok, well I am here to show you what happens when you do that. No, there were other things besides minutes on there. I see a packet of minutes on her table right there that say May 21 to present. So, among other things I asked for minutes, and apparently, they are available, but I still have not gotten any response.

Sara Bunce: As a clarifying question, when you submitted a request the first week of September were you requesting numerous meetings or were you? I'm trying to establish...(inaudible)

Christi Rider: *I requested minutes, I requested numerous things. He could pull them up and show you what I requested. I don't have them in front of me but I went in there. I went in originally to look at the packet of all the different things, the state had given you guys to look over. I was told I needed to sit there and look at that and then I could take it. I was following the procedure that I was given to try and sort through some of the things that came up at that time.*

Sara Bunce: And you submitted a hard copy to Mr. O'Donnell?

Christi Rider: *Two of them. Right Mr. O'Donnell?*

Patrick O'Donnell: As she said, there were two that she requested documents on. Yeah.

Sara Bunce: Are you familiar with whether or not those documents she requested would be made available by what Ms. Lieber got caught up?

Patrick O'Donnell: Part of it. Yeah

Sara Bunce: Are you able to offer us an idea of when we might be able to get those minutes to Ms. Christi Rider? When she signs that she receives them via the front office. Is that accurate?

Patrick O'Donnell: Yes. So um, I would be able to do it by the end of this week. So, Friday by 4pm. Thursday at 4pm.

Sara Bunce: Are you suggesting that she was to come right at the end of the day?

Patrick O'Donnell: No, that would be the latest.

Sara Bunce: Oh you'll communicate and work out the fine tuning.

Patrick O'Donnell: That will be the latest I would be able to get those documents to her.

Christi Rider: *I will be out of town tomorrow thru Thursday but I hope that the Board is listening to this. Because really it has been 8 months. I have brought this up 7 times now and he can have this done for me in two or three days.*

Sara Bunce: And we are so happy we are able to provide those to you.

Christi Rider: *Well so is this what we should expect when we request information? And use your process to do it?*

Sara Bunce: I am going to apologize now because I have been trying to lead to sort of a back and forth because your right. You have brought this up to us and I want to know. I want to put an end to it and I want you to know that it is going to be handled. But unfortunately, it is still a call to public and I cannot discuss it with you, now.

Christi Rider: *Where does that rule come from? Where it says you cannot discuss any of these issue in a meeting?*

Sara Bunce: I appreciate your question

Christi Rider: *Because my understanding is the Board can either discuss things in an open meeting or in executive session.*

Sara Bunce: The Board can.

Christi Rider: *Yes, so if you are not discussing it in our open meetings and you are not having executive meetings with those topics, when are any of these complaints in the last 9 or 10 months. When are any of them getting resolved? Because we are not getting any feedback. WE are not getting anything to tell us that anybody heard our complaint. All we are getting is you guys saying you cannot talk about it. But that is not true! You can talk about it. You can answer questions. You can do all of that in open meetings. That what open meeting are for. Is it not?*

Sara Bunce: Well, I am really glad about the things you are saying right now but I am not able to go back and forth with you because it is a call to public.

Christi Rider: *Ok, can you give me any idea? Can I get an answer to any of these.*

Sara Bunce: But I'm glad you're here though. My understanding is the minutes will be available by the end of the week. You're asking about?

Patrick O'Donnell: She is asking about more than minutes. Just for clarification. It is more than minutes.

Sara Bunce: Oh fantastic.

Dean Bell: It doesn't say anything that we can't discuss it just says that Board action may not occur. So, we can't make a rule about anything.

Christi Rider: *For us, it is very discouraging that it cannot be talked about. We say our piece and then that is the end of it. And that is just because you let us. I mean the Board president has that option. I feel like at what point do all of us on this side of the table get some feedback? Get some results. I mean this is kind of silly at this point. Really.*

Sara Bunce: I...

Christi Rider: *Shall I move on to my next?*

Sara Bunce: I would suggest that A Board president that didn't encourage a call to public would not be serving the people that...

Christi Rider: *I would agree. And you and Linda have been good at letting us have a call to public but it is a very one-sided process so we never hear what happened with that. And if you guys aren't talking about it at the open meetings, the only other place you are talking about it is the executive meeting. One or the other. You're shutting us down in a meeting. And not going to discuss it in front of us. When are you talking about it?*

Sara Bunce: *I think this is a powerful question but to able to answer that I would have to discuss that and prepare. Put the thought and preparation behind it.*

Christi Rider: *Could you maybe at the next meeting give us some kind of feedback?*

Sara Bunce: I feel like that is a possibility we could address that.

Dean Bell: Just to clarify something, We can't. I have had to pour through all of this. We can't discuss things like that in executive sessions one is legal. But something like that would not be discussed in an executive meeting. Something like that would not be brought up.

Christi Rider: *Right, so there goes back to my point. If it is not being talked about here. It is not being talked about. We would assume.*

Sara Bunce: I'm excited to prepare an answer for you.

Christi Rider: *Thank you. On to the next. This is just a question. Are we not way past the times for teacher contracts? Did anyone ever see one? Have you guys approved the teacher contracts? This is April.*

Patrick O'Donnell: Last year we did work hard to get them out in January Madam President but we are not quote past contract time. There has been a conversation with every staff member.

Sara Bunce: I know it has been on our radar.

Christi Rider: *Do we have any idea what we are looking at for renewals? OR anything? Just a question. I'll move on.*

Sara Bunce: Thank you

Linda Chapman: At the last Board meeting Mr. O'Donnell do you want to express how?

Patrick O'Donnell: The last board meeting it was part of the report that 17 or the 18 employees have shown a interest and desire to return to work here. One is considering staying but she is also looking to move closer to friends in the valley. That was part of the report last month

Christi Rider: *Ok. Hopefully, we have teachers next year. Ok. Minutes. Why I asked for minutes all with other things is because they were being brought up in these meetings. And I told MR. O'Donnell I want to see the proof and I want to know for myself. Ill read it for myself and I won't have to rely on other people. Ok so we had*

the minute issue and it has been brought up multiple times, in the call to publics, that Mr. O'Donnell was taking the minutes on his personal cell phone. Recording them on his personal phone. Not one meeting, not two meetings. Now, we just happened to have minutes that are missing That turned out to be a very important meeting, and now 5 months after the fact we are searching for those. So, there is that. The last thing that I will say is that the 90-day letter. I'm not sure, I'm sick that Young is in this position. I'm not sure what everyone understands the gravity of that. I know several teachers that weren't. And the first they heard of it was when it came up in the Board meeting last month. 90-day letter? Is Young really going to let the state take over our school? For 3-year-old issues that we cannot resolve? Because we are busy fight Stephanie so she can't do the job. And I through that in there, you don't have to agree but I'm saying at what cost are we going to let the school be taken over by the government? Come on you guys! What point do we decide that the financial issues at this school are important enough that they need to handled, whether we are short staffed, whether we got whoever we want in the position we want? Whatever. This school is a huge part of our community. To allow it to go, and we are what, half way through the 90-day letter at this point, I'm not even sure. And I asked last meeting and I got shut down, what was the date of the audit? I'm not sure everybody realizes this was an audit done from way back then. All the answers we got last meet about what was being done, have already been given to them.

Sara Bunce: I am going to touch on this point just for a moment Mrs. Rider. We are going to discuss the 90-day letter which is why I am not going to respond right now. I appreciate your patience buy we are going to discuss this.

Christi Rider: *Ok, OK, I just want to make sure that everybody realizes the gravity where we are at with it. I heard last meeting, there were several things we were not going to be able to do. Well, that is not going to go over well. If anyone wants to know what the impact of a 90-day letter is talk to some people in Tonto Basin. You get under it; you never get out of it. You'll have big brother watching over every single thing the school does, which we have prided ourself on not getting into this mess. And honestly, I feel like, this is on the Board. Come on you, guys! There are somethings we can't slip on, somethings that have to be taken care of, no matter what. And I am not willing to see our school go. What do we have to do here to get some action on this? Because we can't wait until day 90 and let them know all the things we are not going to fix, you know we just aren't going to do it.*

Sara Bunce: I appreciate

Christi Rider: *I told somebody that the last time, things that we could take care of things that we promised them. They have been promised a lot of that already. So, that is going to be the response. We know where that is going to go. Thank you.*

Sara Bunce: Thank you.

9) New Business:

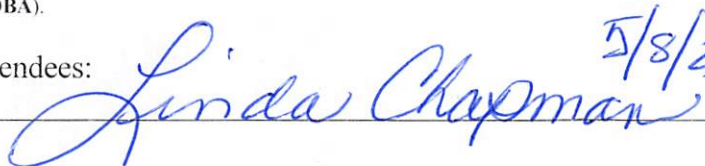
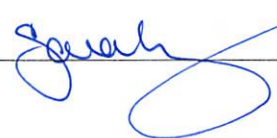
- a) Discussion/Action - Board approval of the Monthly Financial Report*
Motioned by Linda Chapman, seconded by Dean Bell; Carried unanimously.
- b) Discussion/Action – Voucher Ratification: Payroll Vouchers 18 & 19, and Expense Vouchers 2312, 2313* Motioned by Linda Chapman, seconded by Dean Bell; Carried unanimously.
- c) Discussion/Action – Board Approval of Four-Day Week schedule for FY '24*Board this discussion until May meeting. Motioned by Linda Chapman, Seconded by Dean Bell; Carried unanimously.

- d) Discussion – Superintendent Recommendation of Teacher- Mr. O'Donnell discuss the great teaching abilities of Haley Dickerson and Highly recommended her for her continued work with her students.
 - e) Discussion/Action – Board Approval of Teacher Contract* Motioned by Linda Chapman, seconded by Sara Bunce; Carried unanimously.
 - f) Discussion/Action – Board Approval to Participate in Gila County Summer Youth Employment Program* Motioned by Dean Bell, seconded by Linda Chapman; Carried unanimously.
 - g) Discussion/Action – Board Approval of Teacher Retirement for Rebecca Fuller and her return as an ESI employee for FY 24* Motioned by Sara Bunce, seconded by Dean Bell; Carried unanimously.
 - h) Discussion/Action – Board Approval of FY'24 School Calendar and FY'24 Pre-School Calendar* Board has decided to table this discussion until May Board meeting. Motioned by Linda Chapman, seconded by Dean Bell; Carried unanimously.
 - i) Discussion/Action – Board Approval of Summer School for June 2023* Motioned by Dean Bell, seconded by Sara Bunce; Carried unanimously.
 - j) Discussion/Action – Board Approval of Donations* Cleaning supplies donated by the Reyes family. Motioned by Sara Bunce, seconded by Dean Bell; Carried unanimously.
 - k) Discussion – The Board will discuss funding for the Pre-School- The Board members and staff at Young Public School are making funding for the preschool a high priority. Administration will be exploring grants and braided funding (state and local) to help fund the preschool properly.
 - l) Discussion – Board will hear and discuss updates on the 90-day letter response- Mr. O'Donnell discussed the deadline for our 90-day letter is May 23, 2023. He demonstrated the paperwork/ policy handbook that he and Ms. Leopold are creating for the Auditor General's Office to present Young Public Schools' improvements.
- 10) Adjournment* 8:22pm Motioned by Dean Bell, seconded Linda Chapman; Carried unanimously.

***Action Item**

As authorized by ARS 38:431.03, this public body, upon majority vote, may choose to convene in an executive session for the purpose of discussing items allowed by law. **Upon official notice the officer, appointee, or employee may choose to hold discussion and/or consideration in open meeting.** No final action can or shall be taken in the executive session. Items of business suggested by employees and patrons of the District will notify the Superintendent of the particular item of business at least four working days before the Board meeting (Young Public School Policy Manual- Policy BEDBA).

Attendees:

 ^{5/8/23}  ^{5.8.23}

Minutes Approved May 8, 2023:
