



YOUNG SCHOOL DISTRICT#5

P. O. Box 390 - 46878 Highway 288
Young, Arizona 85554
Phone: (928)462-3244
Fax: (928)462-3283
Patrick O'Donnell, Superintendent

YOUNG PUBLIC SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Monday, June 12, 2023 – 6 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 _____ P _____
Sara Bunce, President James Bruzzi, Member
_____ P _____ Phone in _____
Dean Bell, Member Polly Hageman, Member
_____ P _____
Linda Chapman, Member

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order by Sara Bunce at 6:00pm
- 2) Adoption of Agenda* Motioned by Linda Chapman, seconded by Dean Bell; Carried unanimously.
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance led by Sara Bunce
- 4) Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting May 8, 2023 and Special Meeting May 15, 2023* Motioned by Linda Chapman, seconded by James Bruzzi; Carried unanimously.
- 5) Reports:
 - a) Administrator Report – Superintendent O'Donnell updated the Board on what maintenance has been doing around campus; cleaning carpets, painting, cutting trees and weed eating. Two students are participating in the summer youth program; they will work mornings with maintenance and afternoons in the office. The Board recently received an email from an employee. When Mr. O'Donnell met with the employee per the Board instruction, he was asked what procedure should be used to make a complaint, because of the dissatisfaction they feel about the recent concern. Mr. O'Donnell directed the employee to complete the paperwork for Policy KEB, because of the built in timelines and he would forward it to the Board. The employee chose instead to incorrectly complete a Grievance Form, which was emailed to the Board and himself. Mr. O'Donnell encouraged the board to set an Executive Session with the employee to clarify procedures and discuss concerns. Mr. O'Donnell provided a survey he gave each employee (12 were returned) and reported the results to the Board on the results. He also encouraged the Board to read the written comments.
 - b) Teacher Report – No official Teacher Report, but Sheila Davis stated the children are enjoying summer school and working hard.
 - c) PTO Board Member- Gary Lollman updated that graduation was a success and field day was well received by the children and the community. The PTO will continue trying to recruit new members.
- 6) Call to Public – Public comments or concerns may be heard, but no Board Action may occur
Stephanie Rider- *This is Stephanie Rider,*

Dear YPS Board Members,

On May 18, 2023 I was informed that my name was on the AFR (annual financial report) that was submitted in February 2023 (it was Due in October 2022) to ADE. My name was provided on the line for "Business Manager", who is also the person who should complete this report. I was alarmed because I had no part in completing this report, or in doing the year end books at all for 2022- both items that multiple people have reported concerns with how Mr. O'Donnell was conducting business and have requested a third-party investigation into these concerns, which the Board has so far ignored. I spoke with ADE, who explained that the names on that report should be current staff and Board Members at the time of submission. They used the example for Board Members- that we didn't put previous Board Members on that report, their same logic says therefore my name should also not be on that report. They sent an email instructing that my name be removed and the report be resubmitted. I have attached that email to the minutes today and forwarded this email along with a screen shot to the Board and Mr. O'Donnell on May 19, 2023 requesting that my name be removed from the AFR report, and the instructions from ADE be followed.

Through attorney's I was informed that the District decided not to remove my name and not to resubmit the report. I'm confused as to why my name would be left on a report, and why the District will not remove my name and resubmit. The excuse that I worked for the district during that time, does not fit the processing and other procedures on that form- previous Board Members names, who were Board Members during that time have not been left on the report. I am publicly requesting that my name is removed from the report and that the report is resubmitted per ADE. I am also wanting it part of public record that I had no part in doing the year end for 2022, or in completing the 2022 AFR, and that an investigation into the operations of the district has been requested and ignored multiple times. Just like it was important for me to have my name removed from the school credit card in December after getting collection calls for non-payment, it's important to me to have my name removed from this report due to the concerns with the integrity and honest dealings of the District Administration. I do not want my name associated with reports that I had no hand in completing or verifying their accuracy, especially given the legal claims the district is ignoring regarding my whistleblower case which resulted in my termination from the District.

With regards,

Stephanie Rider

Sara Bunce reading for Christi Rider for item 7G,

YPS Regular Board Meeting

I can't believe that there is a discussion to take place approving a performance pay bonus for Mr. O'Donnell after the year we've had of continual issues and complaints. None of which have been rectified, and in most cases not even acknowledged. I want to go on record saying I'm very opposed that we would reward that kind of behavior. I fully believe that by the time his gig is up in Young, this community will have already paid a salary for years for a superintendent that doesn't hardly show up to work, who doesn't complete objectives set by the Board or by the State, who always has an excuse as to why everything is someone else's fault, who chooses not to be involved not only in our community but also is not involved in many of our school events, who has a record number of staff leaving with claims of hostility, and also consistently losing students due to his lack of leadership or concern with education. He jeopardizes the autonomy of our district with the state because of his lack of leadership, lack of playing by the rules and lack of care or concern for YPS. And last but not least, refuses to respond to my request for information that he is able to pull out and show the Board President two months ago; my request that has been sitting unanswered for 10 months now. And has been brought up at every single Board Meeting asking for a response to no avail.

He has not acted in good faith towards the school or community in any manner. This absolutely does not warrant any increase in pay or any performance pay. And although the Board has been reluctant to address these issues with him, I would hope they would take that into consideration when addressing his pay and performance pay. I'm wondering if we can take away pay from him for his lack of performance as indicated by all of the above?

Respectfully,

Christie Rider.

Sara Bunce reading for Christi Rider for 7E,

YPS Regular Board Meeting

The Board is discussing and approving a salary schedule tonight for next year. Isn't it an integrity issue to be doing this AFTER contracts have been completed and done? How were staff salaries determined and what actions is the Board taking to make sure there are no adverse or unfair pay practices going on in our district?

We were also told that the Kinder First teacher was resigning, but my grandson received a kindergarten round up invitation with her listed as the teacher. Was she re-hired? I've been at every meeting and didn't see it happen. Did the Board approve the 17% increase for her as Mr. O'Donnell shared she would be given when the rest of the teachers were given a 5% increase? If she wasn't re-hired, why isn't the position posted? And when can we expect positions to be posted so we don't have to lie about delaying the start of the school year and calling it COVID again?

Thank you for addressing these concerns,

Christi Rider

7) Action Items:

- a) Discussion/Action - Board approval of the Monthly Financial Report* Motioned by James Bruzzi, seconded by Sara Bunce; Carried unanimously.
- b) Discussion/Action – Voucher Ratification: Payroll Vouchers 22, 23, & 24, and Expense Vouchers 2316 & 2317* Motioned by Sara Bunce, seconded by Linda Chapman; Carried unanimously.
- c) Discussion/Action – Board ratification of Classroom Site Fund (Prop 301) payments, Stipends for Master's Degrees, and Performance Objectives Payments as earned by eligible teachers.* Motioned by Sara Bunce, seconded by Dean Bell; Carried unanimously.
- d) Discussion/Action – Board will discuss and may make adjustments to the Regular Meeting Day Schedule* No action taken. Recessed at 6:58pm and resumed session at 7:02pm.
- e) Discussion/Action – Board will discuss the Salary and Wage Placement documents and Stipends for Extra Duty Schedule for FY24* Motioned by Linda Chapman as modified, seconded by James Bruzzi; Carried unanimously.
- f) Discussion/Action – Board will clarify the Retention Bonus Eligibility* The Board clarified that the retention bonus will also include the superintendent. Motioned by James Bruzzi, seconded by Sara Bunce; Carried unanimously.
- g) Discussion/Action – Board will discuss and may approve the Performance Pay for the Superintendent* Motioned by Sara Bunce that the superintendent earned the Performance pay per contract addendum, seconded by Linda Chapman; Carried unanimously.

8) Discussion Only Items:

- a) Discussion – Board will discuss and clarify Meeting Minutes versus Meeting Transcripts. Mr. O'Donnell explained to the Board that for the May 15th meeting he had the Board secretary type minutes verbatim to remain transparent to an employee who was unable to attend the full meeting. However, following the Board's directive, he resubmitted the minutes in correct format for Board approval.

- b) Discussion - Board will hear and discuss updates on the 90-day letter response. Mr. O'Donnell updated the Board that the response has been submitted by the deadline to the Az Auditor General's Office. Auditor Chris V. has given verbal positive comments about the response, but is currently backed up with COVID-Money reporting so a formal response could be received by the end of June. Auditor Chris V. also shared that he has read a preliminary copy of the district's FY22 Audit and believes some of the findings there can be removed based upon the district's response to the 90-day letter.
- c) Discussion - Annual Audit FY22 reports will be discussed - Mr. O'Donnell verbally reviewed the findings on the FY22 Annual Audit. He referenced how changes to procedures in the past year have already addressed some of the findings, as stated by Auditor Chris V.
- d) Discussion – Pre-School Funding ideas will be discussed – Mr. O'Donnell discussed adjustments to how certain expenditures are coded to address the Performance Auditor's finding of Pre-school expenses not being allowed from M&O funds. Mr. O'Donnell reviewed with the Board the hard work that the Preschool Director has done. The Preschool Director was able to get a 5-star rating from Quality First and be eligible for more grants. Mr. O'Donnell explained that we will continue to work on grants for more funding.
- e) Discussion – Gym Ceiling Appearance will be discussed - Mr. O'Donnell addressed concerns brought to his attention about the ceiling of the gym. He explained to the Board that he is waiting to hear about a weatherization grant with the School Facilities Board before we try to address the issues.

10) Adjournment*at 8:19pm Motioned by James Bruzzi, seconded by 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: _____