

**COOLIDGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 21**  
**Governing Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 14, 2024**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Date, Time, Place of Meeting**

The Governing Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 6:00 PM, 450 N. Arizona Boulevard Coolidge Arizona.

**ROUTINE BUSINESS**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Present at this meeting was Vice-President Linda Heath, Member Kris Gillespie, and Member George Arredondo.

**Approval of Agenda**

Member George Arredondo MOVED, SECOND by Member Kris Gillespie, to approve the Board Agenda. Vice-President Linda Heath voted "yes", Member Kris Gillespie voted "yes, and Member George Arredondo voted "yes" Member George Arredondo MOVED, SECOND Member Kris Gillespie

**MOTION CARRIED: 3-0**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Vice President Linda Heath read the rules concerning public participation in a Governing Board meeting.

Mary Buckman thanked CUSD for being warm and welcoming and for the service they provide to the community. On March 19th there will be a Presidential Preference Election. This particular election will not be held at the different precincts and will be held at the City Council. Mary is requesting that that we display the election on the schools electronic signs.

**I. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Principals' Update - presented by Dr. Natay Ferguson, Dr. Yvette Dix, Marc Bruno, Rosanne Headley, and Kelly Ferguson.

**Coolidge High School – Updates from Principal, Dr. Natay Ferguson**

- Testing benchmarks are moving in the right direction showing growth from the pretest to the last benchmark. CHS teachers and staff will continue to push and prep the students in all four categories prior to state testing.
- Winter sports have finished and post season is happening. For wrestling three made it to state. This includes two girls Brook Newton and Julian Ostrander. For boys Matthew Mosan.
- Boys basketball game for round one is tonight (2/24) and girls basketball round two is Friday night (2/16) both will be home games.
- Girls basketball recognitions Player of the year Alasia White, First Team

Nalyssa and Amira, 2nd Team nomination Jade Rogers and three Honorable Mentions Alanna, Brie and Rihanna.

- Boys basketball recognitions Defensive player of the year Ja'Kwan Jordan. First Team Ja'Kwan and Tory. Second Team Blake and Isaiah. Honorable Mention Thomas and Darius.
- February 22nd is the Black History Event 5:30-8:00pm.
- February 29th is CUSD Choir Concert.

#### **Coolidge Junior High School – Updates from Principal, Dr. Yvette Dix**

- Student benchmark assessments have shown growth from the start of the year. CJHS staff has been meeting together to discuss the upcoming high stakes tests and are having conversations about how they can prepare the students. The staff is offering extra tutoring and Friday School.
- On February 22nd there will be an assembly honoring the students in activities and sports.
- Robotics had their first competition at Desert Ridge High School and did an amazing job.

#### **Coolidge Alternative Program and Coolidge Virtual Academy – Updates from Principal, Marc Bruno**

- CVA and CAP Junior students have shown a lot of growth on benchmark assessments. 95% have completed both benchmarks.
- Two CAP students and two CVA students have already graduated, Three additional students from CAP are close to completing all credits for graduation.
- On February 28th starting 5:00pm there will be the 3rd Annual Parent Night. Students, parents and guardians swap roles for the evening.

#### **Heartland Ranch Elementary – Updates from Principal Rosanne Headley**

- Kyle Lucas from U of A Co-Op has visited the 4th grade students and educated on Nutrition and sugar intake - Big thanks to Mr. Delbridge for organizing this.
- Heartland Ranch has been celebrating Kindness Week, Spirit week and Fill Your Bucket Week.
- February 15th is the Student Dance
- February 28th is the Annual Dr. Seuss Literacy Night at 5:00pm

#### **West Elementary – Updates from Principal Kelly Ferguson**

- At the end of January, West held their annual Culture Night with a great turn out of about 300-400 guests and everyone was excited with all the participation.
- The West choir performed before both Girls and Boys basketball game singing the National Anthem. They loved it and are grateful for the exposure the kids got to have.
- On Thursday February 22nd Westval will take place

- B. Governing Board Outstanding Character Awards - presented by Kelly Ferguson, Rosanne Headley, Marc Bruno, Dr. Yvette Dix, and Dr. Natay Ferguson

**Governing Board Outstanding Character Awards were presented to the following students:**

- *Deacon Brown* – 1st Grade – West Elementary
- *Eva McClellan Pehowic* – 2nd Grade – Heartland Ranch Elementary
- *Jason Kastner* – 12th Grade – Coolidge Alternative Program
- *Tayah Dalfrey* – 8th Grade – Coolidge Junior High School
- *Ariana Crawford* – 9th Grade – Coolidge High School

C. Governing Board Outstanding Service Awards - presented by Rosanne Headley, Kelly Ferguson and Dawn Hodge.

**Governing Board Outstanding Service Awards were presented to the following staff:**

- *Ethan Neuhart* – Title 1 Paraprofessional – West Elementary
- *Paulette Sutulovich* – CUSD SAIS Coordinator – Heartland Ranch Elementary
- *Ben Armstrong* – Human Resource Director - District Office

## **II. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. **Approval of the Auxiliary Operations and Student Activities Reports for the month of January, 2024.**
- B. **Approval of the Donations Log for January, 2024.**
- C. **Approval of the Voucher Log for January, 2024.**
- D. **Approval of the Minutes of the January 17, 2024 Meeting.**
- E. **Other Consent Items**
  - 1. **Approval of the following personnel recommendations: Hiring, Position Changes/Transfers, Resignations/Terminations; Requests to rescind Resignation: Retirement Requests; Requests to Rescind Retirement; Request for Change of Salary of Grade; and Stipends for: Administrative, Certificated, Classified, Wage.**
  - 2. **Approval for release time and overnight travel expenses for Marie Bresee and 10 CHS students to attend the Skills USA State Conference in Phoenix, AZ, March 28-29, 2024.**
  - 3. **Approval for overnight travel, release time and expenses for Danielle Tucker, Armando Pisano and 20 CHS students to attend the FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Tucson, AZ, April 1-3, 2024.**
  - 4. **Approval for overnight travel, release time and expenses for Nicole Schmitt, and 10 CHS students to attend the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Tucson, AZ, April 8-10, 2024.**

5. **Approval of expenses and overnight travel for Dan McWilliams, Director of Plant Operations, Kelly Shields, Lead Driver/Dispatch, Sylvia Molina, Lead Driver, and Rhonda Mitchell, Bus Driver to attend the Transportation Administrators of Arizona (TAA) 2024 Summer Conference in Flagstaff, AZ, June 17-20, 2024.**
6. **Approval of overnight travel and expenses for Coolidge High School Boys Basketball Team to attend State Playoffs in Chinle, February 17-18, 2024.**
7. **Approval of overnight travel and expenses for Coolidge High School Girls Basketball Team to attend State Playoffs in Prescott, February 18-19, 2024.**
8. **Approval of overnight travel and expenses for Coolidge High School Boys Basketball Team to attend State Playoffs in Prescott, February 19-20, 2024.**
9. **Overnight Travel to National Migrant Education Conference**
10. **Approval of Sole Source Procurement Vendor for FY24.**

Member Kris Gillespie MOVED, SECOND by Member George Arredondo, to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-President Linda Heath voted "yes", Member Kris Gillespie voted "yes", and Member George Arredondo voted "yes" Member Kris Gillespie MOVED, SECOND Member George Arredondo

**MOTION CARRIED: 3-0**

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES (Action, Discussion, and Information Items)**

- A. Approval of 2024-2025 contract renewals for certified teachers.

Superintendent Hodge stated that in the packet is a list of teachers that are being asked to renew. CUSD was able to offer a \$1500 raise to all certified staff. Normally this is not available but working with The Director of Business, Alyssa Garrett. they were able to offer this utilizing Classroom Site Fund. This is with hopes that the state comes back with other monies that can be used to increase even further, but the \$1500 is what can be offered as of now.

Member George Arredondo asked if the state authorizes additional funds, this would be on top the \$1500? Superintendent Hodge responded "absolutely, yes"

Member George Arredondo MOVED, SECOND Member Kris Gillespie to approve of the 2024-2025 contract renewals for certified teachers. Vice-President Linda Heath voted "yes", Member Kris Gillespie voted "yes", and Member George Arredondo voted "yes"

**Motion: 3-0**

**OTHER (Action, Discussion, and Information Items)**

A. Governing Board and/or Superintendent's Report and Update

**Superintendent Dawn Hodge:**

Next months meeting falls a week early during spring break on March 6th.

**Member George Arredondo:**

Member Arredondo attended a few of the events that took place

1. The Garrett Motors Roundhouse Celebration and wish the best of luck to the basketball team with the next rounds.

2. Heartland Ranch STEM night and stated there was good participation and great things happening there.

3. West School Culture Night has different foods to taste and big participation.

4. At the City Council FBLA did the Proclamation Presentation and was very impressed with the students.

Member Arredondo stated that he is running for County Supervisor, District One.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Member Kris Gillespie MOVED, SECOND Member George Arredondo, to adjourn the meeting at 6:31PM. Vice-President Linda Heath voted "yes", Member Kris Gillespie voted "yes", and Member George Arredondo voted "yes"

**MOTION CARRIED: 3-0**

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Andrea Felix and approved on March 06, 2024.

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Governing Board	Title	Date
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Public Notice of Governing Board Meeting Procedures.

The Coolidge Unified School District Governing Board Meetings are open for members of the community/public to join in-person. We will continue to operate our livestream services through the Coolidge Schools Vimeo account with the exception of meetings during school breaks. Visit our website for direct access:

[https://www.coolidgeschools.org/gb\\_members](https://www.coolidgeschools.org/gb_members)