

COOLIDGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 21
Governing Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

Date, Time, Place of Meeting

The Governing Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM, 450 N. Arizona Boulevard Coolidge Arizona.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

Call to Order and Roll Call

Present at this meeting was President Michael Flores, II, Vice-President Linda Heath, Member Kris Gillespie.

Approval of Agenda

Member Kris Gillespie MOVED, SECOND by Vice President Linda Heath, to approve the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There is no public participation.

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

- CHS had two swimmers make it to state and did well.
- Over break we had a phenomenal AG program tour. The students walked farmers and some local businesses around, showed them all our equipment and the animals. The students did a wonderful job.
- We had a CAVIT showcase on our campus, which allowed our students who were eligible to participate in CAVIT to see all that CAVIT had to offer.
- Marine Corps Ball (11/14)
- Native American Heritage night (11/21)
- Cheer competition (11/22) at the Coliseum.
- Blood Drive (12/02)
- The band will be starting their concerts and winter dance.

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

- Softball is currently 4-2, ranked number 17 in the state.
- Flag football is 2-1 and ranked number 19 in the state.
- Wrestling is doing a phenomenal job. We have many students who are really shining in wrestling and are placing at every single tournament. Overall, as a team they took second at the Takedown Classic at Imagine Prep at Coolidge.
- Coming up is the Turkey Takedown that is happening this weekend at ALA Ironwood. We're looking forward to seeing how our kids do.
- Our student council students took a trip to Macy's yesterday, to the convention center, and attended workshops on leadership to learn more about their role as student leaders on our campus. And one of the big pieces that they came back with, was that they are superheroes, and that they need to make sure that they are harnessing their power of greatness! A quote that I heard was, "if I don't quit, I can't lose." So that's become their new mantra. They are really psyched and ready to lead us through the rest of the school year.

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

- Since we last met, a lot of our CAP students were making a big push to go on more college and campus visits and for workplace visits. I know students have gone to University of Advancing Technology. One of the students liked it so much, applied and got accepted. Several visits to CAC for a work skills demo and a couple of classroom visits. So, the students were excited to see what those college classrooms looked like and not too much different than high school classroom. CAP also took its first ever trip to ASU. The students were excited because many of those students had never seen that campus up in Tempe.
- On October 30th, CAP hosted its first ever college and career fair. Mr. Latham, our counselor, did an amazing job. There were two sessions and all the students were able to go in. The students had an amazing experience talking to the reps and getting questions answered. Mr. Layton is already planning for next year during the springtime.
- Last Tuesday CAP held its first ever student government elections for our government known as the Knights Council, we had officer elections, and then a couple of days later we had class reps, we did two representatives from each grade level. For the first time. Mr. Gonzalez did an amazing job setting up the electronic balloting. We strived to have a nice, clean election, and it was amazing, and the students had a fun. Mr. Latham will be starting up the Knights Council coming up before the new year.

Heartland Ranch Elementary – Updates from Principal Rosanne Headley

- Last week, HLR hosted our annual fall festival. It was a successful turnout, like usual, despite the cooler weathers and sicknesses going around.

- We just closed applications for our 4th and 5th graders. There are four opportunities for them to apply for campus jobs in that morning time from 7:45 to 8:15. There are about 16 students who were selected to fulfill those roles. I met with them today about their job duties. They will be helping with playground supervision for the little kids, at parent drop-off, cafeteria monitors, and in the library.
- Looking ahead into December, we have our holiday shop coming to campus, where we have JAG students from the high school help. It's nice to have them on campus working with our students.

West Elementary – Updates from Principal Kelly Ferguson

- At West, when we came back from Fall break, we had CAVIT Fire come and do presentations. They ran five different stations, two in the classrooms, two outside, and then the Coolidge Fire Department brought their fire safety trailer. Every class was able to rotate through at least two stations. The students did a great job with presentations and the kids really enjoyed learning about fire safety.
- We had our Storybook Pumpkin Patch and Trunk or Treat the day before Halloween, and then on Halloween day we had some Dalmatians running around our campus all day. The kids loved it and had fun.
- Tomorrow (11/14) we have our Reading Under the Stars hosted by our kindergarten teachers. They provide hot cocoa and s'mores outside and the kids read books on the lawn with their favorite teacher, their favorite parent, their friends.

- 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:

- *Evee Mosser - 2nd - West Elementary*
- *Aidan Brown - 4th - West Elementary*
- *Aubree Silva - Kindergarten - Heartland Ranch Elementary*
- *Jayceon Peace - 2nd Grade - Heartland Ranch Elementary*
- *Cecilio Salgado Ramirez Jr. - 12th Grade - Coolidge Alternative Program*
- *Rylee Robinson - 12th Grade - Coolidge Alternative Program*
- *Chloe Ewing - 7th grade - Coolidge Junior High*
- *Elliette Shaffer - 8th grade - Coolidge Junior High*
- *Amayia Aguirre - 9th grade - Coolidge High School*
- *Camila Diaz - 12th grade - Coolidge High School*

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

Governing Board Outstanding Service Awards were presented to the following

staff:

- *Qiana Adams – School Counselor - West Elementary*
- *Nathan Medina – SEI Paraprofessional - Heartland Ranch Elementary*
- *Gerarda Lopez – Paraprofessional – Coolidge Junior High*
- *Cynthia Cardenas – Math Teacher – Coolidge Alternative Program*
- *Jonna Nissen – CTE AG Teacher – Coolidge High School*
- *Susan Cushway – PE Teacher – Coolidge High School*

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Approval of the Auxiliary Operations and Student Activities Reports for the month of October, 2024.**
- B. **Approval of the Donations Log for October, 2024.**
- C. **Approval of the Voucher Log for October, 2024.**
- D. **Approval of the Minutes of the October 9, 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. **Annual Review of Indian Policies & Procedures, 1st Reading.**
 - 3. **Approval of Policy Advisory 801-807, 2nd Reading.**
 - 4. **Approval for overnight travel and expenses for CUSD Counselors Monica Cavanaugh, Tres Chapman, Diane Englehart, Shawn Pannell, Qiana Adams and Chris Lathan (CAP/CVA College/Career Advisor) to attend the Arizona School Counselors Association (AzSCA) Annual Conference in Fort McDowell, AZ, February 2-4, 2025.**

Vice President Linda Heath MOVED, SECOND by Member Kris Gillespie, to approve the Consent Agenda

MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

OTHER (Action, Discussion, and Information Items)

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

Superintendent Dawn Dee Hodge:

I have a few things that I'd like to share this evening. We had an article in paper about the improvement of our school letter grades. CAP is CUSD's first A school, congratulations to Mark and all his team. Coolidge High School raised their grade to a B this year, congratulations to Natay and her team. The rest of our schools are C schools at this time, and we've looked at what needs to happen to increase those letter grades. Overall, it's the first time that Coolidge Unified is now a B district and that is a two-letter increase over the last three years.

Last month we met with Mutual Link, and they came in and they did our Internal test to make sure that all our cameras were up and running so that when we call a lockdown it initiates a Mutual Link response and notifies all the people that should be notified. The first part of December we'll be doing our end-to-end test which will include all of law enforcement. We did have law enforcement, participation in our internal test, but we'll be doing a full end-to-end test at every single site, and then we'll be completely up and running. But our sites are using it on a regular basis, making sure that they're logged in. Today, when Coolidge High School went on a soft lockdown it initiated a mutual link response, but did not alert law enforcement. A soft lockdown does not initiate that. What we do is called a shelter-in-place, but it does let the rest of the campuses know that Coolidge High School is on a lockdown. Lastly, yesterday we went through our accreditation review. Through that, they interviewed Principals and I, we did a presentation for them on the district. They interviewed President Flores and Vice President Heath. And they also had an interview time with some of our directors and teachers on our campuses. What they noted, these aren't all the positives that they noted, but they noticed that there was a positive culture, that we spoke a common language, that there was a synergy within the people and district, that we showed fiscal responsibility, meaning that our money goes to where kids are. They noticed that we're very purposeful about the way we spend money and that it goes directly to impact kids. They also noticed that we are very resource rich, which we have talked about a lot in this district. We'll get our final report in January, and then they'll determine if we will be accredited. I don't believe that there'll be any issue with that, but they did note that we do need to work on some consistency in structures, district wide. Anything from PLC implementation to implementing resources on campus and that it looks the same at every campus. And we should have a formal structure to evaluate those programs and resources to determine their effectiveness and that we involve our stakeholders more effectively. These are the areas of weakness that we have identified as well. Those few items along with others of ours are what our next steps of improvement will be.

Vice President Linda Heath:

You mentioned the FFA Farm Tour. It was amazing. Those kids were completely in charge. They did it. And they did it so well.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Linda Heath MOVED, SECOND Member Kris Gillespie. To Adjourn the meeting at 6:40PM. President Michael Flores voted "yes", Vice-President Linda Heath voted "yes", Member Kris Gillespie voted "yes"

MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Andrea Felix and approved on December 11, 2024.

Governing Board

Title

Date

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