



## NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 25, 2024, held at 4:00 p.m.

### I. Attendance:

**The following Board Members were present:**

Cesar A. Lopez, President; Members, Greg Lucero, Manuel Ruiz, and Robert Rojas

Board Member not present: Patricia Muñozcano, Board Clerk

#### a. Call to Order

**Mr. Lopez called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.**

Mr. Lopez made the notification that Ms. Muñozcano was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a schedule conflict.

#### b. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Alfredo Velasquez, County Superintendent, led all in the pledge.

#### c. Adoption of the Agenda

Superintendent Canto recommended approval as presented with an addition to the consent agenda, adding item "w" out-of-state travel for NHS.

Mr. Rojas made a motion for approval and was seconded by Mr. Lopez with the addition mentioned by Superintendent Canto.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Rojas, Lopez, Lucero, and Ruiz

### II. Approval of Governing Board Minutes of February 12, 2024

Superintendent Canto recommended approval as presented.

Mr. Rojas made a motion for approval as presented, and was seconded by Mr. Lopez.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Rojas, Lopez, Lucero, and Ruiz

### III. Governing Board/Superintendent Information

#### a. Superintendent Report – Discussion, Celebration, Recognition, Announcements

1. Update

Superintendent Canto introduced Elizabeth Lopez as the newly selected Grants Director. She mentioned that Ms. Elizabeth Lopez was selected after a very competitive interview process which included a practical exam, spreadsheet, and a committee interview. She mentioned her education stating she had a Master's degree from the University of California. Furthermore, she was attending ASBO training and would be earning her certification soon which made her a tremendous asset to the District.

The Board congratulated Ms. Lopez and welcomed her to the Administration Team.

2. Presentation – Ms. Susan Contreras Early Childhood Education Award Of Excellence Recognition

**\*\* Out of sequence**

Superintendent Canto gave an overview of Ms. Susan Contreras' recognition received stating she always does an exceptional job.

Mr. Alfredo Velasquez thanked and congratulated Ms. Contreras for doing a great job.

Ms. Contreras stated she has been blessed with the NUSD team adding she has a great team of principals. She thanked Mr. Velasquez, Ms. Canto, and the Governing Board for their support.

3. Recognition to CTE Cabinet Making Mr. Mark Foreman and his 1st Period Advanced Cabinet Making Class

Superintendent Canto, introduced Mr. Foreman CTE teacher, and his 1st-period class who presented and revealed the new Governing Board Room podium made by the NHS wood class.

Superintendent Canto recognized Mr. Foreman for doing a wonderful job.

The Governing Board praised him and his class for doing a great job.

4. Update - Governing Board Retreat Scheduled for April 12, 2024

Superintendent Canto reminded the Governing Board of the upcoming date for the Board's retreat.

5. Successful FY24 Title I Cycle 4 Monitoring

Superintendent Canto gave a brief update explaining the program was an intensive one which required a lot of work and gave a shout-out to Ms. Scott for putting together the presentation and for all of her hard work.

She further thanked Asst. Superintendent Aissa Bonillas, Licet Jimenez, Mr. Mehta, and Mr. Payne. She stated for the record other staff members and thanked them for their participation in the presentation. Especially Ms. Silva for hosting the site visit at Welty School. Further, she thanked Ms. Vicky Barden of the Boys and Girls Club and Ms. Donnelly from the Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office for their collaboration.

The Board congratulated Ms. Scott for a job well done and all participants.

6. ASBO International's Certificate of Excellence Financial Reporting (COE) for FY23 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Superintendent Canto gave a brief overview and mentioned that the Business office in collaboration with the HR Department had been awarded the FY23 ASBO Certificate of Excellence Financial Reporting and this confirmed the District was doing very good things and being responsible with procedures.

b. Governing Board Report, Celebration, Recognition, Announcements

Mr. Ruiz reported he had enjoyed reading to the fifth graders at Lincoln Elementary and it had been a very nice event.

Mr. Lucero reported he had attended the Board Meeting in Pima County and it had been a successful meeting for they had approved the carry forward for NUSD. He congratulated Mr. Foreman for the great work with the new podium and stated there were good signs for diversity with girls' involvement in making cabinets. He further shared that at the CTE level, there is a high demand in the healthcare industry and that there are grant opportunities with the Department of Labor which are looking promising at the pre-apprenticeship level to support those types of programs that the District could explore.

Mr. Rojas reported he had attended at Nogales High School the Chef Cookout and it was very well attended by parents and administrators, and he was hopeful that other schools could get engaged as well.

He also attended the ASBA conference where he met very professional people. He gave a shout-out to Mayra Zuniga, HR Director, for her presentation with ASBAIT. He mentioned he heard a lot of praise about Mayra's involvement. He stated he was proud of the work she was doing and that the information had been very productive and informative. He further mentioned he planned to attend the BOLTS seminar in Phoenix on April 19, 2024, where he would also be representing the Board of Directors of Santa Cruz County.

Mr. Lopez reported he had read at Principal Villalon's Bracker Elementary School. He thanked the County Superintendent's Office for their support and Patricia Barraza for her work with the Reading is Fundamental program.

He also attended the Spelling Bee which was a great event and NUSD did well in the competition.

He attended the ASBA Hispanic Caucus Alliance where he serves as the chairperson. He mentioned they approved thousands of dollars in scholarships for seniors and Superintendent Canto could have the counselors at the high school level offer the opportunity for application to the students.

He commended Ms. Irma Fontes (Mily) for doing a good job with the CTE program and Mr. Foreman for a job well done with the new Board Room podium.

He welcomed Elizabeth Lopez to the administrative team.

IV. Call to the Public

None

## V. Consent Agenda

Superintendent Canto recommended approval as presented with the addition previously noticed of the addition of item "w".

Mr. Rojas made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Lopez for approval as presented to the Board.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Rojas, Lopez, Ruiz, and Lucero

- a. Ratification of Expense/Payroll Vouchers
- b. Ratification of Student Activities/Auxiliary Operations Vouchers
- c. Student Activities/Auxiliary Operations Funds Extra Curricular Tax Credit
- d. Approval of Out-of-State Travel for Donald Heaton, NHS Band Director, to attend the MBA Summer Convention in Osage Beach, Missouri
- e. Approval of Out of State Travel for Governing Board Members/Administrators to attend the IB Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. July 24-28, 2024
- f. Approval of Donation by Corella International S.C. (\$1,000 to NHS Girls Tennis team)
- g. Approval of Donation by College Knowing & Growing (\$1,250 to NHS for grant stipend funds and ambassador funds)
- h. Renewal of Sole Source Status to Tyler Technologies for FY 24-25
- i. Renewal of Sole Source Status to Scholastic Incorporated for FY24-25
- j. Renewal of Sole Source Status to Cognia Incorporated for FY24-25
- k. Renewal of Sole Source Status to Frontline Technologies/Education for FY24-25
- l. Renewal of Security Monitoring Services Contract for FY 24-25 to Secur-Tec Security Systems LLC
- m. Approval of the SAIS Outreach Program Agreement with Vail School Dist. for FY24-25
- n. Award Sole Source Status to Apptegy for FY23-24
- o. Award Sole Source Status to Apptegy for FY24-25
- p. Approval of Personnel Agenda
- q. Approval of Addendum
- r. Approval of Pay-Period Schedule for School Year 2024-2025
- s. Approval of Insurance Renewal for ASBAIT, Delta Dental and AXA through BCBS for FY2024-2025
- t. Approval of Benefits Schedules for School Year 2024-2025
- u. Approval of Contracts/Wage Notice Language for School Year 2024-2025
- v. Approval of Salary Schedules for School Year 2024-2025
- w. **Approval of Out-of-State Travel for Joshua Jetton and the NHS Coaching Staff to attend the FCPGA Coaching Staff Professional Development in Poway, CA - (\*This item was added at the beginning of the meeting during the approval of the Agenda)**

**\*\*At this time the Board went back to Superintendent reports, item #2.**

## VI. Action

- a. Acceptance of the FY23 Annual Audit Reports Issued for Fiscal Year Ending 6.30.23

Superintendent Canto gave a brief overview and introduced Mr. Heinfeld.

Mr. Heinfeld of Heinfeld Meech introduced himself and gave a PowerPoint presentation. He thanked Ms. Carlyle for the time and effort to pull records for them to review and the district for doing a great job without findings.

Mr. Lucero congratulated Ms. Carlyle and the business office team for doing a great job.

Mr. Rojas thanked them for an excellent presentation and Ms. Carlyle for doing a great job. He added he felt confident with the team.

Mr. Lopez thanked the whole team for doing a great job.

Mr. Rojas made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Lopez for approval as presented to the Board.

Mr. Lopez requested a roll call vote and the members' vote was as follows:  
Ruiz, Lucero, Rojas, and Lopez, voted "aye" and there were no "nay" votes.

- b. To consider and if deemed advisable, to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of School Improvement Bonds of the District and Adopting Certain Written Continuing Disclosure Compliance Procedures and Issuance and Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Procedures

Superintendent Canto gave a brief overview and introduced Mr. Giel of Gust Rosenfeld and Mr. LeVallee from Stifel, Nicolaus & Company.

Mr. Michael LaVallee introduced himself and gave a brief overview. He congratulated the District for the successful override passed.  
He also praised the community for supporting the District with their vote.  
He proceeded to give a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Jim Giel elections counsel, congratulated the Board for the override success.  
He gave an overview of the resolution to be approved by the board explaining the bond investment.

Mr. Lucero asked Mr. Giel to explain the SEC municipal advisor rule mentioned in the resolution.

Mr. Giel clarified that the municipal advisor rule requires that certain disclosures be made and if you have a separate financial advisor, which in this deal you don't have a separate advisor but a bond underwriter to help with certain duties even though they are purchasing your bonds they still need to give certain disclosures to you in the process. The municipal advisor would have a different duty to the Board. But it is a custom in Arizona not to have a different financial advisor. The municipal advisors are usually seen in larger schools for larger deals and are not recommended due to an additional expense.

Mr. Lucero inquired if he was comfortable not recommending hiring a financial advisor.

Mr. Giel stated that as an attorney he only gave legal advice and his question was more like a business question, and he confirmed his previous explanation.  
He also stated that the question becomes, can you save a little bit when the bonds are priced in terms of interest rates and can you save enough to pay the financial advisor fee? That in a smaller Bond of 13M it was a tougher proposition, primarily to find someone to serve as your financial advisor and find a logical value to justify their fee.  
He added that its peers and neighboring Districts have not used financial advisors for this reason.

Mr. Lucero asked how the underwriter became compensated.

Mr. Giel explained that the underwriter gets a commission something they refer to as an underwriter's discount and all is a very transparent process, when Bonds are priced they take a fee off the top on a contingent fee basis only at closing.

Mr. Lucero asked about considering a pricing agent.

Mr. Giel stated a pricing agent had not been used or heard of in many years.

Mr. Lucero clarified that this was a public disclosure for the community to see that the Board had been looking at anything possible to do everything correctly. He thanked Mr. Giel for his explanation.

Mr. Lopez thanked the community for their support, and Mr. Giel, and Mr. Lavallee for their information and explanations.

Mr. Rojas moved to approve the resolution as presented and was seconded by Mr. Lopez for approval.

Superintendent Canto mentioned she recommended approval of the resolution as presented to the Board.

Motion carried with a roll call vote in a unanimous vote from members:

Ruiz, Lucero, Rojas, and Lopez with their vote of "aye".

There were no "nay" votes.

- c. Second Read and Approval of February 2024 Policy Advisory from Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) for Recommendation of Policy Changes to: Policy **BEDB** – Agenda, Regulation **BGC-R** – Policy Revision and Review, Policy **BGE** – Policy Communication/Feedback, Regulation **BGE-R** – Policy Communication/Feedback, Regulation **CCB-R** – Line and Staff Relations, Policy **CFD** – School-Based Management, Regulation **EB-R** -Environmental and Safety Program, Policy **EBAA** – Reporting of Hazards/Warning Systems, Policy **EBC** – Emergencies, Policy **ECB** – Building and Grounds Maintenance, Policy **EEAA** – Walkers and Riders, Regulation **EEAE-R** – Bus Safety Program, Policy **GBEF** – Staff Use of Digital Communications and Electronic Devices, Policy **GDC** – Support Staff Leaves and Absences (Removal/Reference Only), Policy **IHA** – Basic Instructional Program, Policy **IKF** – Graduation Requirements, Policy **IMA** – Teaching Methods, Regulation **IMA-R** Teaching Methods, Policy **JFABDA** – Admission of Students in Foster Care, Policy **JH** – Student Absences and Excuses, Policy **JHD** – Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance, Policy **JIH** – Student Interrogation, Searches, and Arrests, Policy **JJE** – Student Fund-Raising Activities, Exhibit **JK-EA** – Student Discipline, Exhibit **KB-EB** – Parental Involvement in Education, and Policy **KEC** – Public Concerns/Complaints About Instructional Resources

Mr. Lopez read all the policies for the record.

Superintendent Canto gave a brief overview explaining these policies had been already explained at the last board meeting.

Mr. Robert made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Lopez for approval as presented to the Board.

Mr. Lucero inquired if all policies were complete.

Ms. Canto confirmed they were complete to date.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

Rojas, Lopez, Ruiz, and Lucero

## VII. Information and Discussion

### a. Presentation of School District Spending Report FY23

Superintendent Canto gave a brief overview of the changes and introduced Clementina Carlyle to give a presentation.

Ms. Carlyle, Business Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Lucero asked about the increase in Health Insurance.

Mr. Zuniga clarified that the study made by ASBAIT is more based on the loss ratio vs. how much we are using on claims. She added that the increase would be done in all districts.

He asked if the district had any programs.

Ms. Zuniga explained what the Wellness program offers along with the 3/month mail plan on medications.

Mr. Lucero inquired if the increase in benefits would be like a salary increase for the employees.

Mr. Zuniga clarified that the district spends 3.6 million dollars in health insurance for all employees and it is going up to four million.

Superintendent Canto further clarified the benefits ASBAIT has with the Wellness programs and the need for more employees to engage.

Mr. Ruiz commented that the more employees participate the more it benefits the district.

He also made comments about the State Legislature taking money from the public schools to go to charter schools and how this affects the district.

Mr. Lopez clarified for the record that the school spending report is also referred to as the classroom dollar report.

He further echoed Mr. Ruiz and Mr. Lucero's comments.

## VIII. Requests for Future Agenda Items

Mr. Lucero requested a future presentation on what the District will be spending the money on bonds sold, to keep the community better informed as the monies are spent.

## IX. Adjournment

Mr. Rojas made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Lopez for adjournment of the public meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

Rojas, Lopez, Ruiz, and Lucero

**Session was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.**

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD**



Cesar A. Lopez

President



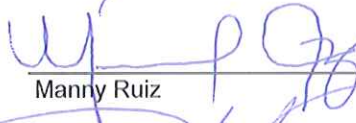
Patricia Muñozcano

Clerk



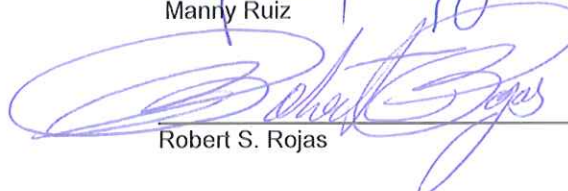
Greg Lucero

Member



Manny Ruiz

Member



Robert S. Rojas

Member

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary T. Lopez, Secretary  
April 22, 2023

(For exact statements made during the Board Meeting, you may request a copy of the recording)