

NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2020 held at 2:00 p.m.

I. Attendance:

The following Board Members were present:

Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr., President, Greg Lucero Clerk; Members Barbara Mendoza, Robert Rojas and Manuel Ruiz

a. Call to Order

Dr. Varona called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Mendoza led all in the Pledge.

c. Adoption of the Agenda

Superintendent Parra recommended approval as presented.

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Mendoza for approval.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

Ruiz, Mendoza, Rojas, Lucero and Varona

II. Approval of the Study Session and Regular Governing Board Minutes of November 9, 2020

Superintendent Parra recommended approval as presented.

Mrs. Mendoza made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Ruiz for approval.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

Mendoza, Ruiz, Rojas, Lucero and Varona

III. Governing Board/Superintendent Information

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

1. Recognition and Appreciation of Service for Governing Board Member, Mrs. Barbara Mendoza

Superintendent Parra mentioned that earlier today, Mrs. Mendoza, on behalf of the Governing Board and the District Administration, had been served personally with flowers as a thank you for her service. He continued by thanking her for having served six years of her volunteer time to NUSD as a Board Member and prioritizing her service to the students of NUSD.

He added she always made sure the Board was in their best behavior.

He proceeded to give a brief summary of her service from the beginning of her six-year term and accomplishments.

He further mentioned that she will be greatly missed, especially her support as a Board Member. He stated he hoped she continues to support NUSD and that he can continue to contact her for any needed advice for she has been a good advocate to him.

Mr. Ruiz stated that he enjoyed Mrs. Mendoza as a colleague and as a friend that she was a great caliber of person serving as Board President and in the ASBA board as well.

He concluded wishing her a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and good look in her new career.

Mr. Rojas agreed with Superintendent Parra and Mr. Ruiz's accurate comments. He mentioned he was always impressed with Mrs. Mendoza's professionalisms and confidence and always with a very positive attitude. He stated that NUSD has a great Board and Administration always responding to their requests and direction. He wished her good luck.

Mr. Lucero mentioned it had been a great pleasure serving with her and that he missed the conversations with her during the board meeting and conferences, and that her knowledge and wisdom and caring for the staff and students of NUSD has always been evident.

He mentioned she would be missed and wished her the best and tremendous success in her future life as Realtor.

Dr. Varona echoed all comments made.

He mentioned that at one of the activities attended at ASBA all comments made from arrayed of school board members from around the state about Mrs. Mendoza, had been positive. He added he was told how lucky we were for her to have served in the ASBA Board of Directors that she was a person who offered great positive dynamics and therefore, the model of professionalism portrayed at the state level did not go unnoticed by our Board and all boards throughout the state whom attended ASBA conferences.

He expressed his thoughts stating that she was the model of kindness that magnetizes throughout the schools. He added it had been a pleasure to sit next to her, and have learned a lot from her experiences. He added that he admires people who make academic achievement a priority in order to make our students successful and she did. He concluded by thanking her for her service, wishing her happy Holidays and expressing that she would be missed.

Mrs. Mendoza stated it was great to have served as a Board Member and was grateful for the trust received by the community and for the friendships she had made throughout the years at NUSD. She added that it was time to move on and continue to achieve other goals and new accomplishments.

She expressed her thoughts about NUSD administrators and staff stating that she believe the operation of NUSD had improved while on the Board and thanked all for stepping up to educate during these challenging times which had been exemplary. She concluded by wishing all continuous success.

Dr. Varona stated that in the history of NUSD she had received the ASBA Lou Klientz Total Award and the Total Award Boardmanship Achiever of 2018 and 2020.

2. Update

Superintendent Parra thanked the Governing Board for their trust and support during these challenging times and for being an organized and well-structured Board. He reported that all students were in online academic structure. He mentioned that this week was the last week before winter break and students were doing final exams for the end of the first semester. He further mentioned all athletics had been postponed until January and there would be no athletic events for the next two weeks and virus testing would be resuming on December 30, 2020.

He highlighted that this is the only District testing weekly and with excellent progress without any outbreaks.

He reported he met with Mr. Cesar A. Lopez a former student of NUSD and upcoming New Board member as of January 2021. He mentioned he joined today's meeting but a formal introduction would be made in January 2021. He further added that a District update had been given to him and instructions as a new Board Member.

He added that in addition he had also met with Mr. Sandoval for general instructions on NUSD finances/budget.

Mr. Lopez introduced himself and mentioned that he was looking forward to working with the Board. He also thanked Mrs. Mendoza for her service and wished her good luck.

3. School Grades/Grading Process – Ms. Angel Canto

Superintendent Parra gave a brief overview and introduced Ms. Canto to give a presentation.

Asst. Superintendent Canto gave a Power Point presentation with a brief explanation and highlights of the first semester grade process.

Superintendent Parra mentioned this was the report for the first semester and added that this was part of Mr. Rojas' last request.

Mr. Rojas thanked Ms. Canto for her thorough report and Superintendent Parra for following through with his request.

He made a comment on a concern in regards to some students being given more assignments than usual.

Superintendent Parra clarified his concern stating that teachers have been following the District's policy and have been instructed they need to give some flexibility to the students.

He further mentioned that this had been a difficult transition and that their first efforts had been making sure all devices, tools, and the programs the students needed to be successful were provided/delivered to them. Furthermore, training all teachers in the platforms and software programs they would be using and making sure all teachers were doing direct instruction, which is something not all districts are doing.

He also mentioned that teachers are constantly reminded to use their discretion and be mindful of all situations with the families for each has different personal concerns, and to deal with them on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Rojas thanked superintendent Parra for his clarification stating that him mentioning certain key words make it very important for everyone.

He proceeded to explain his daughter's experience with her classes and the teachers doing their best to teach visually.

Mr. Lucero thanked Ms. Canto and Superintendent Parra for the report. He mentioned he sits in a committee that gives grants throughout the state and many go to rural school districts to help with their financial challenges. He also made comments on the challenges teachers have to keep students focused on their learning. He stated he would like to have feedback from the parents, students, faculty to see how this is working out for all of them and if there is any situation, how the Board can address these situations. He wished Superintendent Parra and the staff good luck and to continue with the good work.

Mr. Ruiz concurred with the comments made by his colleagues. He added that other difficulties affecting the students could be the access to internet aside from the personal problems mentioned by Superintendent Parra. He mentioned that there are difficult situations but need to do the best possible to continue with the good work. He added he agreed with Mr. Lucero's request to have feedback from parents, students and faculty along with some recommendations to take care of any other challenges for their educational progress. He thanked Ms. Canto and Superintendent Parra for a great presentation.

Mr. Lopez thanked Ms. Canto and Superintendent Parra for the report. He commended the teachers and administration for doing a great job during these challenging times and concurred with the comments made by the Board. He added a comment that he has not heard any critical frustrations. He also agreed with the Board's comments and thanked the administration for doing a great job. He concluded mentioning that he has had contact during the summer of 2020 with NUSD Alumni mainly juniors and seniors, and they have not mentioned any critical concerns.

Mrs. Mendoza thanked Ms. Canto and Superintendent Parra for the report. She mentioned it was going to be a challenging year trying to find out what was lost/gained during 20/21 school year but that at least the State was doing the best they could to provide the communities with education and wished everyone the best of luck.

Dr. Varona recommended making a presentation during the month of February 2021 on the data to bring some analyzation for the community's understanding.

b. Governing Board Report, Celebration, Recognition, Announcements

Mrs. Mendoza wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy New Year 2021.

Mr. Ruiz offered his condolences to the Mendoza family for the loss of Bernadette Verdugo a retired NUSD employee along with her late husband Oscar Verdugo, he mentioned they had been very good employees of NUSD. He further stated he was looking forward to working with Mr. Lopez, the new Board Member to be and welcoming him to the Governing Board. He concluded by wishing a Merry Christmas to Mrs. Mendoza and her family and to the staff and community.

Mr. Lucero wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

He stated his thoughts that maybe Mrs. Mendoza could be made an honorary board member and when someone is missing for her to step in and keep the Board in order. He concluded by welcoming Mr. Lopez to the Governing Board.

Dr. Varona reported he attended the virtual ASBA Annual Conference. He stated the sessions had been interesting and that the Board was welcome to see any session of interest in the video expected to be provided by ASBA.

He further mentioned his experience on the voting at the ASBA for Executive Officers. He concluded by stating he concurred with Mr. Ruiz' comments of Mrs. Verdugo's passing and he offered his condolences to the family as well.

IV. Call to the Public
None

V. Consent Agenda
Superintendent Parra recommended approval as presented.

Mr. Rojas made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Lucero for approval.

Motion carried unanimously by members:
Rojas, Lucero, Ruiz, Mendoza and Varona

- 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. Adoption/Resolution Recognition of Booster Organizations (NHS Cheer Boosters)
- e. Personnel Agenda Summary
- f. Approval of Addenda
- g. Approval of Classified Salary Schedule Revision to Comply with Arizona's Minimum Wage Increase to \$12.15/hr. and Ratification of Pay Increase for Hourly/Classified Employees Effective December 27, 2020

VI. Action – None

VII. Information and Discussion – None

VIII. Requests for Future Agenda Items
None

During this item, Dr. Varona educated Mr. Lopez (new member to be) that this item was used to add any concerns/questions he would like to be discussed at a future meeting as a Board Member, and if he had any on how to proceed to contact Superintendent Parra.

IX. Adjournment of the Study Session


Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Lucero for adjournment of the public meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by members:
Ruiz, Lucero, Mendoza, Rojas and Varona


Session adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD


Respectfully Submitted,
Mary T. Lopez, Secretary
January 11, 2021



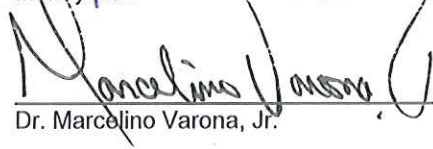
Greg Lucero President



Robert Rojas Clerk



Manny Ruiz Member



Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr. Member

Not Present _____ Member
Cesar A. Lopez

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