



Pecos Independent School District

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School Board

Darlene Ortiz, President
Charles Vigil, Vice President
Grady Barrens, Secretary
Michael Flores Sr., Member
Harold J. Garcia, Member

Administration

Debra Sena-Holton,
Superintendent

Brenda Gallegos,
Director of Finance

**PECOS BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 10, 2021
PECOS SCHOOLS BOARD
PECOS, NM
5:30 PM**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 4. OTHER**
- 5. ACTION ITEM(S)**
 - A.** Approval/Disapproval of Re-Entry Plan
 - B.** Vaccine Prioritization for Educators Resolution

ADJOURNMENT

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SPECIAL MEETING
PECOS BOARD OF EDUCATION
PECOS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
PECOS SCHOOLS BOARD ROOM
PECOS, NEW MEXICO
FEBRUARY 10, 2021
5:30 P.M.

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MINUTES

**Special Meeting
Pecos Board of Education
Pecos Independent School District
Pecos, New Mexico
Pecos Schools Board Room
Pecos, NM
February 10, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER

The Board President, Ms. Darlene Ortiz called the meeting to order @ 5:32 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Darlene Ortiz, Board President
Mr. Charles Vigil, Board Vice President- via GOOGLE Hangouts Meet/by phone
Mr. Grady Barrens, Board Secretary
Mr. Michael Flores Sr., Board Member
Mr. Harold Garcia, Board Member
Ms. Debra Sena-Holton, Superintendent

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT-via GOOGLE Hangouts Meet/by phone

Darlene Roybal	Gloria Ruiz	Lynette Gonzales	Merilynne Roybal
Lawrence Roybal	Brenda Gallegos	Brittany Gallegos	Cathy Gallegos
Christine Leal	Elissa Flores	June Varela	Justin Mueller
Leslie Damon	Melissa G. Valencia	Andrea Gonzales	Michael Flores Jr.
Pedro Vallejo	Rosie Quintana	Susan Ortega	Tonita Zamora
Veronica Lucero	Aidan Holton	Monique Herrera	Nick Ruiz
Daniel Aragon	Denisha Moodley	Kianna Quintana	Mark Russell
Janelle Sanchez	Melissa T. Valencia-Flores		

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Secretary Barrens motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Member Flores. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Ortiz noted three minutes will be allotted and informed interests expressed beyond the agenda item will not be acknowledged.

Ms. Gloria Ruiz, Parent showed appreciation for the opportunity and advocated for students returning to school. She recognized students around the country have returned and other districts have entered into a hybrid model in a safe manner. She acknowledged health authorities & experts have governed it safe and deemed the return acceptable, following COVID protocol and all health guidelines. Ms. Ruiz pointed out her faith and trust in personnel to ensure safety, stressed the importance and noted the school is a safe environment for students. She conveyed her advocacy is not only for her students but those that may not have an advocate, if they choose. She pointed out attendance is an option and stated the in-person learning is the best option for her and her family. Ms. Ruiz asked the Board to consider sending students back to school, commented on losing students to hybrid model districts and remarked on the budget affect.

President Ortiz read a couple of emails received from students voicing their opinion. The emails expressed/mentioned interest in the hybrid model, sports participation, mentioned the challenges/struggles with online learning, home environments and struggles with workloads.

Ms. Andrea Gonzales, Parent commented on the difficulty to make public comment without knowledge of the proposed hybrid model plan and conveyed knowledge of the plan needs to be made to generate feedback. She recommended putting the plan into practice and pointed out students are struggling with mental health, depression etc. She remarked on the virus, working out the protocols and meeting CDC requirements. Ms. Gonzales mentioned student athlete's contentment with being out of their home environment and reported improvements in their academics. She conveyed the initiative is worth the effort, indicated personnel should be regarded as essential workers and mentioned her feeling of comfort supposing that personnel had their vaccines.

Vice President Vigil suggested Superintendent Sena-Holton elaborate on the plan, noting a sense of unawareness. President Ortiz reminded Vice President Vigil he is a Board Member and cannot make Public Comment and requested he refrain from making Public Comment at the present time.

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Ms. Tonita Zamora, Parent conveyed her support for going back to school, notified she has a Senior who has been impacted, mentioned her son's struggles with remote learning and advocated for their return into the classroom.

Ms. Lynette Gonzales, Parent showed gratitude for the opportunity, stated she spoke on behalf of herself and her two students and announced the grade they're enrolled in. She commented on them missing out on a learning environment, noted her understanding of safety and mentioned the frustration of the circumstances. She too recognized other institutes are entering into a hybrid model in a safe manner. Ms. Gonzales highlighted on the impact remote learning has had on students, recommended initiating the model and encouraged allowing students to present their point of view. She remarked on mental health, recognized the devastation that could result by not considering the plan and mentioned the influence sports have on students. She shared personal experiences with her own children.

Mr. Nick Ruiz, Parent reiterated what was previously mentioned, empathized with upper classmen and touched on the social aspect of a child's life. He noted great kids are constructed out of the community, mentioned the unfairness of depriving Seniors and Juniors of their years and commented on the new normalcy viewed through the eyes of his freshman. He supported embarking on, conveyed the plan can be retracted and stated he would like students to experience their high school years. Mr. Ruiz recognized many school districts have had a favorable outcome, with restrictions and noted students would adapt accordingly. He showed an expression of gratitude for the time.

OTHER

Superintendent Sena-Holton presented the proposed Pecos High School Hybrid In-Person/Distance-Learning Model. The plan contained the goal, provided some feedback/background knowledge associated with teacher comfort level in returning, projected reopening & staff reentry dates, student cohorts, reasoning for PMS & PES not moving to model, potential site visit-for NMPED approval purposes, COVID-19 campus incidence action & precautionary protection measures, per CDC, NMPED and NMDOH guidelines. Superintendent Sena-Holton also cited in-person model attendance, referenced plan development guiding toolkit, face mask requirements, presented student enrollment (based on survey), explained cohort placement, briefed on incorporated learning/instruction and outlined intended daily operations/implementations. She acknowledged the anticipated hybrid start date March 15 would halt the participation of fall sports due to the mandated waiting period, discussed her proposition that would enable them to participate in some competitions prior to the transition and to avoid sacrificing fall sports. She recognized how important sports are to students and noted sports is the reason many students attend school. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported a variety of students are prospering with the present learning environment and will remain on remote learning. She recognized the district may suffer a loss in students to remote learning in the upcoming school year.

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She discussed the next phase of the hybrid preparation efforts, based on Board approval and indicated the importance of centering attention on preparing students and staff, with the support of parents

Member Garcia inquired on a hybrid model toolkit for middle school. Superintendent Sena-Holton responded to the inquiry, informing the secondary toolkit includes the middle school and stated inadequate staffing as the reason for not proposing.

Member Garcia announced Secretary Barrens had a proposition of his own. Secretary Barrens conveyed the proposal included a lot of his ideas and pointed out the highlights; phasing in of Seniors, the decision to not bring back all students at once, the choice students have in returning to in-person learning. He noted the proposal allows students to receive full services and participate in NMAA activities. He commented on the difficulty of the decision, notified there is no intent to deprive of any sort, recognized the efforts to provide the best possible solutions and conveyed not all will be satisfied with the decision. Secretary Barrens pointed out the advocacy for what's best for students and community, showed appreciation for the phasing in of grade levels and acknowledged some students will revert to remote learning.

Superintendent Sena-Holton certified athletes' participation in NMAA sanctions/events, if they choose to remain in remote learning, noted staffs partaking in surveillance testing and explained the positive COVID-19 case(s) protocol, under the hybrid model. She reported on the P-EBT disbursement and eligibility.

Vice President Vigil reviewed his understanding of fall sports eligibility/requirements and requested clarification for compliance purposes. Superintendent Sena-Holton acknowledged the request, reporting on the hybrid model criteria and mentioned the plan of other school districts.

Member Garcia inquired on the initiation of a middle school hybrid model. Superintendent Sena-Holton responded to the inquiry, noting greater than 50% of staffing.

Member Garcia inquired on the return of all staff under a hybrid model. Superintendent Sena-Holton replied to the inquiry, informing solely high school staff and mentioned the staff associated.

Vice President Vigil inquired on the reassignment/utilization of staff in a school setting, for transition purposes. Superintendent Sena-Holton responded to the inquiry, noting teacher's assignment to their individual caseloads and highlighted on the current utilization of Educational Assistants.

Member Garcia requested the high school principals' point of view regarding the hybrid model. Dr. Vallejo acknowledged the request, reporting operation procedures will be implemented, based on the approved plan, informed teachers have applied themselves to the fullest extent and notified everyone is making the best of the situation. He emphasized on the safety of students, enforcement of safety & health protocols and efforts, to meet student needs.

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Member Garcia inquired on the Seniors academic end of year projection. Dr. Vallejo responded to the inquiry, notifying graduation standings/evaluation measures/notification have been addressed up until the present time, announced the number of non-graduates and informed all other Seniors are in good standing and mentioned the proactiveness of teachers.

Member Flores requested Superintendent Sena-Holton's personal take on the matter. Superintendent Sena-Holton responded to the request, announcing the high school as her focus, conveyed many high school students are in need of extra support, announced staff and resources are in place to put into operation safely. She expressed confidence in staff, commented on educating students and staff on the new requirements and pointed out her concern is the elementary. She announced majority of middle and elementary school parents prefer to continue with remote learning. Superintendent Sena-Holton briefed on her staff vaccination efforts, presented her perspective in executing the plan in a safe manner, phasing in grade levels and mandate parent meeting attendance/participation, outlining expectations.

President Ortiz inquired on the legal ramifications if a child contracts COVID at school and takes it home. Superintendent Sena-Holton replied to the inquiry, informing no parent in the state of New Mexico has filed suit and commented on the difficulty proving the child contracted COVID from school. She reported, without school being in session the number of students that contracted COVID/tested positive, the number who had COVID but never tested and the number of staff who also tested positive. She noted situations are beyond control and conveyed building procedures can be performed in a safe manner.

President Ortiz inquired on contact efforts to staff that have had COVID concerning their take on returning. Superintendent Sena-Holton responded to the inquiry, touching on the severity of the cases.

Member Garcia presented his point of view, recognizing majority of parents are concerned with athletics & the operation of the high school, expressed his concern regarding academic success over all-particularly student athletes and graduation accomplishments. He noted the unfairness of the hybrid model to the middle school and elementary levels and stated the need for further implementation discussion.

Vice President Vigil highlighted on the importance of educating academically, socially, emotionally and physically, declared students are reached through in person instruction and recognized there are a number of students struggling in those aspects. He informed other districts are not providing teachers with a return option. He laid strong emphasis to reopening and providing students with in-person learning opportunities.

Secretary Barrens reemphasized the academic portion, noted the athletic piece is not the motive of his decision, commented on the benefits of the hybrid model and stated the plan would not worsen the academic situation further. He acknowledged the students with the least amount of time in the system as the primary group to offer the opportunity and provide additional resources to.

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Superintendent Sena-Holton notified the hybrid model-phasing in of students will be composed of remote learning procedures, rather than traditional face to face learning, to meet the needs of remote learning students.

Member Garcia recommended giving the Superintendent direction to survey middle school staff, parents and students, for further planning initiatives. Member Flores presented his point of view, in giving the opportunity to the Superintendent to perform her duties, phase in students in small increments and put her plans into action. Superintendent Sena-Holton briefed on the next step planning.

ACTION ITEM(S)

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF RE-ENTRY PLAN

Member Garcia inquired on the when NMPED will perform the inspection. Superintendent Sena-Holton responded to the inquiry, noting a schedule request will be initiated, based on approval of the plan.

Member Flores requested a School Board Member(s) assess the final plans, following the inspection.

Vice President Vigil inquired on COVID-19 funding. Superintendent Sena-Holton responded to the inquiry, noting expenditures and areas of appropriations.

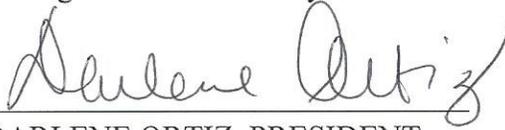
Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Vice President Vigil moved to approve the Hybrid Model Re-Entry Plan as presented, seconded by Secretary Barrens. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VACCINE PRIORITIZATION FOR EDUCATORS
RESOLUTION

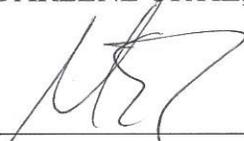
Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Member Flores moved to approve the Vaccine Prioritization for Educators Resolution, seconded by Member Garcia. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:19 p.m., Member Garcia moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice President Vigil. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0. Minutes approved and signed on this 16th day of March 2021.



DARLENE ORTIZ, PRESIDENT

ATTEST: 

GRADY BARRENS, SECRETARY