

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



**BOARD MEETING AGENDA
PECOS BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2021
PECOS SCHOOLS BOARD ROOM
PECOS, NM
5:30 PM**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 4. SCHOOL REOPENING UPDATE**
- 5. OTHER**
- 6. EXECUTIVE SESSION-** to finalize Superintendent Evaluation and discuss limited personnel matters regarding the status of an employee *as per NM Statutes Article 15 Open Meetings 10-15-1 Subparagraph H (2)*
- 7. ACTION ITEM(S)**
 - A.** Superintendent Contract

ADJOURNMENT

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SPECIAL MEETING
PECOS BOARD OF EDUCATION
PECOS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
PECOS SCHOOLS BOARD ROOM
PECOS, NEW MEXICO
FEBRUARY 2, 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 2, 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

Brenda Gallegos	Christine Leal	Coleen Warshawer	Helena Hains
June Varela	Pedro Vallejo	Denisha Moodley	Leslie Damon
Cathy Gallegos	Linda Hufford	Lisa Vigil	Paula Garcia
Rose Angela Varela	Susan Ortega	Gloria Ruiz	Bryan Gonzales
Melissa T. Valencia-Flores			

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SCHOOL REOPENING UPDATE

Superintendent Sena-Holton noted surveys were sent to parents, 6th-12th grade students and staff. She presented a PowerPoint of the data collection that contained statistics on the topics of staff comfort level by site (returning to hybrid setting), the middle & high school student response rates, the continuance of remote learning for the remainder of the school year, student athlete participant, COVID-19 exposure concern, level of comfort with riding a school bus, the need of emotional support and vaccinations data.

Superintendent Sena-Holton reported the parent survey monkey results, noted the survey was distributed in English and Spanish and announced the number of respondents. She mentioned the questions posed, in alliance with parent and student's (in connection with the child(ren)) experience with remote learning this year, the preference for returning to school in the spring, concern with COVID-19 exposure at school, social emotional well-being, COVID-19 testing, school site attendance and opportunity for comments.

Secretary Barrens inquired on the total number of respondents. Superintendent Sena-Holton replied to the inquiry, reporting 155 replied in English, 9 in Spanish and conveyed 32% of parents responded to the survey, based on the total enrollment. She announced the student survey response was greater and noted there were 177 middle & high school respondents, 60% of the secondary population. She informed various comments were stated, mentioned some of the thoughts/concerns that were expressed, pointed out the information is conflicting and shared parent comments as well. Superintendent Sena-Holton spoke on the Governor's school reopening announcement, pointed out the conjunction with sports play in a hybrid model and acknowledged a great deal of unanswered questions from the Governor's Office and NMPED. She discussed decisions the district is to make regarding the implementation of fall sports, middle school participation and a hybrid model. She announced the NMAA decision deadline and informed the district is not prepared and does not have the personnel to open by the appointed date of February 8th. She touched on the two-week acclimation period mandated by NMPED and expressed concern with the opening and competition timeline. Superintendent Sena-Holton explained the next phase of the hybrid plan, noted only 50% of enrollment may attend and touched on how a positive case could jeopardize an entire season.

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She noted NMPED is requiring districts to provide meals to all remote learners. She updated on the installation of the MERV 13 furnace filters, briefed on the need of a portable air filtration system in classrooms/labs and mentioned the relocation of those teachers.

Member Garcia requested feedback from Administrators.

Dr. Vallejo acknowledged the desire for students to return, remarked on accomplishing the course of action in the right manner and conveyed the process is going to take time. He spoke on the sports participation timeline with a delayed commencing, recognized the impact on a range of operations and remarked on the rule limiting sports eligibility to schools providing hybrid model instruction. He noted school districts associated with Navajo reservations remain closed. Dr. Vallejo presented his point of view, conveying the most important facet of the decision/situation is safety, expressed he is not inclined to operate in an unsafe manner and put students and families in jeopardy.

Vice President Vigil inquired on the number of fall sports athlete participants. Superintendent Sena-Holton acknowledged the inquiry, noting the abidance of all requirements, reported the number of athletes participating by each in season sport and touched on the practice activities. She mentioned her weekly reporting of all onsite student and faculty numbers to NMPED. She discussed the surveillance testing/requirement and COVID-19 Vaccine process and noted the initiatives require a significant amount of time. Dr. Vallejo commented on the impact in competition of the two and three sports students and the sport season modification. Superintendent Sena-Holton briefed on the updated NMAA sports season calendar and commented on the programs it will impact. She informed spectators are not allowed and mentioned live streaming alternatives and facility accommodations. She highlighted on returning employees to the workplace.

Vice President Vigil recognized the return interest expressed by teachers and staff that opted to get vaccinated and deemed the individual is unsafe until the authorized vaccine dosing is received. He conveyed athlete numbers are minimal.

Superintendent Sena-Holton outlined the NMPED Re-entry District and School Guidance guidelines and reported on hybrid staffing.

Vice President Vigil presented his standpoint on the importance of returning to in-person instruction, emphasized on utilizing the opportunity as groundwork for the incoming school year and allow the return of those willing, granted they are fully vaccinated.

Ms. B Gallegos inquired on the target goal/baseline from a financial standpoint.

Ms. C Gallegos acknowledged she doesn't have the sports pressure that weighs on the secondary, noted not all will be content with decision reached and questioned the safe measures of either decision. She commented on the transmission risk from school to home and the chance of an inevitable outcome. She pointed out a system /routine has already been established/ in place with

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the current remote method, recognized the resilience of students and conveyed students will adjust to return to school/ in person learning procedures at the start of the new school year.

Ms. Moodley commented on representation and support as Administrators and conveyed there is no correct answer to the matter. She recognized caregiving responsibilities has hindered with students concentrating on their academics and laid emphasis on providing in-person learning engagement opportunities with safety. She announced the majority of staff has received the first COVID-19 vaccine, touched on the vaccine immunity and conveyed the appointed date of February 8th is not a very realistic and safe start date. She expressed concern with the student enrollment quota, despite the fact that safety hasn't been determined at a lower percentage and presented her idea of a practical commencement.

Superintendent Sena-Holton mentioned her sense of criticism on public schools for the education provided under remote instruction, complimented teacher's efforts and pointed out their unsafe feeling. She informed they are not being vaccinated, conveyed she would like for them to be immunized and informed she refrained from the opportunity to allow for another. She complimented the vaccination efforts of the Presbyterian Medical Services-Pecos Valley Medical Center and noted they experienced problems for the act, which has paused the initiative. Superintendent Sena-Holton spoke on identifying students interested in attending, recognized there are many questions and mentioned other concentration areas/of concern.

Dr. Vallejo mentioned his anticipation of high school students who provide childcare to younger siblings not attending school.

Secretary Barrens commented on the establishment of a baseline, expressed his support to return to in-person learning safely and spoke on the financial aspect of the idea. He remarked on the intent of the Board, Administration and Staff, advised on reaching a decision as soon as possible and addressing pertinent issues at hand. He posed the question to Superintendent Sena-Holton asking if NMPED didn't require hybrid or in-person to play sports, would we be in as big of a dilemma. Superintendent Sena-Holton replied to the question, announcing by no means and mentioned the plans to accommodate and provide support to students. She highlighted on the mandated hybrid model for sports eligibility, pointed out her desire for the return of sport activities and stated her confidence in moving forward with the season in a safe manner. She acknowledged the need for continuous planning; mentioned additional/specific information is needed and informed the focus has been preparing buildings. Superintendent Sena-Holton touched on the potential loss of students if surrounding districts reopen. She reported sports participation notification is due to NMAA by February 15, 2021 and invited feedback.

Ms. Moodley expressed interest in additional legality information; recognized practice has been beneficial to students and inquired on the continuance of practice with opting out of competing, if the hybrid model is not elected. Superintendent Sena-Holton responded to the inquiry, informing NMAA has not received Governor's approval on plans submitted, stated she has not received official word and conveyed practices can continue. She conveyed athletes would like to and are prepared to compete.

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President Ortiz asked if the Board had to make a decision this evening. Superintendent Sena-Holton answered the question, replying no and touched on additional planning measures/arrangements/preparations that need to be addressed. She reported the district is not prepared to enter into hybrid model this 9 weeks, remarked on the transition period students have need of and noted students are allowed to resume to remote learning if they choose, that may result with a fluctuation. She announced the decision is not an action item and conveyed a special meeting would need to be held.

Member Garcia inquired on further discussion regarding the financial aspect. Ms. Gallegos acknowledged the inquiry, emphasizing on having knowledge of the opening timeframe for financial planning purposes, informed budget is appropriated for yearly operations and notified the hybrid model may double expenditures. She noted it is her duty to work out the measures needed to fund the plan, based on the direction of the Board. Superintendent Sena-Holton briefed on accommodating transportation needs and mentioned the impact it may have on the budget.

Superintendent Sena-Holton proposed discussing further at a Work Session and scheduling a Special Meeting to take action prior to the 15th of February.

Vice President Vigil inquired on the hybrid model starting point. Superintendent Sena-Holton responded to the inquiry, announced the eligible date of February 8, 2021 and noted the district may open any date thereafter once NMPED requirements are met. Vice President Vigil suggested utilizing the small pod method in the classroom, recognized the method has been a practice success and noted the attendance option/opportunity has been provided to students.

Vice President Vigil inquired on the placement of protective shields/barriers at student work stations. Superintendent Sena-Holton replied to the inquiry, informing the placement is recommended but not required. He stressed he strongly feels, if possible that we should come back eventually and introduce students and teachers back into the classroom.

OTHER

Superintendent Sena-Holton presented the Vaccine Prioritization for Educators Resolution for consideration and noted the resolution will be listed as an Action Item on the Special Board Meeting Agenda.

Superintendent Sena-Holton noted the Excellence for Student Achievement Award, requested the Board consider nominees and informed the criteria had been emailed. Board President requested a listing of past recipients.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At, 7:03 p.m., Secretary Barrens made a motion to enter into executive session to finalize Superintendent Evaluation and discuss limited personnel matters regarding the status of an employee as per *NM Statutes Article 15 Open Meetings 10-15-1 Subparagraph H (2)*, seconded by Vice President Vigil. Action item as a result of executive session if necessary. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

At 7:36 p.m., Member Garcia made a motion to exit from executive session, seconded by President Ortiz. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

At 7:37 p.m., Vice President Vigil made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting, seconded by Member Garcia. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

ACTION ITEM(S)

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

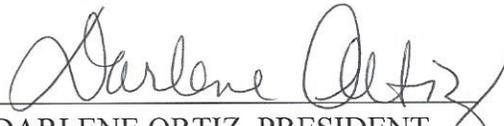
Member Garcia made a motion to grant Superintendent Sena-Holton an additional year, seconded by President Ortiz. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

President Ortiz made a motion to rescind the current contract, seconded by Member Garcia. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Member Garcia made a motion to add the additional year to Superintendent Sena-Holton's contract, seconded by President Ortiz. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m., Vice President Vigil moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by President Ortiz. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0. Minutes approved and signed on this 16th day of March 2021.


DARLENE ORTIZ, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:


GRADY BARRENS, SECRETARY