



Pecos Independent School District

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School Board

Grady Barrens, President
Harold J. Garcia, Vice President
Vacant, Secretary
Claudette Roybal, Member
James Tanuz, Member

Administration

Debra Sena-Holton,
Superintendent

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA
PECOS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2024
PECOS SCHOOLS BOARD ROOM
PECOS, NM
6:00 PM**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 5. GOLDEN PANTHER RECOGNITION**
- 6. FY23 AUDIT PRESENTATION**
- 7. BOARD MEMBER VACANCY UPDATE**
- 8. UNIT/DIRECTOR REPORTS**
- 9. BUSINESS REPORT**
 - A. Financial Status**
- 10. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - B. Check Register for Month of December 2023**
 - C. Cash Transfer(s), BAR's (if any) and Journal Entries**
 - D. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-November 28, 2023**
- 11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
- 12. POLICY**
- 13. ACTION ITEM(S)**
 - E. Approval/Disapproval of FY23 Audit**
- 14. OTHER**

15. ADVANCE PLANNING

- NMSBA 2024 Board Member Institute-February 1-3, 2024, Santa Fe, NM
- Work Session-February 6, 2024, 5:30 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting-February 20, 2024, 6:00 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- NSBA 2024 Annual Conference and Exposition-April 6-8, 2024, New Orleans, LA

ADJOURNMENT

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 PECOS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
 PECOS SCHOOLS BOARD ROOM
 PECOS, NEW MEXICO
 JANUARY 23, 2024
 6:00 P.M.

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MINUTES

**Regular Meeting
Pecos Board of Education
Pecos Independent School District
Pecos, New Mexico
Pecos Schools Board Room
Pecos, NM
January 23, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The President, Mr. Grady Barrens called the meeting to order @ 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Grady Barrens, Board President
Mr. Harold J. Garcia, Board Vice President
Vacant, Board Secretary
Ms. Claudette Roybal, Board Member
Mr. James Tanuz, Board Member
Ms. Debra Sena-Holton, Superintendent

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Antonio S. Chavez	Angie Chavez	Antonio Chavez	Rose Ruiz
Denisha Moodley	Mary Daves	Pete Vallejo	Annette Kirk
Emily Ortiz	Bella Vigil	Emily Vigil	Cassandra Vigil
Joe Gonzales	Ricardo Baca	Sabrina Wheeler	Melissa T. Valencia-Flores

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Member Roybal motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Vice President Garcia. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

GOLDEN PANTHER RECOGNITION

Principals announced January award recipients, mentioned unique features of the individual earning the award and presented those in attendance with a recognition certificate. The Golden Panthers recognized were Antonio Chavez-Freshman, Bella Vigil-6th grader and Melodii Baca-1st grader.

President Barrens welcomed Golden Panther Families to stay, expressed understanding for the need to leave and stated the meeting will continue to proceed.

FY23 AUDIT PRESENTATION

Ms. Itza Sosa, Beasley, Mitchel & CO., LLP Senior Auditor expressed appreciation for the opportunity, thanked those involved with the audit process and the K 12 Team for an amazing job on completing the audit. She noted the results of the financial statement are for the audit period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, informed the report has been released & approved by the New Mexico State Auditor's Office and stated the report on hand is the final copy of the audit. She specified the responsibilities as the district's auditor and stated the responsibilities of the district. Ms. Sosa announced a single audit was performed on account of the Federal Funds exceeding the threshold and pointed out the fund selected. She presented an unmodified opinion on both the regular and single audit, in view the financial statements are presented fair. She notified there were no prior year findings that needed to be addressed, reported there was one finding in the year, pointed out the finding is not significant and recognized it is something that can be cleared in the next fiscal year and possibly has already been cleared. Ms. Sosa noted the finding is not very significant, however is something out of compliance, conveyed the finding is based on old outstanding checks, touched upon the requirement and reviewed the outstanding checks. She expressed her certainty the finding has been addressed and will go away next year. She noted there were no issues configuring the status, conveyed audit documents were provided in a timely manner and stated it was a very good experience performing the audit. Ms. Sosa presented an opportunity to ask question with regard to the report or any procedures from the audit.

Vice President Barrens asked if the findings from FY21 should have been discovered in FY22. Ms. Sosa informed the checks were not in excess of a year in FY22 and were out-of date in FY23. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported the finding has been corrected.

Ms. Sosa apologized for the audio difficulty and stated it was a pleasure having the district as a client.

BOARD MEMBER VACANCY UPDATE

President Barrens announced a letter of interest and resume was received from Ms. Emily Ortiz, who is present. He mentioned having knowledge of others interested and pointed out having one letter of interest at this point in time. He stated the intent to set this time aside to interview/ask any questions of any potential folks interested and presented an opportunity to ask Ms. Ortiz any questions. Vice President Garcia stated he was pleased with the interest expressed and recognized her administrator & educator experience would be a great asset to the district and to the Board as well. President Barrens acknowledged having the letter of interest and requested a review of herself, experience and motivations for wanting to join the Board.

Ms. Ortiz conveyed her sadness that there were no other applications from the community, expressed her hopes that you'd see other letters of interest and encouraged sending the press release once more, if there was allowable time. She introduced herself, mentioned the time of her retirement from & years of service with the school district, noted her earned college degrees, conveyed she is a certified NMPED licensee, a former district Athletic Director and acknowledged her active participation/support she provides to her son & spouse, who are athletic coaches. She conveyed it is especially important of having knowledge she has always advocated for PISD students. Ms. Ortiz expressed her willingness to serve if no one else applies, informed about her involvement in other initiatives and stated she devotes herself fully to commitments. She urged others to take an interest and conveyed if all else fails she would be delighted to serve.

UNIT/DIRECTOR REPORTS

High School

President Barrens asked how things went in terms of the meeting with Luna Community College. Dr. Vallejo noted the meeting went well, informed LCC will come out to the district on a monthly basis, to ensure students are getting the help and assistance they need, up to and including tutoring students. He acknowledged there continues to be issues with enrollment, books etc. He mentioned the review of the Automotive Program during the meeting. He reported all Juniors took the ASVAB Test, as well as a Senior and a Sophomore, who wants to attend the Air Force Academy.

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President Barrens conveyed he is in favor of affording any and all opportunity to PISD students. He acknowledged the Air Force Academy is a lofty goal and encouraged providing any support to the student. Dr. Vallejo briefed on the upcoming FAFSA Night, noted the initiative will be completed in two parts and explained the process.

Dr. Vallejo pointed out the current number of Seniors, forty-one.

President Barrens notified Vice President Garcia was excused from the meeting at 6:50 p.m., noting he (Vice President Garcia) has some other school business to attend to, noted the continuation of a quorum and named the Board Members who remain present.

Support Services/Student Nutrition

Member Roybal asked if the Grab n Go initiative has begun. Ms. Daves stated the student's preference, pointed out hot food items are available as an option and mentioned the breakfast counts have increased.

Ms. Daves amended the grade level reported for the Child Find for Gifted to 3rd grade, expressed the need of a Wellness Committee, to review the Wellness Policy and stated changes will need Board approval. She notified of the implementation of a Gifted Committee by the 2024-2025 School Year and briefed on the standard at the district level. She conveyed the review of the curriculum is in progress and mentioned the consideration of ordering a screening tool.

Member Tanuz inquired on Child Find referrals. Ms. Daves stated one recommendation was presented and remarked on eligibility determination.

President Barrens inquired on any ideas on how to improve Food Service Department attendance. Ms. Daves mentioned the idea of monthly incentives, noted vital situations and announced the hiring of an additional cook.

Middle School

Member Roybal inquired on the rationale for the decrease in several of the MOY scores. Ms. Moodley reported by all means the three months duration with the absence of a teacher had an impact, recognized insufficient time 6th grade spent on the test, who were distracted preparing for the NRG Tournament, remarked on potential inaccuracy, mentioned plans & ideas to promote extra endurance in terms of reading and test preparation initiatives. Member Roybal asked about the transition of the new ELA Teacher. Ms. Moodley noted she's taught in New Mexico, made aware she's an AP Teacher, touched upon the coaching she (Ms. Moodley) provides and remarked on the collaborative effort and willingness the new teacher is eager to attempt. Ms. Moodley expressed a feeling of relief to be fully staffed and conveyed she was extremely happy for the students, as well as to see them in the classroom again.

President Barrens inquired on feedback received pertaining to Community Engagement. Ms. Moodley reported the winter games feedback received was from students, who requested initiatives of that sort on a monthly basis, reported the winter awards ceremony was postponed to today and stated students also presented awards to teachers, who were really appreciative of the acknowledgement. She mentioned two students expressed their interest on how they could reach top achiever, students who are not necessarily motivated by academics and conveyed she was delighted they stated their desire to achieve moving forward. She reported Family Night is postponed, announced the rescheduled date of February 8th, touched upon the Journalism theme, a trip planned to the Santa Fe New Mexican to tour the circulation/production department. Ms. Moodley mentioned the donation of a typewriter, placing emphasis on the study of the evolution of journalism technology and pointed out the promotion of reading through the news. President Barrens recognized the improvement in parents to be better academic partners and asked if improvement has been seen. Ms. Moodley remarked on the difficulty of seeing herself anywhere else, based on what she has formed, attributes improvement on the trust earned from parents, expressed appreciation for the rapport and identifies as an improvement. Member Roybal suggested a Current Events project and gave an explanation of the design. Superintendent Sena-Holton called to mind the elementary has classroom newspapers delivered and recommended use of recycled newsprints.

Elementary

Superintendent Sena-Holton noted Ms. Gallegos was not present, conveyed Ms. Gallegos would like to share the MOY Data and stated she (Superintendent Sena-Holton) will ask for a presentation for the Work Session.

BUSINESS REPORT

FINANCIAL STATUS

Ms. Annette Kirk, K 12 Accounting Business Manager noted there are quite a few Maintenance Budget Adjustment Request's recommended for approval, stated there is an initial-new BAR and reviewed the remaining BAR's. She welcomed questions with regard to the check listing, requested feedback on the format the reports are provided and noted the information provided in the various report summarizes and indicates the financial position/direction of the district. She touched on the Request for Reimbursements.

President Barrens noted Vice President Garcia rejoined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

President Barrens requested the opinion of Ms. Kirk concerning the operation of the financial business/contracted services. Ms. Kirk presented her point of view, conveying the operation is in good standing, acknowledged her familiarization with the order of business, pointed out she is

heavily involved in various aspects and expressed her comfort level with the additional personnel that has been assigned to provide/extend support, for the benefit of the district.

President Barrens remarked on concerns that work their way back to the Board & at what level should they be enquired about, conveyed majority of them come about when it affects people's money and strongly urged preventing mistakes pertaining to people's money overall. Ms. Kirk stated, in reference to what President Barrens is discussing, the issue has already been addressed on more than one occasion. She touched on the response to the matter, stated she does her best to address the issue at hand and meet the needs of the district. President Barrens expressed appreciation for honesty and accountability. Superintendent Sena-Holton recognized there are areas that need improvement.

CONSENT AGENDA

Check Register for Month of December 2023
Cash Transfer(s), BAR's (if any) and Journal Entries
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-November 28, 2023

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, President Barrens moved to approve the Check Register for the Month of December 2023, BAR's #15-#22 and Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-November 28, 2023, seconded by Member Tanuz. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

President Barrens inquired on the replacement costs for cameras. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported a quote was received for cameras and doors in the amount of \$400,000.00 and mentioned the search of other vendors. She spoke on the replacement of key doors and stated funds had been appropriated for the project. He asked what the budget is for the initiative. Superintendent Sena-Holton stated further discussion is needed with the Business Manager and commented upon being realistic. President Barrens recommended exploring alternative funding sources.

Vice President Garcia inquired on the condition of the buses. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported circumstances that required mechanic services, identified busses that need to be serviced and indicated parts may need to be ordered.

President Barrens requested mentioning the Mesa Vista incident. Superintendent Sena-Holton informed of events/behavior/matters of concern that unfolded with fans during & after the girls' varsity basketball game against Mesa Vista. She noted the NMAA Executive Director was contacted and notified of the belligerent fans, stated a penalty was imposed and a strike was issued

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on Mesa Vista fans for unsportsmanlike conduct. She pointed out the posting of the letter by Mesa Vista, indicating a well written letter.

Vice President Garcia inquired on the number of current substitutes. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported there are no long term substitutes, stated all substitutes are back on the rotation and reported the number of active substitutes.

POLICY

None

ACTION ITEM(S)

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF FY23 AUDIT

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Member Tanuz moved to approve the FY23 Audit, seconded by Vice President Garcia. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

OTHER

None

ADVANCE PLANNING

- NMSBA 2024 Board Member Institute-February 1-3, 2024, Santa Fe, NM
- Work Session-February 6, 2024, 5:30 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting-February 20, 2024, 6:00 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- NSBA 2024 Annual Conference and Exposition-April 6-8, 2024, New Orleans, LA

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 p.m., Member Roybal moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice President Garcia. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0. Minutes approved and signed on this 16th day of April 2024.



GRADY BARRENS, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



CLAUDETTE ROYBAL, SECRETARY