



Pecos Independent School District

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School Board

Darlene Ortiz, President
Harold J. Garcia, Vice President
Grady Barrens, Secretary
Vacant, Member
Claudette Roybal, Member

Administration

Debra Sena-Holton,
Superintendent

Brenda Gallegos,
Director of Finance

**BOARD MEETING AMENDED AGENDA
PECOS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2022
PECOS SCHOOLS BOARD ROOM
PECOS, NM
4:30 PM**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 4. ACTION ITEM(S)**
 - A. Appointing of New Board Member
 - B. Resolution to Fill Board of Education Vacancy
- 5. SWEARING IN OF APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER**
- 6. BOARD RESTRUCTURING**
- 7. GOLDEN PANTHER AWARDS**
- 8. NMSBA EXCELLENCE FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
- 9. UNIT/DIRECTOR REPORTS**
- 10. BUSINESS REPORT**
 - A. Financial Status
- 11. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - B. Check Register for Month of January 2022
 - C. Cash Transfer(s), BAR's (if any) and Journal Entries
 - D. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-November 16, 2021
 - E. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-December 14, 2021
- 12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
- 13. POLICY**
- 14. OTHER**
- 15. ADVANCE PLANNING**
 - Work Session-March 1, 2022, 5:30 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
 - Regular Board Meeting-March 15, 2022, 6:00 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
 - NSBA 2022 Annual Conference and Exposition-April 2-4, 2022, San Diego, CA

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**-to discuss pending litigation-update with New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority as per *NM Statutes Article 15 Open Meetings 10-15-1 Subparagraph H (7)*.

ADJOURNMENT

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 PECOS BOARD OF EDUCATION
 PECOS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
 PECOS SCHOOLS BOARD ROOM
 PECOS, NEW MEXICO
 FEBRUARY 7, 2022
 4:30 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
February 7, 2022
4:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER

The President, Ms. Darlene Ortiz called the meeting to order @ 4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Darlene Ortiz, Board President
Mr. Harold J. Garcia, Board Vice President
Mr. Grady Barrens, Board Secretary
Ms. Claudette Roybal, Board Member
Ms. Debra Sena-Holton, Superintendent
Mr. Ginger Nickell, Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Pedro Vallejo Emily Ortiz Cathy Gallegos Denisha Moodley
Brenda Gallegos

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Secretary Barrens motioned to approve the amended agenda; change of start time from 6:00 pm to 4:30 pm, seconded by Member Roybal. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEM(S)

APPOINTING OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Secretary Barrens moved to appoint Mr. James Tanuz as New Board Member, seconded by Vice President Garcia. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

RESOLUTION TO FILL BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY

Member Roybal moved to approve the Resolution to Fill Board of Education Vacancy, seconded by Vice President Garcia. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

SWEARING IN OF APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER

Board Member Claudette Roybal administered an oath of office to newly appointed School Board Member James Tanuz. Board Members congratulated and welcomed Mr. Tanuz.

BOARD RESTRUCTURING

BOARD PRESIDENT POSITION

President Ortiz nominated Mr. Grady Barrens for President of the Pecos Independent School District Board of Education. Mr. Barrens accepted the nomination. Vice President Garcia seconded the nomination. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0. Board Members congratulated Mr. Barrens.

VICE-PRESIDENT POSITION

President Barrens entertained nominations for the office of Vice-President of the Pecos Independent School District Board of Education. Member Ortiz nominated Mr. Harold J. Garcia, who accepted the nomination. Member Tanuz seconded the nomination. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

SECRETARY POSITION

President Barrens entertained nominations for the office of Secretary of the Pecos Independent School District Board of Education. Vice President Garcia nominated Ms. Darlene Ortiz, who accepted the nomination. Member Roybal seconded the nomination. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

GOLDEN PANTHER AWARDS

Principals announced February award recipients, noted the characteristics that deemed the student deserving of the award and presented those present with a recognition certificate. The Golden Panthers recognized were Nevaeh Sandoval-Freshman, Joel Garcia Dominguez-6th grader and Armandre Gabaldon-2nd grader.

Member Tanuz mentioned his retirement of two years, indicated it seems like yesterday as each of the student's characteristics were described and informed he knew than all. He noted they didn't miss a beat and continued to succeed, a prime definition of what they were when he was a teacher.

NMSBA EXCELLENCE FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Superintendent Sena-Holton informed the Board selects the individual(s) and mentioned different appellations for consideration.

Secretary Ortiz made a recommendation to nominate Mr. Lawrence Ortega. Superintendent Sena-Holton informed he is the game commentator, noted he commentates gratuitous and conveyed he does a really great job.

President Barrens asked if it was the only time to make a nomination. Superintendent Sena-Holton noted the due date of March 11th, reported the scheduled March Work Session and Regular Board Meeting dates and pointed out Spring Break in between. President Barrens called for other nominations. She conveyed selection of recipient(s) will be an Action Item on the March Work Session Agenda

UNIT/DIRECTOR REPORTS

High School

Dr. Vallejo reported the graduation of three midterm graduates, naming Angelo Benavidez, Antonio Valles and Grace Giles in addition to noting their student standing; fifth year students and new student-early graduate. He informed all other twenty-nine Seniors are on track to graduate. He announced the hiring of a Math Teacher. Dr. Vallejo reported ten students are attending Santa Fe Community College, in alliance with various technical fields and acknowledged the correlation with Dual Credit. He identified social-emotional learning, the mental health as a challenge, noted majority of students were able to adapt and acknowledged the difficulty for numerous students. He touched on the impact of the difficulty, mentioning there are several referrals to counselors and consideration to alternative programs-programs that offer other interventions, as a result. Dr. Vallejo conveyed the type of behavior and impact does not leave students when they return to face to face instruction, acknowledging the transition is hard for students.

Vice President Garcia requested a gist of exactly what is being done for this type of situation and what program is utilized. Dr. Vallejo gave a synopsis of the intervention measures; with reference to counseling services by district personnel, outside agency referrals/resources, family and student collaboration and teacher support/involvement etc.

Vice President Garcia inquired on funding support, for intervention initiatives/programs. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported the hiring of additional specialty personnel, partnerships with mental health agencies and laid emphasis on spending time with students. She acknowledged the state of high alert, the need for wellness checks (during remote learning) and conveyed a lot of issues are surfacing. She noted a student at each site needs immediate intervention on a weekly basis and mentioned the struggle of staff as well. Superintendent Sena-Holton spoke on intent to keep the District Wellness Counselor and mentioned the thought of hiring an additional counselor.

President Barrens asked if families have been receptive to the outreach from the school and for the resources. Dr. Vallejo conveyed families are thankful for the support and recognized there are diverse reactions to the situation during crisis mode. Superintendent Sena-Holton briefed on the crisis plan of action and mentioned having only one parent really-really angry at the district as well, noting the students are currently enrolled. She conveyed students are proactive and immediately communicate concerns to counseling staff/appropriate personnel.

Elementary

Ms. Gallegos reported a smooth online transition during the remote learning period. She mentioned staff working together in times of great need. She touched on staff weariness/to some extent of unhealthiness correlating with COVID adversities, issues among themselves and student families. Ms. Gallegos spoke to and the manner of lifting spirits. She informed some illnesses are circulating at the school. She noted the ongoing efforts of staff to assist where needed. Ms. Gallegos supported the idea of an additional Wellness Counselor, to begin addressing issues at a young age.

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She proposed recognizing Angelina, a Daybreak Counseling Provider for her service, efforts and hard work.

Member Roybal expressed appreciation to Ms. Gallegos for her hard work.

Vice President Garcia presented a donation to the Pre-K Program.

Middle School

Ms. Moodley reported on the transition back from remote learning; informed classes were fully covered for the first time since October, reviewed the class coverage, noted the excitement of students and expressed appreciation for their acknowledgement. She mentioned the administration of Academic Contracts to several failing students, remarked on the overall optimism and shared a remark uttered from a particular student. She gave feedback from her revisit to classrooms; pointing out the implementation of learning strategies discussed in July, despite the fact of her giving them criteria of what she wanted to perceive and expressed enjoyment with student leadership in the classroom, the incorporation of 21st Century Skills and the interaction of students during Friend Groups. Ms. Moodley mentioned an additional success, briefed on an incentive afternoon while on remote learning. She presented the areas to address: revising of vocabulary initiative and addressing the failure rate. She reviewed upcoming calendar of events.

Vice President Garcia inquired on vaping infractions. Ms. Moodley reported zero incidences.

President Barrens inquired on the comparison of the current percentage to October 2021. Ms. Moodley informed the current passing percentage of 78% is above the targeted 70% listed in the 90 Day Plan. She noted an approximate 93% of students ended the last quarter passing all classes. She recognized the current standing, indicated in spite of the situation students need to gain the skills they have to have to be successful and remarked on the effect of remote learning, student engagement, and environment setting. She emphasized on many students needing the instructor with them in the classroom to keep them on track.

Athletics

Ms. Ortiz welcomed Mr. Tanuz and congratulated appointed members. She noted the current playing status, despite COVID variants and indicated overall, majority of athletes have been affected. She mentioned the end of semester, resulting in ineligible students as a challenge. Ms. Ortiz specified the basic mask wearing as an additional challenge and expressed her hopes of support for upcoming games. She announced its Homecoming Week and reported the game schedule for the week. She informed Kevin Vigil is the main middle school basketball coach, who is coaching both teams and referred to the high school coaching staff supporting him as much as they can. Ms. Ortiz noted the Boys & Girls Basketball Teams participation in the district duals in Silver City. She announced the hosting of the district wrestling meet on Saturday, prior to the homecoming game and extended an invitation to assist where needed.

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She reported the 3rd Placement of the PHS Cheer & Spirit Team in a recent Spirit Competition. Ms. Ortiz informed eSports is up and running and stated a match is scheduled for the present day. She conveyed concession continues to do really well and remarked on the support received. She mentioned the feeding of a visiting team through concession and spoke on the idea/willingness to extend the offer to different teams. Ms. Ortiz announced the scheduled date for Senior Night and touched on acknowledging the Mesa Vista Girls Coaches who recently passed. She updated on NFHS Tech Support and probable cause.

Support Services/Student Nutrition

Superintendent Sena-Holton pointed out Ms. Damon's absence.

Vice President Garcia inquired on the quality of the food. Superintendent Sena-Holton recognized there will always be picky eaters and conveyed overall students are eating. She indicated elementary students appreciate the food to a greater extent than high school students. Ms. Brenda Gallegos notified counts are down, pointed out middle school breakfast is really bad and reported they're only feeding about forty students. She presented an expenditure and claim reimbursement example. She informed the concern has been presented to the Student Nutrition Director. She noted the high school numbers are not alarming.

BUSINESS REPORT

FINANCIAL STATUS

Ms. Brenda Gallegos, Finance Director noted the Reconciliation Report was emailed, apologized for the late distribution and informed completion cannot occur until the Bank Statement is received. She reported all funds are in good standing. She notified on the carryover in the CARES Fund and conveyed is understandable because of the time allowed to utilize the funds, up until 2024. Ms. Gallegos noted the Check Listing for the month of January 2022 is in the packet, she summarized the Payroll and Accounts Payable Report, Cash Transfers/BAR's (if any), Internal BAR's and Journal Entries. She pointed out the commencement of the budget in the March meeting; pointing out review of the complete budget and how to begin the preparation. She reported on salary increases that will be reflected in the salary schedule, indicating it will be substantial for some employees since they are only at \$11.00 an hour. Ms. Gallegos conveyed the increase is going to really help and affect a lot of district employees. She discussed the mandated increase, the implementation period and remarked on the amount of work associated. She notified of an additional EBT Benefit disbursement and briefed on the qualification/rule.

CONSENT AGENDA

Check Register for Month of January 2022
Cash Transfer(s), BAR's (if any) and Journal Entries
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-November 16, 2021
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-December 14, 2021

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Vice President Garcia moved to approve the Check Register for the Month of January 2022, Cash Transfer(s), BAR'(s) #10 (if any), Internal BAR's and Journal Entries, Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting-November 16, 2021 and Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-December 14, 2021, seconded by Member Roybal. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Sena-Holton gave kudos to the Interim Maintenance Director, Ray Valdez. She notified he is doing an outstanding job and conveyed she is receiving lots of feedback from the district, very receptive and stated he is working extremely hard. She also gave kudos to Michael Sandoval and informed they are a crew of two at the present time. Superintendent Sena-Holton noted an individual was hired for the Maintenance Department. She reported various maintenance issues throughout the district as challenges and noted several on account of the snowstorm. She touched on the other issue at hand, water damage to the middle school gym floor. Superintendent Sena-Holton briefed on assessing the extent of the damage and mentioned another roofing inspection. She announced zero positive COVID cases, staff and students as of January 28, 2022. She gave kudos to the nurse for her initiatives. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported on hiring of staff, noted a reduction in vacancies and notified of her request for National Guard Specialists to serve as substitute teachers in the district.

President Barrens asked if the vaccination information gathered by the nurse be used by the district to differentiate who is and who is not vaccinated versus relying on honesty. Superintendent Sena-Holton cautioned on the exposure of information, mentioned her approach to the matter and made aware the nurse has various duties already assigned. Vice President Garcia requested further discussion on the topic. He asked if the nurse receives any type of additional pay for COVID. She noted money was received and stated her intent to not break the partnership with Presbyterian Medical Services-Pecos Valley Medical Center.

Vice President Garcia inquired on inclement weather pipe preparation. Superintendent Sena-Holton acknowledged preparation efforts and informed the thermostats were not lowered to the normal setting kept.

Member Roybal inquired on the completion of the Sexual Misconduct Training. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported staff that was present at the beginning of the school year has gone through it,

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informed those hired after have not received the training. She spoke on scheduling for the start of the new school year. She stated 95% of staff has been provided the training, some of them twice. She remarked on the preferred setting of the trainer.

President Barrens asked if there is any potential liability exposure for the staff that hasn't. Superintendent Sena-Holton acknowledged there is always going to be that potential of liability. She commented on the scheduling of another session.

Secretary Ortiz inquired on the Class of 2020 Composite and mural. Superintendent Sena-Holton informed the mural artist did not want to complete a W-9 and stated she has been unsuccessful in reaching a Lifetouch Representative.

Secretary Ortiz inquired on the status of the requested pictures for the 100-year initiative. Superintendent Sena-Holton noted some people have made contact with her and stated she hasn't had the time to scan the photos for those who do not have a scanner.

Secretary Ortiz questioned the stance of the money appropriated for the mural. Ms. Brenda Gallegos informed the money will remain in the fund until the end of the current year and pointed out if it's not utilized by June 30, 2022 the money will revert into a general student fund. Superintendent Sena-Holton conveyed the class needs to find an artist.

POLICY

None

OTHER

Vice President Garcia inquired on the status of the East Pecos Facility. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported the status remains the same, stated the facility is winterized and maintenance is kept up.

Superintendent Sena-Holton mentioned the ordering of new graduation gowns for the Board.

Secretary Ortiz inquired on the new laptops for the Board. Superintendent Sena-Holton informed the laptops will not be received until a new order is placed for teachers.

Vice President Garcia presented food for thought on the East Pecos Facility, noting ownership of the EPF and pointed out the ongoing discussion of what to do with the facility. He asked the Board to think of ideas on what to do with it and stated it's the Board's responsibility to decide.

ADVANCE PLANNING

- Work Session-March 1, 2022, 5:30 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting-March 15, 2022, 6:00 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- NSBA 2022 Annual Conference and Exposition-April 2-4, 2022, San Diego, CA

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:23 p.m., Vice President Garcia moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Roybal. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0. Minutes approved and signed on this 22nd day of March 2022.



GRADY BARRENS, PRESIDENT

ATTEST: 
DARLENE ORTIZ, SECRETARY