

Pecos Independent School District

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School Board

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

Administration

Debra Sena-Holton,
Superintendent

Brenda Gallegos,
Director of Finance



**BOARD MEETING AMENDED AGENDA
PECOS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2021
PECOS SCHOOLS BOARD ROOM
PECOS, NM
6:00 PM**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 4. GOLDEN PANTHER AWARDS**
- 5. COVID; DISTRICT STATUS UPDATE**
- 6. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER-Michael Flores Sr.**
- 7. BOARD MEMBER APPOINTING PLAN**
- 8. UNIT/DIRECTOR REPORTS**
- 9. BUSINESS REPORT**
 - A.** Financial Status
- 10. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - B.** Check Register for Month of November 2021
 - C.** Cash Transfer(s), BAR's (if any) and Journal Entries
- 11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
- 12. POLICY**
- 13. ACTION ITEM(S)**
- 14. OTHER**
- 15. ADVANCE PLANNING**
 - Work Session-January 4, 2022, 5:30 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
 - Regular Board Meeting-January 18, 2022, 6:00 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
 - NMSBA 2022 Board Institute, February 2-5, 2022, Eldorado Hotel, Santa Fe, NM
- 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
 DECEMBER 14, 2021
 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
December 14, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER

The President, Ms. Darlene Ortiz called the meeting to order @ 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Cathy Gallegos	Melanie Ramirez	Erik Ramirez	Esmeralda Castillo
Jorge Sotelo	Elizabeth Mallett	Sky Schneider	Carla Hogue
Emily Ortiz	Jazzlynn Roybal	Brenda Gallegos	Melissa T. Valencia-Flores

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Secretary Barrens motioned to approve the amended agenda; table the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-November 16, 2021 and change the Regular Board Meeting date to reflect the correct date, seconded by Member Flores. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

GOLDEN PANTHER AWARDS

Principals announced December 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 Jorge Sotelo-Sophomore, Elizabeth Mallett-6th grader and Abrianna Ramirez-kindergartener.

President Ortiz congratulated recipients.

COVID; DISTRICT STATUS UPDATE

Superintendent Sena-Holton noted an update was included in her report and provided updated information; reported the current number of positive cases at each site, based on the Test to Stay Program with Department of Health. She announced all athletes were tested, as a result of exposure, pointing out five additional positives were determined and mentioned the next testing dates. She informed the district is following NMPED and NMDOH guidelines for Test to play-Test to Stay in school and confirmed the high school total. Superintendent Sena-Holton announced the number of high school positive cases and emphasized on the goal to keep schools open. She touched on game cancellations, stated she would keep the Board updated and mentioned an underage party, where students were unmasked. She expressed her support for the Test to Stay initiative, gave kudos to Department of Health and commented on the outcome from the school site testing. Superintendent Sena-Holton pointed out the COVID-19 Vaccine Booster requirement, to be identified as fully vaccinated, noted the commencement date of January 17, 2022 and mentioned the collection of updated vaccination cards, in preparation for surveillance testing. She noted individuals who have not received their booster shot will now participate in surveillance testing and projected an increase in numbers, based on her knowledge of staff who are not going to get their boosters.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER-Michael Flores Sr.

President Ortiz recognized outgoing School Board Member Michael Flores Sr. for his distinguished service to the district, thanked him for his service and presented them with an appreciation plaque.

Member Flores conveyed the experience was great, recognized there were ups and downs and acknowledged the main focus was/is students. He wished the Board the best of luck, encouraged them and the administration to keep up the hard work and showed gratitude to all.

Vice President Garcia conveyed it's been a pleasure and awesome serving with Member Flores all these years and complimented him on a good job.

Member Roybal recognized Member Flores Sr. presence around the district, always cheering on the Panthers and assisting any way possible and expressed appreciation for his efforts.

Secretary Barrens noted Member Flores is a great member of the community all the way around and conveyed his appreciation.

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTING PLAN

Superintendent Sena-Holton informed a new Board Member is to be appointed within forty-five days from January 1, 2022. She announced the next Board Meeting date of February 15th and stated the forty-five-day deadline can be reached by then. She proposed February 1st to interview candidates and suggested advertising the month of January.

UNIT/DIRECTOR REPORTS

Support Services/Student Nutrition

Ms. Damon spoke on moving forward with the curriculum recommended by the Autism Consultant, mentioned the experimentation with some students by the elementary teacher, prior to moving forward with other teachers. She announced the hiring of a new Elementary SPED Teacher and noted she has commenced with her class schedule. She reported a Luna Community College campus visit by several high school students and touched on the events/activity's students observed; a demonstrated experiment, noted a campus tour and mentioned the commencing of a CAD Program. Ms. Damon pointed out the struggle of hiring a Secondary Special Education Teacher, commended the efforts of the substitute teacher and briefed on lessons/instruction. She mentioned the newly hired Speech Therapist, touched on her position, providing her with support and the proper training needed. She reported an increase in enrollment to ninety-nine students.

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Ms. Damon announced a retirement in the Student Nutrition Department, noted a vacant position in the cafeteria and expressed concern with finding substitutes. She remarked on filling in as a substitute as necessary and reported a decrease in the number of meals served. She notified of a tentative USDA Grant Award, acknowledged there were pros and cons and briefed on the details. Ms. Damon addressed concern with the low production of food and mentioned the latest items unobtainable.

Secretary Barrens asked what is attributed to the increase in students receiving Special Education services. Ms. Damon reported the rise in numbers is from Pre-K, students who were identified through diagnostic assessment. Ms. Sena-Holton pointed out a flag in the 40th Day STARS Reporting, with the inclusion/identification of Pre-K Students, complimented the efforts of the Diagnostician on the assessment completion by the second reporting period-80th Day.

Secretary Barrens inquired on the progress of any type of Gifted Curriculum. Ms. Damon noted she is the individual overseeing the Gifted Program, conveyed an elementary student receives Gifted Education Curriculum and pointed out not having the time to assess students, noting the gentleman who took the Professional Development for gifted screening is no longer with the district.

Vice President Garcia inquired on a Gifted Assessment deadline for the screener. Ms. Damon informed there is no deadline and stated once training is received she will proceed with the screening of students.

Athletics

Ms. Ortiz announced the district is in full play, recognizing the hopes of NMAA. She reported other students are working diligently to regain eligibility now at semester. She mentioned the really good feedback received from the Athletics Facebook Post and mentioned her intent to get updates to the district website Athletics Page. She announced concession sales are going really well, acknowledging attribution to the management. Ms. Ortiz identified the digital ticketing process as an area of concern; touched on challenges faced, pointed out the need for an additional access point and remarked on looking into other options. She reported COVID Testing of Athletes and rescheduling of games that were part of the Master Schedule as challenges. She noted the involvement with COVID Testing, mentioned the scheduled dates and conveyed a decision has not been made on the upcoming Robertson game, based on today's COVID Test Results. Ms. Ortiz gave feedback on the hosted Wrestling Tri Match. She announced the closing of the softball position, informed there was only one applicant and stated the recommendation will be presented for consideration. She briefed on the volleyball coach position. She discussed the Esports initiative. Ms. Ortiz notified she misspoke on wrestling, pointed out the schedule correction and recognized Derik Ortiz who medaled at the Al Salazar Invite.

Secretary Barrens requested explanation of the No Re-entry Rule. Ms. Ortiz made aware of the vaping issues happening in the school community, previously informed by Superintendent Sena-Holton. She explained the rationale; reported on the recognized pattern of several student's reentry

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behavior, mentioned a report of a middle school non-licensed driver cruising campus and student reentry in a different state of mind. She acknowledged her lenience with adult fans.

Secretary Barrens based the rule on more of a student discipline issue. Ms. Ortiz agreed with his point of view, acknowledged crowd control, the discouragement of reentry among students and liability as other reasoning.

Ms. Nickell inquired on the number of students that have actively been cut from teams because of eligibility reasons. Ms. Ortiz informed students aren't necessarily cut per se, pointed out they are realistically aware of their eligibility, based on their final grades from the end of semester last May-when the leave that year. She reviewed practice and eligibility opportunities and stated failure on the second attempt athletes are reinforced they did not meet the criteria NMAA has in place for eligibility.

Secretary Barrens inquired on promoting some of the on-line games at NFHS. Ms. Ortiz agreed to include on the district's website Athletics Page as an option. He advocated from a parent's point of view. She acknowledged the purpose of fans attending games and recognized both options have advantages and disadvantages. She notified coaches requested disabling the video on demand.

Elementary School

Ms. Gallegos informed on the cancellation of incentive field trips. She reported an arranged Santa visit and stocking distribution sponsored by the PTO-Parent Teacher Organization and mentioned other activities planned for Friday. She announced the completion of Middle of Year (MOY) Assessment, with the exception of a few stragglers, attributed to high absences. Ms. Gallegos noted the reading and math data outlined in the report is from the i-Ready Beginning of Year (BOY) Assessment, gave a data comparison synopsis to the MOY Assessment and stated the next Board Report will contain the data information. She called to mind factors that may have hindered the BOY Assessment. She expressed her anticipation of academic progression and recognized half of the 5th grade student's lack of effort, based on her review of the data. Ms. Gallegos noted the diagnostic assessments are lengthy in comparison to the progress monitoring. She pointed out the same trend in 4th & 5th grade classes for math, briefed on her plan to address the lack of effort/initiative and encourage motivation. She briefed on setting daily program lessons to target areas of concern and tailor it to each individual student. Ms. Gallegos noted, aside from academics the feel of a regular school year and normalcy, in spite of dealing with COVID. She touched on how to make the most of time and show the most growth with students for the remainder of the year. She reported the data is the lowest amount of growth she's seen in her years as a Principal, conveyed the students are capable of more and stated her belief of ending the year successful. Ms. Gallegos announced the commencing of boys' basketball and pointed out a 4th & 5th grade team. She complimented the site custodians for their efforts in addressing COVID matters. She mentioned a ClassDojo announcement, seeking interest in an elementary cheer coach. Ms. Gallegos touched on the utilization of ISSD, commented on the effectiveness and shared feedback received from parents.

Middle School

Superintendent Sena-Holton announced the birthday of Ms. Moodley.

Ms. Moodley touched upon a previous Professional Development; teachers were served a Thanksgiving Lunch, team building initiatives and conveyed teachers were very appreciative of the celebration. She announced the hosting of Winter Games and pointed out the Knowledge Challenge. She recognized alternative practices and awareness initiatives, to redirect student behaviors have been way more beneficial to addressing those behaviors and reported a reduction in vaping incidents, as opposed to before. Ms. Moodley acknowledged Calendar to Calendar instruction and complimented teachers who took the time to embed their content area in the festive related activities taking place, with continuous learning. She reported athletics has driven student engagement for a number of at-risk students, who couldn't engage with tutoring alone and conveyed it's really changed their behavior in class and mindset. She informed athletic events has also been a great outlet for parent engagement and briefed on her intent to incorporate additional practices, in an effort to balance parent accountability and parent support. Ms. Moodley identified culturally responsiveness as a focus area, in terms of staff and student behavior, specifically on Youth Culture and conveyed a lot of youth do associate with youth culture more than they do their racial identity. She briefed on the struggle to fill vacant positions. She touched in the context of grammar and math academics; noting an improvement in math, expressed concern with grammar and conveyed students continue to struggle with the homophone concepts. She laid emphasis on diagnostic programs needing a balance with some strategic practice.

High School

Dr. Vallejo presented a graduation projection; currently reporting 28 of 29 Seniors are on track to graduate, pointed out four 5th year students, remarked on their standing and mentioned the early graduation of three students. He noted college recruitment and military recruitment is thriving. He reported New Mexico Highlands University is working with eight high schools to give qualifying Seniors full four-year scholarships, for the Class of 2022 and expressed excitement PISD Students are going to have that opportunity. Dr. Vallejo mentioned a decrease in behavior infractions and recognized a huge connection with mental health, linking to behavior, grades and attendance. He touched on the initiation of a multidisciplinary team to focus on the mental health component, indicating they will be freed up to address other areas and remarked on the benefits of the initiative. He noted the addition of articulation time as a component for the 90 Day Plan and pointed out the collaboration with the middle school. Dr. Vallejo reported on vacancies, reviewed the plan of instruction for the vacant positions and noted Master Schedule/class adjustments, to meet the needs of students.

Vice President Garcia inquired on the efforts of finding a Math Instructor. Superintendent Sena-Holton and Dr. Vallejo pointed out the recruiting efforts.

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Vice President Garcia inquired on any dress code issues. Dr. Vallejo informed kids are doing really well about and noted there are violations that need to be addressed.

BUSINESS REPORT

FINANCIAL STATUS

Ms. Brenda Gallegos, Finance Director announced the Cash Reconciliation for the month of November is within packet. She reported each of the funds have been reconciled and acknowledged no problems with any of them. She noted the Check Listing for the month of November 2021 is in the packet, she summarized the Payroll and Accounts Payable Report, Cash Transfers/BAR's (if any), Internal BAR's and Journal Entries.

Secretary Barrens asked if adding additional Teacherage Units something the extra money (discussed during the Work Session) may be spent on. Ms. B Gallegos noted the extra money may not be utilized, informed the Teacherage Fund has enough money to add one and stated Federal Funds may not be used for the purchase. Superintendent Sena-Holton conveyed the addition is a goal, noted a rise in housing prices, pausing the purchase and briefed on the plan. Secretary Barrens inquired on how the fund is replenished. Ms. B Gallegos acknowledged through the rent and stated it has to be self sustaining. He asked about any private partnership. Superintendent Sena-Holton mentioned on opportunity presented and stated she didn't pursue at the time.

Ms. Nickell inquired on the replacement of weight room equipment in the gym. Ms. Gallegos recognized the possibility and presented her recommendation on the spearheading. Superintendent Sena-Holton noted the weight room closure, informed majority of staff was utilizing the facilities than kids and conveyed it's for kids. She proposed meeting with the Physical Education Teachers for further discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Check Register for Month of November 2021
Cash Transfer(s), BAR's and Journal Entries (if any)

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Sena-Holton complimented Central Office Staff on their efforts with the hiring process and gave kudos to her Administrative Team, on account of them wearing different hats. She notified on receiving a spare bus. She expressed appreciation for the Wellness Committee and briefed on the projects and support they have provided. Superintendent Sena-Holton pointed out hiring as her major challenge, mentioned the vacant positions and touched on staffing. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported COVID Contact Tracing is very difficult and time consuming.

Secretary Barrens requested clarification on the Test to Stay plan. Superintendent Sena-Holton recognized the focus should be on the unvaccinated, noted she tested all athletes, due to specific circumstances. She reported on a stigma, where people are keeping the results/positive to themselves and gave emphasis to working as a community and school on honesty. She reviewed the quarantine process and brought attention to being proactive. Superintendent Sena-Holton gave feedback on the participating student’s manner.

Vice President Garcia asked what the Lung Association is doing for the district. Superintendent Sena-Holton informed the school is participating in a Vape Free School Program, noted we received free curriculum and stated the Psychologist took the coursework.

POLICY

Superintendent Sena-Holton recommended keeping the district dress code that was adopted in June and informed all the guidelines that the Student Council came up with are going to become dress code expectations.

ACTION ITEM(S)

None

OTHER

None

ADVANCE PLANNING

- Work Session-January 4, 2022, 5:30 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting-January 18, 2022, 6:00 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- NMSBA 2022 Board Institute, February 2-5, 2022, Eldorado Hotel, Santa Fe, NM

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:46 p.m., Secretary Barrens moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Roybal. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0. Minutes approved and signed on this 7th day of February 2022.


DARLENE ORTIZ, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:


GRADY BARRENS, SECRETARY