

TOLLESON UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 214

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES REGULAR MEETING with EXECUTIVE SESSION TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Tolleson Union High School District No. 214 Governing Board regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Governing Board President, Dr. Elda Luna-Najera, with the following members in attendance: Dr. Kino Flores, Vice President, Mr. Steven Chapman, Mr. Devin Del Palacio, and Mr. Freddie Villalon, Members.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

President Luna-Najera led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of the Regular Agenda

Mr. Del Palacio moved to approve the Regular Agenda; seconded by Mr. Chapman. In a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

4. Celebrations

A. Westview High School

Superintendent Gutierrez celebrated Westview High School (WHS). Ms. Natalie Quinonez, Principal, introduced a presentation highlighting academic achievement at WHS and recognized staff and students of the year.

Female Student of the Year:	Trinity Lauer 12 th Grade
Male Student of the Year:	Amir Gill 12 th Grade
Classified Employee of the Year:	Herman Manzanares Equipment Manager
Certified Employee of the Year:	Clarice Miller English Teacher and Department Chair

B. Athletic Trainer Recognitions

Mr. Derek Fahleson, Chief Operations Officer, recognized Banner Sports Medicine Trainers, in honor of National Athletic Training Month.

Banner Sports Medicine Team	
Johnathan Maclean	CCHS Trainer
Israel Aspericueta	LCHS Trainer
Bryanna Bocanegra	SLHS Trainer
Emily Brown	TUHS Trainer
Gavin Grosh	WHS Trainer
Lisa Gore	WPHS Trainer
Michael Utter	Sports Medicine Coordinator
Josh Hayes	Director of Sports Medicine

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS**Superintendent Gutierrez Comments**

- West Point High School held their 2nd Annual Steam Night prior to Spring Break. The event was student produced and the theme this year was “Dragons in Flight” which focused on airplanes and aeronautics. There were interactive activities for all ages.
- FBLA students at Sierra Linda participated in a NASCAR Fieldtrip recently at Phoenix Raceway. Mr. Joseph Dean, FBLA Advisor and CTE Dept. Chair, said it was a great experience for the students. He also added that the students all exhibited excellent professional behavior. They are hoping that this can be an annual event for future Marketing/Business students.
- Members of the West Point High School Baseball and Softball teams, along with their coaches, were special guests of the Chicago White Sox at their Spring Training facility recently. White Sox personnel gave the West Point students a behind the scenes look at what encompasses a major league sports team. Students met many of the employees throughout the day including, media, marketing, and videography personnel. The White Sox staff shared their educational journey of what it’s like working for a Major League Baseball team. The students got an up-close look at practice and warm-ups prior to a game, including on the field access to meet many of the players. Students received a swag bag, lunch, and attended the game as guests of the White Sox.
- Recently, Dick’s Sporting Goods presented Copper Canyon High School with a check for \$10,000 to purchase sports supplies to supplement their athletic programs. This marks the second year in a row that Dick’s Sporting Goods has selected Copper Canyon High School to make this check presentation to.
- The Sierra Linda High School Future Teachers recently traveled to Tucson for the Educators Rising State Leadership Conference. Nine students qualified for the Educators Rising National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida this summer! Ms. Karen Furkert shared that she is incredibly proud of this group of students.

- I would like to publicly share that I submitted my resignation to the Governing Board during the March 7th Executive Session, effective through the end of my current contract – June 30, 2023.

When I began working for TUHSD in 2016 for one year as Interim Superintendent, I was fortunate to have a fabulous Governing Board to work with. I will always appreciate each and every one of those Board Members: Corina Madruga, Vincent Moreno, Freddie Villalon, Steven Chapman, and Devin Del Palacio. I was tasked with improving the culture of the District and improving student academic achievement. I have stayed true to those goals during my tenure. I admit that there have been times when we might not have seen eye-to-eye on issues, but we always remained kind with each other and agreed to disagree, and then move on. This is so refreshing in this day and age. I have truly been blessed to have a supportive and cooperative Governing Board that has worked with me towards the same goals; Presidents Chapman, Villalon, Del Palacio, and Luna-Najera, as well as Vice President Flores, thank you for your leadership.

I believe we have transformed the District. It has taken years working together with a united focus with the highest quality team to move TUHSD where we are today. The District's movement and improvement is a direct result of teamwork between the Governing Board, Superintendent, Cabinet Members, and Principals. There has been no division; we have worked together as a whole unit for our students, staff, and community.

I would like to highlight the following accomplishments during my tenure at TUHSD:

- COVID – Although we were in the highest RED, I am proud that TUHSD was the most stable district throughout the pandemic. We maintained a focus on the health and safety of our staff and students.
- Increased Letter Grades – Moved the district from AIMS, a sophomore assessment in 2016, to ACT, a college-level assessment currently. (1-A, 5-B's, 1-C)
- Summer School – From only 400 students district-wide at one school in 2016, to every school with 4,000 students post-pandemic, and now with 400 students at each school (2,400).
- Annual Pay Increases for ALL Staff 2017-2018 to 2023-2024:

Fiscal Year	Pay Increase	TOTAL
2023-2024	7%	<u>55%</u>
2022-2023	7%	
2021-2022	8%	
2020-2021	8%	
2019-2020	10%	
2018-2019	10%	
2017-2018	5%	

- Incoming Teacher Salary – TUHSD is the first district in Arizona to offer incoming teachers a starting salary of \$60,000 next year. The best teachers are wanting to work at TUHSD.
- Retention Rate has grown to 97%. TUHSD is no longer a hidden gem.

As I depart my position, my hope for TUHSD is that you sustain the positive changes we have made and have the District become even better in the future. To accomplish this, it is imperative that TUHSD has the right leader at the helm; I wish the Governing Board great success in finding your future Superintendent.

- Those are just some of the highlights of our district since we last met. Thank you.

Governing Board Comments

- Dr. Flores said that Superintendent Gutierrez has done an incredible job moving the District from where we were 6 years ago to now. Her leadership team is strong and should take us to the next level in the future. Superintendent Gutierrez accomplished a 100% batting average on every proposal brought to the Board for approval; no other Superintendent in TUHSD history has ever done that. Congratulations Superintendent Gutierrez and Good Luck in the future!
- Mr. Chapman shared that he appreciates the many years of partnership and working together with Superintendent Gutierrez. The search process in 2016 for Mrs. Gutierrez had a quality list of candidates, however she stood out above the rest. As Board President at the time, he made the call to Mrs. Gutierrez offering her the position; she was genuinely excited for the opportunity. We knew we had the right person in Mrs. Gutierrez to take the District to the next level. The team she has put in place has been tremendous. Academic achievement from where we were to where we are now is very appreciated. Thank you!
- Mr. Del Palacio said that we'll have a proper send off for the Superintendent in the future. Thank you for your service and leadership for our students and staff. The past 6 years have been very tough. Thank you for staying with us and leading us through these challenging years. It is evident that Superintendent Gutierrez has led this District to so many great accomplishments. She is leaving her Superintendent position as the most desired position in the state. Thank you for your passion, service, and dedication to the community.
- Mr. Villalon thanked Superintendent Gutierrez for her passion and heart. You have made our schools exceptional. You have empowered our staff and students to go to the next level and reach for their dreams. You are doing great things for us, and you inspire all of us with your leadership. God Bless you and your family.
- President Dr. Luna-Najera thanked Superintendent Gutierrez for her commitment to TUHSD and the community. Your leadership through the pandemic was impressive. No end date; you led us in the direction we needed to be. Thank you for your leadership. You are leaving TUHSD in a great place regarding administration, the leadership team, academic achievement, retention, and we appreciate you for taking us to the next level

6. Public Participation

There were no requests for public participation.

7. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Del Palacio moved to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Chapman. In a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA * ITEMS

***1. Human Resources**

A. Personnel Items

The Governing Board approved the following personnel items.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Re-Employment of Administrative Staff for the 2023-2024 School Year

Abbas, Michael	CCHS	Assistant Principal
Bauer, Maury	CCHS	School Psychologist
Betancourt, Claudia	CCHS	Prevention/Intervention Specialist
Ernster, Rachelle Louise	CCHS	Social Worker
Lucca, Nathan R	CCHS	Assistant Principal
Oxford, Alfred B	CCHS	Principal
Valenzuela, Christina P	CCHS	Assistant Principal
Williams, Christopher J	CCHS	Assistant Principal Athletics
Wiltgen, Lynette M	CCHS	Nurse RN

Baumgart, Nicole Renee	DLA	Small Schools Principal
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Resignation

Baez, Felipe	WHS	Assistant Principal
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CERTIFIED STAFF

Employment of Personnel

Brown, Eboni	DO	Guest Teacher
Painter, Gail	DO	Guest Teacher

Resignations

Russell, Kyle	WHS	CTE Welding Teacher
Jackson, Brittany	WPHS	Physical Education
Melgosa, Mariah	WPHS	English Teacher

Retirement

Thomsen, Teri	DO	District Mentor
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Wonner, Larry	WHS	Social Studies Teacher
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Leave of Absence

Rycenga, Ethan	WPHS	Math Teacher
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Employment of Personnel Staff for School Year 2023-2024

O'Leary, Kristin	CCHS	Math Teacher
Alarcon, Miguel	LJCHS	Math Teacher
Humble, Steven	LJCHS	Science Teacher
Kooklani, Neda	LJCHS	Science Teacher
Karamujic, Mustafa	LJCHS	Science Teacher
Ramlawi, Aisha	LJCHS	English Teacher
Rodriguez, Jaime	LJCHS	Piano/Choir Teacher
Saunders, Nina	LJCHS	Social Studies Teacher
Hamman, Cassandra	SLHS	English Teacher
Seyk-Malanche	TUHS	Math Teacher
Gonzalez, Diana	WHS	Bilingual-ESL-ELD Teacher
Gwardys, Brandon	WPHS	Special ED Co-Teacher
Newhart, Lily	WPHS	Social Studies Teacher
<u>Winter Coach</u>		
Slaker, Shiloh	LJCHS	JV Girls Basketball
<u>Spring Coaches</u>		
Talley, Chad	CCHS	Weight Room Coordinator
Galante, Gary	TUHS	Defensive Coordinator

CLASSIFIED STAFF**Employment of Personnel**

Garcia, Guadalupe	CCHS	Custodian I
Christner, James	DO	Substitute Bus Driver
Fleming, Jada	DO	Administrative Assistant V – C & I
Henderson, Tammy	DO	Bus Monitor
McKee, Iliana	DO	Bus Monitor
Preciado, Jose	DO	Substitute Bus Driver
Rodarte, Monica	DO	Bus Monitor
Reyes Galaviz, Maria	SLHS	Instructional Assistant – Reading – Title I
Cepeda, Eileen	TUHS	Clerical Support II – Student Support Clerk
Burk, Caleb	WHS	Instructional Assistant I – Math – Title I

Ruiz, Julian	WPHS	Security Guard
<u>Position Changes</u>		
Perez, Freddy	DO	From Substitute Bus Driver to Bus Driver
Gamino, Lilian	TUHS	From In School Support Specialist at WHS to Behavior Specialist
<u>Resignations</u>		
Henderson, Tammy	DO	Substitute Bus Monitor
Valenzuela, Gilberto	DO	Bus Monitor
Pierre, Kettly	LJCHS	Cafeteria Cashier
Trejo, Nicole	SLHS	Instructional Assistant I – EAP – Title I
Taylor, Suzanne	WHS	Clerical Support I – Library Clerk
<u>Termination</u>		
Price, Felecia	DO	Bus Driver
<u>VOLUNTEERS</u>		
<u>Fall Coach</u>		
Galante, Gary	TUHS	Defensive Coordinator
<u>Volunteer</u>		
Hamrick, Jason	LJCHS	Baseball

***2. Business Services**

A. Vouchers

Prior to ratification at the Governing Board meeting, Governing Board President, or his designee, reviews and signs vouchers. Vouchers represent orders for payment of material, equipment, salaries, and services. The Governing Board approved:

Payroll Vouchers:	\$ 4,484,011.59	(1023)
Expense Vouchers:	\$ 1,124,754.00	(7133-7141)

B. Gifts and Donations

The Governing Board approved acceptance of donations from Lennar Title, Pulte Group, Target, Teen Lifeline, First American Title Insurance Company, Westview High School Boys Tennis Serve -A-Thon, Valley Athletics, Universal Athletic, BSN Sports, Westview High School Dance Club, La Joya High School Dance, Westview High School Track and Field Club, La Joya High School Theater, and Devin Del Palacio, totaling \$41,702.49.

C. Nonresident Tuition for 2023-2024

The Governing Board approved the Nonresident Tuition rate of \$8,685 for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget for a typical student and approve the Superintendent or Superintendent's Designee the authority to waive the tuition amount as provided in ARS 15-823 when it is in the best interest of the District.

***3. Superintendent's Office**

A. Travel Requests

The Governing Board approved travel requests from DLHS, LJCHS, SLHS, TUHS, UHS, WPHS, WHS, and District Office.

LOCATION	WHO	WHAT/WHEN/WHERE
TUHS	Chief W. Tyrone Hall, Marine and Master Sergeant Antonio Carrion, Marine Instructors; Stephanie Finch, Counselor; and approximately 20 students	Cadet Leadership Camp/Orientation Trip March 26 – April 1, 2023 Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii
TUHS	Ricardo Avalos, Medical Assistant/HOSA Advisor; and approximately 10 students	HOSA State Leadership Conference March 29-31, 2023 Westin La Paloma Resort Tucson, Arizona
District Office and qualified school sites	Christina Boston, District ELD Director, who oversees JAG for TUHSD; and up to 10 students, upon qualifications to the JAG National Career Development Conference	JAG National Career Development Conference April 19-23, 2023 Double Tree by Hilton Orlando, Florida
WHS	Captain Francisco Cardoza, MJROTC Instructor; and approximately 14 students	Leadership Retreat April 27-30, 2023 Camp Navajo, JCLC Belmont, Arizona
District Office	John Brown, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Diane Wray, Director of Special Services; Chelsey Spicer, Instructional Leadership Coordinator – English, Literacy, Reading; Madge Carver, District IEP Coordinator (SPED); Jaclyn Parker, Cross Categorical Behavior/SPIRIT Programs Coordinator	Yes We Can! An Unprecedented Opportunity to Improve Special Education Outcomes May 2-5, 2023 Aloft Tampa Midtown Skyline Tampa, Florida
District Office, DLHS, LJCHS, SLHS, TUHS, UHS, WPHS, WHS	District Office - April Beck, CTE Director; Efrain Filerio, CTE Coordinator; DLHS – Alyssa Woodward, Counselor; LJCHS – CTE Instructors: Heather Eaton, Callie Pastor, Carissa Rupe, Anna Rojas, Deborah Kuehn, Phillip Mulherin; and Counselors: Paula Oxford, Paige Nichols, Shawn Vandernaalt; SLHS – Joseph Dean, CTE Instructor; TUHS - CTE Instructors: Joseph Aguayo, Tyron Hall, Roberto Moran, and Counselors: Grace Barnes, Karla Anibas; UHS – Morgan Champie, Counselor; WPHS – CTE Instructors: Wanda Moran, Daniel Roman, Mikayla Cerwinske, Michael Flavell, Conroy Bowman, Kevin Ivory and Counselors: Ernestina Munoz, Jennifer	CTE Annual Summer Conference 2023 July 13-19, 2023 Hilton El Conquistador Tucson, Arizona

	Quiver; WHS – CTE Instructors: Troy Cornforth, Robert Irish, Jeffrey Chang, Phillip Bentz, Aaron Upsher	
District Office	Joe Miranda, Transportation Trainer; David Rodriguez, Transportation Mechanic	TAA 2023 Summer Conference – “Charting the Course” June 19-22, 2023 Little America Flagstaff, Arizona
WHS	Cassandra Gunn, Teacher; and approximately 18 students	USA Showtime Resort Camp June 26-29, 2023 JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort Phoenix, Arizona
District Office	Joseph Ortiz, Director of Public Relations and Marketing	National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) 2023 National Seminar July 16-19, 2023 St. Louis, Missouri

B. Minutes – March 7, 2023 Governing Board Regular Meeting with Executive Session

The Governing Board approved the March 7, 2023 Governing Board Regular Meeting with Executive Session minutes.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

9. Update on Auditor General’s Classroom Spending Report

Mr. Jeremy Calles, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Auditor General’s Classroom Spending Report.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM

10. Textbook Adoptions for ELD English, AP Social Studies, Math, and Science

Administration seeks Governing Board approval for adoption of teacher and student textbooks and resources for Eld English, AP Social Studies, Math, and Science. Mrs. Mindy Westover, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, presented information regarding the textbook adoption.

Mr. Del Palacio moved that he Governing Board approve adoption of teacher and student textbooks and resources for ELD English, AP Social Studies, Math, and Science; seconded by Mr. Chapman. In a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. It is recommended that the Governing Board establish an Executive Session regarding the following topics:

a. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.2 (Student Long Term Suspension SD2023-A)

Discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law.

b. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.2 (Student Long Term Suspension SD2023-B)

Discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law.

c. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.3 (Discussion or consultation for legal advice)

Discussions or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body regarding consideration of JUUL Vaping Class Action Settlement.

d. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.1 (Superintendent Search)

Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body, except that with the exception of salary discussions, an officer, appointee or employee may demand that the discussion or consideration occur at a public meeting. The public body shall provide the officer, appointee, or employee with written notice of the executive session as is appropriate but not less than twenty-four hours for the officer, appointee, or employee to determine whether the discussion or consideration should occur at a public meeting.

Mr. Del Palacio moved that the Governing Board approve a motion to move into Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Chapman. In a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

12. RECESSING OF REGULAR MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Regular Meeting recessed to move into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Call to Order and Roll Call of Governing Board Members

The Executive Session was called to order by President Dr. Luna-Najera at 8:14 p.m. with the following members present: Dr. Kino Flores, Vice President, Mr. Steven Chapman, Mr. Devin Del Palacio, and Mr. Freddie Villalon, Members.

Also in attendance were Mrs. Nora Gutierrez, Superintendent; Mr. Derek Fahleson, Chief Operations Officer, for Agenda Items C-a and C-b; Mr. Ernest Calderón, Esq. with CALDERÓN LAW OFFICES, PLC for Agenda Items C-a, C-c, and C-d; Mr. Jeremy Calles, Chief Financial Officer, for Agenda Item C-d; and Mrs. Judith Jameson, Governing Board Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary.

B. Reading of Confidentiality Statements

President Luna-Najera read the Confidentiality Statement.

C. Topics for Discussion or Consideration:

a. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.2 (Student Long Term Suspension SD2023-A)

Discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law.

b. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.2 (Student Long Term Suspension SD2023-B)

Discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law.

c. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.3 (Discussion or consultation for legal advice)
Discussions or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body regarding consideration of JUUL Vaping Class Action Settlement.

d. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.1 (Superintendent Search)
Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body, except that with the exception of salary discussions, an officer, appointee or employee may demand that the discussion or consideration occur at a public meeting. The public body shall provide the officer, appointee, or employee with written notice of the executive session as is appropriate but not less than twenty-four hours for the officer, appointee, or employee to determine whether the discussion or consideration should occur at a public meeting.

D. Adjournment of Executive Session

Mr. Del Palacio moved to adjourn the Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Villalon. In a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

The Executive Session adjourned at 12:11 a.m.

14. RECONVENING OF REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 12:11 a.m.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

15. JUUL Vaping Class Action Settlement

Administration seeks Governing Board ratification or rejection of the JUUL Vaping Class Action Settlement.

Mr. Chapman moved that he Governing Board approve ratifying the JUUL Vaping Class Action Settlement; seconded by Mr. Del Palacio. In a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

16. Contract Negotiations - District Interim Superintendent Designee

The Governing Board will discuss and may consider offering to enter into contract negotiations with a specific candidate for the position of District Interim Superintendent Designee and authorize the Governing Board President to contact the candidate.

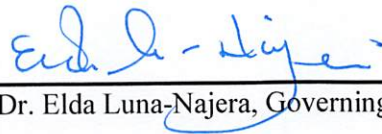
Mr. Del Palacio moved that the Governing Board approve entering into contract negotiations with Mr. Jeremy Calles, current TUHSD CFO, for the position of District Interim Superintendent Designee and authorize the Governing Board President to contact the Mr. Calles; seconded by Mr. Chapman. In a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING(S)

- President Dr. Luna-Najera requested an up regarding FLEX and Sweep at a future Board meeting.
- March 30, 2023 – Special telephonic Meeting at 8:00 a.m.
- April 11, 2023 – Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- April 25, 2023 – Work Study Session at 6:00 p.m.
- May 9, 2023 – Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- May 30, 2023 – Regular Meeting **at 3:00 p.m.**
- June 13, 2023 – Regular Meeting with Work Study Session (if needed) **at 3:00 p.m.**
- June 27, 2023 – Regular Meeting **at 3:00 p.m.**

17. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Villalon moved that the Governing Board approve adjourning the Regular Meeting; seconded by Mr. Chapman. In a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0. President Luna-Najera called the Regular Meeting of the Tolleson Union High School District Governing Board adjourned at 12:16 a.m.



Dr. Elda Luna-Najera, Governing Board President