

**9/21/23 APS Community Meeting**  
**Alamogordo High School**  
**5:30pm**

**Comment Box and Individual Table Questions:**

1. Does APS hire teachers fresh out of school?

**Answer:** *Yes, if they have completed their required exams, provide transcripts, and pass a background check through the New Mexico Public Education Department's Licensure Background Checks Unit.*

*We also hire persons with bachelor's degrees through the New Mexico Public Education Department's Alternative Licensure Program. If you would like to apply, please visit [www.alamogordoschools.org/jobs](http://www.alamogordoschools.org/jobs).*

2. Who can volunteer?

**Answer:** *Volunteers must pass the HB128 required background check (same background check given to all district employees and substitutes). In addition, the Recommendation for Volunteer goes through an approval process with the final approval by senior administration.*

3. This meeting was not at all what I had expected. Nothing was discussed about critical issues to try to build confidence in the Community. It was the worse weekend possible.

**Answer:** *We are happy that community members were able to meet face-to-face at individual tables with the Acting Superintendent, Board Members, Deputy Superintendent, and over 50 of our staff available to answer questions at the Human Resources, Nursing, Security, HOPE Team, Counseling, Social Work, Technology, Special Education, Transportation, and Business & Finance, Elementary Principals, Middle School Principals, and High School Principals booths.*

*Please see the entire presentation (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVSL06lEGSc>) and the PowerPoint presentation (<https://alamogordo.solodev.net/core/fileparse.php/4221/urlt/Amazing-Things-Happening-at-Alamogordo-Public-Schools.pdf>).*

4. Is it true there was a new executive position created by Acting Superintendent Pam Renteria and, if so, what is the position called.

**Answer:** *Recognizing the importance of the role of principals and leadership development, APS created two Leadership Development Administrator positions. Interviews were held with internal and external candidates.*

**Job Description:** *Design and implement leadership development programs that will enhance the skills and capabilities of school site leaders. Provides individualized coaching and support*

to school leaders, focusing on improving instructional practices, building strong school culture, and enhancing student achievement.

How much does it pay?

**Answer:** *The salaries are based on the School Site Administrator Salary Schedule, as well as years of experience, and range from \$99,600.00 to \$132,900.00. The Elementary Site Administrator's salary is based on the Elementary Principal Scale and the Secondary Site Administrator is based on the High School Principal Scale.*

What are the credentials required?

**Answer:** *NM Administrator's License and a Master's degree in Education or applied field with administrative certification. Minimum of 12 years of campus administrative experience.*

Who is in this position?

**Answer:** *Bertha Garza (Elementary Schools) and Roman Renteria (Secondary Schools). Both report to Melissa Cole, Director of Special Education.*

5. How much did you pay Lake | Flato Architects to design CMS at the Fairground's location and what will the cost be to redesign at the old location?

How much money was spent from the first bond issue for Chaparral to the second bond issue for the building and then moving from the first location to the second location and now back to the original location?

How much public funding was spent on design of CMS at the Fairgrounds location?

**Answer:** *Below are the CMS project expenses solely attributable to the Fairgrounds Rd Site. All other project expenditures to date are determined to be necessary regardless of the site selected.*

- *Wood Engineering (Geotechnical Investigation of Fairgrounds Rd Site) - \$24,674.13*
- *Alamotero Land Survey (Boundary Survey Required for City Land Exchange) - \$14,837.19*
- *Morris Appraisal (Appraisal Required for DFA Approval of Land Exchange) - \$5,416.65*
- *CSTI (Topographical and Underground Survey of Fairgrounds Rd Site) - \$71,369.90*
- *To adapt the current building to the new site - \$214,585.13*
- *For off-site civil work completed at the Fairgrounds locations - \$ 13,376.00*

**Total costs associated with location change: \$344,259.00**

*Costs avoided by moving off the Fairgrounds site include, extension of underground and overhead utilities and 100-year-flood stormwater mitigation estimated to total over \$1M after value engineering.*

Please review the CMS Design Timeline (<https://allin4ourkids.my.canva.site/aps-capital-construction#chaparral>).

6. Please explain the unreasonable delays with building this school especially after PSFA gave you direction over a year ago.

**Answer:** *The delays to the project were due to the process to obtain additional funds from the Public School Capital Outlay Council (\$10M). Extreme cost escalations due to COVID further delayed the design as several rounds of value engineering were accomplished. Finally, the project was returned to the original site CMS site to mitigate 100-year-flood concerns at the Fairgrounds site.*

*Please see also, Answer to No. 5, above.*

7. What is the timeline for Holloman Middle School and is there a fixed price contract yet? Will it remain at a net zero? If not, what is the plan to fund that project?? If not, what cost is projected from original design and current status?

**Answer:** *The Holloman Middle School project is 100% funded by a federal grant issued through the Office of Local Defense Community Connection (OLDCC). There is no local tax money attached to this project.*

8. Why is there such an exponential rise in litigation against the APS Board and staff?

**Answer:** *We do not comment on pending litigation.*

9. What are you doing to lobby the repealing of HB-7 to assure tampons will not be placed in boys bathrooms??

**Answer:** *We are reaching out to our legislators.*

10. Why was an individual with no administrative experience hired as an assistant principal and not exhibiting any leadership ability then put in as superintendent and now being paid \$527,000 to resign and how is this being paid? From what funds?? What is being done to prevent this from happening again?

**Answer:** *Superintendent Ken Moore came to us as a retired lieutenant colonel in the United State Air Force with extensive leadership experience. Any final settlement agreement will be approved by the Courts and by the New Mexico Public Education Department, and is anticipated to be significantly less than within this question.*

11. Why did Colleen Tagle and Ken Moore keep funding funds to design CMS against the recommendation from PSFA??

**Answer:** *The CMS project is being built in cooperation with the Public School Facility Authority in accordance with all state statutes and PSFA Adequacy Standards Guidelines.*

Please see, <https://www.nmpsfa.org/wordpress/document-library-for-rfps/>.

12. Why did we need two signs on the new building just so everyone could get their name on the building?

**Answer:** *The plaques on the new Holloman Elementary School building are designed by the superintendent to honor those responsible for initiating and those completing the project.*

13. Why has there not been communication to HES parents regarding the removal of Principal Fisher? It has now been over a week (as of 9/17/23) and I have not seen an email, nor has there been notification that there is an Interim Principal (and why is it not Mrs. Roush?). I realize there may be an ongoing legal matter and that not much can be said. But, as history has proven (with the 2021-22 Principal issues as well as last year's HMS issue), a simple email to parents would be better than nothing.

**Answer:** *Personnel Matters are confidential. We were able to share information about the installation of Kathy Roush as Holloman Elementary School Principal going forward.*

14. If possible, could more effort be made to stop leaving HMS out of things. Since there sadly is currently no band, orchestra, or choir - that is not an issue this year. However, HMS was left out of the First Day of School posts (I did receive an apology for that one, and am appreciative); and then again on the Student Nutrition page with the lunches (the HMS menu was not posted until I asked). And while it may seem small in comparison to other things, it keeps happening. There are only three middle schools in the District. Going forward, if more effort could be made to include ALL of the middle schools, it would be much appreciated.

**Answer:** *We apologize for the inadvertent oversight of our Holloman Middle School students and families. We are committed to including all students in our activities and we will do a better job. We welcome all parents, students, and community members to submit information to share on our social media pages.*

15. Do we hire teachers straight out of college with no experience?

**Answer:** *We are happy to hire qualifying teachers without experience and allow them to start their teaching journey with us. APS offers a robust mentorship program through New Teacher Academy for all new and alternative-licensed teachers.*

16. Who provides the accounting information to the auditor?

**Answer:** *The accounting information is provided by our partner finance firm K12 Accounting.*

17. Can I enroll my student on two bus routes due to family circumstances?

**Answer:** *Please reach out to Transportation at Alamogordo Public Schools (<https://www.alamogordoschools.org/district/departments/transportation/>) to discuss your specific situation.*

18. How many buses are used and how many students are transported on a daily basis.

**Answer:** *APS runs approximately 23 buses and transports approximately 1,100 students. We provide a bus aide in addition to the driver in every school bus vehicle for the safety and protection of students and drivers.*