



ALAMOGORDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Administrative Complex – 1211 Hawaii Ave., Alamogordo, NM

MINUTES

VIRTUAL BOARD WORK SESSION

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 6:00 p.m.

Upon roll call of the Board by Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson,

Board Members present (*via GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting*) were:

President Angela M. Cadwallader
Vice-President Ryan Sherwood
Secretary Carol Teweleit
Member Judy Rabon
Member Anthony Torres
Holloman Ex-Officio Col. Bryan Callahan

District staff members present:

Jerrett Perry, Superintendent
Lisa Patterson, Executive Assistant
Cara Malone, Deputy Superintendent
Colleen Tagle, Deputy Superintendent
Lisa Patch, Director Health Services
Melanie Hallbeck, NEA
Bethany Jarrell, NEA

The work session was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson recorded the minutes.

Meeting Objective: Determine a date to begin the Hybrid model

Superintendent Perry stated the NM Governor has renewed the health order and the Alamogordo Public Schools is now in the “green” zone, which means we can begin transitioning to a hybrid model. This does not mean that all students will begin school on September 8. We must follow specific directives. The transition into the hybrid mode consists of three phases and there must be a 4 to 6 week period between each phase to evaluate progress and gating data. Phase one will be the transitioning of elementary schools. Phase two consists of middle school students and phase 3 consists of high school students. Opening up slow is what we strongly believe in. Four options have been identified for the Board to consider tonight. The first option is September 28, second option is October 19, third option is January 5 and the last option is to remain virtual. According to a recent parent survey, 64.4 % of parents would like the district to begin the hybrid model, 25.1 said “no,” and 10.3% said “maybe.”

Director Lisa Patch shared information about COVID-19 virus and answered questions posed by the Board. Ms. Patch discussed NM suicide rates and APS Mental Health Interventions. Director Patch also reiterated the NM requirements as per the 8/27/20 Governor’s press release. APS Guidance has been implemented and is ready for implementation. All nurses have completed the John Hopkin’s

Contact Tracing Certification, have prepared isolation rooms and are ready for the mobile outreach. We are being diligent in preparing for staff and students to return.

Deputy Superintendent Colleen Tagle gave a presentation on the CARES Act and Re-Entry. Over half a million dollars of the CARES money has been spent directly on personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies. Shade structures have been added to all school sites. The district has also invested in power scrubbers, pressure washers and electrostatic sprayers. Deputy Tagle spoke about the mobile nursing station and the student nutrition services food truck. Students who will be riding buses will be seated at every other seat and will be required to have their temperature taken prior to getting onto the bus. Deputy Tagle briefly spoke about accommodations available to staff.

President of NEA-NM Melanie Hallbeck and Vice-President of NEA-NM Bethany Jarrell gave a presentation addressing school re-entry during the COVID-19 crisis. NEA-NM represents thousands of educators across the state and their core function is to amplify the voices of all educators. Ms. Jarrell spoke about a series of surveys that NEA-NM conducted in July. More than 3000 responses representing 50 districts were received. Some of the key findings from the statewide survey were as follows.

- Education staff wish to see classes held virtually for the fall 2020 semester
- Many worry they will not have access to adequate PPE
- Education staff do not believe their perspective and experiences have been adequately considered by school districts and other education decision makers

Some of the NEA-NM recommendations include.

- Learning must remain virtual for the first semester of 2020 until the virus is under control
- Re-entry plans must include authentic community, student, and staff voice
- The NM DOH must provide clean and reasonable plans for testing

NEA-A sent a survey out on July 20, 2020 and of the 136 responses received more than 80% are very worried to extremely worried about returning to in person learning. Ms. Hallbeck also discussed the results of the August 27, 2020 NEA-A survey. This survey was sent to all district employees. Some NEA-A recommendations include, delaying the in person re-entry date until January 2021, seek and utilize community/parent input, and to maintain transparent continuous communication with employees, parents and community.

Holloman Ex-Officio Col. Bryan Callahan expressed his thoughts and spoke of the priorities of Holloman families stating the quality of education and safety of their students are their top priorities. Col. Bryan Callahan stated they are confident the district can systematically deliver quality education safely to their students. Col. Callahan expressed concern with the 4 to 6 week period in between phases. Col. Callahan stated they trust the district to educate students and will support the decision of the district.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director GB Oliver shared his insight. The community concerns are that about 65% to 75% of the workforce are on the sidelines right now; we need the workforce back in these businesses. Mr. Oliver commended the district for the phenomenal job being done to prepare for school re-entry. The number one priority is the safety and well-being of the students and the education they are being provided.

