



ALAMOGORDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administrative Complex – 1211 Hawaii Ave., Alamogordo, NM

MINUTES

**Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 10:30 a.m.**

Upon Roll Call of the Board, the following board members present were:

President Angela M. Cadwallader
Vice-President Ryan Sherwood
Secretary Carol Teweleit
Member Anthony Torres

Member Judy Rabon was absent from this Special Board Meeting.

District Staff Members present:

Dr. Kenneth R. Moore, Acting Superintendent
Lisa Patterson, Executive Assistant
Colleen Tagle, Deputy Superintendent
Cara Malone, Deputy Superintendent
Lisa Patch, Health Services Director

Minutes were prepared by Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson.

The meeting was live-broadcasted to the public.

A. Introductions

- 1. Call to Order**
President Cadwallader called this meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag of the State of New Mexico**
Vice-President Sherwood led those assembled in the pledge of allegiance and Secretary Teweleit led the salute to the NM state flag.
- 3. Adoption of Agenda**
Vice-President Sherwood made a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Torres seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

B. Board discussion to consider potential action of COVID Protocols for opening school for school year 2021-2022 – ACTION

President Cadwallader stated there would be no opportunity for public comment at this Special Board Meeting. Public Comment is welcomed during the Board of Education Regular Board Meetings. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is August 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Director of Health Services Lisa Patch gave the Board a presentation on the current NM Public Education Department's (NMPED) COVID-19 Response Toolkit for New Mexico's Public Schools and answered questions posed by the Board. Director Patch shared information about vaccination and mask requirements.

Vice-President Sherwood stated that we must comply with NMPED's current mandates and guidelines regardless of how we feel about their COVID-19 Protocols. It is our responsibility to look out for every student, every teacher, and every parent. The priority is to get our students back in the classroom. If we refuse to comply with the NM Public Education Department, the district could potentially lose funding, extracurricular activities including sports, and teacher licenses.

Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Moore's recommendation is that the Board move to affirm that APS will abide by the most current NMPED Toolkit and changes as they occur choosing the least restrictive option presented in the toolkit.

President Cadwallader stated that she is against the requirement that all students must wear masks, but is willing to make a compromise for the least restrictive option. Member Torres is also against the mask requirement.

Superintendent Dr. Moore read the least restrictive option based on the July 26, 2021 toolkit, which reads:

"All individuals in elementary schools regardless of vaccination status are required to wear a mask while:

- in a school building
- on school transportation
- or at an indoor school-sponsored event

Secondary school students, staff, and volunteers who are fully vaccinated and provide documentation of full vaccination are not required to wear masks. Secondary school students, staff, and volunteers who are unvaccinated (and those who do not provide documentation of full vaccination) are required to wear a mask while:

- in a school building
- on school transportation
- or at an indoor school-sponsored event

Masks are not required outdoors for any students, regardless of vaccination status.

President Cadwallader asked the Board if they would like to make a motion for no masks. Member Torres made a motion for no masks. President Cadwallader seconded.

Vice-President Sherwood shared his thoughts on this motion reminding the Board that if the district does not comply with NMPED's guidance, the district loses funds, kids will not be fed, after school programs will die; all we will be doing is defending ourselves in the eye of the state. Our primary goal is to get students back in school in a safe environment.

Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson conducted a roll call vote on the motion for no masks.

President Cadwallader voted "aye"

Vice-President Sherwood voted "nay"

Secretary Teweleit voted “nay”
Member Torres voted “aye”
Member Rabon “absent”

The motion ties 2 to 2 with President Cadwallader and Member Torres voting in favor and Vice-President Sherwood and Secretary Teweleit voting against the motion.

Vice-President Sherwood made a motion to follow the NMPED guidance and adopt the least restrictive option. Secretary Teweleit seconded.

Superintendent Dr. Ken Moore shared his thoughts. We want our students back in school. If the district does not abide by the COVID Safety guidelines from NMPED, our district faces loss of funding, loss of teacher licenses, programs shut down, etc. Superintendent Moore’s recommendation is that we move to abide by the least restrictive COVID guidance we have at this time and adapt to change as it happens until legislation changes to allow the Board the authority to decide what the safety practices should be.

Secretary Teweleit requested an amendment to her motion. Secretary Teweleit made a motion to require masks regardless of vaccination status. After discussion, Secretary Teweleit withdrew her motion.

President Cadwallader asked Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson to conduct a roll call vote on the motion to follow the NMPED guidance by adopting the least restrictive option.

Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson conducted a roll call vote.

President Cadwallader voted “nay”
Vice-President Sherwood voted “aye”
Secretary Teweleit voted “aye”
Member Torres voted “nay”
Member Rabon “absent”

The motion ties 2 to 2 with President Cadwallader and Member Torres voting against the motion and Vice-President Sherwood and Secretary Teweleit voting in favor.

Member Torres recommended that this item be tabled. Vice-President Sherwood made a motion to table this item until such time when a full quorum can be available. Secretary Teweleit seconded.

Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson conducted a roll call vote to table this item.

President Cadwallader voted “aye”
Vice-President Sherwood voted “aye”
Secretary Teweleit voted “aye”
Member Torres voted “aye”
Member Rabon “absent”

Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

C. Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

<u>Judy V. Rabon</u>	<u>8-18-21</u>	<u>Coral Jewell</u>	<u>8-18-21</u>
Board President	Date	Board Secretary	Date