



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

**MINUTES**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**Virtual Only**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 6:00 pm**

Upon Roll Call of the Board, the following board members present (via GotoWebinar Virtual Meeting) were:

President Judy V. Rabon  
Vice-President Ryan Sherwood  
Secretary Carol Teweleit  
Member Angela M. Cadwallader  
Member Amber Ross  
Holloman Ex-Officio Col. Nicholas Pederson  
Student Ex-Officio Nathaniel Calentine

District Staff Members present (via GotoWebinar Virtual Meeting) were:

Dr. Kenneth Moore, Superintendent  
Lisa Patterson, Executive Assistant  
Colleen Tagle, Deputy Superintendent  
Pamela Renteria, Deputy Superintendent

The meeting was live-broadcasted to the public.

Minutes were prepared by Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson.

**A. Introductions**

**1. Call to Order**

President Rabon called this meeting to order at 6:00 p.m

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag of the State of New Mexico**

**3. Adoption of Agenda - ACTION**

Secretary Teweleit made a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Ross seconded.

Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson conducted a roll call vote.

President Rabon voted “aye”

Vice-President Sherwood voted “aye”

Secretary Teweleit voted “aye”

Member Cadwallader voted “aye”

Member Ross voted “aye”

All Board members voted “aye”, motion passes.

**4. Welcome and Introduction**

**B. Approval of Minutes - ACTION**

1. **Consider Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**
  - a. **January 19, 2022 Virtual Regular Board Meeting**
  - b. **February 7, 2022 Special Board Meeting**

Vice-President Sherwood made a motion to approve the minutes. Member Ross seconded.

Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson conducted a roll call vote.

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

All Board members voted “aye”, motion passes.

**C. Public Participation**

President Rabon read a statement of procedures for public participation.

Ms. Holly Mata, a local public health professional, speaking on behalf of the leadership team of the Otero County Community Health Council, spoke about NM-YRRS (NM Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey) and expressed her appreciation to the district for the ongoing participation in this survey. APS has been participating in the high school survey for 20 years and the middle school survey for 15 years. Some areas the survey focuses on include health behaviors related to alcohol, tobacco, violence, suicide, sexual activity and most recently COVID 19 and the pandemic. This survey provides the school district and our community with data that helps us support our youth. The data from the survey is anonymous and parents and/or students can opt out and not participate in the survey.

Ms. Maureen Schmittle with the NM Department of Health spoke about NM-YRRS. This survey has been conducted in NM over the last 20 years. Alamogordo High School has participated since the beginning and middle schools have participated since 2007. The data is used by local nonprofits and agencies to help inform program needs and to apply for funding opportunities. Concerns identified from survey data is used in planning prevention and intervention programs.

Ms. Peg Crim, co-founder of 100% Otero, stated that she agrees and supports what Ms. Holly Mata and Ms. Maureen Schmittle spoke about regarding NM-YRRS. The data from this survey can help us to make our students successful.

Ms. Bridgette Jones, Coordinator for the Otero County Juvenile Justice Board, spoke about NM-YRRS. Ms. Jones urges the district to continue participating in this survey and expressed her appreciation to the district for participating in the survey. The data is essential to designing, planning, and targeting the right prevention and intervention strategies to meet the needs of our community youth. Our mission is to improve quality of life for youth in Otero county by connecting youth and families to community resources that meet the individual needs of each family.

Ms. Cambri Syling, Executive Director at Kids Inc. Child Advocacy Center, spoke about NM-YRRS. There is a huge need to continue gathering the data from this survey. New Mexico includes these resiliency questions to help develop programs specific to building resiliency within our children. Ms. Syling urges the district to continue participating in the survey.

Ms. Sandra Mata, a Holloman Middle School (HMS) parent expressed her concerns about HMS sixth grade athletes not having the opportunity to participate in school sports at Holloman. Ms. Mata compared the student populations between the middle schools and explained how these student numbers affect student sports. Ms. Mata also shared concerns about equity in the schools. Ms. Mata urged the Board to consider allowing the participation of HMS 6<sup>th</sup> grade athletes in 7<sup>th</sup> grade sports.

Ms. Stephanie Finch, a mother of a middle school student, expressed her concerns about the NM-YRRS survey and how it was handled by the district and her son's teacher. Ms. Finch stated her son felt very uncomfortable participating in the survey and also stated that her son did not receive a permission slip to participate in the survey.

Mr. John Block expressed his concerns about questions on the NM Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (NM YRRS). Mr. Block also addressed the Board on the topic of CRT and the NM Public Education Department's proposed social studies standards. Mr. Block requested an update concerning the Department of Justice and the targeting of parents at school board meetings. Mr. Block urges the Board to take action about CRT, and the proposed social studies standards and the mask mandate.

Ms. Amy Barela addressed the Board on the topic of indoctrination and the mask mandate.

Ms. Bethany Baumgart addressed the board on the topic of Holloman Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> graders participating in competitive sports.

## **D. Reports**

### **1. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Kenneth Moore**

Superintendent Dr. Ken Moore reported as follows:

- Strategic Planning: Coordinating with Regional Education Cooperative to assist with facilitating the district's strategic planning. This will include facilitated community needs assessment with members of the community, parents, students, staff, civic leaders, and the board. Dates will be proposed soon for work sessions
- Initiated our decennial demographic study, required by law every 10 years following the decennial census which looks at school districts demographic populations to ensure that each board district has equal number of residents that are representative of different demographic groups. This is not a school zone redistricting; these are the boundaries that divide the five districts that each of the board members represent in the school district.
- New Social Studies Standards were released today, 2.16.22 by NMPED and can be found on the PED website.
- We have less than a 6% vacancy rate
- Expressed appreciation to NMSU and Workforce NM for hosting the Job Fair last week where we had 19 express interest in employment with APS
- We have seen a decrease in COVID positivity rates at all schools
- The construction of Holloman Elementary School is just over 50% complete; about 3 weeks behind schedule due to shortages and delays with roofing materials. Anticipate full opening of the school, January 2023
- New Alamogordo Middle School: 100% design development is scheduled to be turned in to PSFA by February 25. A traffic study is complete and indicates that a signal light at Pecan Dr. is not needed.
- Superintendent Moore provided an update on various other ongoing maintenance projects within the district

- Capital requests were put in to Senators Burt, Griggs and Rep Black to install artificial turf on soccer pitch at Steinhoff Soccer Complex and for Sacramento Elementary site landscaping/irrigation
- Superintendent Moore shared student achievement data. We are making progress and will not stop until we get where we need to be.
- Expressed appreciation to all that spoke during public comment

**2. Holloman Ex-Officio Member's Report – Col. Nicholas Pederson**

Holloman Ex Officio Col Pederson reported that OLDCC is happy with our plan forward so we will continue pressing forward with our final application for the funds for the new middle school. In addition, the final approval for the lease extension of the Holloman land for Holloman schools has been approved until 2052.

**3. Student Ex-Officio Member's Report – Nathaniel Calentine**

Student Ex-Officio Member Nathaniel Calentine reported on the various activities in the secondary schools

**E. Board Discussion**

**1. NM-YRRS**

Superintendent Moore introduced Health Services Director Lisa Patch and stated that Director Patch will explain the protocol and processes for NM-YRRS, an optional online survey given to middle/high school students.

Health Services Director Lisa Patch gave the Board a presentation on NM-YRRS and outlined the process of the online survey.

- Prior to the administration of the survey, the Superintendent receives notification about the survey and approves participation of the district (approval was given by former Superintendent, Superintendent Perry, in the Spring 2021)
- School principal approves participation of school
- School provides information about YRRS to parents and a form parents can use to opt their children out of taking the survey
- The survey is an online survey and is voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. Students do not have to participate.

Superintendent Moore stated that information about the 2023 YRRS survey will be communicated to parents in numerous ways, not just with a slip in a student's backpack. The information will be made available to parents on the district website, through media blasts, and several emails will be sent to parents beforehand, to ensure everyone understands that the survey is optional and to also explain how useful and important the data we gather from the survey are. Superintendent Moore fully supports parent's involvement in parental decision making and participating in surveys such as this one.

Director Lisa Patch shared information about "Parenting the Second Time Around: A Grandparent Series" and the many other services and programs being offered under the Health Services Department; decisions made based on previous survey data. Some of these programs include, APS Family Engagement, McKinney-Vento, APS Telehealth, H.O.P.E., Fresh Start Program, Flo and Fitness Adventures.

Superintendent Moore reiterated that the district will ensure that parents are informed in multiple ways of the survey before it comes out next year and also reminded everyone that the questions and information about YRRS are available online at the [youthrisk.org](http://youthrisk.org) website.

Member Cadwallader requested that the district not send out passive parental permission slips and also stated that she does not agree with the questions about sexual and gender

identity specifically for the middle schools. Member Cadwallader requested that a link to the survey be made available on our new website.

Vice-President Sherwood expressed his appreciation to parent, Ms. Finch for bringing the survey to their attention as he too was concerned and had no knowledge about the survey. Vice-President Sherwood stated that he wants parents to have the power; they should decide if they want to allow or not allow their child to take this or any survey.

Secretary Teweleit agrees with Vice-President Sherwood that parents should be the ones to decide if their child should or should not take the survey. Secretary Teweleit also stated that this survey has been around for many years and the data gathered is important. Secretary Teweleit hopes the district will continue participating in the survey but also wants to ensure that parents understand what the survey is about.

Member Ross shared her thoughts stating that the data gathered is important especially around mental health, food and security, homelessness, etc. An "opt out" versus the "opt in" would be the better way to go. Having more data is better for the district than having less.

President Rabon requested that a plan be put in place for how we are going to move forward with this matter.

Superintendent Moore is proposing two community forums, the first one on March 15 at Alamogordo High School and the second one on March 17 at Holloman.

Vice President Sherwood expressed appreciation to all of APS staff and stated how proud he is to serve on the Board. Mr. Sherwood encouraged community members to reach out to the Board to discuss any concerns they might have. We are here to listen to all our constituents and community members.

#### **F. Consent Agenda - ACTION**

- 1. Bids – No Bids for February**
- 2. Contracts – No Contracts for February**
- 3. Budget Adjustment Requests**
  - 1) BAR 046-000-2122-0031-I – Increase – 11000 Operational**
  - 2) BAR 046-000-2122-0032-I – Increase – 31703 SB-9 State Match**
  - 3) BAR 046-000-2122-0033-I – Increase – 27502 Career Technical Educ Program (Pilot)**
  - 4) BAR 046-000-2122-0034-IB – Initial Budget – 27135 STEM Professional Dev**
  - 5) BAR 046-000-2122-0035-M – Maintenance – 11000 Operational**
  - 6) BAR 046-000-2122-0036-M – Maintenance – 11000 Operational**
- 4. Fundraisers**  
**As submitted.**
- 5. Charitable Donations – No Donations for February**
- 6. Accounts Payable Check Listing**
- 7. Purchase Order Listing**

No members had a conflict with respect to any of the items on the consent agenda.

Vice-President Sherwood made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Ross seconded.

Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson conducted a roll call vote.

President Rabon voted "aye"  
Vice-President Sherwood voted "aye"  
Secretary Teweleit voted "aye"  
Member Cadwallader voted "aye"  
Member Ross voted "aye"

All Board members voted "aye", motion passes.

**G. Information to the Board**

**1. Financial Reports**

President Rabon stated that the Board has reviewed these reports for the month of January 2022.

**H. Other Items of Business**

**1. Consider Approval of the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education Handbook – ACTION**

Member Ross made a motion to approve the APS Board of Education Handbook. Vice-President Sherwood seconded.

Executive Assistant Lisa Patterson conducted a roll call vote.

President Rabon voted "aye"  
Vice-President Sherwood voted "aye"  
Secretary Teweleit voted "aye"  
Member Cadwallader voted "aye"  
Member Ross voted "aye"

All Board members voted "aye", motion passes.

**I. Adjournment**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Judith V. Rabon 3-16-22  
Board President Date

For [Signature] 3/16/2022  
Board Secretary Date