



Continental

Elementary School District #39

**Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Governing Board Regular Meeting Agenda**

**Continental School District No. 39
1991 E. White House Canyon Rd
Green Valley, AZ 85614
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Administration Building, Board Room
6:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. McGibbon called the regular board meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Mr. Oesterle led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Governing Board Members present were: Kelley Allen, Shelley Kais (telephonically), Stephen Oesterle, Richard Ulery and Andrew McGibbon.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - ACTION

Board Member Richard Ulery requested to amend the agenda by moving Consent Agenda Item 10B to New Business, now New Business Item 12D.

Board Member Stephen Oesterle made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Board Member Richard Ulery second the motion.

Aye/Yes: Kelley Allen, Shelley Kais, Stephen Oesterle, Richard Ulery and Andrew McGibbon, motion passed.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 11, 2021 Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Board Member Richard Ulery made a motion to approve the October 11, 2021 Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes, Board Member Stephen Oesterle seconded the motion.

Aye/Yes: Kelley Allen, Shelley Kais, Stephen Oesterle, Richard Ulery and Andrew McGibbon, motion passed.

B. October 14, 2021 Governing Board Special Meeting Minutes

Board Member Richard Ulery made a motion to approve the October 14, 2021 Governing Board Special Meeting Minutes, Board Member Stephen Oesterle seconded the motion.

Aye/Yes: Kelley Allen, Shelley Kais, Stephen Oesterle, Richard Ulery and Andrew McGibbon, motion passed.

6. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Governing Board President Andrew McGibbon read into the record a few emails received as part of Call to the Public. First read was from Liesel Reichert, grandparent of a Continental 7th grade student. *We are deeply troubled by the number of increased transmissions. The parents of our grandchild share the daily notifications of infections of students and/or staff. Our families follow all CDC guidelines and our grandchild wears a mask to school. The most recent data indicate that schools without a mask mandate experience a much higher outbreak than those who have one. Science proves that mitigation strategies work.*

The next email read into the record was from Christine Johndrow, parent of a student at Continental Elementary School. *As a concerned parent and local healthcare professional, I urge you to do better by our children in implementing a science-based Covid mitigation plan. Clearly, your "masks are optional" policy is not working. I often get multiple messages on a daily basis about infected staff members and students. My 7th grade son has had several of his teachers infected or quarantined and now informed me that his classroom of 24 students was down to 10 last week due to Covid infections. It is impossible to provide an effective educational environment with this sort of instability. Your oath as school administrators and governing board members is clear; you are to provide both academic excellence and a safe environment to our students. Sadly, you are failing miserably in both areas.*

Since your "masks are optional" approach is not working, how about trying a new strategy and following the science? The Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Pima County Health Department all have clear school-based mitigation strategies in place for stopping the spread of this highly contagious and deadly disease. What this means for you is to proactively implement mask mandates and facilitate vaccination efforts, in addition to having robust health and safety measures and communicable disease management plans in place.

We are ALL extremely tired of wearing masks, social distancing and the daily disruption of our lives that this disease has caused over the past 18 months. But, until we change our behaviors, this virus will continue to be part of our everyday lives. The machinery of the virus will continue to infect and mutate until mitigation measures are reached in high levels and/or until herd immunity is reached through vaccination efforts. As we move into cold and flu season and the Delta and Mu variants spread, I foresee an even more chaotic and unsafe learning environment for our students and staff. So, if you are truly dedicated to the health and safety of our students and providing academic excellence, then please get onboard with science and help eradicate this virus. I challenge you, Continental Governing Board Members and Administrators, to lead by example and implement these commonsense, science-based measures to protect our learning community from Covid.

Another email was read into the record by President McGibbon, from a grandparent of a Continental School student, Ms. Kathryn Johndrow. *The news in our local newspaper regarding*

the cases of Covid 19 among teachers, staff and students is most alarming. I find it very upsetting that there is not a requirement for all to wear masks. During the Flu Pandemic over 100 years ago, without the medications available to us now, mask wearing contributed to the elimination of that tragic health crisis at that time.

My grandson, Eli attends Continental and ever since he has attended, I volunteered there. I loved being involved and helping the children. However, with this pandemic and the lack of masks, vaccine resistance, as well as the younger ones not yet able to be vaccinated, it is too great a chance for me to take with my own health. So, I have not been able to enjoy helping the teachers and students. I still wear a mask when I shop, go to church, and I have been vaccinated, and I am ready for the booster!

Listen to science, the vaccines are the answer to ending this pandemic. Until one gets their vaccines, masks, keeping their distance and frequent good handwashing are the only answer to keep all safe as possible.

It is a sad state of affairs that there are so many who are missing school at Continental, staff as well as students. Surely this will not be a successful school year if this continues.

There were six members of the public who addressed the Governing Board. The first member of the public was Ms. Emily Jarvis, parent of two students at Continental School. She asked that the mandatory 10 day quarantining of students through contact tracing end. Ms. Jarvis provided supporting documents for all her statements to the Governing Board members. She stated “the academic, social, athletic, physical and emotional development & freedom we are denying healthy children on an ongoing basis is criminal and we have a moral imperative to stop it now.” She noted if we are following the science, healthy children should not be preemptively banned from school for 10 days due to contact tracing. Ms. Jarvis asked in closing that the Board permanently rescind the mandatory 10 day quarantine & social distancing for healthy students. Temperature checks are reasonable; a 10 day ban from school & social shunning is not. And lastly stated the “anti-science mask amulets must have no part in this situation.”

The next speaker was Mr. Tom Berezny, a grandparent of Continental School students. Mr. Berezny expressed concern regarding the COVID quarantine guidelines. He stated that the Pima County Health Department does not have the authority to mandate that children need to be vaccinated to attend school. Mr. Berezny did state that the health department does have under state statute the ability to request quarantine. The health department analyzes data presented to them by Continental School District and makes a quarantine request to the school administration. If the school or parents do not comply, the only remedy is for the health department to file a lawsuit. They cannot in themselves enforce quarantine they will not call Sheriff Department to lockdown a school. Mr. Berezny stated he hopes this information clarifies some of the concerns parents may have. He applauds the efforts the administration and the Governing Board in the efforts they have made to keep Continental School open for in person learning.

Parent of Continental School student, Mr. Paul Ague expressed his gratitude to the Governing Board, Mr. Lathen, and the Covid Task Force for the hard work done to make sure our students are able to attend school during the pandemic. He said he is most grateful that you have chosen to not allow the children to be used as political pawns. He said you have chosen to listen to real science and use real data. However, when it comes to the issue of quarantine he feels we could do better

for our children. Mr. Ague stated since the beginning of the pandemic, children do not carry the same risk of death for COVID19. The fact of the matter is that Covid is here to stay. We need to stop making decisions that we can end COVID completely. We cannot continue to quarantine students for 10 days just because they were in close contact. We need an alternative that allows our students to stay in school. Mr. Ague's request to the Board is to allow students who have been in close contact to remain in school with a negative test.

The next Call to the Public speaker was Ms. Jeane Hughes, who spoke to Agenda Item 12A. ASBA Proposed Bylaw Changes. First of all she thanked the Board for providing documentation and material to the public with the agenda. She applauded the Board on their efforts and transparency. Ms. Hughes noted in reviewing the supporting documents she could not locate for the ASBA Proposed Bylaw Changes the core belief addition being proposed. However she said in doing her research on this agenda item she did find troubling information on the ASBA and National School Boards website. She asked the Governing Board that when they get to this agenda item they explain more about the core belief addition.

Ms. Angie Anderson addressed the Governing Board opposing the ASBA Bylaw Changes being voted on today. She encourages a no vote. Ms. Anderson stated she believes rather than singling out certain people for special treatment, the change to the bylaws does nothing to renew our commitment to all people to a more perfect union. She said when we are united there is nothing we can achieve. Ms. Anderson said what concerns parent is what's best for their children, education climate free from bigotry and intolerance. She believes this school and Governing Board also wants to achieve the same goals as the parents and grandparents. Ms. Anderson thanked everyone for all they do make sure we have a healthy and mature population capable for success.

The last speaker was Mr. Karew Papritz. He shared that the Green Valley News awarded Mrs. Wendy Fanning as the Best Teacher on the Planet Award. The Administration and Governing Board presented Mrs. Fanning with flowers and commended her on the award and recognition.

7. SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Mrs. Rico-Beaucage provided updates on Teaching and Learning Walks that took place on campus and other conferences, meetings and trainings. Mrs. Rico-Beaucage shared student absences including those due to Covid and having to quarantine. Today we had 188 students absent; 21 positive for Covid and 47 on quarantine. She also shared photos of Valle Verde Rotary distributing Birthday Books, AVID Parent Dinner, Family Art Night and Trunk or Treat Halloween Carnival.

8. ADMIN REPORT

A. Student Services Report

Director of Student Services, Steve Lathen reported that in first quarter sports the girls cross country team placed first and the girls volleyball placed second. He also provided a first quarter disciplinary report. The Continental staff is using Synergy to report infractions; first quarter there were 30 total Infractions reported for K-8th grade, 18 minors, 12 majors, 1 Student/1 Day In School Suspension(ISS) and 6 Students with out of school suspension (OSS).

B. Update on Future Growth Plans

Director of Student Services, Steve Lathen presented on the future growth plans for Continental ESD #39. He noted that per the School Facilities Board, Continental will be at capacity at 1,148 students. Continental is currently at 656 enrollment. On Tuesday, August 17th the Administration Team met with Mayor Murphy to discuss growth and demographic study (20 years out). He noted Continental will continue to explore land owned by Continental to consider future site. Madera Highlands projected growth is approximately 660 homes with an increase of about 30% of K-8 and 21% increase of grades 9-12 within the next 3-5 years; approximate 211 additional students K-8- adding one teacher per grade level and approximate student enrollment total 867. Which is 281 students below School Facilities Board capacity.

Mr. Lathen noted concerns with growth and lack of available classrooms, elementary gym, expanding of Special Education Services Program, the needed parking on current campus and transportation. He stated possible solutions for additional classrooms for growth could be to build a resource building as originally planned when the new campus was built. Another option would be to convert the bus barn into the elementary gym. Mr. Lathen shared aerial photo of current campus and 34.97 acres and the current bus barn.

9. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Introduction of Colt of the Month Students

Mrs. Cuevas and Mr. Lathen presented those students in attendance who have earned the distinction of "Colt of the Month" by exhibiting outstanding character traits in the categories of being kind, responsible, and/or safe.

B. Continental Employee of the Month - Golden Horseshoe Award

Administration presented the Golden Horseshoe Award to Continental Elementary School District employees; Mrs. Bertha Membrilla and Mrs. Lupita Toscano.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Retirement - Wendy Fanning

B. Approval and Ratification of Vouchers – *Item moved to New Business*

C. Hilda Vance as Food Service Assistant

D. Pickleball Club Sponsor

E. Professional Leave Request - Overnight Travel Request For Stephen Lane and Ken Cruz

F. Additional days for Administration and Certified Staff for Saturday School Program

G. Resignation of Assistant Coach for the Boys and Girls Basketball Teams

H. Additional hours for Shawna Romney as Assistant Coach for the Boys and Girls Basketball Teams

I. Substitute Coach Roster

J. Laurie Merenick as After School Tutor

K. Builders Club End of Year T-Shirt Fundraiser

L. Builders Club Hat Day Fundraiser

Board Member Stephen Oesterle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Board Member Richard Ulery seconded the motion.

Aye/Yes: Kelley Allen, Shelley Kais, Stephen Oesterle, Richard Ulery and Andrew McGibbon, motion passed.

11. REPORT ITEMS

A. District Financial Report and Discussion on the Aggregate Expenditure Limit

Business Service Manager, Mr. Schubert recommended approval of District Financial Report as of November 2, 2021 as presented.

Board Member Richard Ulery made a motion to approve the District Financial Report as of September 9, 2021, Board Member Kelley Allen second the motion.

Aye/Yes: Kelley Allen, Shelley Kais, Stephen Oesterle, Richard Ulery and Andrew McGibbon, motion passed.

B. COVID 19 Update

Director of Student Services, Steve Lathen provided a COVID Update to the Governing Board. He shared the dashboard that is on the Continental website and is updated every Monday. This school year, Continental has had 45 positive COVID cases as of November 4, 2021. He noted Fall Break occurred the week of October 4-8. Three weeks following the break produced the highest number of positive COVID cases, which caused students to quarantine and isolate. Positive COVID cases have primarily originated from outside of our school from close contacts from parents/siblings who have contracted COVID from their places of employment or family gatherings. As well as from community events and extracurricular activities outside of Continental School. Due to the increases after Fall Break we will be requiring teachers to separate desks and limit group project work for 2 weeks after Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks. Hand Sanitizing and hand washing will continue to be emphasized throughout the day. Electrostatics' Spraying of classrooms is happening 3 times a week. All classrooms and common areas have operating HEPA Filters.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. ASBA Proposed Bylaw Changes and Vote Authorization

Recommended Action Motion to consider and give direction to the district secretary on voting on one bylaw change proposal and one core belief addition for the Arizona School Boards Association.

The Governing Board Members received a memorandum received from Arizona School Board Association pertaining to the proposed bylaw change, as well as one core belief addition for the Arizona School Boards Association.

Board Member Stephen Oesterle made a motion to approve the bylaw change proposal from the Arizona School Boards Association, Board Member Kelley Allen second the motion.

Aye/Yes: Kelley Allen, Stephen Oesterle. Nay/No: Shelley Kais, Richard Ulery and Andrew McGibbon, motion failed.

B. Additional Paraprofessional Position

Administration recommended approval of additional paraprofessional position. Due to the enrollment of a student who requires the support of a paraprofessional, administration is requesting approval for a new paraprofessional position.

Board Member Kelley Allen made a motion to approve the additional paraprofessional position, Board Member Stephen Oesterle second the motion.

Aye/Yes: Kelley Allen, Shelley Kais, Stephen Oesterle, Richard Ulery and Andrew McGibbon, motion passed.

C. Authorization to issue a Purchase Order to Waxie Sanitary Supply

Administration recommended approval for authorization to issue a Purchase Order to Waxie Sanitary Supply in the amount of \$132,461.28 for UV Lighting filtration system.

Board Member Stephen Oesterle made a motion to approve the authorization to issue a Purchase Order to Waxie Sanitary Supply in the amount of \$132,461.28 for UV Lighting filtration system, Board Member Kelley Allen second the motion. Board Member Shelley Kais made a motion to amend the motion and have this item be continued and brought back to the board when the grant is approved.

Aye/Yes: Kelley Allen, Shelley Kais, Richard Ulery and Andrew McGibbon, motion passed. Nay/No: Stephen Oesterle.

D. Approval and Ratification of Vouchers (moved from Consent Agenda to New Business)

Mr. Schubert recommends approval of payroll vouchers 6-8 in the amount totaling \$489,627.22; Further recommending the approval of expense vouchers 9008 through 9015, totaling \$611,981.47.

Board Member Kelley Allen made a motion to approval and ratification of vouchers, Board Member Richard Ulery second the motion.

Aye/Yes: Kelley Allen, Shelley Kais, Stephen Oesterle, Richard Ulery and Andrew McGibbon, motion passed.

13. BOARD AND SCHOOL EVENTS

November/December Events

November 9 - Governing Board Meeting 6p.m.
November 10 - Veterans Day Celebration
November 11 - Veterans Day/No School
November 17 - Open House PreK-5th Grade 4-5p.m.
November 19 - PTC Grandparent Bingo 6-8p.m.

November 22-26 - Thanksgiving Break/No School
December 7 - Instrumental Concert
December 9 - General Music Concert
December 10 - Choir Concert at Continental Plaza
December 14 - Governing Board Meeting 6p.m.
December 15 - Middle School General Music & 5th Grade Choir concert
December 16 - Preschool Concert
December 16 - End of 2nd Qtr
December 17 - Records Day/No School
December 20-31 - No School Winter Break

14. GOVERNING BOARD INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Governing Board member Kelley Allen expressed that the recent Trunk or Treat put on by PTC was the best event Continental has had. She thanked PTC, Staff and the Community for volunteering for the event and making it a success. She also shared information regarding Project Linus. They have made quilt squares and take them to schools to be decorated. She asked if that is something Continental's Art Club or Class could participate in. Mrs. Rico-Beaucage said she would ask the Art Club sponsor to contact the project.

Governing Board member Richard Ulery stated he received his letter in the mail regarding tax credit donation for Continental School District. He stated it is great way to reroute tax funds and that the letter should be sent out again closer to tax season. He also noted he is looking forward to meeting for the bond refinance.

Governing Board member Stephen Oesterle made a recommendation to move the Colt of the Month presentation to earlier on the agenda.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.