

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
OF  
NOAH WEBSTER SCHOOLS-MESA

April 17, 2024

Held Virtually

DIRECTORS PRESENT: John Tomasson, Teresa Wales, Sharon Miller, BJ Pennington,

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Ronrico Miller

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Vicki Dry, Secretary, Jessica Friedermann; Robert Rodenbaugh, Tara Bittinger, Jennifer Pennington, Christine Haas

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Noah Webster Schools-Mesa, an Arizona non-profit corporation (the “Corporation”), was held virtually at 4:30 P.M. A quorum being present, and the meeting having been duly noticed and called, the meeting was called to order.

- Approval of the Minutes of the February 20, 2024 Board Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the February 20, 2024 Board meeting. Director Tomasson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director Pennington seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with Director Pennington, Director S. Miller, Director Wales and Director Tomasson voting to approve.

- Specific Matters to be Considered

- Review Recent AASA Testing

Principal Friedermann informed the Board that both Mesa and Pima had finished the AASA and the AZ Sci testing. She indicated that results would not be available until sometime at the end of May or beginning of June. Director S. Miller asked the Principals how they felt the students performed. Ms. Friedermann said she felt that overall, the majority of students put more thought and effort into the test compared to previous years, but there were those that just hurried through and did little to ensure a good result. She explained that we had one parent who was very upset that the student would be pulled out of class to do a makeup test due to an earlier absence. The parent had coached the student to not take the test or to not answer any questions on the test. The student complied with the parent’s request and the parent was extremely loud and obnoxious in the front office congratulating the student for not completing the test. Ms. Friedermann explained that the ADE was notified, but responded by informing the school that there was nothing that could be done. We, as

a school, are mandated to provide the test to all students but we cannot force them to take it. Mesa will be getting a zero for that specific test. Mr. Rodenbaugh explained to the Board that although the students, on the whole, put effort into testing, there were still students who didn't take the time or make the effort to do anything. No matter what prompting was done before or during they had decided that this was not something they wanted to do.

- Update on FY25 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Programming

Principal Friedermann reviewed the planning progress for FY25 7<sup>th</sup> Grade with the Board. She explained that since the last Board meeting when the actual program was approved, they have been working on schedules, preparing curriculum orders and monitoring enrollment to prepare for possible changes to the schedules in place. Principal Rodenbaugh updated the Board on the implementation of an e-sports program. He explained to the board that we had a couple of teachers who would be writing grants to Donor's Choose for the basic equipment such as boxes, controllers and TVs. He said that Fruth Group had come in at Pima and assessed what would be needed as far as infrastructure to get the program started and they are providing a few different ways to incorporate things. They are scheduled to do the same thing at Mesa next week. The Principals indicated that they would continue to update the Board as things move forward.

- Enrollment Update

An Enrollment Summary was provided to the Board with the currently enrolled numbers, the interest list numbers as of 4/17/24 and total enrollment for FY25 as of 4/17/24. In addition, historical data showing enrollment as of 5/9/23 and enrollment as of 9/30/23 was provided to give the Board an idea of how many students enrolled during that time frame. Director Miller questioned the integrity of the interest list numbers because of what was reported in December. It was explained that the interest list is fluid because students are taken off the list once enrolled, they are taken off the list if the parent decides they'll be going to another school or they have moved and students are added to the list as new interest forms are received. These types of changes are on-going. The school management team will set up an appointment with Director Miller to review the process and the numbers. Director Miller also suggested that the school should market to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders for the FY26 7<sup>th</sup> Grade. Principal Friedermann told the Board that this was already happening and would continue and we feel with the early marketing we can get students excited about staying for middle school.

- Marketing Update

Christine Haas, Marketing Director, provided the Board with a summary of the school's marketing efforts over the last few months. She reviewed the summary with

discussions on the relationships being fostered with Primrose and Goddard Preschools, the marketing video currently being produced, Website updates and bus banners. She also reviewed upcoming activities.

- Consideration of Additional Board Member

Vicki Dry, Secretary/COO inquired as whether the Board would like to add another member to the Board. Stan Waldrop had previously served on the Board and had to resign due to business conflicts. Those are no longer a concern and he is interested in participating on the Board once again. Before bringing him in, the Secretary wanted to know if the Board felt this was something they wanted to move forward with. Director Tomasson asked if it might not be better to delay a decision until the next Board meeting. The other Board members felt it would be appropriate to consider the matter at the next Board meeting. The Secretary will provide the Board with an updated resume for the Board to include in their discussion.

- School Updates

Principal Friedermann updated the Board on school news. She reviewed the schools' upcoming Science trip to CampWay in Prescott, AZ. She indicated that she would be accompanying the 2 teachers, 13 parent volunteers and the students on the trip. Last year Mr. Rodenbaugh accompanied the group. Mr. Rodenbaugh let the Board know that the Pima 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders had their showcase night this evening and it was looking to be quite exciting.

- Announcements

There were no announcements. The next Board meeting was tentatively set for Tuesday, May 21 2024 at 4:30 pm.

- Adjournment

There being no further business, Director Tomasson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director S. Miller seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm passed unanimously with Director Pennington, Director Tomasson, Director Wales and Director S. Miller voting to approve.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024

  
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Vicki Dry, Secretary