



Clarkdale-Jerome School District #3
1615 Main Street
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324
Phone (928) 634-5035 – Fax (928) 639-0917
“Every Student, Every Day, Preparing for Tomorrow”

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
GOVERNING BOARD OF CLARKDALE-JEROME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3
6:00 P.M., TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020
LIBRARY – 1615 MAIN STREET**

TO COMPLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT GUIDELINE TO AVOID GATHERING IN GROUPS OF MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE, THE PUBLIC IS INVITED AND URGED TO PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE. IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE WILL BE STRICTLY LIMITED TO 10 PERSONS

**Topic: CJSJSD Governing Board Meeting
Time: Aug 11, 2020 06:00 PM Arizona**

**Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83882473772>**

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REGULAR MEETING

- I. Call to order**
The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Jill Zaske, President; Laurie Lozano, Member; Dale Williams, Member; Chad Backus, Member; Danny Brown, Superintendent; Steve Doerksen, Principal; Kristy Aston, Business Manager; Andrea Clark, Alicia Sorensen. Governing Board Clerk, Angie Smith, did not attend.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- II. Agenda Review/Accept**
Governing Board President, Jill Zaske, stated if there were no objections, the agenda was accepted.
- IV. Audience of Citizens ARS 38-431.02**
The President of the Board will ask members of the audience if they would like to speak regarding any issue before the District. Board members are permitted to respond to criticism from the public, ask staff to review a matter or ask that a matter be put on a future agenda at the end of the discussion. Board members may not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during the open call to the public unless those specific matters appear on the agenda for discussion and legal action.
None

V. Presentations: None

VI. Consent Agenda:

A. Minutes of July 14, 2020 regular meeting

B. Personnel Recommendations

The resignation of Paul MacDonald-Bus Driver

The resignation of Linda Dawley-Food Service Asst.

The resignation of Charlene Wilkinson-Paraprofessional

C. CJEA Report

D. Payroll - #1 \$19,775.22; #2 \$26,923.21

E. Bank Report – July Special School Fund, Auxiliary Account Fund, Teacher Account Fund

F. Accounts Payable - #1024 \$13, 158.56; #1001 \$59,055.41 (J. Zaske COI); #1002 \$75,113.77 (J. Zaske COI)

A motion was made by Chad Backus and seconded by Laurie Lozano to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried. 4-0. Jill Zaske, Laurie Lozano, Dale Williams and Chad Backus voted in favor. Governing Board President, Jill Zaske, did not vote on Item F due to conflict of interest.

VII. Reports:

A. Board – Events attended

None

B. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Brown stated that he has been working with other Verde Valley superintendents on pandemic issues regarding the re-opening of schools. He has been reviewing guidance from the Arizona Dep't. of Education, the Executive Orders from Governor Ducey and participating in webinars from ASBA and ADE.

C. Administration Report

Mr. Doerksen shared current events with the Board.

- All staff returned to school last week.**
- Teachers were trained on Google Classroom.**
- August 6th and 7th, the teachers held an Open House using Zoom.**
- The first official day of school was August 10, 2020.**
- Teachers were busy using Google Classroom and Zoom to communicate with their students.**
- Our attendance for the first day was around 92%.**

Mr. Doerksen is looking at the in-school model for when students return for on-site learning.

D. Business Manager Report

None

VIII. Old Business

A. None

IX. New Business

A. ASBA Policy Advisories Volume 32, No. 2 (1st Read)

First read of ASBA Policies GBGB-R, IHA, JICA-RB, KB and KI-RB.

B. CJSJ Special Election Override Statement

A motion was made by Jill Zaske and seconded by Chad Backus to approve the CJSJ Special Election Override Statement. Motion carried. 4-0. Jill Zaske, Laurie Lozano, Dale Williams and Chad Backus voted in favor.

C. CJSD COVID 19 Board Resolution

Superintendent Brown explained that this Resolution is recommended by our attorney and will go out to districts across the state. The Resolution addresses Executive Orders from Governor Ducey.

Mr. Brown gave highlights on Executive Order 2020-51.

- Provide Governing Board with a recommendation as to when in-person, teacher led classroom instruction can safely begin.
- Have a mitigation plan in place. This is our Family Communication Plan on the CJSD website. Mr. Brown will present this at the September meeting for Board approval. This is an extension of the Conceptual Framework that the Governing Board previously approved.
- Ensure our Distance Learning Plan began on the first day of school. This is on our website.
- Develop, recommend and implement a policy relating to face coverings.

After discussions, a motion was made by Jill Zaske and seconded by Dale Williams to approve the CJSD COVID-19 Resolution. Motion carried. 4-0. Jill Zaske, Laurie Lozano, Dale Williams, and Chad Backus voted in favor.

D. Review of YC Dep't. of Health Services COVID metrics to determine re-opening of In Person Learning.

Superintendent Brown reviewed the AZ Dep't. of Health COVID metrics/benchmarks and County statistics with the Governing Board. Mr. Brown spoke about minimal, moderate, and substantial community spread and how they were tied the metrics for re-opening. He explained that the 7.8% positivity rate is in the moderate range. The goal would be for this rate to be below 5% in order to open fully our In person Learning. Hospitalizations also need to be below the 5% range for two consecutive weeks. We are seeing a downward trend in all categories. CJEA, parents and teachers shared their concerns with the Governing Board.

- Andrea Clark spoke for CJEA. CJEA implored the Governing Board to modify the Fall 2020-'21 schedule to strictly Distance Learning until the end of the first quarter, October 9, 2020. Mrs. Clark stated the CDC recommends the lowest risk to both students and teachers is to engage in virtual classes only. The state is relying on 7% infection rate, which places CJSD in the Moderate category that recommends Hybrid Learning. CJSD has no plans in place for Hybrid Learning and students and staff will have to return for in-person learning. For in-person learning, the infection rate has to be below 5% for no less than two (2) weeks. CJEA feels it is not appropriate we return to in-person learning until the risk of infection has reached the 5% mark and would like to postpone in-person learning until October 9, 2020.
- Trista MacVittie, parent of 2 CJSD students, thanked the Administration and her teachers for the great communication between CJSD and parents. Mrs. MacVittie stated it was ironic that the Board was meeting via Zoom since in-person meetings are limited to 10 people and that they are discussing putting 20 or more students together in a classroom. Mrs. MacVittie is relying on the school Board to make sound decisions. She is asking for information on the school's plan on how CJSD is going to report to the parents the number of cases of infected staff and students so parents can adjust and make decisions for their families.
- Rex Bergamini, parent of 1 CJSD student and scientist with background in Microbial Ecology, spoke to the Board regarding COVID 19. Mr. Bergamini has long warned about the uncertainty of coronavirus, which has resulted in many misperceptions such as children do not and will not get infected the same way as adults. He states this is incorrect and that children can and do get infected on par with or greater than adults. Mr. Bergamini stated that more than 338,000 children have tested positive in the US with 100,000 in the last two

weeks with over 5,400 deaths. He states that many schools that have reopened have had outbreaks and have immediately closed down. He is certain that there will be transmission if we reopen. His question is how do we minimize that transmission. He fears that the opening of schools will do harm to students and staff and they will become infected. This will then permeate to families and the community. He states that we can not in good faith open the school. Mr. Bergamini is imploring the Board to not reopen the school until October 9th or until there is a clear understanding of the trajectory of the virus in our region.

- Gigi Trujillo, 3rd grade teacher, addressed the Board. Mrs. Trujillo stated that the school should not open until it is safe. She feels it is a matter of life and death. Health and safety should be the governing standard and we shouldn't let money and average daily membership supersede health and safety. In the last two weeks of July, 100,000 children have become infected. Mrs. Trujillo says she is not only thinking about the students, but the staff as well. She states we need to take into consideration the multi-generational households. She has heard people talk about the need for children to return to school for the social and emotional well-being of the children so they don't get behind academically and so the parents can go to work but she has not heard any State leader say that it is safe to return. She states that the Superintendent of Public Schools, the Department of Education and the AZ Department of Health Services do not believe it is safe. Mrs. Trujillo is urging the Governing Board to allow the teachers to continue to deliver all education virtually until Fall Break. She states that even if all CDC regulations are followed, it is no guarantee that the precautions are followed outside the school. She states that online education meets all of the standards and it is smarter and safer. She realizes this is not a typical school year and continuing online is much safer. Mrs. Trujillo spoke with the Chairman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, John Huey. He stated the Nation's biggest concern is keeping the students and staff safe. Mrs. Trujillo is hoping the Board will decide to delay the start of in-person learning until October 9, 2020.
- Erika Bergamini, Art teacher and parent, addressed the Board. Mrs. Bergamini asked the Governing Board to consider the new metrics before going back to in-person learning and to consider waiting until after the first quarter to resume classes. She gave statistics on the number of cases and stated that many schools that have opened have already shut down. She stated that it will be impossible to know if we overreacted but it will be apparent if we do too little.
- Alicia Sorensen, Music teacher and parent, addressed the Board. Mrs. Sorensen realizes this is an emotional decision. She is a part-time teacher at CJSD and is not as exposed to the students as much as the other teachers. She states she is trying to give a different perspective. She realized that the students have a choice in this matter but the teachers do not. She states that the latest report from the CDC says that children should return to school but that there will always be risk and when it will really be ok to return? She states that teachers have not seen their students in five months and trying to catch them up will have a rippling effect. Online learning misses the constructional component particularly in the early childhood years. She is willing to do whatever it takes to keep the students safe. She feels we are postponing the inevitable if we do not open.
- Superintendent Brown addressed the Board. He knows that the delay is a burden to our families but the data shows that not one county or district in the state is ready to open for in-person learning. He wants to avoid the uncertainty for families. Mr. Brown suggests a set date for returning would be beneficial to parents. He does not want to give families short notice. The school district will review the metrics each Thursday. The goal is to see all of the metrics in minimal (green) category, especially the positivity rate below 5%. Mr. Brown recommends the delay of opening of in-person learning until September 14, 2020. This will allow time to monitor the metrics, improve our Distance Learning model and our Mitigation

Plan. The District is looking to provide outdoor learning space for teachers and students. Mr. Brown states it is important to communicate with parents of all the elements of our Mitigation Plan. The Administration and Governing Board will continue to plan for a solid return date pending the metrics.

After discussions, a motion was made by Jill Zaske and seconded by Chad Backus to recommend the start date of in-person learning until September 14, 2020 if the metrics and benchmark numbers allow. Motion carried. 4-0. Jill Zaske, Laurie Lozano, Dale Williams and Chad Backus voted in favor.

**E. Possible additional (special) board meeting dates
None**

**X. Future Agenda Items:
Review of metrics; Mitigation Plan**

**XI. Announcements/Future Meeting Dates
A. Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

**XII. Adjournment
President Zaske stated if there were no objections, the meeting was adjourned.**