



**Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School District #3**

1615 Main Street

Clarkdale, Arizona 86324

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“Every Student, Every Day, Preparing for Tomorrow”

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
CLARKDALE-JEROME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #3**

**Notice is hereby given that the Governing Board of the Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School District #3 will convene during a meeting retreat open to the public on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 9:00 am in the Ladies Lounge, Town of Clarkdale, located at 39 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, AZ 86324.**

**Topic: CJSD Special Board Mtg. and Retreat**

**Time: Jun 27, 2023 08:30 AM Arizona**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88262509894?pwd=YURSc2habjF5dUlBdnp6cUFLZO1rdz09>**

**Meeting ID: 882 6250 9894**

**Passcode: 123456**

**One tap mobile**

**+13462487799,,88262509894#,,,,\*123456# US (Houston)**

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**Retreat Agenda**

**I. Call to Order**

**The Governing Board Retreat was called to order at 9:02 a.m. Present: Angie Smith, President; Janet Regner, Clerk; Denise Kennedy, Member; Tom Stewart, Member; Mike Sullivan, Member (Zoom); Danny Brown, Superintendent; Matt Schumacher, Superintendent; Madisen Westcott, Principal.**

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

**A motion was made by Janet Regner and seconded by Denise Kennedy to approve the agenda. Motion carried. 5-0. Angie Smith, Janet Regner, Denise Kennedy, Tom Stewart and Mike Sullivan voted in favor.**

**III. Welcome, Focus for the Day (President Smith/Sup't. Brown)-Both Angie and Danny welcomed everyone, went over "housekeeping items". Lunch was brought in from an area restaurant and Madisen took care of the order and pick up.**

**IV. Data Review**

- a. Discipline-Both Madisen and Danny reviewed the discipline sheet included in everyone's Board packet. Janet spoke about wanting to really delve into research related to young boy development to see if there is a "root cause" for some of the misbehaviors, especially at the lower grade levels. Madisen made a comment that our new Academic and Behavior Support Specialist will be able to intervene earlier and work with students and parents on strategies to improve socialization and appropriate classroom and playground behaviors. Janet would like to see some research be done on "Brain Development" for potential professional development opportunities. The Board also discussed professional development for all para-professionals related to handling behavior on the playground during recess. Administration should also work with Synergy folks to expand our discipline database to meet our needs.**
- b. Attendance/Tardies-Danny mentioned that chronic absenteeism has been a statewide issue this year. A recent AZ Republic article, according to Danny, stated that the statewide chronic absentee rate was 22% for the current school year, while that rate is 40% at CJSD. Denise asked about the differentiation between excused and unexcused absences. Danny explained that chronic absenteeism, by statute, is defined as a student missing 10% (18 school days) of the school year regardless of the reason. Madisen explained we sent letters on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> absence. Dave Leckington, Verde Valley truancy officer, works with all districts and can be 'stretched thin'. Madisen stated that she has been reviewing attendance of those students not residing in the district. Some have been asked not to come back and some are being placed on an attendance contract entering the new school year. Janet mentioned that for "out of district" students, it is a privilege to come to CJSD and their needs to be some responsibility on the parents/families. Denise asked and suggested we continue to expand our positive incentives for attendance. A formal, specific communication needs to also take place with our families to encourage attendance and outline the consequences of chronic absenteeism. Angie would like to meet with Matt, Madisen and tribal folks to begin to discuss how we can support tribal families in getting their children to school consistently and on time.**

**Tardies were also discussed and an aggregate report was reviewed that showed 45% of all tardies to school came from just 5% of the students. Angie asked about parents that bring their children late because of medical appointment. Madisen stated that the Synergy system does not generate a report that differentiates between excused and unexcused tardies. Angie stated that there needs to be a differentiation, so we don't penalize those students who do have an excuse for being late to school. More focused consequences and communication with family's should increase. Matt**

**pointed out that he thinks there is statute that allows so many unexcused tardies to turn into an absence. Administration will follow up with this.**

- c. AASA Spring Scores & STAR Benchmark Assessments-Danny pointed out this is the second year where we have consistent data to review as we have administered the AASA for two consecutive years now. State averages at each grade level and category fell flat with no large gains or losses. We did only have three (5<sup>th</sup> grade ELA/math and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math) that fell below the state averages compared to five last year. Denise pointed out that 5<sup>th</sup> grade scores fell below the state average for the second year in a row.**

**Our STAR benchmark assessments are a good indicator of student success, according to Danny. He explained the process of administering the benchmark assessment three times per year with multiple “progress monitoring” taking place depending on the deficiencies of the child. Chronic absences, for some, could be a factor in their scores. Danny also stated that there are multiple sources on the ADE website that teachers can use to increase their knowledge related to the state assessment.**

- d. Parent Survey Results-The survey is the same one now for the past three years, so there was a three-year comparison presented. A total of 80% of our families rated our school either an “A” or a “B”. Results are mixed, but overall show good consistency across the board.**

- V. Future Strategic Planning Discussion-Danny included an article that illustrates the process of strategic planning. He pointed out that a strategic plan can bring members of the community together to promote a healthy school district and provide input into making positive change. This will be critical if the Board decides to potentially place a bond on the ballot into the future. Matt pointed out that he has had some experience in Sedona with strategic planning. The plan needs to be reviewed by the Board at least a couple of times per year. This also give the Board a “roadmap” into high level governance and some elements could evolve into superintendent goals in the future. The process should be not just a one-day event, but through multiple meetings with the Board in a facilitated fashion.**

- VI. Working Lunch/CJSD Growth Discussion-During our lunch session, we discussed growth in general terms. The year-end enrollment data was discussed, which showed an increase of 50 students to 485. Matt pointed out that if we did go after a bond in Nov. 2024, it would be in a presidential election, which voter turnout would be higher. This might not be a good thing. Janet made a comment that we might not re-convene the Growth Committee until after the winter holidays. We could finish the strategic plan sometime in late fall, while also working on our data for the School Facilities Board submission for new construction. A conversation with Senator Bennett and Rep. Selena Bliss might also be an avenue to look into direct legislative funding. Danny showed the site plan, which includes additional pod buildings. Potential cost for two pods could be up to \$2.5 to \$3 million in today’s estimates. Angie mentioned the tribe might be looking to purchase land nearby where the new housing was completed within our district boundaries.**

- VII. Board Self-Evaluation Tool Review**-A brief review of the ASBA Governing Board self-evaluation tool was completed. The Board liked the tool and would like to eventually be given this sometime in the near future.
- VIII. ASBA Board/Superintendent Operations and Communications Protocols Training**-ASBA, as part of its superintendent search process, will provide up to 3 hours of training for board/superintendent relations, communication and collaboration. The Board would like for Matt to pursue this. Matt will have a follow-up conversation with Julie Bacon of ASBA to set that up.
- IX. Future Work Study Session Topics**-Danny reviewed with the Board, Matt and Madisen the items listed on the “post-it” board and asked about potential future board work study session topics. The Board also discussed items to complete as a follow up to our discussion today:
- a. Brain Development (specific to how males learn/behave) and student behavior (discipline) research that could lead into a potential professional development opportunity.**
  - b. Follow up to the Governing Board – Student discipline data presentation in Jan.**
  - c. Student attendance and tardy follow-up presentation to the Governing Board in November.**
  - d. Work-study session in September with a potential strategic planning facilitator.**
  - e. Board self-evaluation to be conducted in either October or November**
  - f. Review Meet/Confer policy in November. Denise asked about working group representation and should that possibly be reviewed and revised.**
  - g. Evaluation Process Overview (teacher, principal, sup’t.) - TBD**
- X. Adjourn**  
A motion was made by Tom Stewart and seconded by Janet Regner to adjourn. Motion carried. 5-0. Angie Smith, Janet Regner, Denise Kennedy, Tom Stewart and Mike Sullivan voted in favor.