

MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
1801 East Fir, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING
Mingus Union High School Library
Thursday, August 13, 2026 6:00 PM

Governing Board:

Ms. Taylor Bell
Mr. Frank Nevarez
Mr. Austin Babcock
Mr. Will David
Mr. Matthew Chavez

Also Present:

Melody Herne, Superintendent
Tari Garrison, Board Secretary
Dave Beery, Principal
Lynn Leonard, Finance Director
Justin Monical, Assistant Principal

Meeting Started at: 6:00 PM

I. OPENING

I.1. Call to Order

I.2. Roll Call

- President Bell – Here
- Vice President Nevarez – Here
- Member Babcock – Here
- Member David – Here
- Member Chavez – Here

I.3. Pledge of Allegiance

I.4. Moment of Silence

I.5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to Adopt the Agenda as presented by Member Babcock and seconded by Vice President Nevarez.

- President Bell – Aye
- Vice President Nevarez – Aye
- Member Babcock – Yes
- Member David – Yes
- Member Chavez – Yes

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Motion to Enter into Executive Session — Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(8) as presented by Member Chavez and seconded by President Bell.

- President Bell – Aye
- Vice President Nevarez – Aye
- Member Babcock – Yes
- Member David – Yes
- Member Chavez – Yes

II. Executive Session — Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(8) Please remain seated until such time as the Board votes to convene in Executive Session. The Board will either move to a different location to hold the session or will ask those in attendance to leave the room, take with them all materials and belongings, and ensure that no recording devices are left in the room. No action will be taken during the Executive Session, if convened.

II.1. Executive Session — The Board will discuss Safety and Security Updates for the FY2027 School Year.

- President Bell recessed the Regular Board Meeting at **6:02 p.m.** to convene in Executive Session pursuant to **A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(8)**.
- The Executive Session convened at **6:04 p.m. in Room 141** for discussion of Safety and Security Updates for the FY2027 School Year.
- The Executive Session concluded at **6:32 p.m.**
- The Governing Board reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at **6:35 p.m.**

III. REPORTS -- The Superintendent and Board Member(s) reports will consist of brief summaries of current events. These reports will be without any discussion or feedback.

III.1. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Herne provided updates on the Thespian Leadership Camp, Youth Work Program, Academy at Mingus Graduate, A.T.O.R.T. Mixer, Student Heroism Recognition, National Taekwondo Achievement, *Button Eyes* Production, Freshman Dance, Involvement Fair and Community Forum, and upcoming events. She also shared highlights from the ACTEAZ CTE State Awards held on July 15, which she attended in recognition of Superintendent Bob Weir, who received the ACTEAZ Lifetime Achievement Award.

Superintendent Herne invited Superintendent Weir to share a few remarks. Superintendent Weir thanked Superintendent Herne, the Governing Board, and the District for their continued support and

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collaboration. He reflected on the growth of partnerships among Verde Valley schools, stating, “We’re not just individual schools here; we’re a group of schools.” He praised Mingus Union High School’s strong commitment to Career and Technical Education (CTE) and emphasized the importance of providing students with a well-rounded education that includes academics, CTE, athletics, clubs, and fine arts.

III.2. Board Member Reports

Member David

- Highlighted the positive impact of clubs, athletics, and extracurricular activities on student engagement, attendance, and success.
- Thanked staff and administration for supporting student involvement opportunities.

President Bell

- Attended Pre-Service activities and welcomed staff back on behalf of the Board.
- Celebrated the District exceeding its academic goals and encouraged sharing these accomplishments with the community.

Vice President Nevarez

- Recognized the District’s academic progress and thanked teachers, administrators, and staff for their efforts.
- Expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming school year.

Member Babcock

- Attended the Community Forum/Open House and recognized the variety of clubs and activities available to students.
- Enjoyed visiting with staff and noted the excitement surrounding the start of the school year.

IV. PRESENTATION AND INFORMATION

IV.1. Administration Information— Updates and Highlights from FY2027 Pre-Service (Staff: Principal Beery).

- Staff participated in Pre-Service activities focused on the District Strategic Plan, school goals, expectations, procedures, and collaborative practices
- District Day included Strategic Plan training, review of District initiatives, and employee service recognition
- Site Day focused on MUHS priorities, school procedures, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and Collaborative Teams
- Freshman Day included continued staff preparation along with a 9th-grade assembly and activities for incoming freshmen
- Staff reviewed the Portrait of a Graduate, emphasizing six student characteristics: Innovative, Ethical, Self-Sufficient, Collaborative, Resilient, and Engaged
- Overall, Pre-Service focused on preparing and aligning staff for the new school year around the District’s strategic goals and student success

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V. BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

V.1. **Meetings** -- July 9, 2026 Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes as presented by President Bell, and seconded by Vice President Nevarez

- President Bell – Aye
- Vice President Nevarez – Aye
- Member Babcock – Yes
- Member David – Yes
- Member Chavez – Yes

VI. ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT

VI.1. **Approval of Routine Vouchers**

VIII.1.1. **Expense**

Voucher 1053

Voucher 1054

Voucher 1055

Voucher 1000

Voucher 1001

Voucher 1002

Voucher 1003

Voucher 1004

VIII.1.2. **Pavroll**

Voucher 1

Voucher 2

Voucher 3

VIII.1.3. **Bookstore Activity**—

Account Summary

VI.2. **Personnel - HR Report**

PA-1

PA-2

PA-3

PA-4

PA-5

VI.3. **Policy DJE** — Amending Policy DJE to match the Written Quote Guidelines issued by the Auditor General's office.

VI.4. **Office of Administrative Hearings** — Agreement to cover the cost of a hearing officer for ESS matters as they arise for Mingus Union High School District #4.

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VI.5. **Donation**

Girls Wrestling Program

VI.6. **TRUST Hearing Officers** — Board approval for the FY2027 TRUST Hearing Officers.

VI.7. **FY2027 Certified Evaluators** — Approval of Certified Evaluators

VI.8. **Agreements**

VI.8.1. **Animal Disaster Services (ADS)** Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

VI.8.2. **Red Rover** — Approval of the Agreement with Red Rover Technologies, LLC for Absence Management and Time Tracking Services.

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda as presented by President Bell and seconded by Member Babcock.

- President Bell – Aye
- Vice President Nevarez – Aye
- Member Babcock – Yes
- Member David – Yes
- Member Chavez – Yes

VII. **ACTION ITEMS - DISTRICT BUSINESS**

VII.1. **ARS 15-421 Employment Restrictions and Volunteering** — The Board will discuss and vote on spouses of board members volunteering in the District.

Member Chavez and Member David expressed their concerns regarding spouses of Governing Board members serving as volunteers within the District. Their concerns included avoiding the appearance of a conflict of interest, the potential perception of preferential treatment, and maintaining appropriate boundaries between Governing Board members and District operations.

Member Babcock expressed his support for allowing spouses of Governing Board members to volunteer within the District. He referenced legal advice received regarding the matter and indicated his understanding that there was no legal prohibition preventing spouses from serving as volunteers.

Vice President Nevarez and President Bell also expressed their support for allowing spouses of Governing Board members to volunteer. They discussed the value volunteers provide to the District, the District's need for additional volunteers, and their belief that spouses of Board members should have the same opportunity to contribute and support District programs, provided appropriate procedures and expectations are followed.

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Superintendent Herne was asked to provide her perspective on the matter. Superintendent Herne acknowledged the concerns and considerations presented by both sides of the discussion and indicated that she could understand the reasoning behind each perspective.

Motion to ARS 15-421 Employment Restrictions and Volunteering as presented by Vice President Nevarez, and seconded by President Bell

- President Bell – Yes
- Vice President Nevarez – Yes
- Member Babcock – Yes
- Member David – No
- Member Chavez – No

VII.2. **Policy Advisory** — Volume 38, Number 3 and 5 (Staff: Superintendent Herne)

All Governing Board Members confirmed they have read the Policy Advisory - Volume 38, Number 3 and 5.

VIII. **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The presentations associated with the following discussion items are attached and incorporated as supporting documentation following these minutes.

VIII.1. **Data Presentation** — Spring 2026 ACT Data (Staff: Superintendent Herne)

VIII.2. **Conflict of Interest** — Training on Conflict of Interest and Signature on FY2027 form (Staff: Finance Director Leonard)

VIII.3. **Title IX and Mandatory Reporting** — Title IX Updates and FY2027 Mandatory Reporting Training (Staff: A.P. Monical)

VIII.4. **Curriculum and Instruction** — Updates on the site professional development for whole staff and individual teachers along with the focus areas of FY2027 MUHS PD (Staff: A.P. Monical).

IX. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were received.

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X. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Bell requested that two items be added for consideration as future agenda items:

1. **Superintendent Evaluation Structure** — Discussion and possible consideration of changes to the Superintendent evaluation structure. President Bell elaborated that she would like the Board to consider returning the Superintendent evaluation process to its previous/original structure.
2. **Staff Experience and Culture Survey** — Discussion and consideration of implementing a staff experience and culture survey to gather feedback regarding staff experiences and District culture.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Approve Adjournment as presented by Member Chavez and seconded by Vice President Nevarez.

- President Bell – Aye
- Vice President Nevarez – Aye
- Member Babcock – Yes
- Member David – Yes
- Member Chavez – Yes

Meeting Ended at 8:28 PM

Board President

Board Vice President
