



**LITTLEFIELD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #9
GOVERNING BOARD**

SPECIAL MEETING

**Administrative Services Site
3490 East Rio Virgin Road
Beaver Dam, Arizona 86432
Thursday, August 24, 2023
5:00 P.M.**

Mission Statement

The Littlefield Unified School District is committed to excellence. Therefore, we are committed to providing opportunities for all students to learn and develop socially, emotionally, and academically. We are committed to providing resources to our students, parents and teachers in an ongoing effort to help students transition from childhood to adulthood.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Board President Graham called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. There were five (5) members of the public in attendance.

2. ROLL CALL:

Sonny Graham, Board President
Principal
John Reyes, Board Secretary
Susan Burch, Board Member
Patricia Schoppmann, Board Member

Troy Heaton, Superintendent/Secondary
Jeremy Clarke, Elementary Principal
Sheree Goessman, District Secretary

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

3. Pledge of Allegiance: By invitation of Board President.

AGENDA

4. Consideration of approval of the August 24, 2023 LUSD9 Special Board Meeting agenda.

Board Member Burch made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Board Secretary Reyes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Member Burch: Yes
Board President Graham: Yes
Board Secretary Reyes: Yes
Board Member Schoppmann: Yes**



PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically **identified on the agenda**. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date. (Limited to 3 minutes per person.)

5. Public Comment.

None.

ACTION ITEMS AND/OR DISCUSSION

6. Interview of Applicants for Vacant Governing Board Seat.

Board President Graham said the applications were sent to the Governing Board for review.

Board Member Burch asked the applicants why they want to be on the board.

Fawn Newby-Carl said she worked for the school district from 2004 to 2018. She said she knows a lot of people and is familiar with some of the board members. She said she is retired and has lived in the area for 20 years now. She noted running for the school board has been on her mind and said she did run during the last election. Mrs. Newby-Carl said she is a mother, grandmother, and has worked with the children. She said she has kept in contact with a lot of the kids and thinks she can do some good.

Mary Webster said she was a substitute for the District for several years and is very interested in the kids' futures. She said she is happy to serve in any way she can.

Suzanne Carter said she has lived in the area for 3 years. She said her grandson is attending school in Beaver Dam this year and is in 7th grade. She said she loves kids and comes from a line of educators. Mrs. Carter said she would like to help if she could.

Sean Hogan said he has lived in the area for 2 years and has two children that attend school here. His interest is the children in the schools and the community. He said he has been volunteering at the elementary school and has been assisting with getting a new playground. Mr. Hogan said he owned his own business and was able to retire at 48. More recently he has been working with people on budgeting money. Mr. Hogan said he is also very good at connecting the dots for fundraising. He is not afraid to make phone calls in order to make things happen. Mr. Hogan said if she is appointed to the vacant seat, he is willing to take any classes to understand the process. He said he cares about the Governing Board and about the schools. Mr. Hogan said when he first moved to the area he was scared of the small community because there were not a lot of resources. He said he has information regarding the bus shade structures. He also noted the kids are our future.

Board Secretary Reyes said in the past, there were parents that were Board Members. He noted these parents couldn't be objective and did what was best for their children and not the entire student body. He asked Mr. Hogan if he can be objective and make decisions on what is the best for the entire student body. Mr. Hogan said it's not a good idea to make decisions on ones



emotions. He said sometimes sacrifices need to be made. Board Member Burch asked Mr. Hogan if he has some vacations coming up. Mr. Hogan said he adopted his children and can change any plans he has in order to serve the community.

Board Member Burch asked if there are other applicants that have vacations planned. None of the other applicants said anything. Mr. Hogan said if for some reason he cannot attend a meeting, he could attend by internet. Board President Graham said there have been many board members over the years that have called in.

Board Member Burch asked where each of the candidates live. Mr. Hogan said he lives in Scenic. Mary Webster said she lives North of Desert Springs. Board Member Burch said she knows that Suzanne and Fawn both live in Beaver Dam.

Board Secretary Reyes thanked the applicants for being willing to serve. He said that for years nobody would run against someone that was up for re-election to the Governing Board or for appointment. He thanked them for wanting to participate in this process. Mary Webster asked if the board meetings are monthly and if the public can attend. Board President said yes. Board Member Burch noted the meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Board President Graham also thanked the applicants for applying for the vacant seat. He said he doesn't want them to get discouraged and encouraged them to run next year. He said he is willing to help in any way he can.

Mr. Heaton said whomever is appointed to the vacant seat will need to run during the next election.

7. Consideration of approval of appointment to vacant Governing Board Seat.

Board Member Burch made a motion to appoint Fawn Carl to the Governing Board, seconded by Board Member Schoppmann. Board Member Burch said she is nominating Mrs. Carl because of her experience in the school and because she ran during the last election. The motion failed with 2 ayes and 2 nays.

Board Member Burch: Yes
Board President Graham: Yes
Board Secretary Reyes: No
Board Member Schoppmann: No

Board Secretary Reyes said no offense to Fawn and noted he agrees with Mrs. Burch, but thinks the board currently has representation of the employees and retirement community but not the parents.

Board Secretary Reyes made a motion to nominate Sean Hogan for the vacant seat, Board President Graham seconded the motion. The motion failed with 2 ayes and 2 nays.

Board Member Burch: No
Board President Graham: Yes
Board Secretary Reyes: Yes
Board Member Schoppmann: No

Board Member Schoppmann made a motion to appoint Suzanne Carter to the vacant seat, seconded by Board Member Burch. The motion failed with 2 ayes and 2 nays.



Board Member Burch: No
Board President Graham: Yes
Board Secretary Reyes: No
Board Member Schoppmann: Yes

Board President Graham made a motion to appoint Mary Webster to the vacant seat, seconded by Board Secretary Reyes. The motion failed with 2 ayes and 2 nays.

Board Member Burch: No
Board President Graham: Yes
Board Secretary Reyes: Yes
Board Member Schoppmann: No

Suzanne Carter she would like to pull her name from consideration and said she feels Mr. Hogan is the best candidate.

Board Secretary Reyes said there are two candidates that really stand out and that is Sean Hogan and Fawn Carl. He said he is leaning towards Mr. Hogan because he represents the parents.

Mary Webster said she will pull her name also.

Board Member Burch said she understands John's point of view and feels Fawn would represent the parents also. Pat said she feels Sean would be a good candidate because he is volunteering in our schools and is a parent.

Board President Graham said he thinks all of the candidates are great.

Board Secretary Reyes made a motion to select Sean Hogan to fill the vacant seat, seconded by Board Member Schoppmann. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 1 nay.

Board Member Burch: No
Board President Graham: Yes
Board Secretary Reyes: Yes
Board Member Schoppmann: Yes

Mr. Hogan thanked the Governing Board and said he looks forward to serving the community and working with them.

8. Consideration of approval of a new 6 hour Paraprofessional position.

Mr. Heaton said Mr. Clarke came to the district office and discussed the possibility about getting another kindergarten teacher at the elementary school. He noted the district only gets paid half the ADM for kindergarten students but do a full day of kindergarten. He said they talked about splitting a morning and afternoon class for Kindergarten, but felt it would not be beneficial to the community. He said they felt it would be more beneficial to hire a 6 hour Paraprofessional and the kids would rotate between the teacher and aide. Mr. Heaton said since this is a new position it does require board approval. Board Member Burch asked what the enrollment is for the district. Mr. Clarke said the Elementary School has 228 students. Mr. Heaton said the Jr/Sr High School has 143 students. Board Member Burch said she thinks it's a great idea, but asked if we could afford this. Mr. Heaton said we can afford the position at this time and said the person could be moved around as the student counts adjust.



Board Secretary Reyes made a motion to approve the 6 hour paraprofessional position, seconded by Board Member Burch. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Member Burch: Yes
Board President Graham: Yes
Board Secretary Reyes: Yes
Board Member Schoppmann: Yes**

ADJOURNMENT

Board President Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board Secretary Reyes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Member Burch: Yes
Board President Graham: Yes
Board Secretary Reyes: Yes
Board Member Schoppmann: Yes**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Sonny Graham, Board President

Troy Heaton, Superintendent

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sheree Goessman, District Secretary