



**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 23, 2021**

The Board of Education of the Artesia Public School District met in special session in the Lowell M. Irby Board Room, at 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER — Mr. Irby, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL — A Roll Call was taken with the following members present:

LOWELL IRBY		President
JEFF BOWMAN	ZOOM	Vice-President
DAVID CONKLIN		Member
LUIS FLOREZ		Member
CHERIE WIDMAYER		Secretary

Staff attending the meeting in person included John Ross Null-Superintendent, Danny Parker-Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, Thad Phipps-Assistant Superintendent of Operations, joined through ZOOM, Janet Grice, Director of Finance, Mykol Horner-Secretary to the Board. Other staff members attending in person: Chanda Crandall, Lynn Worley, Cari Jowers, Erin Allen. Staff attending the meeting via ZOOM included: Audrey Sanchez and Teresa Lemon with Artesia Daily Press also joined via ZOOM. Please see the attached list for guests that attended.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The pledge to the United States flag and the official salute to the New Mexico flag were led by David Conklin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. Irby asked for corrections, deletions, or changes to the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Florez and seconded by Mr. Conklin to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION –

The board met in Executive Session regarding pending or threatened litigation, NMSA 1978, Section 12-15-1(H)(7): Discussion regarding invitation to join the lawsuit, *Gallup-McKinley County Schools et. Al. vs. Ryan Stewart, Ed. L. D., et. Al. No. D-101-CV-202-02194*, as well alternatives to possible litigation; discussion of related cost/funding of litigation

4. *ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION (In Public Session)

A motion was made by Mr. Conklin and seconded by Mr. Florez that the Artesia Public Schools Board of Education join the lawsuit, *Gallup McKinley County Schools et Al. versus Ryan Stewart, Ed.L.D.et AL Number D-101-CV202-02194*, with a one-time contribution amount up to \$10,000 drawn from appropriate district resources, with Artesia Public School’s participation contingent upon the following:

- A. Agreements with lead counsel, protecting and outlining the interests of Artesia Public Schools; and
- B. Agreements with such other plaintiffs as the Artesia Public Schools may deem necessary.

The motion passed unanimously.

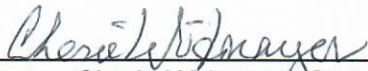
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A motion was made by Ms. Widmayer and seconded by Mr. Florez to acknowledge and accept the law firm of Himes, Petraca and Fester, Chartered, as legal counsel for the Board for the purpose of the lawsuit only. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

Citizens thanked the board for committing to the Gallup McKinley County Schools et Al. versus Ryan Stewart lawsuit

11. **ADJOURNMENT** — The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.



Cherie Widmayer, Secretary