

Live Stream link: [https://www.youtube.com/live/\\_G0lvjYDmbo?si=hrQ-Q2EXFCbCEASX](https://www.youtube.com/live/_G0lvjYDmbo?si=hrQ-Q2EXFCbCEASX)

Minutes of Governing Board  
Study Session

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 @ 5:00 pm  
Prescott Unified School District  
Governing Board

A Study Session meeting of the Governing Board of Prescott Unified School District was held Tuesday, May 7, 2024, beginning at 5:00 pm in the District Office Boardroom.

All supporting documents/attachments can be found by visiting our website:

<https://www.prescottschools.com/>

This meeting was livestreamed and the video recording can be viewed by visiting the following link:

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Board Members present:

Governing Board President Stan Goligoski  
Vice President Jane Robertson  
Kara Woods, Member  
Linda Conn, Member  
Andy Fraher, Member

Others present:

Clark Tenney, Superintendent  
Mardi Read, Assistant Superintendent  
Brian Moore, Chief Financial Officer  
Andy Binder, Assistant Superintendent/Human Resources  
Kelsey Secor, Director of Instructional Support  
Sarah Torres, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent and Governing Board  
Ava Kleinman, Student Representative  
Kevin Phelan, Student Representative

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Prescott Unified School District No. 1 and to the general public that the PUSD Governing Board will hold a Study Session open to the public on May 7, 2024, in the PUSD District Office Boardroom located at 300 East Gurley St. Prescott, AZ 86301.

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Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, all notices of public meetings shall be posted electronically on the district website and physically on an outside bulletin board located to the left of the front doors of the PUSD District office at 300 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301. The bulletin board is available to the public seven days a week, 24 hours a day, including holidays. The notice will indicate the date, time, and place of the meeting, and will include an agenda. Copies of the agenda will be available to the public at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting, upon request. A copy of the complete agenda with names and details, including available support documents maybe obtained during regular business hours at the PUSD District Office.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Sarah Torres at [sarah.torres@prescottschools.com](mailto:sarah.torres@prescottschools.com). Requests should be made as early as possible to arrange the accommodation.

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3. **CALL TO ORDER** – Governing Board President Stan Goligoski called this meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

#### 4. **STUDY SESSION**

4.A. Review/Discuss the “Board Teamwork” section of “How Not to Be a Terrible School Board Member” by Richard E. Mayer.

Superintendent Tenney opened up the discussion by reading the scenario from the book and then asked Governing Board Members their thoughts.

Jane Robertson noted, I found on lots of different social occasions; like going to volleyball games or basketball games that you might be there as an individual but you will have people come up and ask you questions about the district. I think you walk a really fine line and you have to make sure that if you're speaking as an individual and they know you're speaking as an individual. For the most part I think we need to be cognizant of what decisions the board has made and always talk or speak to the public as if we're talking about what the board has agreed upon.

Kara Woods noted, I think you need to be cautious whenever you are and any type of school related function, and if you are invited to speak as someone who is on the school board. As long as you preface it for example, If I am at Walmart and I am taking education, I feel like I have the right to address my opinion, not criticize the board, but I can address my own opinion. Don't connect it to the board.

Andy Fraher noted, I would say the same. I think anywhere we're at if people know that you're a member of the board then they perceive you whether it's right or not you're perceived as representing the board. It is important to be cautious. If you have an opinion you need to clarify that that's an opinion. Not talking about policies that have been voted on in a way that is your

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opinion of it. I think is what we should avoid doing that after it's been voted through. We need to support the decision of the board.

Linda Conn noted, I know you need to be careful when you are expressing your opinion but you are going to be opinionated, that is why we are all on the board, because we have different opinions. To support an opinion that you didn't go along with, does not mean you automatically change your mind and that you are a cheerleader for that opinion. Being cautious. I think the superintendent in the book should have made sure there was someone there as a representative. I see Clark do that all the time. You always have someone in attendance. Like last night, there is always someone there, if you can't be somewhere, someone is there to take your place and speak for the District.

Stan Goligoski noted, it's definitely two different scenarios we brought up the fact that we have a lot of one-on-one people ask you your opinions. We get more of that than anything. It is easier to say this is where I stand and this is what we looked at, but in an audience, we shouldn't say anything that is your own opinion; you keep it on the topic at hand. So, in the book, he did a very good job of talking about the Arts that's great. If we're talking about graduation talk about the graduation and what the accomplishment is and just keep it at that. You are representing the district as a figure for the board but not representing any opinions. I like the scenario I am glad it brought attention to we're doing this well or we're not doing this well. It reminds you that you're out there no matter if they know you're a part of the school board it's not something that we could personally switch off.

And Fraher noted, you might get a question about budgets or what are you doing to make these things better. I think probing a little bit if this is a conversation you are willing to have with this individual, is to probe and ask what are your concerns or what can I clarify for you. Can I invite you to come to a board meeting, can I get you in touch with Mr. Moore to talk about the budget so you can have an understanding of what's going on? Those are things that I think are critical pieces for us to be able to do. Give the resources that are available because it's all wide open it's transparent you should be able to find all that information.

Clark Tenney noted, being a board member does not prohibit you from sharing your opinion absolutely not, the contrary is true. You've got more information about the workings of the school district than most people that you're going to interface with and sharing your thoughts about that is great but just being cautious about the venue.

A couple of takeaways for me; as a superintendent you need to make sure that at most functions, we have some representative of the district there. We always have some representative of the high school at our high school events, and most of our larger events we have representatives of the district. Last night for instance, we'll talk about this in just a few minutes during current events, but Linda and Andy and Jane were able to make it the Rising Stars event. We had several representatives from the high school and other folks from the district there. That is ideal, whenever we can do that.

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Another good takeaway for me is not putting anybody on the spot and ask, will you say a few words at the last minute. Some people are super comfortable with that, but that could also throw people off.

The third takeaway for me is thinking to myself if I've been invited to speak to the Republican Women of Prescott or the Democratic Women of Prescott luncheons, or the Kiwanis Club. They have invited me because I'm a representative of the school district and so whatever I say needs to represent that and not just my own opinion about things. On the other hand, if somebody catches me at Walmart or Church and says what do you think about whatever I can say, I'll tell you what I think as to keep those two things separate.

Hearing no objections, Governing Board President, Stan Goligoski adjourned the Study Session at 5:15 pm.

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Sarah A. Torres, Governing Board Secretary