

Yuma Elementary School District No. One
Governing Board
Study Session

The Governing Board for Yuma Elementary School District No. One held a Study Session on December 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the District Office Board Room, 450 West Sixth Street, Yuma, Arizona.

Members present: **Mrs. Faith Klostreich, President; Mr. Keith Ware, Clerk; Mrs. Adele Hennig, Member; and Mrs. Theresa Fox, Member**

Absent: **Mr. Anthony Gier, Member**

Others present: **Mr. James Sheldahl, Superintendent; Mrs. Monica Navarro, Secretary to the Board**

Call to Order:

Mrs. Klostreich called the Study Session to order at 9:02 a.m. The purpose of the study session was to review the progress of the District Board Goals for FY 23-24. Mr. Sheldahl started the discussion by reviewing the 2023-2024 District Goals which are; **Student Achievement** - Improve scores by increasing students scoring proficient and decreasing students scoring minimally proficient; **Facilities** - Evaluate current state of facilities and prioritizing enhancement to positively impact student learning; **Engagement** - Continue to effectively engage parents and the community.

Mr. Sheldahl began his presentation by discussing the first District Goal, **Student Achievement**. He went into depth on testing background, Galileo student testing results, and progress towards the district's 10% goal. Students in grades 3-8 undergo assessments three times each school year, with benchmark assessments modeled after the AASA state test. All students are scored on a proficiency level and are assessed in English Language Arts, Math, and Science. The district has set a goal of a 10% improvement in students' raw score numbers from the first Galileo test to the second one. Mr. Sheldahl presented a graph showcasing proficiency results breaking down the data by grade level and category. The presentation highlighted the percentage of students meeting expected growth in different subjects: 51% in ELA, 46% in Math, and 45% in Science. This provided a clear picture of how students are progressing. The district will focus on continuous improvement. In addition, Mr. Sheldahl engaged in discussion and dialogue about changes in state assessments.

The next goal discussed was **Facilities**. Mr. Sheldahl started the presentation by sharing a photograph of Palmcroft's Pacemaker, which was remodeled during our last bond. He then entered discussion on progress toward goals; Survey Results, Walkthroughs, and What the next steps will be. A DLR Group Community Survey was sent out and the purpose of the survey was to gauge district community feedback regarding facilities and priorities for enhancements. The survey, which had a significant response rate with over 500 participants within just 4 days, aimed to gather feedback from the three constituent groups; Parents (57%), Employees (39%), and the Community (4%) regarding facilities and priorities for improvements. The survey results highlighted key words that constituents associated with the ideal school, such as Safe, Inclusive, Creative, and Innovative. In terms of prioritizing spaces, Science, Music, and Art emerged as top priorities. Under the category of What is Valued, respondents indicated a focus on Safety, Flexible, Future-Ready Spaces, and the Repair & Modernization of Existing Facilities. Mr. Sheldahl effectively presented these findings through graphs, showcasing the percentages for each survey category. The survey results also indicated strong support for a future bond to address the identified priorities and enhance the overall

quality of the school facilities. Mr. Sheldahl then opened discussion regarding Arcadis and the maintenance team conducting site walkthroughs district-wide. Additionally, the District administration is working on forming a bond committee, and Mrs. Shelly Melon and Mr. Russ Jones has been invited to serve as chairpersons due to their experience with similar projects. The purpose of the bond committee is to explore and potentially propose a bond for the district, often used to fund capital projects, such as construction or renovation of facilities. In conclusion, the board will have an opportunity in the spring to take action towards a bond. Mr. Sheldahl completed this goal presentation by providing photographs taken during the walkthroughs.

The final board goal discussed was **Engagement**. The progress towards the Engagement goal is Media, Social Media, District Newsletters, and Enhanced Parent Communication. In 2023, District One maintained an excellent working relationship with local media. Mr. Sheldahl shared graphs of District One social media followers; **YouTube**: District One has a presence on **YouTube** with 330 followers, actively publishing 5-10 videos monthly, which receive a substantial number of views (up to 25,900). This is a strong engagement level with video content. **Instagram**: The district's Instagram account (1,689 followers) has switched to using "reels" to enhance viewer engagement. Specific content areas such as school program highlights, recruitment, and district awards are targeted to capture the audience's attention. **Facebook**: The largest increase in followers among all social media platforms (6,129 followers) has been observed on Facebook. This platform appears to be a primary channel for parent engagement. In addition, the introduction of a new communication program, "Parent Square," was discussed. This program is currently being utilized as a Platform Pilot to test its effectiveness. The intention is, if adopted, to transition to this platform in the future, indicating a proactive approach to adopting innovative communication tools. At this moment, Carver Elementary, Woodard Jr. High, and Otondo Elementary School, are part of the Platform Pilot for "Parent Square." In addition, Class Dojo will remain the chosen platform for classroom and parent communication. Overall, the district seems to be leveraging a mix of traditional and modern communication channels to enhance engagement with parents and the community.

Mr. Sheldahl concluded his Board Goals presentation. There was no additional discussion.

Mrs. Klostreich adjourned the Study Session at 10:13 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Navarro, Secretary to the Board

Faith Klostreich, President

Keith Ware, Clerk

Theresa Fox, Member

Adele Hennig, Member

Anthony Gier, Member