



**DESERT
SANDS
UNIFIED
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

**Desert Sands Unified School District
Minutes**

Superintendent Search Special Board Meeting

February 28, 2022, 5:00 PM

District Education Center Boardroom

47-950 Dune Palms Road, La Quinta, California -

Closed Session at 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

President Ana Conover called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Member Jacob Alvarez, was repeated in unison.

3. Roll Call

Minutes:

President Ana Conover noted all Board members were present.

4. Approval of Agenda

4.1. Agenda of Special Board Meeting on February 28, 2022

Motion Passed: Approve the agenda of the special meeting of February 28, 2022, with any additions or deletions that receive a unanimous vote. Passed with a motion by Linda Porras and a second by Jacob Alvarez.

Yes Jacob Alvarez

Yes Ana Conover

Yes Wendy Jonathan

Yes Tricia Pearce

Yes Linda Porras

5. Public Comments On Closed Session Items

Minutes:

1. Trina Gonzales-Alesi, DSTA (Desert Sands Teachers Association) president, addressed the Board regarding what DSTA looks for in a superintendent. She shared the information she discussed with Dr. Condon when he interviewed her regarding the superintendent search. The person who's the leader of the entire district must be knowledgeable in the four branches of the district office, Business Services, Personnel Services, Educational Services, and Student Support Services. It's difficult to find a balance between somebody who is really good at facts and figures, and has fiscal responsibility. A people who will listen and empathize. The district needs somebody who is a spokesperson in the public who can speak clearly and respectfully about the things we're accomplishing in our district. Ms. Gonzales-Alesi went to lunch today with a community leader and she pointed out that Desert Sands is the flagship district in the Coachella Valley. Ms. Gonzales-Alesi reiterated fiscal responsibility, somebody who's aware of the district's transparency related to finances; someone who is knowledgeable in special education, as well as counseling issues; someone with an educational background that is familiar with curriculum selection; and somebody who is able to select the best staff to put in place for our students in our communities. When she surveyed the certificated staff that she represents, they also mentioned it was important to have someone who knows all of the sites in the district, visits those sites, and is willing to listen to input. That's a lot to ask for in a school district leader. She added it's something we have been privileged to enjoy since April 2017.

President Ana Conover announced there were two online public comments submitted by this afternoon; however, due to the topic of discussion, those two online comments would be carried over to tomorrow's regular board meeting, as they dealt with something other than the superintendent search.

6. Closed Session

Minutes:

President Ana Conover stated Board members would convene to closed session at 5:05 p.m. to discuss the item, as listed.

6.1. Public Employment Pursuant to Government Code 54957 - Title: Superintendent

7. Adjournment

Minutes:

The Board adjourned at 5:55 p.m.