

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Peggy Judd, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Lara Loewenheim, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Jacqui Clay, School Superintendent
Nikki Madden, Chief Deputy School Superintendent
Monica Miranda, Finance Director
Juan Frisby, Budget Manager

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

Members of the public may also [attend this meeting](#) via Microsoft Teams computer or mobile app, or via phone by calling 602-609-7513 or 888-680-6714, Conference ID 423 216 128#. If you have trouble accessing this meeting remotely, call 520-432-9200 for direction.

Work Sessions are a time for County staff to inform and discuss agenda items with the Board of Supervisors and public comments will not be taken.

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of the County Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, specifically: County School Superintendent.

Dr. Jacqui Clay presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions from the Board throughout. Dr. Clay gave a quick overview of the operating budget review and provided an update on the new Crossroads Academy as required by Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS). She highlighted the responsibilities of the office, including overseeing various aspects like county and school accounts, jails, detention centers, homeschooling, and private schools, aiming to support and fill in gaps. She mentioned the organizational chart, noting growth due to received grants, particularly emphasizing the importance of their behavioral health team in dealing with student crises like suicide, murder, drug overdoses, and accidental deaths, while also providing grief support and training for the community, students, and teachers in mental health.

In response to the Board, Dr. Clay stated there were three people handling account reconciliations, but two positions were eliminated before the tenure, leaving only one accountant to manage 21 districts' financial matters. She noted the shortage of personnel leads to constant lag in reconciliations.

Dr. Clay stated their collaboration with the county health department and the jail psychologist to address behavioral health issues. She noted while tracking suicide rates isn't explicitly their responsibility, they're working to gather this data to aid in their grant initiatives and address challenges in the county.

Ms. Madden stated revenue generated from managing grants for school districts over the past five years, indicating a consistent increase. She noted the current budget year, as of March 31st, \$351,000 had been spent, with no increase in the budget request compared to the previous year, except for potential cost-of-living adjustments.

In response to the Board, Dr. Clay stated there is a place in the Cochise County Jail for education. She noted that there are six students in their current program, and she highlighted the importance of ensuring these students receive equal educational opportunities, including specialized support like testing and special needs services. Dr. Clay also noted the need to hire psychologists, speech therapists, and other specialists on a contractual basis for students with special needs in the jail setting.

The Board and staff discussed Juvenile Detention, the current agreement with Pinal County, and the tracking system for students upon release.

Dr. Clay provided an update on their organization, which was established in 2021, emphasizing their mission to empower youth with motivation, direction, purpose, and opportunity. Dr. Clay explained the collaboration with the community to ensure opportunities for success, particularly through their New Crossroads project aimed at youths aged 16 to 22 who have dropped out of school. While discussing education in the jail, Dr. Clay clarified the responsibilities under statute and highlighted the efforts to provide adult education, including preparing inmates for GEDs. Dr. Clay detailed the community's involvement, including advisory boards, providing spaces for satellite campuses, offering internships, and assisting in planning learning spaces, emphasizing the collaborative nature of their initiatives.

In response to the Board, Dr. Clay expressed the need to start sending staff to training sessions to improve their financial knowledge and skills.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board