

DRAFT

**CATALINA FOOTHILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tucson, Arizona**

DRAFT

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
Carole Siegler Boardroom at Valley View Early Learning Center
3435 E. Sunrise Drive - Tucson, Arizona
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 - 6:30 PM, Doors Opened at 6:00 PM**

Regular Meeting Minutes

NOTICE OF MEETING

On January 5, 2026, the announcement of the meeting was posted at Catalina Foothills High School, Esperero Canyon Middle School, Orange Grove Middle School, Ventana Vista Elementary School, Canyon View Elementary School, Manzanita Elementary School, Sunrise Drive Elementary School, Valley View Early Learning Center, and on the Catalina Foothills School District (CFSD) website (www.cfsd16.org).

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present:

Amy Krauss, President
Eileen Jackson, Vice President
Jacquelyn Davoli, Member
Tom Logue, Member
Gina Mehmert, Member

District Administration:

Denise Bartlett, Superintendent
Mindy Westover, Associate Superintendent
Sheryl Castro, Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment
Jen Dooley, Valley View Early Learning Center Principal
Julie Farbarik, Director of Community Relations

District Personnel:

Amy Acuña, Valley View Early Learning Center Teacher
Ryan Koch, Systems Engineer
Leah Rosthenhausler, Valley View Early Learning Center Teacher
Amie Sams, Administrative Assistant

Visitors Present:

Amy Morales-Baum, W. Kate Spaulding

Joining Online:

Approximately 6 visitors attended the study session at 5:00 p.m. and 1 visitor attended the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. through the YouTube live link.

1. **OPENING 5:00 PM**

1.1. **Call to Order**

President Amy Krauss called to order the governing board meeting at 5:00 p.m.

2. **STUDY SESSION**

2.1. **Discipline**

The governing board participated in a study session presented by Associate Superintendent Mindy Westover which provided information and implementation of the policies, regulations, and procedures that guide the District's student discipline practices. The CFSD philosophy for imposing discipline emphasizes balancing school safety with student rights while using discipline as a learning opportunity to change behavior. The CFSD student discipline framework is guided by the following:

Policy JIC – Student Conduct

The policy establishes baseline expectations for student conduct across the district, authorizes the Superintendent to establish conduct regulations and the delegation of enforcement authority to principals, and requires students to follow governing board policies and district regulations, obey lawful directions of school staff, and conduct themselves in a manner that supports safety and learning.

Policy JK – Student Discipline

The policy establishes districtwide standards for student behavior, ensures a safe learning environment for all students, defines disciplinary authority granted to administration, and emphasizes fairness, consistency, and due process.

Regulation JK-RA – Definitions and Prohibited Conduct

The regulation supports Policy JK by providing the definitions, rules, and procedures administrators use when responding to student misconduct. It ensures students are treated equitably across schools and requires administrators to apply discipline in a consistent, developmentally appropriate manner, consider each incident individually, maintain accurate documentation of incidents, and communicate with families in a timely manner.

Regulation JK-RB – Positive Behavior Management

The regulation outlines how CFSD schools support student behavior through prevention, intervention, and safety-based responses. It emphasizes positive, evidence-based practices and defines strict limits on the use of restraint and seclusion. Key components include teaching expected behaviors, reinforcing positive behavior, providing escalating tiers of supports, and using data to identify patterns and adjust interventions.

Exhibit JK-EB - Discipline Matrix

The exhibit provides consistent districtwide guidance for responding to student misconduct, aligns disciplinary responses with the severity and nature of the behavior, and supports fairness and equity across schools while allowing administrator judgement and discretion.

Exhibit JK-EA – Recordkeeping and Reporting

The exhibit directs principals to maintain complete student discipline records for four years and to submit required monthly and annual reports to the District, including state-mandated reports to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) for certain violations.

Policy JKD – Student Suspension

This policy establishes procedures for temporary removal of a student from contact with others, ensures suspension is used only when necessary and with appropriate due process protections, and aligns district practice with Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 15-841 and 15-843 and federal law. Policy JKD outlines the governing board's role as receiving reports of all off-campus suspensions and serving as the appellate body for long-term suspensions.

The study session concluded at 6:18 p.m.

Board member Gina Mehmert joined the regular meeting at 6:29 p.m.

3. **OPENING (CONTINUED) 6:30 PM**

3.1. Welcome

President Krauss welcomed the public.

3.2. Pledge of Allegiance

President Krauss led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.3. Election of Governing Board President

Ms. Krauss called for nominations for the position of board president for the 2026 calendar year. Jacquelyn Davoli nominated Amy Krauss. Ms. Krauss accepted the nomination. Hearing no other nominations, Ms. Krauss requested a motion to close the call for nominations.

Upon a motion by Eileen Jackson and a second by Gina Mehmert, the governing board approved to close the nominations.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Eileen Jackson – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea; Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion by Eileen Jackson and a second by Tom Logue, the governing board approved the election of Amy Krauss as president.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Eileen Jackson – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea;
Motion carried 5-0.

3.4. Election of Governing Board Vice President

President Krauss called for nominations for the position of board vice president for the 2026 calendar year. Eileen Jackson nominated Tom Logue. Mr. Logue accepted the nomination. Hearing no other nominations, Ms. Krauss requested a motion to close the call for nominations.

Upon a motion by Jacquelyn Davoli and a second by Eileen Jackson, the governing board approved to close the nominations.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Eileen Jackson – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea;
Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion by Jacquelyn Davoli and a second by Eileen Jackson, the governing board approved the election of Tom Logue as vice president.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Eileen Jackson – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea;
Motion carried 5-0.

3.5. Rules of Order for Governing Board Meetings

President Krauss read the Rules of Order for governing board meetings.

3.6. Outstanding Achievements

Superintendent Denise Bartlett shared the following outstanding achievements of CFSD students and staff:

Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS) HOBY Nominees

Each year, the CFHS counseling department can select sophomores to participate in the prestigious Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Seminar. This program is dedicated to training and nurturing young leaders, empowering them to explore their potential and develop into effective leaders in their home, school, workplace, and community. This year, we are pleased to announce the nomination of seven outstanding sophomores who will represent CFHS at this summer's HOBY Leadership Seminar: Alexis Appel, Isabella Goodall, Elliya Griver, Olivia Linton, Riley McGuire, Maria Serratos, and Vivienne Shehab.

Thomas Vamos, CFHS Senior, Named Flinn Scholarship Semifinalist

Catalina Foothills School District proudly congratulates Thomas Vamos, a senior at Catalina Foothills High School, on being named a Flinn Scholarship Semifinalist, one of only 79 students selected statewide from a competitive pool of 1,150 applications. The Flinn Scholarship, now in its 41st year, remains one of Arizona's most prestigious and generous undergraduate awards. The merit-based scholarship is valued at more than \$135,000 and includes funding for international study, mentorship, and membership in a community of high-achieving peers across the state.

Thomas's selection as a Semifinalist places him among an exceptional group of Arizona high school seniors who represent academic achievement spanning science, arts, athletics, and community leadership. The Semifinalists will participate in virtual interviews January 21-22, with approximately half advancing to Finalist status. Finalists will interview in person at the Flinn Foundation in March, and the 20 Flinn Scholars will be announced in April. Award recipients will attend Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, or the University of Arizona beginning fall 2026.

As a Semifinalist, Thomas is also eligible for a special tuition scholarship from Arizona's three public universities, offered in recognition of his exceptional achievement. Congratulations, Thomas, on this outstanding accomplishment! The entire CFSD community is proud of you.

Esperero Canyon Middle School (ECMS) Choir

Congratulations to the 21 ECMS choir students who auditioned and were selected to participate in the American Choral Directors Association statewide Cantaremos Honor Choirs. Students Scarlett Braun, Abigail Gordon, Amelia Marr, Emma McNulty, Stella Schumacher, Gwen Seppala, Elizabeth Sinclair, Cecilia Suarez, and Elena Suarez performed with the 7-9 Grade Treble SSA Honor Choir. Students Luke Figueroa, Andrew Moseke, and

Grant Taylor performed with the 7-9 Grade Tenor/Bass Honor Choir. Students Luna Blueskyes, Grace Braun, Ava Escajeda, Adele Espinosa-Shanahan, Julia Lauer, Nora Lindsay, Mia McNulty, Ava Moore, and Margo Santos performed with the 5-6 Grade Treble Honor Choir. The rehearsals and performances took place at Central High School in Phoenix on Sat. November 22nd. Their director is Julia Higgins.

CFHS Chemistry Teacher Bernadette Moreno Selected for Elite ASU Impact Corps

Catalina Foothills School District is proud to announce that Catalina Foothills High School chemistry teacher Bernadette Moreno has been selected for the third cohort of the ASU Impact Corps, a highly selective program recognizing Arizona's most effective educators. The ASU Helios Decision Center for Educational Excellence identified Ms. Moreno as one of only eight teachers statewide—from just seven high schools across Arizona—whose instructional practices are directly linked to exceptional student outcomes in college-level STEM courses.

Ms. Moreno has dedicated her entire 18-year teaching career to CFHS, where she teaches standard, honors, and AP Chemistry. Her students consistently outperform in postsecondary chemistry courses, which are among the most difficult in college STEM pathways.

Among nearly 500 public high schools in Arizona, CFHS was selected as a "bright spot," a school making measurable, meaningful impacts on students' postsecondary trajectories. The selection criteria focused on high rates of As and Bs earned at the university level, students distributed across all three Arizona Board of Regents universities (ASU, NAU, and U of A), and diverse school types representing communities across the state.

As a member of the Impact Corps, Ms. Moreno will serve as a mentor to educators across Arizona, participating in statewide events and sharing the instructional practices and curriculum strategies that prepare students for college success. Congratulations, Ms. Moreno, on this exceptional achievement!

Valley View Early Learning Center Earns 5-Star Quality First Rating

Congratulations to Valley View Early Learning Center for earning a 5-Star Rating from Quality First, the highest recognition in early childhood education. Quality First evaluates early learning programs on teacher-child interactions, learning environments, and meaningful family partnerships. Earning a 5-star rating means Valley View meets the highest standards in early childhood education, a distinction held by only the most exemplary programs statewide.

This recognition truly belongs to the Valley View community, with a heartfelt thank you to the entire Valley View team. Your expertise, passion, and daily commitment to creating a warm, engaging, and supportive learning environment made this achievement possible. They show up every day with professionalism and heart, and we are immensely proud of the work you do for our children and families. Thank you, too, to our Valley View families for your trust and continued partnership. Congratulations to Valley View Early Learning Center!

3.7. Catalina Foothills School District Foundation Semi-Annual Gift to the District

CFSD Foundation President Amy Morales-Baum and CFSD Governing Board Vice President Tom Logue highlighted the Foundation's strong partnership with the district and community during the presentation of a \$45,000 semi-annual check to the governing board. The gift reflects the collective efforts of a growing and dedicated CFSD Foundation board, generous business sponsors, and community members, as well as the success of fundraising events such as Tapas for Teachers. These funds directly support educators through the Great Beginnings Program, which provides mentorship and support for new teachers, as well as professional development and classroom resources. Both Ms. Morales-Baum and Mr. Logue emphasized that investing in teachers is essential to maintaining CFSD's tradition of excellence and ensuring student success.

3.8. CFSD Deep Learning Showcase

The governing board viewed the Foothills Film: Growing Gratitude at Valley View Early Learning Center produced by Director of Community Relations Julie Farbarik. PreK students in four classrooms discovered the power of gratitude, kindness, and environmental stewardship through an innovative garden-based learning project. Integrated into social-emotional learning curriculum through the Slumberkins "Gifts All Around Us" unit, students plant, water, and tend vegetables like carrots and green beans while taking real responsibility for the life they're nurturing. The learning extended into the classroom through a pretend Farmer's Market, role-play activities, art projects, and an inquiry-based science approach comparing native and store-bought seeds for a future SARSEF project. Beyond gardening, Honeybear guided students in daily gratitude practices and caring tasks delivered through a magical mailbox. The project culminated in a gratitude celebration where students prepared salad

from their garden to share with families. This is innovative early childhood education in action: nurturing curious minds, compassionate hearts, and capable hands, one seed at a time.

Following the video presentation, Valley View Early Learning Center Principal Jen Dooley and teachers Amy Acuña and Leah Rosthenhausler shared how the project emerged from schoolwide Collaborative Inquiry Team (CIT) work focused on respect and social-emotional learning. Using the Slumberkins curriculum, particularly the Honeybear character centered on gratitude, teachers expanded classroom instruction into a collaborative, outdoor garden project involving multiple classes. Students participated in selecting vegetables, planting seeds, caring for garden plots, and observing growth, supporting early inquiry, counting, measuring, and observation skills. The project emphasized gratitude for nature, environmental stewardship, teamwork, and appreciation for food preparation, while also strengthening family and community connections through partnerships such as SARSEF and the Pima County Seed Library. Ms. Acuña and Ms. Rosthenhausler noted positive outcomes in student engagement, willingness to try new foods, and social-emotional development, reinforcing the importance of hands-on, collaborative learning experiences in early childhood education.

The governing board and district administration thanked the Valley View Early Learning Center teachers and staff for their dedication to students and for sharing the Growing Gratitude project, noting that such work supports the school's recent five-star rating. The board commended Ms. Julie Fairbarik for her outstanding work in producing the *Growing Gratitude* video, which highlighted the school's innovative programs.

[The Growing Gratitude at Valley View Early Learning Center video](#) was made available to the community on the CFSD website and YouTube channel.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A board member requested to pull item 5.9 the School Facilities Division Award to Progressive Roofing for change order one for additional materials for the re-roofing project at Canyon View Elementary School in the amount of \$117,703.82.

A board member requested to pull item 5.8 the award to GA Sports Construction for the track replacement at Esperero Canyon Middle School in the amount of \$654,454.54.

Upon a motion by Tom Logue and a second by Jacquelyn Davoli, the governing board approved the following items on the consent agenda: 5.1 the governing board December 9, 2025, regular meeting minutes, as presented; 5.2 the governing board December 9, 2025, executive session meeting minutes, as presented; 5.3 the expense voucher memorandum, as presented; 5.4 the field trip request memorandum, as presented; 5.5 the fundraising request memorandum, as presented; 5.6 the personnel memorandum, as presented; 5.7 the acceptance, with gratitude, of the gifts and donations memorandum, as presented; 5.10 the terms and conditions for the acceptance of monies from the School Facilities Building Renewal Grant (BRG) Fund for BRG Project Number BRG-007912 for design and construction for the replacement of two hot water heating boilers at Catalina Foothills High School in the estimated amount of \$528,000.00, as presented; and 5.11 the terms and conditions for the acceptance of monies from the School Facilities Building Renewal Grant (BRG) Fund for BRG Project Number BRG-007914 for the replacement of an air conditioning unit at Esperero Canyon Middle School in the estimated amount of \$41,000.00, as presented.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Eileen Jackson – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea; Motion carried 5-0.

A board member asked for clarification on why the Esperero Middle School track replacement cost was higher than the recent Orange Grove project. Superintendent Bartlett explained the increase was due to added temporary fencing, additional fill required to convert from a nine-lane to an eight-lane track, increased labor and equipment costs.

Upon a motion by Tom Logue and a second by Eileen Jackson, the governing board approved item 5.8 the award to GA Sports Construction for the track replacement at Esperero Canyon Middle School in the amount of \$654,454.54, as presented.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Eileen Jackson – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea; Motion carried 5-0.

A board member asked why a change order was needed for the Canyon View Elementary reroofing project. Dr. Bartlett explained that delays between the project award and the funding approval caused the original design and pricing proposals to expire, requiring a change order to cover increased costs due to the passage of time, consistent with School Facilities Division procedures.

Upon a motion by Tom Logue and a second by Eileen Jackson, the governing board approved item 5.9 the School Facilities Division Award to Progressive Roofing for change order one for additional materials for the re-roofing project at Canyon View Elementary School in the amount of \$117,703.82, as presented.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Eileen Jackson – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea; Motion carried 5-0.

5.1. Approval of December 9, 2025, Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the regular governing board meeting minutes for December 9, 2025, as presented.

5.2. Approval of December 9, 2025, Executive Session Meeting Minutes Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the executive session meeting minutes for December 9, 2025, as presented.

5.3. Approval of Expense Voucher Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the following expense vouchers:

Expense Voucher		Amount
26080	\$	37,989.88
26081		180,491.58
26082		1,644,923.81
26083		382,887.34
26084		114,724.90
26085		81,919.83
26086		70,637.43
26087		52.70
26088		1,687,475.08
26089		146,607.28
26090		233,229.82
26091		46,069.32
26092		1,458,698.69
26093		2,855.95
26094		451,026.40

5.4. Approval of the Field Trip Request Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the field trip request memorandum, as presented.

ORGANIZATION	ACTIVITY	LEARNING NEXUS	WHERE	DATE(S)	*FEE
Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS) Winterguard	Winterguard Arizona (WGAZ) Performing Arts Competition	Students will refine performance skills while receiving professional feedback to improve future performances.	Sahuarita, AZ	02/07/2026	\$0.00

CFHS Winterguard	WGAZ Performing Arts Competition	Students will refine performance skills while receiving professional feedback to improve future performances.	Glendale, AZ	03/21/2026	\$0.00
CFHS Varsity Cheerleading	USA Spirit Nationals Competition	Students will represent school at a national competition, showcasing their skills while gaining experience competing at a high level.	Anaheim, CA	02/19/2026 to 02/23/2026	\$1,200.00
CFHS Transition School to Work (TSW)	Work Experience Tour of Movie Theatre	Students will observe and apply real-world workplace skills needed for competitive employment, identify personal strengths and growth areas, and practice professional behaviors that support a successful transition from school to work.	Tucson, AZ	02/04/2026	\$11.00
CFSD Community Schools	Catalina State Park Campout Grades 4-8	Students will explore Earth systems and develop critical navigation and problem-solving skills while practicing responsible stewardship in a real-world, engaging environment.	Oracle & Catalina, AZ	02/26/2026 to 02/27/2026	\$250.00

5.5. Approval of the Fundraising Request Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the fundraising request memorandum, as presented.

NAME	ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	LOCATION	DATE(S)	GROSS REVENUES	NET INCOME
Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS)						
Foothills Baseball Dugout Club	Victory Sports Foundation direct donation campaign	To raise funds for practice items.	Off campus/online	02/12/2026 to 02/27/2026	\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00
Foothills Baseball Dugout Club	Banner sales	To raise funds for practice items.	Off campus	01/27/2026 to 02/28/2026	\$15,000.00	\$14,000.00

5.6. Approval of the Personnel Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the personnel, as presented.

CERTIFIED	CLASSIFIED STAFF	COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hires • Resignations • Status Changes • Correction: Termination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hires • Resignations • Status Changes

5.7. Approval of Gifts and Donation Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board accepted, with gratitude, the following gifts, and donations:

DATE	DONOR	SCHOOL	PURPOSE/ITEM	AMOUNT
12/8/2025	Enrique Oviedo	Catalina Foothills High School	Instruction	\$150.00
12/8/2025	RTX Matching Gift	Catalina Foothills High School	Instruction	\$150.00
12/11/2025	Thunderbirds Foundation	Catalina Foothills High School	Food/Instruction	\$1,500.00
12/12/2025	Manzanita FFO	Manzanita Elementary School	Field Trip	\$255.50
12/15/2025	Foothills Basketball Fastbreak Club	Catalina Foothills High School	Transportation	\$1,550.00

12/18/2025	Tina Walton	Canyon View Elementary School	Rifton Toilet Chair	\$0.00
			TOTAL	\$3,605.50

- 5.8. Approval of the Award to GA Sports Construction for the Track Replacement at Esperero Canyon Middle School in the Amount of \$654,454.54
 On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the award to GA Sports Construction for the track replacement at Esperero Canyon Middle School in the amount of \$654,454.54, as presented.
- 5.9. Approval of the School Facilities Division Award to Progressive Roofing for Change Order One for Additional Materials for the Re-Roofing Project at Canyon View Elementary School in the Amount of \$117,703.82
 On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the School Facilities Division Award to Progressive Roofing for change order one for additional materials for the re-roofing project at Canyon View Elementary School in the amount of \$117,703.82, as presented.
- 5.10. Approval of the Terms and Conditions for the Acceptance of Monies from the School Facilities Division Building Renewal Grant (BRG) Fund for BRG Project Number BRG-007912 for Design and Construction for the Replacement of Two Hot Water Heating Boilers at Catalina Foothills High School in the Estimated Amount of \$528,000.00
 On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the terms and conditions for the acceptance of monies from the School Facilities Building Renewal Grant (BRG) Fund for BRG Project Number BRG-007912 for design and construction for the replacement of two hot water heating boilers at Catalina Foothills High School in the estimated amount of \$528,000.00, as presented.
- 5.11. Approval of the Terms and Conditions for the Acceptance of Monies from the School Facilities Division Building Renewal Grant (BRG) Fund for BRG Project Number BRG-007914 for the Replacement of an Air Conditioning Unit at Esperero Canyon Middle School in the Estimated Amount of \$41,000.00
 On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the terms and conditions for the acceptance of monies from the School Facilities Building Renewal Grant (BRG) Fund for BRG Project Number BRG-007914 for the replacement of an air conditioning unit at Esperero Canyon Middle School in the estimated amount of \$41,000.00, as presented.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
- 6.1. Consideration of Revisions to High School Courses and Programs for 2026-2027 (first reading)
 Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment Sheryl Castro presented proposed revisions to high school courses and programs for the 2026-2027 school year, focused on clarifying criteria for student achievement, expanding access to leadership opportunities, and ensuring coursework remains aligned with current standards and college partnerships. Updates include revised criteria for Academic Recognition Awards requiring students to earn the qualifying GPA in both semesters (4.0 or above for Silver, 3.75-3.99 for Blue), expanded eligibility for Peer Classroom Mentors to students with a 2.0 GPA or higher, and updated dual-credit alignments for the Early Childhood Education pathway following Pima Community College's accreditation review. Course descriptions were also refined to emphasize cultural competence in *Spanish 1 and 2*, clarify that beginners may enroll in *Small Ensembles*, rename *Cardio Fitness* to *Fit Fusion* to reflect a more comprehensive approach to fitness, and limit *Lifetime Sports and Fitness* enrollment to allow the course to be taken only once per year or more with teacher approval.

Board members asked whether the Academic Recognition Award GPA requirement is weighted or unweighted, and administration indicated it is likely unweighted due to the 4.0 maximum, committed to confirming this at the next meeting, and noted board agreement that requiring the qualifying GPA in both semesters more fairly reflects consistent student performance.

During discussion of the Peer Classroom Mentor Program, board members asked about lowering the GPA requirement from 2.5 to 2.0, and Ms. Castro explained the change is intended to allow capable students to mentor in subject areas aligned with their individual strengths, while ensuring placements are approved by teachers and counselors. Ms. Castro clarified that the adjustment is not due to a shortage of mentors, noting strong participation with 346 seniors serving during the 2025–2026 school year, and shared that research shows mentorship benefits mentors by strengthening engagement, confidence, communication skills, and academic accountability. Ms. Castro confirmed that peer mentors earn 0.5 elective credit per semester. Board members discussed whether additional subject-specific proficiency requirements should be added, with district

administration cautioning against overly rigid criteria and agreeing to explore potential refinements to the course description.

Board members asked whether the Early Childhood Education dual-credit courses through Pima Community College (PCC) are each worth three college credits, with district administration indicating they would consult with the Early Childhood Education teacher to confirm and report back. Ms. Castro clarified that course descriptions are not changing, as the revisions reflect updated dual-credit alignment following PCC's accreditation rather than changes to course content.

During discussion of *Fit Fusion* (formerly *Cardio Fitness*), Ms. Castro confirmed that the course fulfills the Individual Fitness graduation requirement and noted that the last comprehensive review of the health and physical education curriculum occurred around 2015. Regarding *Lifetime Sports and Fitness*, Ms. Castro explained that limiting the course to once per year is intended to increase equitable access by freeing seats for students who have not yet enrolled, while still allowing repeat enrollment within the same school year with teacher approval when space is available.

Board members thanked district administration for their thorough explanations and responsiveness to questions.

The second reading of proposed revisions to the high school courses and programs for the 2026-2027 school year will be presented for the board's approval at the next regular meeting scheduled for January 27.

7. **DISCUSSION / REPORTS**

7.1. Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) - Arizona School Administrators (ASA) Annual Conference Report (December 18-19, 2025)

Board Members Board members Jacquelyn Davoli and Tom Logue shared in depth insights from the ASBA-ASA Annual Conference held in December. Ms. Davoli provided information from the ASBA Delegate Annual Business meeting held on December 18, which included the election of the ASBA officers for the 2026 term and the outcome of the ASBA bylaw amendment vote, which was extended to March 6 due to inability to meet the required two-thirds quorum of member districts.

7.2. Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity

Board members discussed the opening of the Arizona legislative session and key education priorities raised by Governor Katie Hobbs, including proposals for greater accountability for the state's ESA (voucher) program and refocus it on its original purpose. Discussion also included possible income-based eligibility limits, reduced funding for some participants, and excluding ESA protections from Prop 123. New education funding by law increases by 2% or the inflation rate, whichever is lower.

8. **AGENDA PLANNING**

There were no requests for future agenda considerations.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Jacquelyn Davoli, and a second by Eileen Jackson, the governing board adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Eileen Jackson – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea;
Motion carried 5-0.

Approved: January 27, 2026

Tom Logue, Vice President