

**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, April 22, 2025 - 6:30 PM, Doors Opened at 6:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

On April 14, 2025, 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](http://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  
Julie Farbarik, Director of Community Relations  
Chris Lambert, Catalina Foothills High School Principal  
Brian McNitt, Director of Facilities and Transportation  
Lisa Taetle, Director of Finance

**District Personnel:**

Amy Byroad, Catalina Foothills High School Drama Teacher  
Brenda Cabarga, Catalina Foothills High School Early Childhood Education Teacher  
Ryan Koch, Systems Engineer  
Jacob Robinson, Catalina Foothills High School Film & TV Teacher  
Amie Sams, Administrative Assistant  
Tina Walton, Catalina Foothill High School Band Teacher

**Visitors Present:**

Taryn Austin, Barbie Chang, Brian Chang, Landon Chang, Tim Colson, Valorie Colson, Vivi Colson, David Cross, Sebastian Cross, Danielle Dolbin, Noah Ellis, Dian Fan, Jason Grobe, Saki Grobe, Courtney Hinkle, Haleigh Hinkle, Phillip Hinkle, Eddie Itule, Lisa Itule, Rose Itule, Sophia Itule, Kiera Kuehnle, Stevan Kuehnle, Sarah Mayhew, Suzanne Mehmert, Katie Pawloski, Ernest Salazar, Angela Schlosser, David Schlosser, Nathan Schlosser, Thomas Scott, Carole Siegler, Akiko Yamamoto, Bryan Zhang

Joining Online:

Approximately sixteen visitors attended the regular meeting through the YouTube live link.

**1. OPENING**

**1.1. Call to Order and Welcome**

President Amy Krauss called to order the governing board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**1.2. Pledge of Allegiance**

President Krauss led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.3. Rules of Order for Governing Board Meetings**

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

1.4. Deep Learning Showcase

Board members and audience members viewed the Deep Learning Showcase video *Leaders in the Making: The CTE Experience at CFHS*. Superintendent Denise Bartlett introduced the Deep Learning Showcase by expressing excitement about highlighting the high school's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. She noted that the showcase features Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS) student interviews and emphasizes the impact of Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), which help students build real-world skills, lead campus events, and form strong professional connections.

In the video, CFHS students in diverse programs—ranging from photography, graphic design, and film, to business, healthcare, computer science, and child development—shared how their experiences in Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) have shaped their goals, built community, and provided real-world opportunities. CTE Clubs such as Photography, Computer Programming, HOSA Future Health Professionals (FHP), DECA, Early Childhood CTE, Graphic Design, Film & TV/Media, VEX Robotics, Theater, and HOSA FHP Bioscience play a vital role in student development, going far beyond skill-building to ignite passions, foster leadership, and create pathways to future careers. These organizations provide students with opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom, develop essential technical and professional skills through hands-on projects, and build valuable networks with peers and industry professionals. Through active participation, students also contribute to the CFHS community, gain experience in planning events, engage in competitions that test and showcase their talents, and prepare for their future careers and educational goals. Many students credit their club experiences with influencing their future college and career choices, demonstrating the powerful impact of CTE education.

Board members expressed appreciation for the high school's CTE program and for Director of Community Relations Julie Farbarik, commending her work on the deep learning showcase film. They highlighted the district's strong investment and the impressive growth of the CTE program over the years, emphasizing how these efforts align with the district's strategic goal of preparing students for life beyond graduation.

1.5. Catalina Foothills Star Awards – State Seal of Arts Proficiency

The governing board recognized twelve high school students who earned an Arizona State Seal of Arts Proficiency in music, theatre, and media. The State Seal of Arts Proficiency celebrates students who demonstrate elevated levels of proficiency in the Arizona Arts Education standard through personal expression and creative experiences in arts education programs. Board member Gina Mehmert highlighted each of the students, sharing insights into their individual and collaborative student-led capstone projects that showcased their artistic literacy and personal growth. The Arizona State Seal of Arts Proficiency will be affixed to their diplomas and noted on their transcripts. Each recipient was honored with a STAR award certificate and pin.

MUSIC	THEATRE	MEDIA
Landon Chang	Vivianna Colson	Sebastian Cross
Sophia Itule	Saki Grobe	Dian Fan
Edgar Rose	Haleigh Hinkle	
Nathan Schlosser	Katie Pawloski	
Bryan Zhang	Zach Pittner	

Also recognized were the CFSD teachers who mentored these students in their pursuit of academic and artistic excellence: Megan Badger, Amy Byroad, Jeffrey Goode, Jacob Robinson, Renee Shane-Boyd, and Tina Walton.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A board member requested to pull consent agenda item 3.7 the additions of Diffit and Amira to the sole source vendor list for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Upon a motion by Eileen Jackson and a second by Tom Logue, the governing board approved the following items on the consent agenda: 3.1 the governing board April 8, 2025, regular meeting minutes, as presented; 3.2

the expense voucher memorandum, as presented; 3.3 the field trip request memorandum, as presented; 3.4 the fundraising request memorandum, as presented; 3.5 the personnel memorandum, as presented; 3.6 the acceptance, with gratitude, of the gifts and donations memorandum, as presented; and 3.8 the expenditures for structured cabling, 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 how the two Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools Diffit and Amira were introduced to district administration. Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment Sheryl Castro explained that both tools were discovered through an AI-focused education conference she attended with the Director of Education Technology Lynn Pence and the Director of Professional Learning Leah Glashow-Mandel and through vendor outreach. Amira, an AI-powered reading tutor, was evaluated and found to have promising features, especially its capacity for independent use at home and for improving literacy. Subsequently, it was referred to the Response to Intervention Coordinator Monica Del Rincon for further evaluation by reading specialists in the elementary schools. Research studies and district interest confirmed its potential to enhance positive student outcomes. Diffit, used for differentiating texts and supporting multilingual and special education students, gained popularity among teachers. Both tools showed strong usage and educational value, leading to the purchase of district subscriptions after initial free access ended. Ms. Castro emphasized the district's commitment to evaluating AI tools based on usage, training needs, and educational outcomes before moving forward with subscriptions.

Upon a motion by Eileen Jackson and a second by Jacquelyn Davoli, the governing board approved consent agenda item 3.7 the additions of Diffit and Amira to the sole source vendor list for fiscal year 2024-2025, as presented.

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

3.1. Approval of April 8, 2025, Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes Memorandum

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the regular governing board meeting minutes for April 8, 2025, as presented.

3.2. Approval of Expense Voucher Memorandum

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

Expense Voucher		Amount
25126	\$	15,169.90
25127		127,799.99
25128		106,634.22
25129		48,153.90
25130		233,843.88
25132		101,479.64
25133		232,173.14
25134		71,672.78

3.3. 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 Computer Science Club (FBLA)	FBLA National Leadership Conference	Students will present their completed projects on real world issues and compete against students on a national level.	Anaheim, CA	06/27/2025 to 07/03/2025	\$0.00

CFHS Cheerleading	UCA Summer Camp	Students will learn stunts, cheers, and foundational skills from professional staff for performances during the 2025-2026 season.	Phoenix, AZ	07/10/2025 to 07/13/2025	\$535.00
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3.4. 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
<b>Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS)</b>						
CFHS Orchestra Boosters	Silent auction of donated items	To raise funds toward cost of banquet celebration for the program.	Off campus	05/17/2025	\$100.00	\$100.00
<b>Orange Grove Middle School (OGMS)</b>						
OGMS Family Faculty Organization (FFO)	Color Run	To raise funds in support of staff and students.	On campus	Spring 2026	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00
OGMS FFO	Panther Pride direct donations	To raise funds in support of staff and students.	On campus/ online	08/2025 to 05/2026	\$20,000.00	\$19,800.00
OGMS FFO	Book fair	To raise funds in support of staff and students.	On campus/ online	Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 (dates TBD)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00 (Scholastic dollars)
OGMS FFO	8 <sup>th</sup> grade promotion donations	To raise funds in support of staff and students.	On campus/ online	08/2025 to 05/2026	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
OGMS FFO	Dine-outs	To raise funds in support of staff and students.	Off campus	Monthly, 08/2025 to 05/2026	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
OGMS FFO	Spirit wear sales	To raise funds in support of staff and students.	On campus/ online	08/2025 to 05/2026	\$4,000.00	\$1,500.00
OGMS FFO	Community cards, including AJ's, Fry's, and Basha's	To raise funds in support of staff and students.	Off campus	08/2025 to 05/2026	\$500.00	\$500.00
OGMS FFO	School pictures and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade portraits	To raise funds in support of staff and students.	On campus	August/ September 2025 and Spring 2026	\$500.00	\$500.00

3.5. Approval of the Personnel Memorandum

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

<b>CERTIFIED STAFF</b>		<b>CLASSIFIED STAFF</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>
• New Hires	• Status Changes	• New Hires	• Classroom
• Corrections	• Rehires	• Correction	
• Resignations			

3.6. Approval of Gifts and Donation Memorandum

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

<b>DATE</b>	<b>DONOR</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>PURPOSE/ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
4/2/2025	Lucy Hornby	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/2/2025	Timothy Marra	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/3/2025	Cecilia Sada Garibay	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/3/2025	Bonnie Schock	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/3/2025	Mary Prasciunas	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/3/2025	Gergely Kota	Catalina Foothills High School	Science Olympiad	\$10.00
4/3/2025	Microsoft Matching Gift	Catalina Foothills High School	Science Olympiad	\$10.00
4/3/2025	Gergely Kota	Catalina Foothills High School	Science Olympiad	\$10.00
4/3/2025	Microsoft Matching Gift	Catalina Foothills High School	Science Olympiad	\$10.00
4/3/2025	Gergely Kota	Catalina Foothills High School	Instruction	\$10.00
4/3/2025	Microsoft Matching Gift	Catalina Foothills High School	Instruction	\$10.00
4/3/2025	Gergely Kota	Catalina Foothills High School	Instruction	\$10.00
4/3/2025	Microsoft Matching Gift	Catalina Foothills High School	Instruction	\$10.00
4/5/2025	Ivelisse Bonilla-Alfaro	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$60.00
4/5/2025	Neils Bruckner	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/5/2025	Erin E. Turner	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/6/2025	Kristopher Kitz	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/6/2025	Zhenqiang Lu	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/7/2025	Ingrid Patsch	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/7/2025	Ventana Vista Elementary School FFO	Ventana Vista Elementary School	Field Trip	\$285.60
4/7/2025	Ventana Vista Elementary School FFO	Ventana Vista Elementary School	Field Trip	\$510.20
4/7/2025	William Tong	Catalina Foothills High School	Swim Team	\$400.00
4/8/2025	Orange Grove Middle School FFO	Orange Grove Middle School	Landscaping	\$4,019.75
4/8/2025	Marcos Rodrigues Pinto	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/9/2025	Patrick Atkin	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00

4/9/2025	Heidi Hamann	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/9/2025	Thomas Carmichael	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/10/2025	Jenny Johnson	Orange Grove Middle School	Transportation	\$30.00
4/10/2025	William Tong	Catalina Foothills High School	Swim Team	\$400.00
4/10/2025	Douglas Strobel	Catalina Foothills High School	Girls Golf Team	\$166.00
4/11/2025	Sunrise Drive Elementary School FFO	Sunrise Drive Elementary School	Field Trip	\$451.50
4/14/2025	Catalina Foothills High School FFO	Catalina Foothills High School	Award Ceremony	\$240.00
4/14/2025	Catalina Foothills High School FFO	Catalina Foothills High School	Award Ceremony	\$240.00
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,303.05</b>

3.7. Approval of Additions of Diffit and Amira to the Sole Source Vendor List for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the additions of Diffit and Amira to the sole source vendor list for fiscal year 2024-2025, as presented.

3.8. Approval of Expenditures for Structured Cabling

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the expenditures for structured cabling, as presented.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

4.1. Approval of Second Round of Certified Contracts for 2025-2026

Associate Superintendent Mindy Westover presented for the board's approval the second round of certified contracts for professional staff who will be offered contracts for the 2025-2026 contract year. Those offered a contract will receive it on Wednesday, April 23 and will have 15 business days to return the signed contract.

In response to a board member question about staffing progress, Ms. Westover shared the district is in a good place with many vacancies filled. Of the three-hundred and thirty-seven (337) teaching positions, approximately two-hundred and fifty (250) positions were filled in the initial round of contracts, and seventy (70) would be filled in the second round.

In response to a question whether individuals marked as "first year" on the list were brand new teachers and if they had been newly recruited, Ms. Westover and Dr. Bartlett responded that all names on the list were renewals, not new hires, and those labeled "first year" began after the 2024-2025 school year began. Therefore, the 2025-2026 school year is considered their "first year" in CFSD.

Upon a motion by Tom Logue, and a second by Gina Mehmert, the governing board approved the second round of certified contracts for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented, and directed that they be issued to the staff members listed, as presented.

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

4.2. Approval of Single Audit Reporting Package for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Director of Finance Lisa Taetle presented the Single Audit Reporting Package for CFSD for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2024, which reported no material weaknesses or deficiencies in the District's major federal program awards or internal controls. However, a repeat material weakness was identified in the financial statements due to continued delays in reconciling cash balances between the District and the Pima County Treasurer's Office—a problem first noted in the 2023 audit. While the District is responsible for ensuring accurate reconciliations with the County Superintendent of Schools (CSS), the CSS is responsible for reconciling with the County Treasurer. The CSS again failed to perform this task in a timely manner, despite assurances, and formally acknowledged responsibility in a letter included with the audit package. In response, the District

developed a corrective action plan to independently reconcile CSS records directly with the County Treasurer to improve accuracy and timeliness. The USFR Compliance Questionnaire noted five exceptions: (1) delayed cash reconciliations by CSS, which affected all school districts in Pima County that are not an accounting responsibility district such as CFSD; (2) an incomplete procurement quote, reflecting stricter audit standards; (3) a \$105 interest revenue omission, now corrected; (4) minor attendance reporting discrepancies due to scheduling errors; and (5) a misreported last day of attendance for a student with unexcused absences. The District remains committed to regulatory compliance and addressing audit issues, with the fiscal year 2025 audit set to begin on May 12, 2025.

A board member asked whether the district taking over reconciliations with the Pima County Treasurer was an added workload and if it would be a temporary or permanent change. Ms. Taetle confirmed it is additional work shared between her and another staff member. She explained that, due to ongoing issues and delays at the county level, the district will likely need to continue this process permanently to ensure accuracy and accountability, despite improvements in CSS transparency. The responsibility has effectively become a necessary, ongoing part of the CFSD accounting office's duties.

A board member asked about an audit finding that claimed the district obtained only two written quotes when three were actually collected. Ms. Taetle clarified that while three quotes were obtained, the auditors did not consider one of them complete enough to count. She noted that the district requested revisions to the audit wording and that the criteria for what qualifies as a complete quote have since been clarified by the auditors. A board member also asked if there had been advance notice of increased scrutiny, and Ms. Taetle explained that the Auditor General had reviewed the auditors' work and applied stricter standards, but now the expectations of what qualifies as a written quote are clearer and easier to follow.

A board member asked if the absence reporting issue was due to a minor data entry error and whether the district has systems in place to catch such mistakes. Ms. Taetle confirmed it was a one-time data entry error and noted that while this type of issue is rare, the business office is now working with the student data analyst to improve checks and refine internal processes since the business office lacks direct access to the system where the data entry error occurred.

A board member asked about an apparent contradiction in the audit letter from Heinfield and Meech, which states that the auditors do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the district's internal controls yet goes on to evaluate and comment on them. The board member asked if this language was just standard boilerplate or if the district should view the audit as a valid assessment of its internal controls. Superintendent Bartlett responded that while the auditors include such disclaimers, the feedback provided does serve as an assessment. She explained that although it's not labeled an "opinion," it effectively rates the strength of the district's internal controls and would indicate if improvements were needed.

Members of the governing board commended Ms. Taetle and the business office team for their diligence and dedication in managing the district's financial responsibilities.

Upon a motion by Jacquelyn Davoli, and a second by Eileen Jackson, the governing board approved the single audit reporting package for the year ended June 30, 2024, as presented.

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

## 5. **DISCUSSION / REPORTS**

### 5.1. **Project 2022 Series B (2025) Proposed Bond Projects**

Superintendent Denise Bartlett provided a recommended list of priority projects to be completed with the Project 2022 Series B (2025) bond issuance of \$13,000,000. Superintendent Bartlett and Director of Facilities and Transportation completed an assessment of each school site along with site administration to determine the highest priority projects that remain from the original list developed for Project 2022 school improvement bonds. At Canyon View Elementary School, priority projects include replacing acoustical ceiling tiles in classrooms, installing an ADA-compliant ramp in the 4th-grade pod, adding a sidewalk to the playground ramada for ADA accessibility, and repainting canopies, fences, and gates across the campus. Manzanita Elementary plans to

add 2–3 new classrooms with full furnishings and expand the kitchen to accommodate serving lines. Sunrise Drive Elementary will resurface the basketball court, repair and restripe the front parking lot, and expand the kitchen for increased capacity. At Ventana Vista Elementary, projects include parking lot repairs, installation of a large shade structure near the flagpole, removal and infill of roll-up garage doors in several classrooms, and upgraded exterior signage. Valley View Early Learning Center will repair and restripe the front parking lot, replace roofs in rooms 3–8, and install a new irrigation system in front of the school. Esperero Canyon Middle School plans to replace the west staff parking lot, rebuild tennis courts with post-tension surfacing, repave the main lot, replace PE/MPR doors, and update campus signage. Orange Grove Middle School will focus on modifying several classrooms to meet instructional needs, repurposing PE locker rooms for health classes, replacing urinal partitions, updating exterior signage, and improving drought-affected landscaping. At Catalina Foothills High School, projects include renovating a classroom for a steel drum program, adding parking at Valley View, replacing interior blinds, installing a new stadium sound system, resealing the junior lot, and retrofitting House 4 science labs. Finally, the MAC transportation facility will replace 13 Vision Buses and special education Micro Bird buses and construct a new maintenance bay along with additional restrooms.

Board members noted the importance of communicating with the homeowner's association regarding the additional classrooms at Manzanita Elementary School and with the neighbors around the MAC transportation facility. Board members emphasized the importance of understanding how far the \$13,000,000 in bond funding will go once project quotes are received. They suggested that after determining the funding limits, the district should consult with individual schools to reassess and prioritize projects based on what can realistically be completed. They also noted that certain issues, particularly related to security and ADA compliance, would likely be considered non-negotiable priorities.

A board member stressed the importance of ongoing maintenance of the district's campuses, especially in tackling deferred maintenance, pointing out that delaying these repairs only escalates long-term expenses. Investing in these proposed bond projects ensures that the facilities remain functional and safe while also promoting community pride and responsibility. It was further emphasized that well-maintained parking lots are not only vital for safety but also play a key role in shaping visitors' first impressions of our schools.

The board expressed appreciation to Director of Facilities and Transportation, Brian McNitt, and his team for their proactive efforts in identifying and addressing campus needs. Board members also extended gratitude to the CFSD community for their support, acknowledging the privilege of being able to make meaningful improvements district-wide due to their vote to pass the bond election in 2022. The board highlighted the importance of being responsible stewards of taxpayer funds and emphasized transparency in how bond dollars are allocated. They noted that while student spaces remain the top priority, maintaining all aspects of campus facilities is essential to preserving a safe and functional learning environment.

6. **NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

6.1. **Approval of Award to Canyon State Bus Sales for the Purchase of Thirteen (13) New 77 Passenger Bluebird Vision Buses**

Superintendent Bartlett presented for the governing board's approval an award to Canyon State Bus Sales for the purchase of thirteen (13) new 77 passenger Bluebird Vision buses to complete the district's fleet of larger buses used for student transportation. Canyon State Bus Sales has submitted a Mohave cooperative purchasing proposal totaling \$2,547,003.31. Initially, District Additional Assistance (DAA) funds will be used for the purchase of the buses until new bond funding becomes available. The buses are expected to arrive by July 31, 2025. The district has plans to add signage on the side of the buses thanking CFSD voters for their support of our students by voting in the 2022 bond elections.

Upon a motion by Tom Logue, and a second by Jacquelyn Davoli, the governing board approved the award to Canyon State Bus Sales for the purchase of thirteen (13) new 77 passenger Bluebird Vision buses in the amount of \$2,547,003.31, as presented.

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



7. **DISCUSSION / REPORTS (CONTINUED)**

7.1. **Fiscal Year 2026 Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Budget Discussion**

Superintendent Denise Bartlett shared an update to the proposed 2025-2026 M&O expenditure budget. Dr. Bartlett emphasized that all current student programs and services, including any associated staffing support, are sustained with this budget. Since the April 8 review, the FY 2026 Revenue Budget was updated to reflect a \$52,051 decrease in the DAA transfer to M&O and a \$6,081 increase in carryforward due to lower FY 2025 expenditures. The Expenditure Budget was adjusted to align with these changes, including a \$26,392 shift in retiree payouts from FY 2025 to FY 2026, a \$21,100 increase for advertising, removal of outsourced psychology services, and the addition of a 0.50 FTE counselor at Canyon View. Updates to the Classroom Site Fund and Instructional Improvement Fund align with actual FY 2025 expenditures, include an increase in prior year contingency, and reflect a \$6,550 increase for the approved 2025–2026 salary proposal. Further minor changes will be made to the expenditure budget as updated quotes, particularly for technology, are received.

A board member inquired whether the increase to the community relations budget was substantial enough to have an impact. In response, it was confirmed that the addition, which more than doubled the fiscal year 2025 budget, was considered very meaningful. The funds will support the production of a professional commercial promotion, intended for placement in venues like movie theaters and streaming platforms rather than traditional TV.

The fiscal year 2026 M&O budget discussion will be an agenda topic at the next board meeting on May 13.

7.2. **Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity**

Board members noted increased use of the governor's veto power, expressing support for some of the decisions made. However, they also voiced concern about the lack of progress on key issues, particularly the unresolved funding for the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and the replacement of revenue from the expired Proposition 123. Board members shared the growing anxiety among families—especially those with children who have special needs—due to potential service disruptions, as funding is expected to run out in early May. The board also mentioned the Legislature reaching the 100-day mark without finalizing a budget, suggesting that negotiations may become more contentious moving forward.

8. **AGENDA PLANNING**

There were no requests for future agenda considerations.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Gina Mehmert, and a second by Eileen Jackson, the governing board adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

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

Approved: May 13, 2025

Eileen Jackson, Vice President