

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, September 8, 2026**

A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

Governing Board Members Present

Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, President
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Vice President
Ms. Deanna M. Day, M.Ed., Member
Dr. Michael Gemma, Member
Ms. Susan Zibrat, Member

Superintendent's Cabinet Members

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent
Ms. Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education
Mr. Matthew Munger, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. John Hastings, Director of Human Resources
Ms. Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum & Assessment
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Executive Director of Student Services
Mr. Richard La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support
Ms. Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21st Century Education
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Cox Golder called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. A.J. Malis, Principal of Amphitheater High School, to introduce his students. Mr. Malis shared that the students leading the Pledge were Student Council Student Body Officers. He spoke about how these student leaders coordinate and execute events such as homecoming, spirit weeks, pep assemblies, and dances, but this year's first big project happened last Thursday when Amphi High School student council hosted the Southern Arizona AASC spirit conference. Mr. Malis noted that this event was comprised of over 900 students from across Southern Arizona. The students, Adaline, RJ, Nia, and Sandra introduced themselves and shared which office they hold. The students lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Gemma thanked the students for representing their school and presented each of them with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board. A picture was taken of the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Malis, and the students to mark the occasion.

3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART

Mr. Malis introduced Visual Arts Teacher, Ms. Judith Becker Rohrer to introduce the art displayed. Ms. Becker Rohrer explained that since the country was celebrating 250 years, she asked her students to research 250 people who helped shape America. Students got to select a person who was meaningful to them and learned calligraphy to create an art piece with a quote from their selected figure. Ms. Becker Rohrer also spoke about the ceramic plates displayed in the hallway depicting influential figures as well. She introduced Nala, one of the artists.

Vice President Kopec presented Ms. Becker Rohrer with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Malis, Ms. Becker Rohrer, and Nala to mark the occasion.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

President Cox Golder announced that the next Special Governing Board meeting will take place Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 5:30p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ 85705 in the Leadership & Professional Development Center.

5. RECOGNITIONS

A. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards

Superintendent Jaeger explained that each month during the school year a certified and support staff member are recognized with a Distinguished Service Award. He asked Mr. Michael McConnell to come forward to introduce the support staff recipient.

Mr. McConnell introduced Lucy Palazzolo, Lead Food Service Attendant at Innovation Academy. He spoke about the family atmosphere Ms. Palazzolo helps create in the cafeteria and how she cares for the students as if they are her own. Mr. McConnell went on to speak about Ms. Palazzolo's dedication, loyalty, kindness, compassion, and ability to connect with the students.

A video presentation was shown highlighting Ms. Palazzolo's contributions to the District.

Ms. Palazzolo thanked the Governing Board for this honor as well as her coworkers, students, and families of Innovation Academy.

Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Palazzolo with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board, a Distinguished Service Award and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. JJ Letts, Principal of Coronado K-8, to come forward to introduce the certified recipient.

Ms. Letts introduced Lisa Boyd, second grade teacher. Ms. Letts stated Ms. Boyd has taught in Amphitheater for twenty-seven years and during that time has served in site leadership positions and is a mentor teacher others look up to. She went on to speak about how supportive Ms. Boyd is and how she goes out of her way to help others. Ms. Letts stated Ms. Boyd is always looking to innovate and try new things to support her students and she is a crucial and treasured fixture at Coronado.

A video presentation was shown highlighting Ms. Boyd's contributions to the District.

Ms. Boyd thanked everyone for the recognition and commented that her coworkers are like family to her.

Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Boyd with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board, a Distinguished Service Award and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

A picture was taken of the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. McConnell, Ms. Palazzolo, Ms. Letts, and Ms. Boyd to mark the occasion.

6. INFORMATION

A. Superintendent's Report

For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint see Exhibit 1.

Superintendent Jaeger noted that each month the report will showcase activities related to the Promise of a Graduate in action. Some highlights from the report included:

- Students at Prince Elementary demonstrating Collaboration working on a project about inventors and on math problems as a team
- At Painted Sky, first graders demonstrated scholarship by working on Everyday Math Explorations and third graders built literacy skills with partner reading
- Amphi Middle School students demonstrated communication through producing the morning video announcements and newly elected Student Council officers represented citizenship
- Amphi High School hosted the Arizona Association of Student Council Spirit Conference which offered leadership training to nearly 1,000 students

- The Annual REACH Institute featured author and speaker Andi McNair along with discussions and resources for gifted students and parents

Superintendent Jaeger went on to give a brief overview of the projected versus actual enrollment for this school year after the 10-day drop. He shared the enrollment at each of the District schools and a comparison of enrollment rates of other districts in Southern Arizona. Superintendent Jaeger noted there was an 18.3% drop in kindergarten Average Daily Membership (ADM) as compared with last school year, and this was similar to peer districts. He also shared that the birth rate in Arizona is down 46% which according to experts, will take quite a few years to recover from.

Superintendent Jaeger went on to speak about a few upcoming events including a Parent Webinar to provide information on ADE Seals of Excellence and the start of Advisory meetings in September.

B. Status of Construction Projects

For the Status of Construction Projects Report and PowerPoint see Exhibit 2.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. LaNasa to deliver his monthly report detailing construction projects across the District.

Mr. LaNasa's report showed a sidewalk replacement at Amphitheater Middle School using Bond Funds. He also shared a list of August 2026 SFD BRG Phrase Grant Funding Awards including HVAC replacements, boiler replacements, and water line repairs totaling over \$3 million which equals 1.6% of the \$200 million budget allocation for the state.

Ms. Cox Golder asked if there were unspent bond funds. Mr. LaNasa said if so, it would be minimal as projects are billed along the way.

Ms. Day congratulated Mr. LaNasa and his team on their success at continuing to secure grant funds.

C. Arizona Conflict of Interest Laws for School Board Members

For the Arizona Conflict of Interest Laws for School Board Members see Exhibit 3.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that the Arizona Auditor General now requires that all Governing Board members and employees complete an annual conflict of interest training. He explained why there are conflict of interest laws and how Title 38 is applied. Superintendent Jaeger's training included:

- Definition of substantial interest, who is considered a relative and what must occur if a conflict is discovered
- Substantial versus Remote Interests
- Consequences of failing to disclose a conflict
- Definitions outlined in A.R.S. 38-502
- Conflict of interest exemptions
- Prohibited acts and penalties

After completing the presentation, the Superintendent Jaeger directed the Governing Board members to fill out their Conflict of Interest form that will be kept on file at the District Office and will be available for public inspection upon request.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Fife is a former teacher and community member. He spoke about a time when the District was experiencing growth in the early-2000's and how that has changed. Mr. Fife went on to speak about fighting the state legislature for funds and the community's support in approving bonds over the years. He spoke about the current challenges public schools are facing due to Empowerment Scholarships, competition from charter schools, and increasing home prices which make it difficult for young families to afford to live in the District. Mr. Fife suggested the need for a new plan, a shift in spending priorities, and more input from the community to ensure their needs are met.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Details of agenda items, supporting documents, and presentations are available in the electronic Board Book by clicking on the hyperlink below.

[Amphitheater Public Schools Public View - BoardBook Premier](#)

President Cox Golder asked if any items needed to be removed for further discussion or comment. There were none.

Vice President Kopec moved for Consent Agenda Items 8. A– M. be approved as presented. Dr. Gemma seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Cox Golder, Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items 8. A– M. passed.

A. Approval of the Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel

The Governing Board approved the Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel as submitted in Exhibit 4.

B. Approval of Personnel Changes

The Governing Board approved Personnel Changes as submitted in Exhibit 5.

C. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence

The Governing Board approved Leave(s) of Absence as submitted in Exhibit 6.

D. Approval of Separation(s) and Termination(s)

The Governing Board approved Separation(s) and Termination(s) as submitted in Exhibit 7.

E. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

The Governing Board approved Stipend for Coaching Volunteers as submitted in Exhibit 8.

F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The Governing Board approved minutes from the August 25, 2026 Governing Board meeting as submitted in Exhibit 9.

G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$2,221,711.62

A copy of vouchers for goods and services received by the Amphitheater Public Schools and recommended for payment has been provided to the Governing Board. The following vouchers were approved as presented and payment authorized as submitted in Exhibit 10.

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1034	\$21,519.64	1035	\$86,461.63	1036	\$1,661,702.23
1037	\$124,514.29	1038	\$4,136.29	1039	\$173,476.19
1040	\$25,919.41	1041	\$19,048.94	1042	\$54,105.50
1045	\$38,681.11	1046	\$12,146.39		

H. Acceptance of Gifts

The Governing Board approved Acceptance of Gifts as submitted in Exhibit 11.

I. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) – 2026-2027

The Governing Board approved IRHS Girls Soccer Booster, Prince PTO, Wilson K-8 PTO, IRHS Project Graduation, Walker Elementary PTO, and IRHS Cheer Booster as submitted in Exhibit 12.

J. Award of Contract for Well Maintenance Services- Based Upon Responses to Request for Bids (RFB) 2627000

The Governing Board approved Award of Contract for Well Maintenance Services- Based Upon Responses to Request for Bids (RFB) 2627000.

K. Approval of Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Town of Oro Valley for School Safety Program and Additional School Resource Officer

The Governing Board approved Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Town of Oro Valley for School Safety Program and Additional School Resource Officer as submitted in Exhibit 13.

L. Approval of Qualified Amphitheater Teacher Performance Evaluation System (ATPES) Evaluators

The Governing Board approved Qualified Amphitheater Teacher Performance Evaluation System (ATPES) Evaluators.

M. Approval of Out of State Travel

The Governing Board approved Out of State Travel as submitted in Exhibit 14.

9. STUDY/ACTION

A. Study and Approval of the Revised Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027; Public Hearing

For the Revised Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 see Exhibit 15.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. Little to explain the budget revision.

Mr. Little explained that when the budget was originally proposed, the new budget forms were not available because the legislature was still in session. Additionally, revisions of the budget are not allowed between the budget proposal and adoption which is why the revision is necessary now. Mr. Little explained that the revised budget includes some one-time funding and updated enrollment.

Mr. Little stated that the Average Daily Membership (ADM) projection was 10,554 students, but the actual ADM shows a loss of 493 students for funding purposes. He noted that for ADM purposes, kindergarten and special needs preschool students count as half. This drop in enrollment translates to about a \$3 million drop in the Maintenance and Operations fund and in response, \$2 million has been moved from Capital Funding into Maintenance and Operations.

President Cox Golder declared a public hearing to be open pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-905 to receive input from the public on any item or items in the budget.

There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

President Cox Golder moved to approve the Revised Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Vice President Kopec seconded the motion. Roll call vote in favor- 5. President Cox Golder-Yes, Vice President Kopec-Yes, Ms. Day-Yes, Dr. Gemma-Yes, Ms. Zibrat-Yes, Opposed -0. Study/Action Item 9.A. passed.

B. Approval of Policy Revisions Based on Statutory Revisions Enacted During the 2026 Legislative Session

For the Policy Revisions Based on Statutory Revisions Enacted During the 2026 Legislative Session see Exhibit 16.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that the policy revisions being brought forth were directed by changes in state statute and that he has provided both the redline and clean versions of the policies for ease of review. He stated that the requirement that policies be studied twice had been eliminated so he is asking the Board to approve these revisions this evening so the District is in compliance with the law.

Dr. Gemma moved to approve Policy Revisions Based on Statutory Revisions Enacted During the 2026 Legislative Session. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor- 5. President Cox Golder, Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed- 0. Study/Action Item 9.B. passed.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further public comment.

11. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

Dr. Gemma asked that an Executive Session be scheduled for the Governing Board to discuss a timeline for the Superintendent search. Ms. Day asked for an update on the District's status with the Arizona School Board Association.

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Cox Golder moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor -5. President Cox Golder, Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed -0. The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Jen Anderson

Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval
Jen Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board

September 14, 2026

Date

Vicki Cox Golder, Governing Board President

September 22, 2026

Date