

**Minutes of the Special Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, September 22, 2026**

A Special public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, beginning at 5:30 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

Governing Board Members Absent

Ms. Susan Zibrat, Member

Superintendent's Cabinet Members

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent (*telephonically*)
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 5:30pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Cox Golder asked Dr. Gemma to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

President Cox Golder announced that the next Regular Governing Board meeting will take place Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:00p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ 85705 in the Leadership & Professional Development Center.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

5. 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 5. A.– M. be approved as presented. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Cox Golder, Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, and Dr. Gemma. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items 5. 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 1.

B. Approval of Personnel Changes

The Governing Board approved Personnel Changes as submitted in Exhibit 2.

C. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence

The Governing Board approved Leave(s) of Absence as submitted in Exhibit 3.

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

The Governing Board approved Separation(s) and Termination(s) as submitted in Exhibit 4.

E. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

The Governing Board approved Stipend for Coaching Volunteers as submitted in Exhibit 5.

F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The Governing Board approved minutes from the September 8, 2026 Governing Board meeting as submitted in Exhibit 6.

G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$1,729,148.49

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 7.

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1043	\$80,908.41	1044	\$404,170.50	1047	\$33,415.10
1048	\$294,097.36	1049	\$97,769.92	1050	\$141,090.77
1051	\$7,591.69	1052	\$116,702.77	1053	\$61,736.68
1054	\$135,840.94	1055	\$40,358.89	1056	\$5,570.18
1057	\$280,701.88	1058	\$11,528.84	1059	\$17,664.56

H. Acceptance of Gifts

The Governing Board approved Acceptance of Gifts as submitted in Exhibit 8.

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

The Governing Board approved Harelson PTO, La Cima PTO, CDO Softball Booster, CDO Auto Boosters, and CDO Swimming Booster as submitted in Exhibit 9.

J. Approval of Disposal of Surplus Property via PublicSurplus.com

The Governing Board approved Disposal of Surplus Property via PublicSurplus.com.

K. Award of Contract for High and Low Voltage Electrical Services-Based Upon Responses to Request for Bids (IFB) 2627001

The Governing Board approved Contract for High and Low Voltage Electrical Services-Based Upon Responses to Request for Bids (IFB) 2627001.

L. Approval of School Facilities Division (SFD) FY 2027 Preventative Maintenance Guideline and Plan

The Governing Board approved the School Facilities Division (SFD) FY 2027 Preventative Maintenance Guideline and Plan as submitted in Exhibit 10.

M. Approval of Out of State Travel

The Governing Board approved Out of State Travel as submitted in Exhibit 11.

6. STUDY

A. Public Meeting Pursuant to A.R.S. 15-481(Y) to Provide Update on Programs Financed through the 13.5% Maintenance and Operations Override and the K-3 Special Programs Override

For the Update on Programs Financed through the 13.5% Maintenance and Operations Override and the K-3 Special Programs Override PowerPoint, see Exhibit 12.

Mr. Munger began with some general information about budget overrides which are authorized by voters so school districts can override the state budget formulas for capital or maintenance and operations (M & O) budgets. He noted that the funds received through the override may only be used for the specific purposes approved by the voters and explained that the state's formulas generally tie spending to the number of enrolled students.

Mr. Munger shared that prior to 2025, Amphitheater benefited from two separate overrides, a 10% general M & O Budget Override and a 3.5% K-3 special programs budget override. At the time of the last renewal, which was approved by voters in 2024, the overrides were combined into one 13.5% override. He explained that the 13.5% override represents 13.5% of the amount of funding the state provides to Amphitheater so the amount fluctuates year to year. Mr. Munger provided actual override amounts for the last two years and this year's projected amount which is about \$11.2 million.

Mr. Munger shared that each school in the District benefits from the override and how the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools specifically benefit programmatically. He noted that two of the biggest benefits provided by the override are the provision of free all-day kindergarten and a significant reduction in class sizes for grades K-3. Mr. Munger also shared that the override helps add approximately 3.5% to base salaries and adds technology positions to help with growing demand for such.

Lastly, Mr. Munger explained that overrides stay in place for seven years, but after five years decrease each year unless renewed. He expressed his gratitude to the voters of Amphitheater District to help fund critical programming that benefit all students.

President Cox Golder asked if the override is tied to salaries. Mr. Munger explained that override funds are built into the salary schedule and if it were not in place, the District would have to make decisions about if and how that could remain in place.

Dr. Gemma asked if there were other Districts not operating with a budget override in place. Mr. Munger stated that, in some districts, there have been overrides that voters did not approve.

B. Special Education: Serving All Students, Specifically Designed Instruction and Inclusion

For the Special Education: Serving All Students, Specifically Designed Instruction and Inclusion PowerPoint, see Exhibit 13.

Ms. McGraw began her presentation by introducing her team who would be presenting this evening. She spoke about the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which outlines education rights of students with disabilities including their right to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Ms. McGraw explained that IDEA works hand in hand with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure inclusive and equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

Ms. McGraw provided a list of conditions that would determine eligibility for Special Education services and presented data on the number of evaluations conducted last school year. She noted that Amphitheater is currently serving 1,970 students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP). Ms. McGraw also shared that about 51% of those students receive speech and language services with just under 300 of them having speech and language impairment as their primary eligibility factor.

Ms. McGraw shared information about twice exceptional students and stressed the importance of personalized learning and collaboration among staff who serve these populations. She went on to share Subgroup Achievement Scores (SAS) for students with disabilities across six schools from 2022 through 2025 with an upward trajectory for all six and a total well above the state threshold. Ms. McGraw commended her team on their commitment to continuous improvement of practices.

Mr. Rob Wolf, Assistant Director of Student Services and Principal of Rillito Center spoke about examples of services available to students at their own schools and specialized transportation that is currently offered to nearly 300 students District-wide. He also shared a diagram illustrating the continuum of services from most

to least restrictive and explained that data is used to place students in the least restrictive environment (LRE) that meets their needs.

Ms. Kim Moran, Special Education Coordinator, shared Amphi's Philosophy of Inclusion and spoke about how practices were developed with the Office of Learning and Instruction. She spoke about La Cima Middle School being a pilot site for inclusion practices with co-teaching in place for all three grade levels in ELA and Math.

Mr. Wolf spoke about inclusion practices at Rillito Center with close to 50% of students having access to opportunities outside of Rillito like spending lunchtime or attending specials at Prince Elementary or Amphi Middle. He also talked about reverse inclusion opportunities when students from other sites visit Rillito to interact with students. Mr. Wolf went on to speak about the partnership with Imagine Preschools to offer inclusion opportunities for special education preschool students.

Ms. Moran referenced the Amphitheater College and Career Readiness Framework as a guideline in developing practices, professional development with general education and special education teachers collaborating, and a partnership with the Arizona Department of Education. Other resources for teachers include Student Access Points Guides developed for teachers to help teach state standards and access to the Student Services Padlet. Ms. Moran spoke about the Voices of Support family seminar in January that works to support and educate families of students with special needs.

Mr. Wolf spoke about the IDEA Leadership Academy for the 2026-2026 School Year being hosted by Amphitheater with the objective of deepening an understanding of IDEA and the leadership practices that support effective special education services.

Ms. McGraw concluded the presentation by reviewing data that demonstrates significant improvements in educational outcomes for special education students in recent years. (See, Exhibit 13).

Dr. Gemma commended the team on the presentation and their work.

Superintendent Jaeger thanked the Governing Board for the opportunity to present what the District is doing to support Special Education students in the District. He shared how proud he is of the team for moving the needle and improving educational outcomes for students with special needs.

7. STUDY/ACTION

A. Approval of Policy Revisions Based on the 2026 Legislative Session

For Policy Revisions Based on the 2026 Legislative Session, see Exhibit 14.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that this round of policy revisions were recommended based on state law changes made during the 2026 Legislative Session. He noted that they are fairly straightforward and because the laws are currently in effect, it is recommended that the Governing Board approve them this evening. He gave a brief overview of each of the revisions and offered to answer any questions. There were none.

Vice President Kopec moved to approve Policy Revisions Based on the 2026 Legislative Session as presented. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Cox Golder, Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, and Dr. Gemma. Opposed – 0. Study/Action item 7.A. passed.

8. ACTION

A. Resolution Declaring September 24, 2026 as “Legendary Teacher Day”

For the Resolution Declaring September 24, 2026 as “Legendary Teacher Day” see Exhibit 15.

Superintendent Jaeger shared that the District has participated in this yearly tradition of recognizing outstanding teachers for many years. He shared that this recognition is particularly meaningful as nominations come from students, former students, and families who wish to recognize impactful teachers.

Ms. Day read the resolution.

Ms. Day moved to pass the Resolution Declaring September 24, 2026 as “Legendary Teacher Day”. Dr. Gemma seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Cox Golder, Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, and Dr. Gemma. Opposed – 0. Action item 8.A. passed.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Motion to Recess Open Meeting and Hold an Executive Session for

A. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431(A)(1)-Discussion and Consideration of the Process, Parameters, and Timeline for the Superintendent Search, Term of Employment to Begin July 1, 2027

Vice President Kopec moved that the Board go into an Executive Session to address the matters identified in item 10 of the Board's agenda and pursuant to the legal authorities listed on the agenda under item 10. Ms. Day seconded the motion.

Voice vote in favor- 4. President Cox Golder, Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, and Dr. Gemma. Opposed – 0

President Cox Golder declared they were in Executive Session at 6:30pm.

11. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

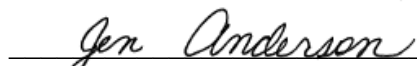
The meeting reconvened at 7:41pm.

12. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

Ms. Day asked for an update on the status with Arizona School Boards Association.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Day moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor -4. President Cox Golder, Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, and Dr. Gemma. Opposed -0. The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.



Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval

Jen Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board

September 28, 2026

Date

Vicki Cox Golder, Governing Board President

October 6, 2026

Date