

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, December 9, 2025 - 6:30 PM, Doors Opened at 6 PM**

Regular Meeting Minutes

NOTICE OF MEETING

On December 1, 2025, 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
Julie Farbarik, Director of Community Relations
Chris Lambert, Catalina Foothills High School Principal
Charles Pierce, Catalina Foothills High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

District Personnel:

Ryan Koch, Systems Engineer
Amie Sams, Administrative Assistant

Visitors Present:

Daniel Armenta, Noel Armenta, Oliver Armenta, Starlight Armenta, Riley Babson, Eszter Brown, Ralph Brown, Zalan Brown, Holly Crawford, Simon Crawford, Bill Daggett, Connor Daggett, Jilly Daggett, Marcy Daggett, Carol Dinsmore, Kerry Dinsmore, Luke Dinsmore, Nicholas Dinsmore, Heather Drake, Jack Drake, Nicholas Drake, Ariston Elsesser, Frank Elsesser, Evan Gaither, Josh Gaither, Michaela Gaither, Lili Jordan, Aidan Kastner, John Kastner, Kristine Kot, Mason Kot, Janet Maxwell, Matthew Maxwell, Peter Maxwell, Scott Maxwell, Reef Mencke, Scott Mencke, Andrew Murray, Demetria Murray, Mathew Murray, Sean Murray, Bee Schlotec, Eugene Vamos, Gregan Vamos, Ted Wallach, and Nathan Wu

Joining Online:

Approximately 7 visitors attended the meeting through the YouTube live link.

1. OPENING – 4:30 PM

1.1. Call to Order

President Amy Krauss called to order the governing board meeting at 4:30 p.m.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

2.1. Executive Session, personnel, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1) - Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body - Mid-Year Performance Review of Superintendent.

Upon a motion by Eileen Jackson and a second by Gina Mehmert, the governing board moved into executive session for discussion of personnel, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1) at 4:31 p.m.

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

The governing board moved out of executive session at 6:15 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. Rules of Order for Governing Board Meetings

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

3.4. Outstanding Achievements

Superintendent Denise Bartlett recognized the following CFSD students and staff achievements:

Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS) Choir

Three singers from CFHS represented the school as members of the 2025 Arizona All-State Jazz Choir Festival. After a statewide audition process, Senior Luis Urtaza, Junior Isabella Garcia, and Sophomore Sophia Hudgens were selected to be among the top forty jazz vocalists in the state to form the Arizona All-State Clinic Choir and the Arizona All-State Jazz Choir. Clinicians Maryanne Muglia and Dr. John Benik directed three days of rehearsals, culminating in a performance at Horizon High School in Scottsdale. Congratulations to our singers for their dedication to the preservation of one of the great American musical traditions! Mr. Jeffrey Evans is the Director of Choirs at Catalina Foothills High School.

CFHS Teacher Named a 2025 University of Arizona Athletics Top 10 Teacher of the Year

CFHS special education teacher Blake Hinson has been selected as one of the 2025 University of Arizona Athletics Top 10 Teachers of the Year, a distinguished regional honor recognizing educators who model exceptional instruction, leadership, and dedication to students. A valued member of the CFHS Special Education team, Hinson teaches TSW (Transitions School-to-Work) Vocational Training and supports students across multiple aide-assisted courses. His work focuses on helping students build independence, develop real-world job skills, and gain confidence as they prepare for life beyond high school. Known for his patient guidance and empowering approach, he creates meaningful learning opportunities that help students thrive.

Mr. Hinson's impact extends beyond the classroom to coaching the Girls Cross Country and Track & Field, motivating them to challenge themselves, support one another, and discover their strengths. He will be formally recognized on Tuesday, December 22, at the University of Arizona Men's Basketball Game, including a pre-game reception in the Hall of Champions and an in-game spotlight.

We congratulate Blake Hinson on this well-deserved honor. His belief in every student and his impressive commitment to their success make a lasting difference at CFHS.

CFHS Falcon Theatre Shines at Southern Arizona Regionals Festival of Theatre

On Saturday, November 22nd, the Falcon Theatre Troupe 1374 represented Catalina Foothills with excellence at the Southern Arizona Regionals Festival of Theatre, earning an impressive nine Superior rankings and seven Excellent rankings across performance and technical categories.

- Nine (9) students earned the Superior rankings (9): Charley Bergthold (Costume Construction), Calista Morrison (Stage Management), Lilly Porter and Owen Cantor-Goldner (Monologue Performance), Lilly Porter and Quincy White (Duo Scene Performance), Ivy Buffalo and Nate Wiley (Musical Theatre Solo Performance), and Owen Cantor-Goldner (Original Short Film).

- Seven (7) students earned Excellent rankings: (7): Azailea Peterson and Kellen Tanner (Musical Theatre Solo Performance), Nate Wiley and Calista Morrison, Rowan Sandeen and Gemma Ricker (Musical Theatre Duo Performance), Zoe Sheffield (Musical Theatre Dance Solo), Alex Cramton (Playwriting), and Alex Cramton and Owen Cantor-Goldner (Original Short Film).
- Technical Challenges: Our students also excelled in the festival's technical team challenge events. The Backstage Badgers team — Calista Morrison, Milo Peters, Zoe Sheffield, and Layla Fraser — earned 1st place in cable coiling. The Flyline Falcons team — Nate Wiley, Amelia Manchester, Charley Bergthold, and Veronica Bavier — earned 2nd place in cable coiling, 3rd place in light hang and focus, and 3rd place overall in the technical challenge.

Congratulations to Amy Byroad and Norm Testa whose commitment to theatre arts education continues to elevate opportunities for our students.

Canyon View Third Graders Published in Bear Essentials

Congratulations to three talented third-grade reporters from Canyon View Elementary whose writing was featured in the November issue of Bear Essentials news. Under the guidance of their teacher, Samantha Thompson, these young journalists showcased curiosity, creativity, and strong nonfiction writing skills:

- Cooper Messing invited readers into the colorful world of Tucson Comic-Con with his article, "Meet the Super Gila Monster at Tucson Comic-Con."
- Jacob Hamilton taught readers how to transform a desert staple into a tasty treat in "Turn Prickly Pear into Delicious Dish."
- Claire Braun explored Arizona's record-breaking temperatures in her engaging piece, "Don't Get Burned by Arizona's Heat."

We are proud of these budding writers for sharing their voices with the broader community. Their work reflects the strong storytelling, research, and journalism skills nurtured by Mrs. Thompson. Way to go, Canyon View reporters!

Sunrise Drive Elementary School Teacher Received Arizona Chinese Teacher Milestone Award

Ms. Kai Chen, Sunrise Drive Elementary School 4th Grade Chinese Immersion teacher, was honored with the Arizona Chinese Teacher Milestone Award by the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Arizona. This prestigious recognition celebrates her exceptional dedication, long-term commitment, and meaningful contributions to Chinese language education in Arizona.

Ms. Chen's passion for teaching and her unwavering support of her students exemplifies the strength of our district's World Language programs. Her achievement was also recently featured in *AZ Chinese News*.

Congratulations to Ms. Chen on this well-deserved honor!

3.5. CFSD Star Award – Catalina Foothills High School Boys Swim and Dive Division II State Championship Team

The governing board recognized the CFHS Boys Swim and Dive Division II State Championship team: Oliver Armenta, Zalan Brown, Derek Cassen, Simon Crawford, Connor Daggett, Luke Dinsmore, Nick Dinsmore, Jack Drake, Ariston Elsesser, Evan Gaither, Aidan Kastner, Mason Kot, Matthew Maxwell, Reef Mencke, Andrew Murray, Mathew Murray, Jayce Rooney, Gregan Vamos, and Nathan Wu, and their co-head coaches Ted Wallach and Riley Babson, and assistant coach Scott Mencke. This is the team's 14th state championship title and the first since the 2014-2015 school year.

Vice President Eileen Jackson reflected upon the team's remarkable season which culminated in a first-place performance at the Division II finals in November, noting the strong performances by team members across multiple events to secure the state championship title. Ms. Jackson praised the athletes' dedication, noting their

demanding training schedule and travel to off-site pools, and she emphasized how their perseverance and teamwork reflect the district's core values. On behalf of the board, she extended heartfelt appreciation to the parents and families whose support makes the student athletes' success possible.

Coach Ted Wallach thanked the governing board for the recognition and commended the swimmers not only for their outstanding performances, but for the character and sportsmanship they demonstrated throughout the season. He shared that the state meet included dramatic moments, such as an unexpected relay disqualification that ultimately shifted the standings, culminating in the team's thrilling victory. He commended his co-head coach Riley Babson and assistant coach Scott Mencke for their expertise and commitment to the team and credited them for this achievement.

Each team member and coach were presented with a certificate and a pin.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Eileen Jackson and a second by Gina Mehmert, the governing board approved the following items on the consent agenda: 5.1 the governing board November 24, 2025, regular meeting minutes, as presented; 5.2 the expense voucher memorandum, as presented; 5.3 the field trip request memorandum, as presented; 5.4 the personnel memorandum, as presented; and 5.5 the acceptance, with gratitude, of the gifts and donations memorandum, 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 November 24, 2025, Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes Memorandum**

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the regular governing board meeting minutes for November 24, 2025, as presented.

5.2. **Approval of Expense Voucher Memorandum**

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

Expense Voucher		Amount
26074	\$	1,697,841.55
26075		72,137.11
26076		339,572.17
26077		264,027.93
26078		1,540.54
26079		68,797.01

5.3. **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 (CFHS) Student Council	Arizona Association of Student Councils (AASC) State Conference	Students will learn new leadership strategies, connect with peers statewide, and bring back skills to strengthen their school community.	Gilbert, AZ	01/29/2026 to 01/31/2026	\$0.00
Ventana Vista Elementary	Colossal Cave Tour	Students will explore how prehistoric people used	Vail, AZ	01/14/2026	\$0.00

School (VVES) 4 th Grade		Colossal Cave and observe geological landforms firsthand, strengthening their connections to social studies and science learning.			
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5.4. Approval of the Personnel Memorandum

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

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

5.5. 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
11/18/2025	Ventana Vista FFO	Ventana Vista Elementary School	Field Trip	\$672.00
11/18/2025	Sunrise Drive FFO	Sunrise Drive Elementary School	Field Trip	\$586.76
11/21/2025	Gergely Kota	Catalina Foothills High School	Instruction	\$20.00
11/21/2025	Microsoft Matching Gift	Catalina Foothills High School	Instruction	\$20.00
11/21/2025	Gergely Kota	Catalina Foothills High School	Science Olympiad	\$20.00
11/21/2025	Microsoft Matching Gift	Catalina Foothills High School	Science Olympiad	\$20.00
11/21/2025	CFHS Touchdown Club	Catalina Foothills High School	Repair Press Box	\$665.00
12/2/2025	Manzanita FFO	Manzanita Elementary School	Field Trip	\$357.80
12/2/2025	CFHS Cheer Booster	Catalina Foothills High School	Coach Stipend	\$2,270.17
			TOTAL	\$4,631.73

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1. Recommended Approval of Opposition Letter Regarding Potential Pima County Joint Technical Education District Special Bond Election

Superintendent Bartlett shared a recommendation letter drafted by the superintendents of satellite member districts of Pima County Joint Technical Education District (JTED) in opposition to a potential \$300 million special bond election in November of 2026. Pima JTED administration has asked member districts to consider supporting the proposal. Superintendents across Pima County have prepared a joint letter outlining concerns with the current draft of their proposal. While reaffirming strong support for Career and Technical Education (CTE), member district superintendents note that the draft bond framework places most funding, approximately 80 to 85%, into central campus expansion, even though about 90% of JTED students statewide participate in satellite programs offered on the campuses of their local high schools. This represents a significant shift from the decentralized model approved by voters when JTED was created in 2006, a model that continues to serve

students effectively. Additional concerns identified by the superintendents include declining funding allocations to member districts, increased limitations on how local JTED funds may be used, and the absence of a broad, community-driven planning process. CFSD enrollment data reflects more than 1,000 unduplicated CFHS students participate in satellite CTE programs embedded in the school day on our high school campus, while only a small number, 72 participate in JTED central campus programs and 19 in articulated Pima Community College post-secondary programs. The proposed potential bond would not benefit the majority of CFSD students and families. Given these considerations, member districts are asking their governing boards to review and sign the collective letter outlining the concerns. Once approved, the letter would be shared with the Pima JTED Superintendent and Governing Board.

Board members asked for clarification regarding the districts listed on the letter, whether all superintendents opposed the bond, and whether the JTED Superintendent had been present at the collaborative meeting attended by the superintendents. Superintendent Bartlett confirmed that the letter represents all satellite member districts, opposition among superintendents who attended the collaborative meeting was unanimous, and the JTED Superintendent was not present at that meeting.

Board members inquired about the authorship of the letter, and Dr. Bartlett clarified that it was a collective effort among satellite member district superintendents, and it was not led by CFSD. Board members inquired whether concerns had been communicated directly to the JTED Superintendent and whether any response or course changes had been indicated. Superintendent Bartlett reported that concerns were shared during a presentation made by the Pima JTED Superintendent of the special bond election proposal, but no decisions or adjustments had occurred after concerns were raised during the presentation. District administration noted the proposed allocation shared by the JTED Superintendent during a special bond presentation to member districts included \$240 million for central campuses and \$60 million for satellite programs, with no detailed plan for distribution or timeline. Funding to satellite programs would likely occur gradually due to JTED bonding capacity limitations.

Board members asked about the potential impact on current CFSD CTE programs, which administration indicated would not be affected, and the estimated tax impact to CFSD constituents, which would be approximately \$15 per \$100,000 assessed property value. Legal and procedural questions were raised regarding whether JTED could move forward with the proposed special bond election without member district approval, but district administration reported that the process was unclear. Board members sought details about the purpose, programming, and timeline for the proposed new central campus buildings, which district administration acknowledged had not yet been provided to JTED satellite member districts.

Board members emphasized their strong support for CTE programs while expressing concern that the proposed special bond allocation would disproportionately benefit central campus students, who represent a small fraction of total enrollment, relative to satellite students. They highlighted the significant disparity in per-student funding stated in the letter, with central campus students receiving substantially more than satellite students. The board noted that the vast majority of CFSD students participate in satellite programs, which are integrated into the school day and support extracurricular activities. Concerns were also raised regarding the lack of detailed planning, program information, or community input from JTED, as well as the potential tax impact on the community. While reaffirming support for JTED and its programs, board members concluded that approving the letter to express opposition was necessary to communicate their concerns and protect the interests of CFSD students and taxpayers, while leaving open the possibility for future discussion should a revised proposal be presented or additional information become available.

Upon a motion by Gina Mehmert and a second by Jacquelyn Davoli, the governing board approved signing a letter on behalf of the Governing Board to the Board and Administration of Pima County Joint Technical Education District (Pima JTED) expressing formal opposition to the current draft of a potential special bond election under consideration for November 2026, as presented.

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

7. **DISCUSSION / REPORTS**

7.1. Fiscal Year 2027 Draft Budget Process

Superintendent Bartlett reviewed the proposed schedule for fiscal year 2027 (2026-2027) budget planning with the governing board. The comprehensive process, which culminates in the governing board's adoption of a 2027 budget by July 15, 2026, has already begun.

A board member asked why the proposed timeline for finalizing the budget and offering staff contracts was earlier than in past years. District administration explained that the timeline was accelerated to streamline the hiring process, allow for earlier course selections by students to anticipate staffing needs sooner, and take advantage of job fairs to find qualified candidates, while remaining dependent on factors such as insurance rates and the state budget.

7.2. Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity

There was no discussion.

8. **AGENDA PLANNING**

There were no requests for future agenda considerations.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION (CONTINUED)**

9.1. Executive Session, personnel, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1) - Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body – Mid-Year Performance Review of Superintendent.

Note: The board will move out of executive session and adjourn the meeting. There will be no other action taken at this meeting.

The governing board did not reconvene into executive session.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Eileen Jackson, and a second by Jacquelyn Davoli, the governing board adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

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

Approved: January 13, 2026

Eileen Jackson, Vice President