

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

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A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, March 10, 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**

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

**Governing Board Members Absent**

Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, President

**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  
Mr. Richard La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support  
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Director of Student Services  
Ms. Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21st Century Education  
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Kopec called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**A. Consideration and Determination of Appeal of Long-term Suspension Hearing Officer's Decision Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-843(A), Regarding Student #30048725**

*Ms. Day moved that the Board go into an Executive Session to address the matters identified in Item 2 of the Board's agenda and pursuant to the legal authorities listed on the agenda under Item 2. Dr. Gemma seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor- 4. Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed-0.*

*Vice President Kopec proclaimed that they were in Executive Session at 5:30pm.*

**3. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING**

The meeting reconvened at 6:07pm.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. JJ Letts, Principal of Coronado K-8 to come forward and introduce her students. Ms. Letts shared that two student groups were present this evening; the Vex Robotics Club and members of the National Junior Honor Society. She explained the Vex Robotics Club is a competitive team that designs, builds, and programs a robot to compete against other teams across Arizona. The students led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Gemma presented the students with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Letts, and the Coronado students to mark the occasion.

**5. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART**

Ms. Letts introduced Coronado's two art teachers, Ms. Jennifer Pike who teaches middle school art and Ms. Stacey Sherman who teaches elementary school art. Ms. Pike spoke about guiding students to use vision to

create their pieces with meaning and composition. She explained that the theme for the year across classes is “Together as One” and how the art pieces displayed capture that theme.

Dr. Gemma presented Ms. Pike and Ms. Sherman with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Letts, Ms. Pike and Ms. Sherman.

## **6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT SPECIAL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

Vice President Kopec announced that the next Special Governing Board meeting will take place Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 5:30p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ 85705 in the Leadership & Professional Development Center.

## **7. RECOGNITIONS**

### **A. Recognition of the Canyon del Oro High School Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council**

*For the Canyon del Oro High School Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council PowerPoint see Exhibit 1.*

Superintendent Jaeger explained that he has an advisory group at each of the high schools comprised of students across the grade levels who provide input and advice about things happening at their schools and in the wider community. He asked Ms. Tara Bulleigh, Principal of Canyon del Oro to come forward to introduce the students who were able to attend the meeting. Superintendent Jaeger noted many of the students are involved in extracurricular activities and might not have been available to appear this evening.

Ms. Bulleigh introduced Anthony, Lucio, Kennedy, Campbell, Kaylee, and Lainey. She spoke about each students’ extracurricular activities, favorite classes at CDO, and plans after graduation.

Ms. Zibrat expressed her gratitude to the students for attending this meeting despite how busy they are. She presented them with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Bulleigh, and the students to mark the occasion.

### **B. Recognition of the Ironwood Ridge High School Boys Soccer 4A State Runner-up**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. Armando Soto, Director of Interscholastic, to introduce the coach and team. Mr. Soto gave a brief recap of the season victories and introduced Head Coach Eric Walker. Coach Walker spoke about the team’s remarkable season and how well the team represented the District throughout. He introduced the team members, congratulated the team on their efforts and noted that the returning team members are already eager for next year’s season.

Vice President Kopec congratulated the team members and presented them with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Coach Walker, and the soccer team members.

### **C. Recognition of Arizona Educational Foundation A+ Schools of Excellence**

*For the Arizona Educational Foundation A+ Schools of Excellence PowerPoint see Exhibit 2.*

Superintendent Jaeger shared that the District now has six A+ Schools of Excellence which is one of the highest recognitions a school can receive. He asked the principals of Harelson, Copper Creek, and Keeling Elementaries, Ms. Stephanie Hayes, Ms. Stephanie Hillig, and Ms. Annette Orelup to come forward and speak about the application process.

Ms. Hayes outlined the application process and requirements. She noted it was a collaborative effort among each of the school communities that helped craft an application that showcased not only academic achievements, but also highlighted the programs, initiatives, and culture that make each school exceptional. Ms. Hayes explained the applications are reviewed by a panel and if selected, the next stage is a site visit.

Ms. Orelup explained that a team of evaluators spend about a day and half on each campus which is designed to validate what is documented in the written application by visiting classrooms, viewing data, and conducting interviews.

Ms. Hillig stated once the schools have been determined worthy of the A+ distinction, a celebration is scheduled where schools are awarded a banner by members of the Educational Foundation and judges and is a time the entire school and community can celebrate their efforts in contributing to the school’s success.

Superintendent Jaeger emphasized that this application process is arduous and a true testament of the education each of the schools provides. He noted that the six schools are an inspiration to the other schools in the District and they will be a source of support for future schools who pursue this distinction.

A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Hayes, Ms. Hillig, and Ms. Orelup.

#### **D. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards**

Superintendent Jaeger explained that each month a classified and certificated staff member is recognized with a Distinguished Service Award. He asked Ms. Stephanie Hillig, Principal of Copper Creek Elementary, to come forward to introduce the classified recipient.

Ms. Hillig introduced Ms. Mary Quijada, Special Education Teaching Assistant, as the heart of the school. She explained that Ms. Quijada is the first staff member everyone is greeted by each morning and she has built trusting relationships with children and parents. Ms. Hillig described her as incredibly artistic and her history as a physical education teacher shines through each day. She went on to describe Ms. Quijada as dependable and always willing to go above and beyond for the school community.

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

Ms. Quijada expressed her gratitude to her team at school and thanked her family for their support.

Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Quijada 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. Hillig and Mr. Rob Wolf, Assistant Director of Student Services to introduce the certificated recipient.

Mr. Wolf introduced Ms. Melani Byrnes, Physical Therapist at Rillito Center and Copper Creek Elementary. He noted Ms. Byrnes is also the department head and she thrives on collaboration and building strong relationships to better serve the students of Amphitheater. Mr. Wolf shared that she embeds herself into each of her school communities and is innovative in her methods. He praised her leadership, collaboration, and ability to cheer others on.

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

Ms. Byrnes thanked everyone at the sites she works at and was appreciative of this honor.

Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Byrnes 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 with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Hillig, Ms. Quijada, Mr. Wolf, and Ms. Byrnes to mark the occasion.

#### **E. Recognition of National Board-Certified Teacher Renewals**

Superintendent Jaeger stated that the district is fortunate to have teachers who excel at their roles and one of the ways some do this is by seeking National Board Certification. That includes those maintaining and renewing their certification as well. He asked Matt Munger, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education, to introduce the teachers renewing this cycle.

Mr. Munger spoke about the prestige and the challenge of obtaining the accreditation. He introduced Ms. Jill Menaugh from Ironwood Ridge with Principal Dr. Orante Jenkins, and Mr. Shawn Smith from Amphitheater High School.

Vice President Kopec thanked the teachers and congratulated them for their work. Ms. Menaugh shared she was fortunate to have this profession for the last 28 years and thanked her family for their support. Mr. Smith thanked the District and his colleagues. Vice President Kopec presented the teachers with certificates of recognition.

A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Munger, Dr. Jenkins, Ms. Menaugh, and Mr. Smith.

#### **F. Recognition of School Social Worker Association of Arizona Social Worker of the Year**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Kristin McGraw, Executive Director of Student Services to introduce this

recognition. Ms. McGraw introduced Ms. Yemen Bernal, Social Worker from Prince Elementary. She spoke about the work and mission of the School Social Work Association of Arizona. Ms. McGraw explained that Ms. Bernal received this award for her outstanding contributions in supporting students, staff, families, communities, and the profession of school social work. She praised Ms. Bernal's passion, dedication, and expertise and expressed her gratitude for the work she does each day in the District.

Ms. Bernal thanked the Board for recognizing her and praised her team at Prince Elementary. Dr. Gemma noted that this is an extremely important position to the District. He presented Ms. Bernal with a certificate of recognition.

A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. McGraw, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Tapling, and Ms. Bernal.

### **G. Recognition of United Way Literacy Champion Award Winner**

Superintendent Jaeger noted that Amphitheater has had several teachers over the past years who have received this award, and he is proud of this year's winner. He asked Ms. Samantha Doyle, Principal of Prince Elementary School to introduce Ms. Lindsey Gilchrist. Ms. Doyle described Ms. Gilchrist as an extraordinary educator whose dedication to literacy instruction impacts her students and entire school community. She noted that Ms. Gilchrist is a life-long learner who is always seeking ways to improve her methods and knowledge base while also collaborating with her colleagues. Ms. Doyle went on to speak about Ms. Gilchrist's leadership that has elevated the teaching of those around her and works to make reading fun and engaging for her students. She concluded with noting Ms. Gilchrist's tireless efforts to assist students who may be struggling and help families reinforce positive reading habits at home.

Vice President Kopec noted he was fortunate to be able to attend the United Way event where Ms. Gilchrist was honored. Ms. Gilchrist thanked her Prince family and the Amphitheater District. She also thanked her colleagues who nominated her for this award. Vice President Kopec presented Ms. Gilchrist with a certificate of recognition.

A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Tapling, and Ms. Gilchrist to mark the occasion.

*Vice President Kopec called for a seven-minute break. The meeting resumed at 7:30pm.*

## **8. INFORMATION**

### **A. Superintendent's Report**

*For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint see Exhibit 3.*

Superintendent Jaeger shared highlights of recent events in the District:

- Students across the District participated in the Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament at Canyon del Oro High School
- More than 900 students across the District submitted projects to the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) as individuals or as part of team. More than 100 received recognitions at the awards ceremony
- The Diamonds in the Desert Car Show hosted by the Canyon del Oro Automotive program was a huge success displaying more than 150 cars, trucks, and motorcycles at Oro Valley Marketplace
- The District's Elementary Track Meet took place at Canyon del Oro High School and had elementary students from District Elementary schools participating in various track and field events
- Consolidation Welcome events are happening across the District to welcome new students who will be joining new school communities next year. Events have occurred at Mesa Verde, Rio Vista, and Harelson, Walker, and Keeling Elementaries
- The Annual Amphi Art Show will take place from April 8-22 at the Tucson Mall

He offered to answer any questions. There were none. Vice President Kopec thanked Superintendent Jaeger for his report.

## **B. Status of Construction Projects**

*For the Status of Construction Projects PowerPoint see Exhibit 4.*

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. La Nasa to deliver his monthly report detailing construction projects in the District. Mr. La Nasa shared details about the following projects:

- Amphitheater High School Small Gym HVAC Conversion using Building Renewal Grant funds. He noted this has been a long project with application for funds beginning over a year ago. The project is ongoing as the team is working with Amphitheater High School Administration to complete the work while school is in session.
- Canyon del Oro High School Auto Shop Classroom HVAC Conversion using Bond Funds

Mr. La Nasa shared that the grant funding for February 2026 totaled \$11,075 and total funding so far for the 2025-2026 school year is \$7,385,141. He offered to answer any questions. There were none.

## **C. Auditor General's School District Spending Analysis-Fiscal Year 2025**

*For the Auditor General's District Spending Analysis see Exhibit 5 and for the Spending Analysis PowerPoint see Exhibit 6.*

Superintendent Jaeger explained that each year the Auditor General generates a report on school district spending across the state in various categories. He asked Mr. Scott Little to present the report this evening.

Mr. Little explained the purpose of the report and indicated where the full report can be found on the Auditor General's website. He noted that when the state increases funding, the report can make it look like the state has increased per pupil spending in the classroom when, in actuality, inflation increases barely keep pace with inflation. Mr. Little noted that vendors are demanding 5-6% increases in their prices while the state only gives a 2% increase each year. He stated that student support services and operational costs are prohibiting the District from allocating more money into instruction. Mr. Little shared that the report states instructional spending is 49.9%, but this excludes instructional support and student support that directly impact students in the classroom. Thus, the figures are misleading.

Mr. Little explained the various spending categories which include Instruction, Administration, Plant, Food Services, Transportation, Student Support, and Instruction Support. He shared a comparison of data from districts in Pima County and the difficulty in comparing the districts as their demographics greatly vary. He shared Teacher Data which looks at average salaries, years of teaching experience, and average number of students per teacher. He noted most of Pima County teacher salaries are below those in Maricopa County, but Maricopa class sizes tend to be larger and they are able to operate larger, more efficient school buildings.

Mr. Little then showed what each of the Southern Arizona districts is spending per pupil in the various spending categories. He noted our above average spending per pupil in Student and Instructional Support compared to other districts. Mr. Little explained that the Plant Operations is so high due to the high square footage of the District, which is one of the driving factors behind consolidating schools. He also noted some of the numbers from other districts still reflected the spending of ESSER funds, but that should be eliminated in future reporting as those funds are no longer available. Mr. Little went on to share that the square footage per student in Amphitheater is 242 which is much higher than the peer average of 151. Although the district is consolidating schools next year, declining enrollment and maintaining three of the four closed campuses will not allow this number to decrease much immediately.

Mr. Little shared a slide listing Operational Peer Districts and noted that those with a higher percentage of instructional spending are the districts experiencing growth. He noted that Food Services Operations shows the greatest efficiency with Amphitheater running well below state and peer averages. He offered to answer any questions and encouraged people to explore the full reports online. Vice President Kopec noted that in addition to funding each year the state also gives out band aids that may or may not be funded but still need to be carried out that do not fall under instruction.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lorella Ritzel is a Copper Creek employee and expressed her dissatisfaction with the consolidation process for employees and with the lack of supplies for packing and moving to new sites. She spoke about the disruption of operations due to the location of a dumpster and work from new light installation at Copper Creek. Ms. Ritzel also criticized the way employees were placed and the way seniority has been applied.

Mariana Sherman stated she is requesting clarity and consistency in the facility rental process for the sand volleyball courts at CDO High School. She noted discrepancies with invoices, inconsistencies with the rental fee structures, and policy and charges around custodian requirements for the sand volleyball rentals. Ms. Sherman asked for considerations in order to make rental charges reasonable and noted the variation between a rental at CDO compared to another in the city. She concluded with asking for accurate invoices, a clear process, and clear and transparent policies.

**10. 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](#)

*Vice President Kopec asked if any items needed to be removed for further discussion or comment. There were none.*

*Ms. Zibrat moved for Consent Agenda Items 10. A– N. be approved as presented. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Vote in favor – 4. Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items 10. A.-N. passed.*

**A. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel**

*The Governing Board approved Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel as submitted in Exhibit 7.*

**B. Approval of Personnel Changes**

*The Governing Board approved Personnel Changes as submitted in Exhibit 8.*

**C. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence**

*The Governing Board approved Leave(s) of Absence as submitted in Exhibit 9.*

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

*The Governing Board approved Separation(s) and Termination(s) as submitted in Exhibit 10.*

**E. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers**

*The Governing Board approved Stipend for Coaching Volunteers as submitted in Exhibit 11.*

**F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

*The Governing Board approved minutes from the February 17, 2026 meeting as submitted in Exhibit 12.*

**G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$2,051,235.42**

*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 13.*

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1224	\$36,638.81	1225	\$42,748.88	1226	\$5,698.27
1227	\$139,697.56	1228	\$8,826.42	1229	\$138,170.79
1231	\$80,319.64	1232	\$1,700.95	1233	\$15,711.36
1234	\$42,521.71	1235	\$40,479.32	1236	\$86,976.88
1237	\$216,067.86	1238	\$575,854.58	1240	\$132,250.03
1241	\$268,821.53	1242	\$154,302.31	1243	\$64,448.60

## **H. Acceptance of Gifts**

*The Governing Board approved the Acceptance of Gifts as submitted in Exhibit 14.*

## **I. Receipt of October 2025 Report on Auxiliary and Club Balances**

*The Governing Board approved the October 2025 Report on Auxiliary and Club Balances as submitted in Exhibit 15.*

## **J. Award of Contract for Wide Area Network (WAN) Services Based Upon Responses to RFP 20946795-APSFY29**

*The Governing Board approved Award of Contract for Wide Area Network (WAN) Services Based Upon Responses to RFP 20946795-APSFY29.*

## **K. Award of Contract for the Recycling/Disposal of Surplus Electronic Equipment-Based Upon Responses to Request for Quote (RFQ) 2506001**

*The Governing Board approved Contract for the Recycling/Disposal of Surplus Electronic Equipment-Based Upon Responses to Request for Quote (RFQ) 2506001.*

## **L. Approval to Provide Post-Retirement Employment Opportunities during the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year**

*The Governing Board approved the Approval to Provide Post-Retirement Employment Opportunities during the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year.*

## **M. Approval of Regional Cooperative Agreement with the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind**

*The Governing Board approved the Regional Cooperative Agreement with the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind as submitted in Exhibit 16.*

## **N. Approval of Out of State Travel**

*The Governing Board approved Out of State Travel as submitted in Exhibit 17.*

## **11. STUDY/ACTION**

### **A. Study of District Facility Rental Programs and Fees**

*For the Study of District Facility Rental Programs and Fees PowerPoint see Exhibit 18.*

Superintendent Jaeger explained that this item was placed on the agenda at board members' request. He asked Mr. Richard La Nasa to present as his department oversees rentals in the District. Superintendent Jaeger noted that the law concerning facility rentals changed several years ago which changed the landscape for everyone and there are nuances to the system that may cause confusion.

Mr. La Nasa offered background on the associated state statutes and governing board policies which guide short term leases and facility usage. He also noted that fees are designed to recover actual district costs associated with facility use; not to generate a profit for the District. Mr. La Nasa shared that each year the Governing Board approves a facility rental fee schedule and a list of organizations eligible for a waiver of fees. This year's approval was June 10, 2025 and a revision was approved in October 2025 to separate building use fee into a "facility fee" and a "utility fee" and also included was an update on waivers. Mr. La Nasa stated that rental fees were increased two years ago due to inflationary pressures and prior to that they hadn't been changed since 2016.

Mr. La Nasa explained that fees are necessary due to a lack of funding from the state for use of facilities after hours. He noted that according to District procedures, a district employee must be on site when a building is in use which is typically a custodian because facilities also need to be cleaned after use. Mr. La Nasa shared when events require a Facility Rental Agreement:

- Events when schools are closed (weekends/holidays)
- Fundraisers with paid admission/tickets
- During summer break (ie: camps and tournaments)

Mr. La Nasa also shared the importance of collecting fees which include:

- Increases in municipal water rates

- Tucson Electric Power has proposed a significant rate increase
- State inflationary funding increases do not keep pace with actual utility inflation
- Collecting utility and staffing fees helps prevent general operating funds to subsidize non-school hour activities

Mr. Munger shared examples of different group types and instances when facility rental agreements and fees apply and when they do not (see Exhibit 18). He noted that school-day events that extend into the evening while custodial staff are already present are typically not charged provided there is no fee to attend the event. Mr. Munger also spoke about student run organizations which have accounts that are overseen by the District whereas PTO's and Booster Clubs deposit money in other accounts not overseen by the District and therefore they are not subject to the purchasing and procurement regulations that student accounts are.

Mr. Munger shared a comparison of Amphitheater's current fee schedule with other districts' in Pima County. He noted that several districts do not have published fee schedules, however, they are subject to the same statute that governs a reasonable collection of fees to cover the cost the district incurs for events. He offered to answer any questions from the Board.

Dr. Gemma asked what programs have received waivers. Mr. Munger explained that a group like Model UN would be subject to a facility fee waiver to use a facility on the weekend for example, however the utility fee would still be applicable. Another example given by Mr. Munger was when an athletic event has to be rescheduled to the weekend due to inclement weather or the lack of availability of referees during the week.

Superintendent Jaeger offered a few examples of organizations who make direct contributions to the District who would be subject to fee waivers such as the Amphi Foundation and Project Grad. He stated the District also sponsors certain activities like Odyssey of the Mind and explained there is a comprehensive list of organizations who are approved for fee waivers. Mr. La Nasa stated that the list Superintendent Jaeger is referencing was posted on the October 14, 2025 meeting agenda and includes public and charitable organizations.

Dr. Gemma asked if gate receipts from athletic events cover all of the costs mentioned. Mr. Munger stated the ticket sales do not cover all of the fees or requirements that the District is required to provide to maintain safety such as off-duty law enforcement.

Vice President Kopec stated it was now time to hear Public Comment regarding this agenda item.

Damon Knepper is the Director of Bands for Ironwood Ridge High School. He spoke about the importance of rehearsals outside of the school day and on weekends. He noted that other districts do not charge their bands for facility usage on the weekends. Mr. Knepper shared that the nature of fine arts programs necessitates operating outside of the regular school day for competitions, etc. He stated that next year his program was looking at being charged \$18,000 just in utility fees and encouraged the continued study of this item.

Gretchen Engel is the parent of an Ironwood Ridge student and band member. She shared the burden of the cost of utility fees in addition to having to pay for transportation to events which she feels will make band cost prohibitive for students. Ms. Engel hoped that tax payer funds would be properly used and prioritized to fund extracurricular activities that enrich the community.

Jameson stated he is a senior at Canyon del Oro High School. He shared his dissatisfaction with the exorbitant utility fees being charged to use their own facilities and the fear that it will negatively affect the health of programs in the future. He thanked the Board for their attention to this matter.

Kim Evans is a parent and member of the CDO Theater Booster. She asked that the Board reconsider their approval of the proposed fee schedule for clubs from October. Ms. Evans noted the enrichment the fine arts have on the community at large and how the students involved positively represent the Amphitheater District. She stated that the fees being charged for rentals and utilities are taking away from the organizations' ability to grow and enrich their programs. Ms. Evans asked that the Board drop these fees for Amphitheater clubs and classes.

Kennedy George is a theater student at Canyon del Oro High School. She spoke about the enriching experiences she's had being a part of the theater program, but noted that the fees charged make it difficult to

have any funds leftover to grow their program. Ms. George asked the Board to consider waiving these fees for Amphi programs.

Chris Yetman is a teacher and Academic Decathlon Coach at Canyon del Oro High School and praised the District's strong programs. He spoke about the importance of hosting practices and competitions to strengthen their program, but the fees associated with facility usage are cost prohibitive. Mr. Yetman shared information about three invoices and the discrepancies within them.

Nicolas Holt is the Theater teacher at Canyon del Oro High School. He wished to highlight the fact that his program does not make a profit off of their shows and money from ticket sales goes directly into their production budget. Mr. Holt stated his desire to give students as many opportunities to perform as possible and under the current fee schedule, Saturday matinee performances would not be possible. He asked for clarification as to whether the staff person on campus during off hour events has to be a custodian or if it can be a teacher. Mr. Holt thanked the Governing Board for exploring this issue.

Karen Heffren has two students at Canyon del Oro High School and praised the experiences her children have had in the District, but expressed her fear the fees will have on the band program at CDO. She spoke about the already burdensome transportation costs and efforts to mitigate those by traveling less. Ms. Heffren stated that although facility fees are waived, utility and custodial fees will make it impossible to host band camp for students in the summer, which is strictly rehearsal for the upcoming year and noted that Band is an academic class. She asked for further study on what other districts charge their bands as she didn't feel it was inclusive of the comparison chart shown.

Fred Petersen is a parent of two students at Canyon del Oro High School and expressed dissatisfaction with the charging of these fees to offset budgetary shortfalls. He praised the Fine Arts programs in the District and spoke of the fees associated with Band in particular and the struggles to sustain the program financially. Mr. Petersen spoke about the \$10,000 a year the band already has to raise for transportation and now costs thousands more to cover the utility and custodian fees. He encouraged a study of the state statute mentioned in the presentation particularly subsection B which allows a waiver of all fees by the District if the activity supports the educational function of the District.

Cynthia Jimenez is a mother of three students in the District and serves as the CDO Band Booster President. She shared that her students are open enrolled at CDO in part because of the strong band program and that the students and parents work very hard for competitions and fees. Ms. Jimenez stated that the introduction of utility and custodial fees will add another \$10,000 to be raised. She stated the outcome will shrink fine arts programs around the District and asked that this issue continue to be studied along with transportation for students in these fine arts programs.

Vice President Kopec declared the conclusion of Public Comment and opened the floor to his colleagues for questions or discussion.

Dr. Gemma thanked those who stayed to express their concerns and noted that it was his understanding that the fees for this year's Academic Decathlon event were \$1400. He noted that in the fee schedule there are rates for commercial use and non-profit group use, but there is not a rate for school programs particularly academic programs that go beyond the regular school day and have competitions. Dr. Gemma asked if athletic teams have to pay for transportation.

Mr. Munger stated that there is a \$100 Athletic fee and \$70 of that goes to the District to cover transportation and other associated costs and the school retains the rest to support the program. He noted that the fees do not cover the entire cost of transportation.

Ms. Day asked if cheerleaders travel to away games. Mr. Munger stated that since the away games are not required by AIA for the cheerleaders, the school program would have to incur the cost of transporting the cheerleaders if they wanted them at an away game.

Dr. Gemma moved that the District amend the current rental fee schedule to include a third category entitled "School Based Student and Parent Organizations" which would be separate from non-profits in the community where rental and utility charges will not be assessed but any overtime custodial fees and charges for equipment would be allowed. Ms. Day seconded the motion.

Superintendent Jaeger asked that the Board give some direction to prepare some analysis of this. He noted he didn't disagree with the underlying intention of the motion, but wants to be careful that we reconcile current realities with what is being asked and ensure that outcomes are equitable among the schools. Superintendent Jaeger suggested that upon the Board's direction, administration would provide an analysis and recommendation. He would support a motion directing a plan be developed with a cost analysis.

Ms. Day expressed a sense of urgency for this to be completed.

Dr. Gemma reiterated a emphasis on student-centered programs. He noted that the comments heard tonight were from parents who take great ownership in the District. He amended his motion that the Board would like to look at this analysis in a timely manner to address the inconsistencies.

Ms. Day also commented that the inconsistencies need to be cleaned up and made clear. She seconded Dr. Gemma's amended motion.

Vice President Kopec added his thanks to Dr. Gemma for his motion and noted that the current situation doesn't sit well with him and that one of the strengths of K-12 public school is the opportunity for students to explore their interests and passions. He asked for a roll call vote.

*Vice President Kopec-yes, Ms. Day-yes, Dr. Gemma-yes, and Ms. Zibrat-yes. Opposed-0. Motion passed 4-0.*

## **12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

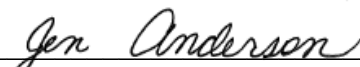
There was no further public comment.

## **13. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Dr. Gemma requested an item that looks at class fees.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

*Ms. Day moved to adjourn. Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-4. Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.*



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

March 25, 2026

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicki Cox Golder, Governing Board President

April 28, 2026

Date