

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, March 3, 2026 - 6:30 PM, Doors Opened at 6:00 PM

Regular Meeting Minutes

NOTICE OF MEETING

On February 23, 2026, 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).

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present:

Amy Krauss, President
Tom Logue, Vice President
Jacquelyn Davoli, Member
Gina Mehmert, Member

Board Members Absent:

Eileen Jackson, Member

District Administration:

Denise Bartlett, Superintendent
Mindy Westover, Associate Superintendent
Sheryl Castro, Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment
Julie Farbarik, Director of Community Relations
Lynn Pence, Director of Educational Technology
Chris Lambert, Catalina Foothills High School Principal

District Personnel:

Ian Marcusiu, Catalina Foothills High School Instrumental Music Teacher
Amie Sams, Administrative Assistant
Renee Shane-Boyd, Catalina Foothills High School Director of Bands

Visitors Present:

Kristina Bonet, Jessica Brandt, Martin Brandt, Barbie Chang, Andrea Fyock, Asia Haubner, Brayden Hines, Robert Hines, Rebecca Hughes, Becky Johnson, Elaine Knutson, Laura Lewnes, Eva Reyerson, Meredith Savin, Carole Siegler, and Sherlynn Wong

Joining Online:

Approximately 4 visitors attended the 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. **Outstanding Achievements**

Superintendent Denise Bartlett shared the following outstanding achievements of CFSD students and staff:

Five Catalina Foothills High School Seniors Named National Merit® Finalists

Catalina Foothills School District is proud to announce that all five Catalina Foothills High School National Merit® Semifinalists have advanced to Finalists.

The five Finalists are: Ethan Lin, William Luxbaucher, Katherine McNulty, Madeleine Reed, and Rex Shetlar

As Finalists, they are now among more than 15,000 students being considered for approximately 6,930 National Merit® Scholarship awards worth nearly \$26 million, to be announced in March.

Congratulations to the students, and to the families, teachers, and mentors who have supported them along the way.

Five CFHS Guitarists Selected for Arizona All-State Guitar Ensemble

Catalina Foothills High School is proud to celebrate five exceptional musicians selected for the 2026 All-State Guitar Ensemble, which performed at the Arizona Music Educators Conference in Mesa.

Daniel Pew-Kenyon, Jack Deegan, Julia Riddle, Corgan Prisbrey, and Reece Rellora earned their places among the top 40 guitarists in Arizona through competitive statewide auditions.

Over two intensive days, students worked with legendary guitar composer and clinician Rex Willis from State College of Florida, gaining advanced technique, musicianship, and performance experience. Their learning culminated in a performance for music educators and families from across Arizona, a showcase of the highest level of high school guitar artistry in the state.

Selection for All-State ensembles represents the pinnacle of achievement for high school musicians, recognizing exceptional talent, dedication, and musical excellence.

Congratulations to the musicians and to their teacher, Mr. Jeffrey Good, on this outstanding achievement!

CFHS Counselor Chris Hsieh Selected for Inaugural U of A Franke Honors Counselor Advisory Board

We are proud to recognize Chris Hsieh, CFHS College and Career Counselor, who has been selected to serve on the University of Arizona W.A. Franke Honors College Counselor Advisory Board for the 2025-2026 school year. The inaugural advisory board brings together high school counselors from across the country, representing schools in Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Utah, and even Germany, to help shape how the Honors College serves students in the college admissions process.

Throughout the year, Mr. Hsieh has met bi-monthly with the Honors College leadership to explore best practices in college counseling, provide feedback on academic programming, share insights on how honors colleges can better support prospective students, and advise on scholarships, admissions processes, and marketing.

Mr. Hsieh's selection reflects both his expertise in college counseling and CFHS's strong partnership with the University of Arizona. This national-level advisory role extends his impact beyond CFHS, helping ensure that honors college programs across the country are designed with student success in mind.

Congratulations, Mr. Hsieh, on this well-deserved honor!

Girls State and Boys State 2026 Selection

Congratulations to eight outstanding CFHS students who have been selected to represent Catalina Foothills High School at Arizona Girls State and Boys State 2026!

Girls State Delegates: Annelise Kohut and Samantha Gaither; Alternates: Shelby Drake and Sara Emslie

Boys State Delegates: Damon Brown, Carter Lindsay, Ezra Mandel, and Kai Sadalla

Girls State and Boys State are prestigious week-long programs sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary that immerse rising seniors in a hands-on civics and leadership experience. Selected students

spend the week engaging in every level of government — from city to state — learning firsthand how democracy works by living it. These programs are among the most respected leadership experiences in the country for young people.

All eight students were selected for their academic excellence, leadership, extracurricular involvement, commitment to public service, and strong teacher recommendations.

We are so proud of these remarkable young people and can't wait to see all that they accomplish.

CFHS Regional Band and Orchestra

Congratulations to the 87 Catalina Foothills High School musicians selected to the 2026 Southeast Regional Honors Ensembles: 67 to the Regional Band/Orchestra Winds/Percussion and 20 to the Regional Honors Orchestra. Selection is based on audition and represents one of the highest honors a high school musician can earn in Southern Arizona. Having 87 students selected from a single school is an extraordinary reflection of the CFHS music program under band director Renee Shane-Boyd and orchestra director Ryan Watson. Congratulations, Falcons!

Regional Band (67): Aislyn Allison, Mareliss Alvarez, Julia Anderson, Greta Barber, Rylee Begay, Dominic Bell, Luke Bennett, Julia Bonet, Lilly Bowsher, Jacob Braitberg, Orsyola Brown, Bella Campa, Rose Cassell, Yash Chauhan, Jacob Colman, David Dehon, Kaleigh DeLong, Cameron Dickinson, Robert Ferber, Ethan Fraker, Sam Gaither, Benjamin Grander, Aiden Green, Jonah Ground, Matthew Hanson, Mason Hashim, Zach Henson, Brayden Hines, Anna Hisey, Sean Hull, Dillon Johnson, Tally Jones, Mason Kot, Felix Leblanc, Eli Le Peau, Madeleine Lister, William Liu, Tommy Logue, Fritz McGee, Lucy Neptune-Pratt, Justin Newberg, Gavin Pacanowski, Nick Pickard, Felisberto Pondeva, Elizabeth Povsner, Sebastian Quijada, Madeleine Reed, Lucas Rodriguez, Michael Rogers, Bella Samaniego, Keenan Sammani, Valentina Sanchez Barrios, Grace Seo, Zen Shah, Sahil Shah, Derek Shelton, Rex Shetlar, Amy Sternberg, Flynn Terry, Tyler Tom-Lin, Oden Toms, Alejandro Urbina, Ayumi Valencia, Magi Vasileski, Patrick Williams, Calvin Wright, Zechariah Wright

Regional Honors Orchestra (20): Andrea Adler, Alexis Appel, Mackenzie Badie, Sophie Bian, Brayden Carroll, Bianca Cheung, Braeden Gracy, Daniel Kendall, Eva Kolonelos, Elena McKaig, Quin Mekelsen, Sam Nasser, Vivi Nguyen, Milo Peters, Vivienne Shehab, Mason Wadleigh, Joseph Wang, Kaelen Wilt, Cuyler Zeh Plunkett

Pioneer Robotics Earns Top Honors at Copper Tournament and State Championship

Catalina Foothills High School's Pioneer Robotics team delivered an exceptional competitive season, earning prestigious recognition at both the Copper Tournament and the Arizona State Championship.

At the Copper Tournament in Queen Creek on February 7, the team received the Sustain Award, introduced this season as a brand-new category in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC). The Sustain Award celebrates teams that have thoughtfully planned for long-term program success, recognizing efforts in financial sustainability, leadership development, and strategic season planning. For the Pioneers, that sustainability is strengthened in part by community tax credit contributions, helping ensure the program remains strong and accessible year after year.

On the competition field, the Pioneers also excelled. Their robot's performance earned them the role of alliance captains during playoff rounds, where they secured five consecutive victories to advance to the semifinals. Their impressive tournament run concluded in a hard-fought semifinal match decided by a single point.

Building on that momentum, Pioneer Robotics advanced to the Arizona State Championship on February 21, where they earned the Connect Award. This honor recognizes the team that most effectively engages with its local STEM community to learn and adopt new tools through effort and persistence, demonstrating a clear and purposeful plan to achieve its goals.

A standout example of the team's community engagement is *Print Ready!*, a curriculum project developed for CFSD elementary teachers. When one of the district's elementary schools acquired 3D printers without a structured implementation plan, Pioneer team members stepped in to help. They designed a comprehensive

series of lessons covering logistics, key considerations, and CAD skills needed to successfully integrate 3D printing into classrooms. The team created complete instructional materials—including presentation slides, screencasts to guide students through design processes, and efficient project plans enabling each student to design and print two models. Pioneer members also trained the teachers directly, preparing them for classroom implementation this spring.

In addition to the team's recognition, Coach Charlotte Ackerman earned second place statewide for the Compass Award, which honors outstanding coaching. Selected from among 20 nominated coaches across Arizona, this recognition reflects the meaningful impact she has had on her students and the continued strength of the Pioneer Robotics program.

Team Members: Kyle Lo, Quin Mekkelsen, Sarah Orr, Ethan Lin, Aidan Chang, Isaak Martin, Sophia Barrios, Valerie McLamarrah, Ali Lucas, Archer Matika, Nathan Wu, Sunita Adhikari, Milo Peters, Isabella Barajas, Christian Pierson, Owen Cantor-Goldner, and Braeden Gracy.

Congratulations to the entire Pioneer Robotics team and to Coach Ackerman on these well-deserved honors and an outstanding season.

Middle School Students Shine at Southern Arizona Honor Band Festival

On February 14th, band students from Esperero Canyon Middle School and Orange Grove Middle School joined musicians from more than 30 other schools at the Southern Arizona Honor Band Festival. Nominated by their directors and selected by SAHB chairpersons, these talented young musicians earned spots in one of three grade-level honor bands. They received their music in January, prepared individually, then came together at Flowing Wells High School for a day of intensive rehearsals culminating in afternoon concerts.

True to form, CFSD students stood out for both their exceptional musicianship and outstanding behavior. Guest directors made a point of praising our students, and their performances spoke for themselves.

Congratulations to these musicians and their directors, Mr. Cory Walavich (ECMS) and Mr. Daniel Vega (OGMS), for representing Catalina Foothills School District with such excellence!

Esperero Canyon Middle School

6th Grade: Matthew Bennett, Audrey Fraser, Daniel Bounds, and Beckett Brasfield

7th Grade: Charlie Linneman, Adam Zollner, Mia Zwickl, and Abby Henson

8th Grade: Suzanne Doonan, Ben Barlow, and Amelia Barnes

Orange Grove Middle School

6th Grade: Bodie Fitzpatrick, Ollie McGee, Elliot Keur, Sidhaant Chaudhary, and Dylan Toussaint

7th Grade: Adelaide Jensen, Violet LeRoy, and Maeve McGovern

8th Grade: Charlie Grandner, Eleanor Fellrath, and Haylin Rock

CFSD Students Dominate at 2026 Arizona State Chess Championship

CFSD chess players brought home an impressive collection of awards at the 2026 Arizona State Grades Championship on Saturday, February 7, at Madison Meadows Middle School, including a team championship, a 3rd place individual finish, and multiple top 20 placements statewide.

Ventana Vista Elementary's 2nd Grade Chess Team captured first place, competing against schools across Arizona, including Knox Gifted Academy and multiple BASIS schools, and Aiden Liu from Sunrise Drive captured 3rd place in his grade.

Ventana Vista Championship Team:

Nik Jain (4 points) – placed 7th overall individually statewide

Angelos Kyriacou (3 points) – placed 17th individually

Ian Moore (1.5 points) – placed 34th individually

Sunrise Drive Elementary:

Aiden Liu (3rd grade) – 3rd place individually statewide
Bryce Kuhlman (3rd grade) – 26th place
Samuel Liu Polito (3rd grade) – 27th place

Manzanita Elementary:

Benjamin Elitzer (1st grade) – 13th place
Adams Elitzer (4th grade) – 15th place

All of these students were coached by Ken Larsen through our Community Schools program. Mr. Larsen's impact on CFSD chess spans more than four decades.

Congratulations to Mr. Larsen and all our CFSD chess players! Your strategic thinking, dedication, and competitive spirit make us proud.

25 Students Advance to Chinese Speech Contest Finals at ASU

Congratulations to the 25 Catalina Foothills students who have been selected as finalists in the 4th Annual CLTA-Arizona Chinese Speech Contest. The statewide competition drew over 240 video submissions from 37 schools across Arizona, and CFSD is well represented in the finals at Arizona State University on Saturday, February 28.

Nine Orange Grove Middle School students earned finalist spots in the middle school divisions, claiming nearly half of the 20 available positions statewide. KK Wang also qualified in the heritage division, competing against students who speak Chinese at home. At Sunrise Drive Elementary, 16 of the 38 students who entered have advanced to the final round across multiple grade-level and heritage categories.

Congratulations to all of our finalists, to teachers Siyi Chen and Ying Wang at Sunrise Drive and Kim Gaskill at Orange Grove, and to the families who supported their students throughout the process.

Orange Grove Finalists: Elsie Bazarnic, James Kerwin, Yahia Alkhayat, Cora Crawford, Emma Auston, Katie Lin, Lily Dickson, Milena Rubin, Xavier Wu | Heritage: KK Wang | Runners-Up: Emery Maland, Penelope Lockwood, Jacqueline Tija

Sunrise Drive Finalists: Kian Asgari, Eva Sofía Blanco Vietor, Ishwari Bandopadhyay, Arthur Lam, Mila Hui, Wayne Lee, Clara Lee, Jackson Benson, James Enzo Fernandez, Kaylee Xu, Margaret Ratta, Ezri Jansen, Kennedy Kay, Paulo Ricardo Araiza-Alonzo, Ace Chou, Lily Auston

CTLA Speech Contest Results

On Saturday, February 28th, Orange Grove Finalists Lily Dickson and Emery Maland both earned 3rd place trophies. Milena Rubin and Emma Auston both received 2nd place trophies for their speeches, Q & A, and picture talks.

Twelve Sunrise Drive students came home with trophies, a remarkable showing that reflects the strength of CFSD's Mandarin Immersion Program.

- **First Place** Wayne Lee (K-1 Heritage), Kennedy Kay (4-6th Heritage)
- **Second Place** Paulo Ricardo Araiza-Alonzo (K-1 Non-Heritage), James Enzo Fernandez (K-1 Non-Heritage), Mila Hui (K-1 Heritage), Kaylee Xu (2-3rd Heritage), Ace Chou (4-6th Heritage), and Ishwari Bandopadhyay (5-6th Non-Heritage)
- **Third Place** Kian Asgari (K-1 Heritage), Margaret Ratta (2-3rd Non-Heritage), Clara Lee (2-3rd Heritage), Ezri Jansen (2-3rd Heritage), Lilly Auston (4th Non-Heritage), and Eva Sofía Blanco Vietor (4th Non-Heritage)

Sunrise Drive Elementary School 5th Graders Publish Original Book

Congratulations to fifth graders Ishwari Bandopadhyay, Amelia Puell, and Maarya Alfakhouri, who have published an original book titled *Stand Up, Speak Out!* The book was created as part of their Junior Girl Scout Bronze Award Project, the highest honor a Junior Girl Scout can earn.

The Bronze Award challenges young scouts to identify an issue they care about, develop a plan, and carry out a project that makes a lasting impact. For Ishwari, Amelia, and Maarya, that meant writing and publishing their own book.

This spring, the three student authors will be featured as part of Sunrise Drive's Love of Reading celebration, which highlights multiple authors throughout the season. In May, they will read *Stand Up, Speak Out!* to third graders at Sunrise Drive, bringing their work full circle within the school community.

We are proud to see our students using their voices, both on the page and in person, to inspire younger readers.

Congratulations, Ishwari, Amelia, and Maarya!

1.5. Super Volunteer Recognition

The governing board recognized Ms. Becky Johnson of Catalina Foothills High School for her exemplary support of the band program. In her nomination letter, Director of Bands Renee Shane-Boyd described Ms. Johnson's exceptional dedication to the Falcon Band program, noting that strong parent leadership is essential to student success and that Ms. Johnson's steady, long-term commitment has made a meaningful difference for students and families alike.

Over the past five years, Ms. Johnson has been a steadfast and enthusiastic supporter while her two sons have participated as student musicians. Board Member Jacquelyn Davoli, a former band parent, and Vice President Tom Logue, a current band parent shared appreciation for her tireless work, particularly during the post-pandemic restart of marching season, when many students and families were new to the program. From game days and weekend practices to competitions, overnight trips, and band camp, Ms. Johnson has consistently stepped forward to ensure events run smoothly and students feel supported.

Annually, she has led the design and construction of the marching band's props and scenery, an essential element of the visual storytelling that brings performances to life on the field. Her artistic talent, attention to detail, and countless volunteer hours, including the creation of large-scale set pieces such as the band's intricate field show props, have elevated performances and contributed meaningfully to the band's success.

In addition to her behind-the-scenes design work, Ms. Johnson has generously devoted a full week each summer to serve as the primary parent liaison for band camp. In this role, she coordinates complex logistics, organizes and communicates with large groups of volunteers, and ensures students and staff have the support they need during this intensive and important week of preparation. Ms. Shane-Boyd praised her calm demeanor, clear communication, and ability to organize large groups to make band camp both successful and enjoyable for students.

This year, Ms. Johnson further expanded her leadership by stepping into the role of co-Band Booster President. Through consistent communication, thoughtful organization, and a positive, solutions-oriented approach, she has energized and unified families in support of the band program. Board members also expressed gratitude for the many ways she supports students during travel and competitions, noting her reassuring presence, careful attention to student well-being, and thoughtful communication with parents.

Ms. Johnson's leadership embodies the spirit of volunteerism that strengthens our schools. Her positive, student-centered approach and behind-the-scenes dedication have had a lasting impact on the band program and the broader Falcon community. In recognition of her exceptional volunteer service, she was presented with a certificate and a commemorative key chain.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Tom Logue and a second by Gina Mehmert, the governing board approved the following items on the consent agenda: 3.1 the governing board February 21, 2026, special meeting minutes, as presented; 3.2 the governing board February 24, 2026, regular meeting minutes, as presented; 3.3 the expense voucher memorandum, as presented; 3.4 the field trip request memorandum, as presented; 3.5 the fundraising request memorandum, as presented; 3.6 the personnel memorandum, as presented; 3.7 the acceptance, with gratitude, of the gifts and donations memorandum, as presented; and 3.8 the award to Concord General Contracting for the locker room conversion project at Orange Grove Middle School in the amount of \$405,732.00, as presented.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea; Motion carried 4-0.

3.1. **Approval of February 21, 2026, Special Governing Board Meeting Minutes Memorandum**

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the special governing board meeting minutes for February 21, 2026, as presented.

3.2. **Approval of February 24, 2026, Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes Memorandum**

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the regular governing board meeting minutes for February 24, 2026, as presented.

3.3. **Approval of Expense Voucher Memorandum**

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

| Expense Voucher | | Amount |
|------------------------|----|---------------|
| 26114 | \$ | 1,697,392.27 |
| 26118 | | 14,861.08 |
| 26119 | | 327,388.78 |
| 26120 | | 199,869.02 |
| 26121 | | 516,634.67 |

3.4. **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 |
|--|---|--|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| Orange Grove Middle School (OGMS) Grades 7 and 8 Orchestra, Camerata | Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association (ABODA) State Festival | Students will refine performance excellence under pressure and conduct comparative evaluations of peer ensembles to establish high-level artistic benchmarks for future achievement. | Gilbert, AZ | 05/07/2026 | \$0.00 |
| Manzanita Elementary School (MZES) Multiage Grades 1 and 2 | Shamrock Farms Tour | Students will learn how goods and services are produced and consumed locally by observing the journey of dairy products from the farm to local stores. | Stanfield, AZ | 05/04/2026 | \$0.00 |

3.5. **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 |
|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS) | | | | | | |
| CFHS Boys Volleyball Booster Club, Inc. | Fiamme Pizza dine out night | To raise funds for away game food and snacks, senior night and end-of-the-season celebrations, and tournament expenses. | Off campus | 03/18/2026 | \$2,000.00 | \$300.00 |

3.6. Approval of the Personnel Memorandum

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

| ADMINISTRATIVE | CERTIFIED STAFF | CLASSIFIED STAFF | COMMUNITY SCHOOLS | COACH |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| • Resignation | • Resignations | • New Hire • Status Changes | • New Hire • Resignation | • Rehire |

3.7. 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 |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 2/10/2026 | Anita Strickler | Manzanita Elementary School | Library Books | \$0.00 |
| 2/10/2026 | Julia Elitzer | Manzanita Elementary School | Library Books | \$0.00 |
| 2/10/2026 | Matt Bingham | Manzanita Elementary School | Library Books | \$0.00 |
| 2/11/2026 | Emi Masuda | Manzanita Elementary School | Library Books | \$0.00 |
| 2/12/2026 | Jessica Petrillo | Manzanita Elementary School | Library Books | \$0.00 |
| 2/12/2026 | Myriam Oviedo | Manzanita Elementary School | Library Books | \$0.00 |
| 2/17/2026 | Jerrick Trox | Catalina Foothills High School | 3D Printer | \$0.00 |
| 2/17/2026 | Ventana Vista FFO | Ventana Vista Elementary School | Field Trips | \$440.00 |
| 2/18/2026 | Bart Pemberton | Catalina Foothills High School | Library Book | \$0.00 |
| 2/20/2026 | Foothills Baseball Dugout Club | Catalina Foothills High School | Coach Stipend | \$3,025.12 |
| 2/20/2026 | Manzanita FFO | Manzanita Elementary School | Transportation | \$149.50 |
| | | | TOTAL | \$3,614.62 |

3.8. Approval of Award to Concord General Contracting for the Locker Room Conversion Project at Orange Grove Middle School in the Amount of \$405,732.00

On the consent agenda, the governing board approved the award to Concord General Contracting for the locker room conversion project at Orange Grove Middle School in the amount of \$405,732.00, as presented.

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

4.1. Approval of Revisions to Policy and Regulation, DIE, DIE-R, Audits / Financial Monitoring (second reading)

The governing board considered proposed revisions to the policy and regulation to enhance clarity, readability, and alignment with current federal audit requirements.

No additional changes were recommended to Policy DIE following the first reading on February 24. Previously presented revisions included removing the outdated June 2016 reference to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement to ensure reference to the most current guidance, adding headings for improved organization, and inserting “*Governing*” before “*Board*” in two places.

Board members had no additional questions related to the policy.

The most significant revision to Regulation DIE-R reflects the OMB’s update to increase the Single Audit threshold from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 in cumulative federal grant expenditures during a fiscal year, effective

beginning with FY26 audits. While the policy previously referenced a \$500,000 threshold, the District has operated under the \$750,000 threshold since 2014.

Following board discussion at the first reading, two paragraphs within the “*Requirements for Proper Management*” section were rewritten for clarity, with timebound language removed and cumulative expenditure language emphasized. The revised regulation clearly distinguishes between circumstances in which the District expends less than \$1,000,000 in cumulative federal financial assistance during a fiscal year, which would require a procedural review by the Office of the Auditor General, and expenditures of \$1,000,000 or more in combined federal financial assistance, which require an annual financial audit and compliance (Single) audit conducted in accordance with federal auditing standards. Additional edits clarify references to United States Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, Government Auditing Standards issued by the U.S. Comptroller General, Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F), the Single Audit Act Amendments of 2003, and related regulations issued by the OMB.

Additional edits included inserting “*United States*” before “*Generally Accepted Auditing Standards*” and adding references to Government Auditing Standards and Uniform Guidance where applicable to ensure consistency with current federal and state requirements.

A board member asked for clarification regarding the intentional difference in wording between “federal grants” and “all sources of federal financial assistance” in the revised regulation, and Superintendent Bartlett confirmed that the distinction is intentional, explaining that expenditures under \$1,000,000 apply to federal grants subject to procedural review, while \$1,000,000 or more in combined federal financial assistance triggers a Single Audit requirement.

Board members expressed appreciation for the revisions made following the first reading, noting that the rewritten paragraphs in Regulation DIE-R were significantly clearer. They thanked Superintendent Bartlett for incorporating the requested changes and improving the overall clarity and readability of the policy and regulation.

Upon a motion by Jacquelyn Davoli, and a second by Tom Logue, the governing board approved the revisions to Policy and Regulation, DIE, DIE-R, *Audits / Financial Monitoring*, as presented.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea; Motion carried 4-0.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1. Approval of Non-Renewable Teacher Contracts

Associate Superintendent Mindy Westover presented for the board’s approval a list of teachers to receive a hand-delivered written notice of the governing board’s action not to renew their employment contract for the 2026-2027 school year on March 4. Non-renewable contracts include teachers who were hired after September 1, grant-funded positions, temporary assignment hires, part-time staff, first-year teachers, teachers who failed to maintain Arizona teacher certification as required by contract, and retirees. While these contracts are officially not renewed, most affected employees are expected to be rehired once student enrollment counts for the 2026-2027 school year are confirmed.

A board member sought clarification regarding whether teachers listed were aware of the anticipated non-renewal. Ms. Westover stated that employees were informed at the time of hire that they were receiving non-renewable contracts. Superintendent Bartlett clarified that while employees understand they are employed under non-renewable contracts, they may not be specifically aware that board action is pending unless they have reviewed the board packet. She noted that the timing can still be unexpected.

A board member requested additional information regarding the reasons for non-renewable contracts. Ms. Westover explained that all first-year teachers are issued non-renewable contracts to allow flexibility in staffing and to avoid potential reduction-in-force situations. She added that part-time positions are designated as non-renewable to allow the district the opportunity to create full-time positions where possible. Employees returning to the district following retirement are also issued non-renewable contracts and are reviewed annually based on staffing needs. Additional reasons include certification-related matters. Superintendent Bartlett further explained that teachers hired after September 1 are considered late hires and are subject to non-renewal. She also noted

that positions funded through grants or other ancillary funding sources are designated as non-renewable due to their dependence on non-maintenance and operation (M&O) funding.

In response to a board member's request for an example of a grant-funded position, Superintendent Bartlett described positions funded through Results Based Funding at the request of site principals. She explained that because such funding is not guaranteed to continue, those positions are issued non-renewable contracts and are reauthorized only if funding remains available.

A board member requested clarification regarding certification-related non-renewals. Ms. Westover explained that teachers working under alternative or intern certification, including those enrolled in certification programs, are issued non-renewable contracts while completing certification requirements. She noted that these certificates are typically valid for two years and that non-renewable status allows the district to respond if certification requirements are not fulfilled.

Board Member Gina Mehmert acknowledged that consideration of non-renewable contracts is always a difficult and emotional process. She emphasized the importance of continued student enrollment to support staffing levels and expressed hope that strong enrollment would allow the district to reissue contracts in a timely manner. She reiterated that teacher retention remains a high priority within the district's strategic plan and is critical to student success.

Ms. Mehmert also expressed appreciation for the district administration's empathetic and professional approach to the process, noting the effort to prepare personalized letters and hand-deliver them to affected employees while recognizing the emotional sensitivity and logistical effort involved.

Upon a motion by Gina Mehmert, and a second by Tom Logue, the governing board approved to not renew the teaching contracts of the employees listed in the attachment for the 2026-27 school year, for the reasons referenced in their individual "Notice of Governing Board Action" memos. These notices are incorporated into the motion and shall be made a part of the minutes of this meeting. The governing board also authorized the Superintendent or her designee to deliver to the employees named in the attached list, in a prompt fashion and in a manner permitted by law, written notice of the board's intent not to renew their contracts.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea; Motion carried 4-0.

6. **DISCUSSION / REPORTS**

6.1. Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity

Board members did not discuss specific legislation, proposals, budget developments, or governmental actions, citing the early stages of the legislative session.

7. **AGENDA PLANNING**

There were no requests for future agenda considerations.

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

8.1. 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 – Discussion of Employee Salary/Wage and Benefit Proposals for 2026-2027.

Upon a motion by Gina Mehmert, and a second by Jacquelyn Davoli, the governing board moved into executive session for discussion of personnel, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1) at 7:17 p.m.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea; Motion carried 4-0.

Note: The board moved out of the executive session at 9:06 p.m. and adjourned the meeting. No other action was taken at that time.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Gina Mehmert, and a second by Tom Logue, the governing board adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Jacquelyn Davoli – Yea; Amy Krauss – Yea; Tom Logue – Yea; Gina Mehmert – Yea; Motion carried 4-0.

Approved: March 17, 2026

Tom Logue, Vice President