

**Minutes of the Special Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, October 28, 2025**

A Special public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

Governing Board Members Present

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

Governing Board Members Absent

Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member

Superintendent's Cabinet Members

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent
Ms. Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education
Mr. Matthew Munger, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education
Mr. Richard La Nasa, Executive Director of Operational Support
Mr. John Hastings, Director of Human Resources
Ms. Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum & Assessment
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

President Zibrat 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 # 30062448

Vice President 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. Ms. Cox Golder seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor- 4. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Cox Golder, and Dr. Gemma. Opposed-0.

President Zibrat proclaimed that they were in Executive Session at 5:30pm.

3. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

The public meeting reconvened at 5:57pm.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Gemma led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

President Zibrat announced the next Regular Governing Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ 85705 in the Leadership & Professional Development Center.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mario Gastellum is the parent of a homeschooled student who has participated on the Ironwood Ridge wrestling team for years. He states that his child was removed from the program because of the use of an

Empowerment Scholarship. Mr. Gastelum believes that the District should charge a reasonable fee for these students to participate in District athletic programs rather than shutting the door completely. He spoke about Senate Bill 1693 which seeks to guarantee fair access to extracurricular activities for all students. He went on to speak about his child's commitment to the athletic program and the merits of students having access to them. Mr. Gastelum asked the decision be reconsidered based on principles of fairness, consistency, and community well-being.

Daniel Rodriguez is the father of two homeschooled students who have participated on the Ironwood Ridge High School Girls Wrestling team for the last three years. He expressed his concern about the removal of his students from the team and spoke about their family's commitment to the team over the years. Mr. Rodriguez stated that other districts have found ways to work with homeschool and ESA recipients through agreements or additional fees. He asked that the District explore a remedy that maintains fairness, and supports students and the growth of its athletic programs.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

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

Ms. Cox Golder moved for Consent Agenda Items 7. A.– N. be approved as presented. President Zibrat seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Cox Golder, and Dr. Gemma. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items 7. A.–N. passed.

A. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel

The Governing Board approved that Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel as submitted in Exhibit 1.

B. Approval of Personnel Changes

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

C. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence

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

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

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

E. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

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

F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The Governing Board approved minutes from the October 14, 2025 Governing Board meeting as submitted in Exhibit 6.

G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$1,265,045.93

A copy of vouchers for goods and services received by the Amphitheater Public Schools and recommended for payment has been provided to the Governing Board. The following vouchers were approved as presented and payment authorized as submitted in Exhibit 7.

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1098	\$37,062.06	1099	\$31,707.41	1100	\$2,443.60
1101	\$219,900.19	1102	\$256,779.63	1103	\$19,104.10
1105	\$42,408.80	1106	\$242,183.60	1107	\$4,830.94
1108	\$7,129.98	1109	\$12,514.22	1110	\$252,195.34
1111	\$84,072.04	1112	\$52,714.02		

H. Acceptance of Gifts

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

I. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) - 2025-2026

The Governing Board approved CDO Cross Country Booster, CDO Softball Booster, CDO Project Graduation, CDO Auto Boosters, and CDO Boys Basketball Boosters as submitted in Exhibit 9.

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

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

K. Approval of School Facilities Division FY 2025 Preventive Maintenance Program Report

The Governing Board approved School Facilities Division FY 2025 Preventive Maintenance Program Report as submitted in Exhibit 10.

L. Approval of ADE Seal of Biliteracy Testing Fee for American Sign Language

The Governing Board approved ADE Seal of Biliteracy Testing Fee for American Sign Language as submitted in Exhibit 11.

M. Approval of Supplemental Texts and Materials

The Governing Board approved Supplemental Texts and Materials as submitted in Exhibit 12.

N. Approval of Out of State Travel

The Governing Board approved requests for Out of State Travel as submitted in Exhibit 13.

8. STUDY

A. Public Meeting Pursuant to A.R.S. 15-481 (Y) to Provide Update on Programs Financed through the 10% Maintenance and Operations Override and the 3.5% K-3 Special Programs Override

For the Annual Report on District Programs Financed through Budget Overrides PowerPoint see Exhibit 14.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that when a district has a Maintenance and Operations (M & O) override in place, they are required to deliver a yearly report on how those funds were spent in the preceeding year. He expressed his gratitude to the community for supporting the overrides in Amphitheater which were combined in last year's ballot measure to one override. He asked Mr. Munger and Ms. Call to share their report.

Mr. Munger explained that override opportunities permit school districts to seek voter approval for overrides in the state budget formulas that allow additional support for programs that directly benefit students. He noted that the amount of the budget increase is limited to the percentage amount and length of time authorized by the voters. Mr. Munger stated that except for bonds, state formulas generally tie spending to the number of enrolled students and that annual amounts provided by a budget override are a percentage of the Maintenance and Operations budget.

Ms. Call stated that prior to 2025, Amphitheater had two budget overrides in place; a 10% general M & O budget override and a 3.5% K-3 special programs budget override. She said that the first M & O override was approved in 2005 and was approximately \$8.1 million. It fluctuates depending on the amount of funding the state provides each year and on student enrollment. Ms. Call noted that last year the override provided nearly \$9 million in additional funding to Amphitheater.

Mr. Munger shared a graph demonstrating the increase in funds over the last three years which is due to increased enrollment. He went on to say that each of the District's schools receive funding through the 10% M & O override and shared how elementary, middle, and high schools each utilize funds to support their various programs.

Ms. Call explained other important benefits of the overrides including an additional 3.8% on salary bases which allows employee salaries to be competitive and additional money for Technology and Facilities positions. She stated through the 3.5% K-3 Special Programs Override, all day kindergarten is free for all students and the reduction of class sizes through third grade.

Mr. Munger stated that the current overrides were approved in 2019 and remain in place fully for five years with a reduction of funds in years six and seven. He explained knowing that the overrides would soon lapse, the District combined its overrides into one ballot initiative in November of 2024 which was approved by voters. The new initiative will infuse approximately \$11.4 million into Amphitheater's programs ensuring students continue to benefit. Mr. Munger expressed his gratitude to the community leaders who led these initiatives and to the public for approving them. He offered to answer any questions. There were none.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

10. ACTION

A. Resolution Declaring the Third Friday in November as "School District Substitute Employee Day"

For the Resolution Declaring the Third Friday in November as "School District Substitute Employee Day" see Exhibit 15.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that the district sets aside several days each year to recognize certain classifications of employees. The recognition of substitute employees was originally initiated by the National Education Association. He went on to express the District's gratitude for substitute employees who keep things running during absences and what a valuable part they are of the District's culture. He recommended the approval of the proposed resolution.

Ms. Cox Golder moved to approved the Resolution Declaring the Third Friday in November as "School District Substitute Employee Day" Dr. Gemma seconded. Voice vote in favor-4. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Cox Golder, and Dr. Gemma. Opposed-0.

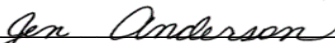
Vice President Day read the Resolution.

11. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Zibrat adjourned the meeting at 6:21pm.



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

November 4, 2025

Date

Susan Zibrat, Governing Board President

November 18, 2025

Date