

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, May 6, 2025**

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A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, beginning at 6:00 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  
Ms. Patricia Harris, Member  
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member

**Superintendent's Cabinet Members Present**

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent  
Ms. Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education  
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. John Hastings, Director of Human Resources  
Ms. Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum and Assessment  
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Director of Student Services  
Mr. Richard C. La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support  
Ms. Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education  
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Zibrat called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Jaeger invited Chris Gutierrez, Principal of Cross Middle School, to present the students leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Gutierrez introduced Hattie, Adalee, Matthew, Cole, and Natalie, who are members of the Student Council. He shared that these students embody the culture and spirit of the school community by engaging in fine arts, athletics, and student leadership which all play an important role in shaping the positive environment at Cross. The students led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Each of the students had the opportunity to point out their family members in the audience. Ms. Cox Golder presented each of the students with certificates of recognition from the Governing Board. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Gutierrez, and the students to mark the occasion.

**3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART**

Mr. Gutierrez asked Ms. Sara Wilson, art teacher from Cross Middle School to speak about the art displayed in the boardroom. He noted that Ms. Wilson has started 'Open Art Room' in her classroom which embodies personalized learning. Ms. Wilson pointed out the artwork which was completed during each of the four quarters. During the first quarter, students learned the foundational skills for setting up a still life, contour line drawing, cubism, and ink shading techniques. Ms. Wilson went on to speak about studying the Basilica in Spain, color theory, symbolism, realistic facial portraits, and surrealism in second quarter. During the third and fourth quarters, students were able to have learner agency to demonstrate the seven elements of art using whatever materials and genre of art they wanted as well as an individual final project of their choice. Lastly, Ms. Wilson spoke about the pieces of 3-D art from the display case which includes origami, sewing projects, and clay art pieces.

Ms. Cox Golder presented Ms. Wilson with a certificate of recognition from the Governing

Board. A picture was taken with Ms. Wilson, Mr. Gutierrez, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger.

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

President Zibrat announced that the next Special Governing Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ, 85705, in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

**5. RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Recognition of the Staff of Rillito Center**

*For the Rillito Center Staff Recognition PowerPoint, please see Exhibit 1*

Superintendent Jaeger spoke about the long tradition of the Governing Board recognizing students, staff, and community members for their achievements and contributions within the school district noting that these individuals and groups are referred to as “The Pride of Amphi”.

He explained that this evening, he and the Governing Board wish to recognize the outstanding staff of the Rillito Center. Superintendent Jaeger explained that the Rillito Center serves the district’s most profoundly disabled students and daily demonstrate extraordinary acts of kindness, patience, and love towards their students.

Superintendent Jaeger spoke about a recent event at Rillito Center, their annual prom which this year had an ‘Under the Sea’ theme. He described the amazing decorations that reached every area of the school along with music and activities that rivaled a prom at any of the other schools. He noted it truly embodied Rillito’s spirit of compassion and inclusion. Superintendent Jaeger praised the staff for hosting an event that created such memorable moments of joy, normalcy, and dignity for their students.

He went on to explain that the District’s ‘Pinnacle of Pride’ award has only been given once in its history as it is given only by special Board action to individuals or groups whose contributions are of such a level that is rarely seen and can only be described as instilling an unparalleled level of pride. Superintendent Jaeger recommended the Governing Board to convey this award to the staff of Rillito Center as he can think of no other group more worthy of this distinction.

*Vice President Day moved that the Governing Board present the staff of Rillito Center with the Pinnacle of Pride Award. President Zibrat seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor-5. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Motion passed.*

President Zibrat and Vice President Day presented Rob Wolf, Principal of Rillito Center, and the staff with the Pinnacle of Pride Award. All staff members will also receive a certificate of recognition. A photo was taken of the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, and the staff of Rillito Center to mark the occasion.

**B. Recognition of 2025 Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Award Winner**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education, to introduce the next four recognitions which honor the achievements of Career and Technical Education students and their respective CTSO’s (Career and Technical Student Organizations).

Ms. Valenzuela stated FCCLA helps students become leaders and address important personal, family, work and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education. She asked Nick Meitner, Culinary Arts teacher and FCCLA Advisor from Canyon del Oro High School to come forward. Mr. Meitner introduced Izzy, who has been a Culinary Arts student for four years and has improved her skills each year. He described the “Mystery

Basket” category she competed in where she is given surprise ingredients and tasked with creating an appetizer. Izzy placed 1<sup>st</sup> out of about 80 competitors in the state. Izzy described the dish she made.

Ms. Harris presented Izzy and Mr. Meitner with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Meitner, and Izzy to mark the occasion.

#### **C. Recognition of 2025 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Award Winner**

Ms. Valenzuela explained that FBLA helps students become leaders and recognizes excellence in a variety of business and career-related topics. She introduced Mr. Lee Street, Digital Photography teacher and FBLA advisor at Canyon del Oro High School. Mr. Street introduced Louisa, who is President of the Entrepreneurs Club, an accomplished musician, and a member of multiple clubs and organizations on CDO’s campus. Louisa described the competition she participated in which required her to use her photo editing skills to create a banner out of given elements and her first-place finish.

Ms. Harris presented Louisa and Mr. Street with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Street, and Louisa.

#### **D. Recognition of 2025 HOSA-Future Health Professionals Winner**

Ms. Valenzuela described HOSA as an organization designed to empower students to become leaders in the global health community. She introduced Stephen Whetherhult, Sports Medicine teacher and HOSA advisor at Canyon del Oro High School.

Mr. Whetherhult asked Leeah to come forward. He described Leeah as a positive influence and incredibly bright student. Leeah shared that being an IB Chemistry student exposed her to Organic Chemistry which encouraged her to compete in this category at the HOSA state competition. She completed a fifty-question exam and short essay for which she placed second in the state.

Ms. Harris presented Mr. Whetherhult and Leeah with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Whetherhult, and Leeah to mark the occasion.

#### **E. Recognition of 2025 SkillsUSA Winners**

Ms. Valenzuela stated that Skills USA encourages partnerships between, educators, students, and industry to ensure a skilled work force. At the state level competition, students use math, science, reading, and language skills coupled with hands-on technical skills to compete in challenges in a variety of categories. She introduced the two Skills USA Advisors from Canyon del Oro High School, Mr. Josh Ronstadt and Mr. Jeremy Tarbet.

Mr. Ronstadt introduced Ruben and described him as an incredibly hard-working individual who began practicing for competition before and after school months ago. He noted Ruben’s amazing work ethic and second place finish in the Electrical Wiring competition. Ruben gave details about his competition project and his desire to improve his skills for next year’s competition.

Ms. Harris presented Mr. Ronstadt and Ruben with certificates of recognition, and a picture was taken of them with the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger.

Mr. Tarbet introduced Chloe, who has been in his automotive class for four years. He noted she wishes to continue in the automotive industry after graduation and has applied for a summer internship with the Town of Marana to maintain their vehicle fleet. Chloe explained that mobile electronics involves automotive radio systems, interior alarms, and locking mechanisms in vehicles. Her competition consisted of a fifty-question exam and a hands-on technical skills problem. She placed first and is headed to the National Competition this summer.

Ms. Harris presented Mr. Tarbet and Chloe with certificates of recognition, and a picture was taken of them with the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger.

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

President Zibrat asked Superintendent Jaeger to introduce the awards.

Superintendent Jaeger stated that each month during the school year, a certificated and a support staff member are recognized with a Distinguished Service Award.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Stephanie Hillig, Principal of Copper Creek Elementary and Classified Distinguished Service Award recipient, Bethani Gregg, Registrar and Educational Assistant to come forward.

Ms. Hillig spoke about Ms. Gregg's tireless efforts to make events at Copper Creek memorable and educational for students and families. She spoke about her coordination of a recent Science Night that required organization of outside vendors, hands on activities, and a showcase of student work. Ms. Hillig noted that Ms. Gregg is often the very first staff person families have contact with and she is a very welcoming presence who truly loves Copper Creek.

A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Gregg for the work she has done in the District.

Mr. Kopec asked Ms. Gregg if she would like to share anything. She introduced her husband and son and expressed her appreciation for the recognition. Ms. Gregg shared that she loves her job and especially watching the students grow.

Mr. Kopec presented Ms. Gregg 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. Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum and Assessment and Certified Distinguished Service Award Recipient, Heidi Edmondson, Curriculum Instruction Program Specialist for Student Services, to come forward.

Ms. Jacome stated Ms. Edmondson embodies the District's core values with her dedication, collaboration and relentless pursuit of excellence for all students. She spoke about her ability to create strong collaborative relationships and the way she supports teachers and staff to improve their abilities to teach diverse learners.

A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Edmondson for the work she has done in the District.

Mr. Kopec asked Ms. Edmondson if she would like to share anything. She introduced her children and credited them with making her a better teacher and her students for making her a better mom.

Mr. Kopec presented Ms. Edmondson 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 Ms. Gregg, Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Hillig, Ms. Jacome, Ms. Moran the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

#### **G. Recognition of Employee's Exemplary Leadership and Compassion During Community Emergency**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. Rich LaNasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support to introduce this recognition.

Mr. La Nasa stated he was filled with pride to introduce Ms. Norma Frye, Director of Transportation. He detailed a recent bus accident that occurred in Tucson involving 40 students and teachers from Kingman Unified School District. Ms. Frye reached out to the Kingman Director of Transportation and asked how she could help. Mr. La Nasa stated that

Ms. Frye sprang into action to be the eyes and ears of the Kingman administration. She took pictures of the accident site, gave status reports from the hospital, and transported individuals to local hotels for the evening. She even helped transport students to Wickenburg the next day so they could be picked up by the Kingman Administration and returned home. He applauded her tireless actions during another district's time of need.

Mr. Kopec commented that Ms. Frye's actions were meaningful and spoke of her character. He presented her with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board. Ms. Frye thanked her transportation department team and Mr. La Nasa. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. La Nasa, and Ms. Frye.

*President Zibrat called for a five-minute break at 7:05pm. The meeting resumed at 7:10pm.*

## **6. INFORMATION**

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

*For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint see Exhibit 2.*

Superintendent Jaeger began his report by sharing photo highlights of recent events in the District.

- The Class of 2025 from each high school participated in this year's Grad Walks at their feeder schools
- Canyon del Oro High School celebrated their A+ School of Excellence Distinction with festivities that included games, exhibits, and student performances
- Cross Middle School celebrated their A+ School of Excellence Distinction with a school wide assembly featuring the banner presentation and performances from the band, orchestra, and choir
- The Career and Technical Education department held their annual Advisory Breakfast at Ironwood Ridge High School which featured student speakers, a program showcase, collaboration from industry partners and an amazing breakfast courtesy of the Culinary Arts programs
- The ECHO Resource Center hosted a Story Time Party to help students enroll in preschool and kindergarten. The event offered free backpacks with school supplies, immunizations and well checks, giveaways, and Storytime with famous book characters
- The District's Student Art Show at Tucson Mall concludes on May 7<sup>th</sup>
- Timeline of End of the Year events including promotions and graduations

Superintendent Jaeger offered to answer any questions. There were none.

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

*For the Status of Construction Project attachments see Exhibit 3.*

Superintendent Jaeger said that Mr. La-Nasa will give an update on District construction projects that utilize bonds and other funding sources. He asked Mr. LaNasa to present the report.

Mr. LaNasa showed photos which highlighted completed projects and some currently under construction:

- Amphitheater High School backup generators using Bond funds
- Amphitheater Middle School security fencing using Bond funds
- Copper Creek Elementary School stairway tread replacement using Bond funds
- Ironwood Ridge High School tennis court safety netting using Bond funds

Mr. LaNasa reported that in April 2025 the District received \$146,783 in funding and a total \$6,408,287 funding for the 2024-2025 school year. The Grant Project Funding Requests Pending Award is \$15.2 million. He shared an update with the board on the voter approved bond funds. Mr. La Nasa stated improvements to school security were one of the things promised during the bond measure and his department is currently in the planning phase of safety projects so once bond funds are released, they can move forward.

He offered to answer any questions. Ms. Cox Golder asked what POTS stood for (referencing a slide on the PowerPoint). Mr. LaNasa explained fire alarms used to be connected through telephone lines and are now being converted to a cellular network. Vice President Day expressed her hope for future bond funds.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**8. 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](#)

*Ms. Cox Golder moved for Consent Agenda Items 8. A. -Q. be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Harris and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items 8. A.-Q. passed.*

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

*Administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 4.*

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

*Non-Administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.*

**C. Approval of Personnel Changes**

*Certified and classified personnel changes were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.*

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

*Approval of Leave(s) of Absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.*

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

*Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 8.*

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

*The Governing Board approved minutes from the April 8, 2025 meeting as submitted in Exhibit 9.*

**G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$2,614,522.72**

*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 10.*

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1284	\$377,322.93	1285	\$108,335.90	1286	\$19,135.84
1287	\$131,235.95	1288	\$497,440.31	1289	\$850,171.63
1290	\$6,207.75	1291	\$392,745.14	1292	\$103,193.73
1293	\$48,977.22	1294	\$32,465.41	1297	\$22,485.77
1298	\$24,805.14				

**H. Acceptance of Gifts**

*Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as submitted in Exhibit 11.*

**I. Receipt of March 2025 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances**

*The Governing Board approved the Receipt of March 2025 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances as submitted in Exhibit 12.*

**J. Approval of Sole Source Purchasing Contracts for Fiscal Year 2026**

*The Governing Board approved the Sole Source Purchasing Contracts for Fiscal Year 2026 as submitted in Exhibit 13.*

**K. Approval of Multi-Term Contracts for Fiscal Year 2026**

*The Governing Board approved Multi-Term Contracts for Fiscal Year 2026 as submitted in Exhibit 14.*

**L. Approval of Cooperative Purchasing Contracts for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026**

*The Governing Board approved Cooperative Purchasing Contracts for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 as submitted in Exhibit 15.*

**M. Award of Contract for Extended Learning and Child Care Services-Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP) 2425005**

*The Governing Board approved the Award of Contract for Extended Learning and Child Care Services-Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP) 2425005 as submitted in Exhibit 16.*

**N. Award of Contract for 6-12 Textbook Adoption for Science RFP #2425004**

*The Governing Board approved the Award of Contract for 6-12 Textbook Adoption for Science RFP #2425004.*

**O. Approval to Distribute Bonus Monies Received Pursuant to ARS 15-249.06(C)**

*The Governing Board approved to Distribute Bonus Monies Received Pursuant to ARS 15-249.06(C) as submitted in Exhibit 17.*

**P. Approval of Arizona Department of Administration School Facilities Division Building Renewal Grants**

*The Governing Board approved Arizona Department of Administration School Facilities Division Building Renewal Grants as submitted in Exhibit 18.*

**Q. Approval of Out of State Travel**

*The Governing Board approved Out of State Travel requests as submitted in Exhibit 19.*

**9. STUDY/ACTION**

**A. Study and Approval of the Revised Expenditure Budget #2 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

*For the Revised Expenditure Budget #2 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 see Exhibit 20.*

Superintendent Jaeger explained that one of the Governing Board's regular duties is the approval of budgetary matters including revisions made to the expenditure budget. He noted that the revision tonight was being driven by the decline in enrollment. He asked Mr. Little, Chief Financial Officer, to explain the revision being presented.

Mr. Little explained that the statutes require school districts to revise their budgets based on increases or decreases in enrollment being that they operate on a current year funding mode. He stated that this revised budget reflects the drop in enrollment that has been discussed for months and that the budget is being balanced by utilizing reserves. Mr. Little reported that next year's budget will be presented at the end of June for approval and reflects these enrollment numbers and a more natural decline. He offered to answer any questions.

*Vice President Day moved to approve the Revised Expenditure Budget #2 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Ms. Cox Golder seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor 5. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Motion passed.*

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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

There were none.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

*President Zibrat moved to adjourn. Ms. Cox Golder seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-5. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.*

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

May 9, 2025

Date

*Susan Zibrat, Governing Board President*

May 27, 2025

Date