

**Minutes of the Special Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, March 24, 2026**

A Special public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, March 24, 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
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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Kopec asked Mr. Jason Weaver to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Vice President Kopec announced that the next Regular Governing Board meeting will take place Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ 85705 in the Leadership & Professional Development Center.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

5. 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. Dr. Gemma asked to pull item K, and Vice President Kopec asked to pull item N.

Ms. Zibrat moved for Consent Agenda Items 5. A.– J, L.–M. and O. be approved as presented. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items 5. A.– J, L.–M. and O. passed.

Vice President Kopec stated that he needed to abstain from voting to approve item N.

Superintendent Jaeger stated he was excited and grateful for the gift of scoreboards for each high school from Idaho Central Credit Union. He wished to highlight that this is one of the largest single gifts ever received by the District – worth approximately \$1.5 million in total. Superintendent Jaeger thanked Mr. Matt Munger for pursuing this opportunity. Mr. Munger expressed gratitude to Armando Soto, Rich La Nasa and Pima Community College Athletic Director, Ken Jacome for their efforts in facilitating this agreement. Mr. Munger also noted that the scoreboards should be installed by the end of the school year.

Ms. Day moved for Consent item 5. N. be approved. Dr. Gemma seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor -3. Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed -0. Abstained – 1 Vice President Kopec. Consent agenda item 5. N passed.

In reference to Consent item 5.K., Dr. Gemma asked if insurance rates were part of the meet and confer process. Superintendent Jaeger explained the District's contribution toward benefits hasn't been determined yet as that is part of the meet and confer process. He stated that this item needed to be approved to move forward with the carrier. He asked Scott Little to explain further.

Mr. Little explained that the District is in the third year of a self-funded plan so the savings from that can be reinvested to reduce out of pocket costs for employees. He also said that the listed actuarial rates represent what a COBRA participant would pay without District contributions.

Dr. Gemma asked why approval is needed now if contributions have not yet been determined. Superintendent Jaeger explained that these are the rates from the insurer regardless of what the District contribution will be and approval is needed to move forward with the agreement with the insurer. He noted that the District's contribution has yet to be determined, but will be higher than the current year to help mitigate the rate increases which is part of the meet and confer process.

Mr. Little stated there are plan documents that have to be filed with the federal government, contracts, and programming work that needs to be done for the online enrollment system. He noted there will be a future item addressing District contributions.

Ms. Zibrat moved for Consent item 5. K. be approved. Dr. Gemma seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed -0. Consent item 5.k passed.

A. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel

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

F. Approval of Revision to Amphitheater Policy 4-108.C Staff Development-Travel Reimbursement

The Governing Board approved Revision to Amphitheater Policy 4-108.C Staff Development-Travel Reimbursement as submitted in Exhibit 6.

G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$2,005,560.70

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
1244	\$248,195.66	1245	\$26,110.36	1246	\$5,075.17
1247	\$189,282.12	1248	\$1,399,330.01	1249	\$76,107.22
1250	\$18,066.39	1252	\$18,391.09	1253	\$1,076.98
1254	\$23,925.70				

H. Acceptance of Gifts

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

I. Receipt of November 2025 Report on Auxiliary and Club Balances

The Governing Board approved the November 2025 Report on Auxiliary and Club Balances as submitted in Exhibit 9.

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

The Governing Board approved Amphi Baseball Booster and Amphitheater (High) Parent Association as submitted in Exhibit 10.

K. Approval of Employee Insurance Rates

The Governing Board approved Employee Insurance Rates.

L. Approval of Addendum to Intergovernmental Agreement for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Peer Coach Program with the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) and Metro Education Commission (MEC)

The Governing Board approved the Addendum to Intergovernmental Agreement for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Peer Coach Program with the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) and Metro Education Commission (MEC) as submitted in Exhibit 11.

M. Approval of the District Calendar for the School Year 2027-2028

The Governing Board approved the District Calendar for the School Year 2027-2028 as submitted in Exhibit 12.

N. Approval of Sponsorship Agreement with Idaho Central Credit Union

The Governing Board approved the Sponsorship Agreement with Idaho Central Credit Union as submitted in Exhibit 13.

O. Approval of Out of State Travel

The Governing Board approved Out of State Travel as submitted in Exhibit 14.

11. STUDY

A. Study of Proposed 2026-2027 Code of Conduct

For the Study of Proposed 2026-2027 Code of Conduct PowerPoint see Exhibit 15.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that this is the time of year that the Code of Conduct for the subsequent year is reviewed and revisions are recommended. He noted the recommendations for revisions this year are minor and asked Mr. Munger to explain further.

Mr. Munger explained that multiple stakeholders are consulted regarding the Code of Conduct including school administrators and advisory councils. Key changes include:

- Bifurcation of Assault categories: splitting “Assault” in “Assault” and “Assault with Injury” “Aggravated Assault” into “Aggravated Assault” and “Aggravated Assault with Serious Bodily Injury” to ensure more accurate state reporting
- Harassment: Removing the "nonsexual" prefix from harassment to simplify coding
- Inappropriate language and gestures: Adding "drawings or images" to prohibited items/gestures
- Title IX: Reminding administrators to notify the Title IX coordinator before applying discipline
- Attendance Policy: reflects the change in District attendance policy and potential loss of academic credit

- Technology: Clarification on emerging prohibited devices that are covered by state law (ie: smart watches and glasses)

Mr. Munger stated administration is open to feedback as this item will be brought back at a later date for final approval. He offered to answer any questions.

Dr. Gemma asked about the removal of the word “nonsexual” from harassment and if it has been an issue with the language. Mr. Munger stated it wasn’t a pervasive issue and that administrators are adept at differentiating between types of harassment, but it offers a clarity to the application.

There were no further questions.

B. Study of K-12 STEM Education

For the Study of K-12 STEM Education PowerPoint see Exhibit 16.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that Ms. Call would be leading a programmatic review of STEM education in the District.

Ms. Call stated she was proud of the work done over the last ten years to propel STEM education in the District. She said the presentation would cover STEM across the District as well as touch on the newly adopted Science curriculum.

Ms. Call gave an overview of the history of STEM and the history of strong math and sciences courses in Amphi. She also spoke about the opening of Innovation Academy in 2017 which was in response to the community’s desire for integrative STEM education and project based learning. Since that time, this model has spread across the District and led to the creation of Maker Spaces in all of the Elementary and Middle Schools. Ms. Call also spoke about the District’s strong participation in science fairs and family science nights.

Ms. Call spoke about the use of “Picture Perfect STEM” and “Mystery Science” curriculums at the Elementary level and the development of curriculum guides to aid teachers in preparing lessons and deliver the curriculum with fidelity. She spoke about professional development used to share the “Mystery Science” curriculum and the popularity of science clubs across campuses. Ms. Call explained working with the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) and two schools receiving Cognia STEM Accreditation. She asked Ms. Annette Orelup, Principal of Keeling Elementary School to speak about Keeling’s STEM story.

Ms. Orelup spoke about Keeling’s journey over the last four years starting as a D-rated school. She talked about initial collaborations with the staff from Innovation Academy, school-wide participation in the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) with class projects, and the integration of STEM learning across subject areas. Ms. Orelup shared that over time, STEM became visible in every classroom as teachers expanded the use of project-based learning, inquiry based lessons, and real world learning experiences. She stated that through the staff’s commitment, Keeling has become an A-rated school, ITEEA STEM School of Excellence, and received their Cognia STEM Accreditation. Ms. Orelup shared that students who previously struggled with attendance are now engaged and excited to attend school each day.

Ms. Call shared that at the middle school level students have many STEM class choices including lab sciences, computer programming, Robotics, Forensics, and 21st Century Learning which offers career exploration. She asked Greg Burch, Technology teacher from Amphitheater Middle School to speak about electives. Mr. Burch stated that middle school STEM electives provide access to hands-on learning, real world skills, and future career exploration. He spoke about the equipment used to help students with projects as they go through the engineering design process and shared pictures from various class projects. Mr. Burch spoke about the MESA and Girl Power programs which allow students a chance to compete and explore STEM careers.

Ms. Call went on to speak about the STEM pathways available at the high school level. She shared some of the CTE courses available to students including Engineering, Nursing, Construction Technology, Bioscience, Computer Science, and Sports Medicine. Ms. Call explained that students in CTE courses are

eligible to earn industry recognized certifications and some courses are eligible for dual enrollment with Pima Community College or the University of Arizona. She shared that each of the high schools has clubs that cater to students' interests in STEM subject areas with many offering the chance for students to compete. Ms. Call asked Ms. Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum and Assessment to speak about the new science curriculum.

Ms. Jacome spoke about the importance of inquiry based learning and it's prevalence in programs throughout the District as it aligns with the state's vision for science instruction and the academic standards.

She spoke about the use of SAVAS Learning Company programs which use real world phenomena as a catalyst for student curiosity and learning. Ms. Jacome explained how these programs are used in middle and high school sciences. She also spoke about the professional learning opportunities teachers have engaged in this year to assist in implementation of the programs.

Ms. Call spoke about the partnership with Knowledge Works to apply for the APS STEM Education Grant to work with Innovation Academy, Keeling, and Rio Vista Elementary Schools and ensure curriculum coherence and the hopeful expansion of the work with the K-8 and middle schools as well.

Ms. Call offered to answer any questions.

Dr. Gemma asked about graduate surveys to see how these programs impact students at the university level.

Ms. Call asked Ms. Julie Valenzuela to speak about placement surveys. Ms. Valenzuela explained that one of the compliance pieces required from ADE of the CTE programs are placement surveys where teachers contact students the semester after they graduate to find out what they are doing post-graduation. She shared the difficulties in contacting students to obtain accurate data, but the data shows about 40% of students surveyed follow their programs direct career pathway forward, but that about 95% benefit from the professional skills obtained while taking CTE classes.

Dr. Gemma asked about feedback from local universities regarding freshmen GPA's. Mr. Munger stated there has not been much feedback about specific high schools, but more for graduates across Pima County as a whole. He went on to speak about the implementation of a new ECAP program last year which will allow the District to better track students in the future.

Dr. Gemma asked about dual enrollment courses and if Pima Community College allows teachers to use their own final exams. Mr. Munger explained that teachers can use their own final exam as long as it complies with the curriculum provided by Pima.

Ms. Day wondered if Pima checked that kind of thing. Mr. Munger explained that Pima has become much more involved in the dual enrollment process due to their recent Higher Learning Commission findings ensuring the high schools have required equipment and materials to deliver the prescribed curricula.

Vice President Kopec expressed his gratitude for the presentation.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

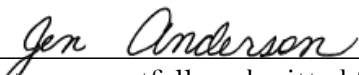
There was no public comment.

13. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, and Dr. Gemma asked for the follow up item on facility rentals and 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 6:41pm.



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