



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16
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BOARD AGENDA ITEM

ITEM NO: 1.4

BOARD MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 11, 2026

OPENING ITEM: Outstanding Achievements

SUBMITTED BY: Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

PRESENTED BY: Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

I am pleased to highlight the following CFSD students and staff achievements:

CFHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference

Our FBLA students wrapped up a successful trip to the National Leadership Conference, which took place from June 27 through July 3. FBLA aims to prepare students to become community-minded business leaders in today's global society. We are incredibly proud of our dedicated student attendees as they competed against the absolute best students from across the country. Our students who attended include Caitlyn Trail, Ahmed Bozdogan, Wyatt Miller, Noah Linaman, Gordon Kim, Luke Grace, Calvin Mathew, and Boston Brooks.

The level of competition at Nationals was fierce. A special congratulations goes out to Class of 2026 Senior Luke Grace, who successfully advanced all the way to the national finals! While we did not take home a final podium placement this year, reaching the finals is a massive achievement on the national stage.

Beyond the intense competition, our students stayed at the historic Gunter Hotel in downtown San Antonio and explored the city's top attractions, including: a thrilling day at Six Flags, walking the famous San Antonio Riverwalk, experiencing local history at The Alamo, and touring the Botanical Gardens and the San Antonio Zoo.

CTE Photography Teacher and chaperone Mark Cook would also like to thank our parent group and school community for supporting these amazing student leaders!

CFSD Teacher Selected for Prestigious White House Institute

We are proud to announce that Cindy Gallego, Kindergarten and 1st Grade Spanish Immersion teacher at Ventana Vista Elementary School, was selected to participate in the White House Historical Association's White House History Teacher Institute in Washington, D.C. Ms. Gallego learned about the opportunity through her principal and the district, and applied because of her passion for social studies and her desire to deepen her knowledge of White House and U.S. history. During the institute, she was immersed in American history through primary sources, tours of historic sites, and sessions led by historians and experts, with a particular focus on adapting these rich resources to fit her students' grade level.

Ms. Gallego hopes to bring what she learned back to her Spanish immersion classroom by using primary sources, photographs, stories, and interactive activities to make history engaging and age-appropriate for her youngest learners, while helping them build U.S. history knowledge alongside their Spanish language skills. She wants her students to see history not just as something to read about, but as real people, places, and stories that still connect to their lives today. Congratulations, Ms. Gallego, on representing CFSD at this prestigious institute!

CFSD Band Director Advocates for Music Education on Capitol Hill

We are proud to recognize Renee Shane-Boyd, Catalina Foothills School District's long-time Band Director, for representing CFSD in Washington, D.C. as part of a summer advocacy initiative with the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the Arizona Music Educators Association (AMEA). On June 24, 2026, nearly 300 national leaders and state music education representatives returned to Capitol Hill for this invitation-only event to support music education programs, students, and educators.

Ms. Shane-Boyd met with legislators and key staffers from 10 of Arizona's 11 congressional offices, urging support for federal legislation and funding that benefit music and arts education. She also connected with Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, recalling the Falcon Band's 2023 Rose Parade appearance behind Grand Marshal Gabby Giffords, and had the pleasure of meeting two former CFSD students now working as Washington staffers.

Ms. Shane-Boyd continues to champion the skills students gain through music and proudly promotes CFSD's reputation. She credits high-level student experiences as central to CFSD's continued success. We are very grateful to Ms. Shane-Boyd for her tireless dedication to preserving and elevating music education for all students!

Esperero Canyon Middle School Teacher Receives 2026 Arizona Middle Grades Teacher of the Year

Julie Rombach, 8th grade social studies teacher at Esperero Canyon Middle School, has been named the 2026 Arizona Middle Grades Teacher of the Year by the Arizona Association for Middle Level Education. The honor recognizes her ability to pair rigorous, student-centered instruction with the kind of genuine relationships that help young adolescents thrive. Mrs. Rombach builds immersive learning experiences rooted in inquiry, simulation, structured discussion, and evidence-based writing, pushing students to weigh multiple perspectives and argue their conclusions with confidence. Her signature project, the annual Civic Action Fair, has every eighth grader research a real community issue, craft an evidence-based solution, and present it to genuine audiences, reflecting her conviction that school should shape not just capable students but engaged citizens.

Mrs. Rombach has cultivated a classroom culture where students feel both challenged and deeply supported. Principal Stacey Gist noted that Mrs. Rombach empowers the kids who will make history rather than simply teaching about it. Her collaborative spirit extends across the school community, working alongside fellow staff and families to keep expectations high while ensuring every learner has genuine access to rigorous instruction. Association President Dr. Robert Caplinger summed up the honor by observing that her passion and steady belief in young people make her thoroughly deserving of the award. Mrs. Rombach will be formally recognized at the 2026 Arizona Middle Grades Summit at Arizona State University on September 19.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Information Item