

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, May 12, 2026**

A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 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. Vicki Cox Golder, President
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Vice President
Ms. Deanna M. Day, M.Ed., Member
Dr. Michael Gemma, Member
Ms. Susan Zibrat, 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. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. John Hastings, Director of Human Resources
Ms. Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum & Assessment
Mr. Richard La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Executive Director of Student Services
Ms. Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21st Century Education
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Cox Golder called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Jaeger asked Harelson Elementary Principal, Ms. Stephanie Hayes, to come forward. Ms. Hayes introduced members of the Harelson Student Council, Ashlyn, Avianna, Sebastian, Maddie, and Owen. She shared that the students say their favorite parts of being on the Student Council are participating in various service projects, working with others, and organizing Spirit Week. The students led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Gemma distributed certificates of recognition and a photo was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Hayes, and the students to mark the occasion.

3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART

Ms. Hayes introduced the Harelson Art Teacher, Ms. Sarah Nystedt. Ms. Nystedt stated this was her first year as the art teacher at Harelson and shared a poem about her experience over the last year. The Harelson students showcased an art piece containing monochromatic self-portraits created by each student at Harelson.

Dr. Gemma presented Ms. Nystedt with a certificate of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, and Ms. Nystedt.

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

President Cox Golder announced that the next Special Governing Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 5:30pm at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705, in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

5. RECOGNITIONS

A. Recognition of the Amphitheater High School eSports State Runner Up

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. A.J. Malis, Principal of Amphitheater High School to come forward. Mr. Malis introduced Mr. JT Parham, Coach of the eSports team. Mr. Parham spoke about the team's journey through the state tournament defeating several top teams and ultimately placing as the state runner up. He shared how each of the team members are excellent students balancing academics, sports, and other extra curriculars along with eSports.

Ms. Day stated how proud she was of the team and asked if the students wished to speak. Each of the students spoke about their experience on the team and their enjoyment of working together. Ms. Day presented the team members and Mr. Parham with certificates of recognition. A photo was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Malis, Mr. Parham, and the students to mark the occasion.

B. Recognition of the 2026 Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Award Winner

Superintendent Jaeger explained that the next several recognitions pertain to Career and Technical Education state competitions. He asked Director of 21st Century Education, Ms. Julie Valenzuela, to come forward to introduce the items.

Ms. Valenzuela gave a brief explanation of the mission of FCCLA and that Canyon del Oro High School Culinary Arts student, Haley Terrazas took first place overall in the Cookie Display category. Ms. Valenzuela explained that Haley and her teacher, Mr. Nick Meitner, were unable to attend the meeting, but were sent their certificates or recognition.

C. Recognition of 2026 HOSA-Future Health Professionals Winner

Ms. Valenzuela introduced Canyon del Oro High School Sports Medicine teacher, Mr. Stephen Whetherhult and his student, Chantal Newhouse. Mr. Whetherhult expressed his gratitude and the importance of celebrating students and their achievements. He spoke about Chantal's leadership and various academic accolades that contributed to her success in the HOSA competition. He praised her for taking on a particularly difficult competition category and his pride at her performance.

Vice President Kopec pointed out the need for great people in the health care field and presented Chantal and Mr. Whetherhult with certificates of recognition. It was noted that Mr. Whetherhult was named Regional Advisor of the Year. Chantal thanked her mother who is a dentist and stated she has been a great support and resource to her in this endeavor. A photo was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Whetherhult, and Chantal to mark the occasion.

D. Recognition of SkillsUSA Winners

Ms. Valenzuela spoke about the mission of SkillsUSA and that Canyon del Oro High School has three top finishers in the state competition. Two of the winners were unable to attend the meeting. She introduced Hunter Weining, who placed first in Electrical Wiring. Hunter expressed his gratitude to Mr. Ronstadt for helping him achieve his goal and his parents for their support.

Dr. Gemma presented Hunter with a certificate of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, and Hunter to mark the occasion.

E. Recognition of 2026 Careers through Culinary Arts Program (CCAP) Scholar

Ms. Valenzuela introduced Ironwood Ridge High School Culinary Arts teacher Ms. Jean Gowen, and Culinary Arts student, Keelynn Anderson. Ms. Gowen spoke about Keelynn's dual enrollment to be able to attend Ironwood Ridge Culinary and compete in the CCAP competition. She praised Keelynn's dedication and skill and shared that through her performance in the cooking competition Keelynn earned a \$5000 scholarship to the school of her choice.

Ms. Zibrat asked Keelynn if she wanted to share anything. She thanked Ms. Gowen for all she had done to help her and her family for their support. Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Gowen and Keelynn with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Gowen, and Keelynn.

F. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards

Superintendent Jaeger explained that each month the Board recognizes a classified and certificated staff member for their exemplary contributions to the District. He asked Mr. Chris Gutierrez, Principal at Cross Middle School to introduce the classified honoree.

Mr. Gutierrez introduced Sue Williams, Registrar at Cross Middle School. He spoke about how professional, organized, and thoughtful she is. Mr. Gutierrez went on to praise her dedication, leadership, and for making Cross a great place to work.

A video played highlighting Ms. Williams' contributions to the District.

Ms. Zibrat asked Ms. Williams if she would like to say anything. Ms. Williams thanked her husband and Cross colleagues and shared that Cross Middle School is like a family. Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Williams with a certificate of recognition, a Distinguished Service Award, and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Leighann Reynolds, Principal of Walker Elementary to come forward to present the certificated recipient. Ms. Reynolds introduced Ms. Stephanie Lopez, Curriculum, Instruction, Intervention Support Specialist at Walker Elementary. Ms. Reynolds spoke about Ms. Lopez's support for the teachers at Walker as well as her expertise, heart, and kindness. She shared how Ms. Lopez serves students through her work and how her calming presence and leadership makes her a trusted colleague on campus.

A video played highlighting Ms. Lopez's contributions to the District.

Ms. Lopez thanked her husband, colleagues, Ms. Reynolds, and Ms. Jacome. She emphasized the importance of coaches and instructional leaders in the District. Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Lopez with a certificate of recognition, a Distinguished Service Award, and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

A photo was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Gutierrez, Ms. Williams, Ms. Reynolds, Ms. Jacome, and Ms. Lopez.

G. Recognition of 2026 Esperanza Award Recipient

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Samantha Doyle, Principal at Prince Elementary School to introduce the recognition. Ms. Doyle was accompanied by award recipient, Ms. Gabriela Gonzalez, and Prince School Improvement Specialist, Ms. Kris Holt. Ms. Holt described Ms. Gonzalez as a dedicated third grade teacher and noted she is only one of four teachers receiving this award in the state. Ms. Holt spoke about the meaningful impact Ms. Gonzalez has on her students as well as her unwavering commitment to them. She noted that Ms. Gonzalez was the embodiment of hope for students and fellow educators.

Ms. Gonzalez thanked the Prince community and that she is a proud product of Amphi who gets to serve the community she grew up in. She also thanked the leaders in the room who helped shape her. Vice President Kopec presented Ms. Gonzalez with a certificate of recognition. A photo was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Holt, and Ms. Gonzalez to mark the occasion.

President Cox Golder called for a seven minute break. The meeting resumed at 7:11pm.

6. INFORMATION

A. Superintendent's Report

For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint see Exhibit 1.

Superintendent Jaeger shared highlights of recent events in the District:

- Seniors from each of the three high schools participated in annual Grad Walks celebrations at District feeder schools
- Rillito Center hosted their annual prom. This year's theme was "Under the Sea"
- Canyon del Oro High School hosted the annual CTE Advisory Breakfast celebrating the District's Career and Technical Education programs

- Five Canyon del Oro students participated in the SkillsUSA National Signing Day sponsored by Lowe's recognizing students who are entering the trades
- Athletes and partners from Amphi High School participated in the AIA Special Olympics Unified Track and Field Competition earning two medals
- The District hosted its annual Retirement Ceremony honoring this year's retirees and the lasting impact they have made throughout their careers
- Members of the District's Gifted Student Advisory Council completed various projects throughout the year including volunteering and providing valuable feedback for program improvement
- Coronado K-8 School celebrated its 50th anniversary with a fun event bringing together families and staff to celebrate the school's history
- Each of the closing elementary schools has hosted a Legacy Night allowing past and present families, students, and staff to come together and celebrate the impact of each school on the community

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

B. Status of Construction Projects

For the Status of Construction Projects PowerPoint see Exhibit 2.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. La Nasa to deliver his monthly report detailing construction projects in the District. Mr. La Nasa shared details about the following projects:

- Canyon del Oro High School Training Room ceiling and lighting replacement using Bond funds
- La Cima Middle School MPR roof replacement using Building Renewal Grant Funds
- La Cima Middle School weatherization using Building Renewal Grant Funds

Mr. La Nasa commented that they are gearing up for a busy summer of projects across the District and were also awarded two grants this morning. He offered to answer any questions. There were none.

C. Projections of Site Staffing and Non-Staffing Allocations

For samples of site staffing and non-staffing allocations see Exhibit 3.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. John Hastings to come forward to present this item. Mr. Hastings began with how the state funds school districts which is based on the number of days each student attends school during the first 100 days. This current year funding model is based on the average daily membership (ADM) calculated after the 100th day of school. He explained the challenge that school districts face as they do not know what their funding will be until after the 100th day of school.

Mr. Hastings explained that projections are made for the upcoming year by studying the ADM from the current year and rolling those numbers up to the next grade level. He said that they also look at active enrollment and what principals show for open enrollment. Mr. Hastings shared an example of staffing allocations for an elementary school of 450 students and noted the various other funding sources that augment state funding such as the budget override and grants. He also explained that there are some positions that are not influenced by enrollment like principals or custodial staff as each building requires these positions regardless of enrollment. Mr. Hastings stated non-staffing allocations such as utilities and cleaning supplies are not as heavily influenced by site enrollment. He offered to answer any questions. There were none.

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

President Cox Golder asked if any items needed to be pulled for further discussion or comment. Superintendent Jaeger asked to pull item 10.A. Approval of Appointment of Administrative personnel. Dr. Gemma asked to pull item 10. M. Approval of Closure Recommendation for Canyon del Oro High School International Baccalaureate Program for 2027-2028.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that he was recommending Ms. Gabbie Costellow as the Interim Assistant Principal of Cross Middle School for the next school year. He thanked Ms. Costellow for stepping up to fill a vacancy late in the school year and is confident she will do a great job.

Dr. Gemma stated he was saddened and disappointed that the IB program was slated to be phased out after next year. He commented that this program is the best one for advanced students who wish to matriculate into competitive universities. Dr. Gemma acknowledged the District's financial situation as it relates to support of the IB program and requested if it wasn't already being done, to conduct a study to determine what might have been done differently or in addition to introduce the program to potential students.

Vice President Kopec moved for Consent Agenda items 8. A-N be approved as presented. Dr Gemma seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Cox Golder, Vice President Kopec, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed –0. Consent Agenda items 10.A.-N. passed.

A. Approval of Appointment of Administrative Personnel

The Governing Board approved the Appointment of Administrative Personnel as submitted in Exhibit 4.

B. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel

The Governing Board approved the Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel as submitted in Exhibit 5.

C. Approval of Personnel Changes

The Governing Board approved Personnel Changes as submitted in Exhibit 6.

D. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence

The Governing Board approved Leave(s) of Absence as submitted in Exhibit 7.

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

The Governing Board approved Separation(s) and Termination(s) as submitted in Exhibit 8.

F. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

The Governing Board approved Stipend for Coaching Volunteers as submitted in Exhibit 9.

G. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The Governing Board approved minutes from the April 14, 2026 and April 28, 2026 meetings as submitted in Exhibit 10.

H. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding \$1,434,355.44

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 11.

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1292	\$159,547.92	1293	\$31,064.43	1294	\$21,917.32
1295	\$42,191.14	1296	\$376,827.55	1297	\$70,495.38
1299	\$7,806.36	1300	\$32,362.48	1301	\$54,321.61
1302	\$137,008.32	1303	\$37,081.94	1304	\$368,422.56
1305	\$85,718.30	1306	\$9,590.13		

I. Acceptance of Gifts

The Governing Board accepted gifts as submitted in Exhibit 12.

J. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s)

The Governing Board approved A-Town Sports (Amphi High) as submitted in Exhibit 13.

K. Receipt of February 2026 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances

The Governing Board approved February 2026 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances as submitted in Exhibit 14.

L. Approval of Revisions to Elementary School Enrollment Boundary Maps

The Governing Board approved Revisions to Elementary School Enrollment Boundary Maps as submitted in Exhibit 15.

M. Approval of Closure Recommendation for Canyon del Oro High School International Baccalaureate Program for 2027-2028

The Governing Board approved Closure Recommendation for Canyon del Oro High School International Baccalaureate Program for 2027-2028.

N. Approval of Out of State Travel

The Governing Board approved Out of State Travel as submitted in Exhibit 16.

9. STUDY/ACTION

A. Study and Approval of the Revised Expenditure Budget #3 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

For the Revised Expenditure Budget #3 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 see Exhibit 17.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that this is a final revision to the expenditure budget for 2025-2026 and the procedures for holding a public hearing so that the public has an opportunity to comment on it. He asked Mr. Little to explain the revision.

Mr. Little explained the District has until May 15th to make any final revisions to the budget. The changes include an adjustment in Average Daily Membership (ADM), which is about 250 students lower than projected. It also includes final adjustment to grants and carry forwards. Mr. Little noted that this budget is a starting point to develop next year's budget, however, the state has not yet passed a budget for the coming fiscal year.

President Cox Golder declared the public hearing open.

There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

President Cox Golder moved to approve the Revised Expenditure Budget #3 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Vice President Kopec seconded the motion. Roll call vote in favor- 5. President Cox Golder-Yes, Vice President Kopec-Yes, Ms. Day-Yes, Dr. Gemma-Yes, Ms. Zibrat-Yes, Opposed -0. Study/Action Item 9.A. passed.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

11. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

There were none.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Day moved to adjourn. Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor -5. President Cox Golder, Vice President Kopec, Dr. Gemma, Ms. Day, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed -0. The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Jen Anderson

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

May 19, 2026

Date

Vicki Cox Golder, Governing Board President

May 26, 2026
Date