Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, July 14, 2026

A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, July 14, 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
Ms. Deanna M. Day, M.Ed., Member
Dr. Michael Gemma, Member
Ms. Susan Zibrat, Member

Governing Board Members Absent
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Vice President

Superintendent's Cabinet Members
Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent
Ms. Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education (*telephonically*)
Mr. Matthew Munger, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education (*telephonically*)
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

Mr. Little led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. 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, July 28, 2026 at 5:30pm at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705, in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

4. INFORMATION

A. Superintendent's Report

For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint see Exhibit 1.

Superintendent Jaeger shared highlights of recent events in the District:

- Amphi families shared pictures of what they were doing to celebrate America's 250th. Pictures included patriotic festivities from locations across the country
- A committee has been formed to foster observance of America's 250th all school year long with expanded instruction, classroom projects, patriotic assemblies and performances, and boardroom art displays celebrating America
- Amphitheater is promoting kindergraten registration. Incoming 1st grader, Runa, starred in a reel for social media sharing her experience in kindergarten last year encouraging families to register today

Superintendent Jaeger gave an update on the school consolidation process.

- 593 employees were affected in some manner. All either maintained or were offered continued employment. District policy was followed throughout the process. Some employees opted to decline their offered placement and regular attrition also occurred
- Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind have taken residence in the Copper Creek building
- Packing and moving of the sites occurred earlier this summer. Some closing sites still have equipment and furniture that was not needed elsewhere and will likely be presented for disposal and donation. Moving of technology resources continues
- Keeling Elementary has three new chicken coops from the former Land Lab. All livestock at the Land Lab was successfully sold
- The closed schoosl and other surplus properties will appear on the November ballot for voter approval to sell, lease, or exchange. Individual Board action will still be required after voter approval for the sale or lease of properties.

Superintendent Jaeger concluded his report with an overview of upcoming events including the first day of school on August 5th.

President Cox Golder asked about the pricing of properties should they be sold at some point. Superintendent Jaeger stated appraisals have been completed but they are confidential under state law. He noted that if the decision is made to sell a property in the future, the District would seek a reappraisal to ensure the maximum benefit to taxpayers.

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. He noted that the District just concluded it's first sale of the bonds that were approved two years ago totalling around $84 million. Superintendent Jaeger explained there was a delay due to some irregularities at the county, but they have been resolved. Mr. La Nasa gave an update on construction projects in the District:

- Amphitheater Middle School office carpet replacement using Bond funds
- Amphitheater High School PAC house lighting replacement using Bond funds
- Canyon del Oro High School School Fine Arts Theater house lighting replacement using Bond funds
- Ironwood Ridge High School Fine Arts Theater house lighting replacement using Bond funds
- Ironwood Ridge High School Auxiliary Gym floor refinishing using Bond funds
- Painted Sky Elementary classroom carpet replacement using Bond funds
- Rio Vista Elementary School student drop off reconfiguration and parking lot restoration using Adjacent Ways and Bond funds

Mr. La Nasa noted that there was no new June funding and the 2025-2026 year grant funding total was $7,652,941 which is 3.8% of the $200 million budget allocation. He offered to answer any questions. There were none.

Superintendent Jaeger praised Mr. La Nasa and his team for securing such a significant portion of the available grant allocation.

5. <u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u>

There was no public comment at this time, but President Cox Golder noted that there was a request for public comment realted to a Consent agenda item.

6. 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. There is public comment on item 6.K. so that item is pulled for discussion.

Dr. Gemma moved for Consent Agenda items 6. A.-J. and L. be approved as presented. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Cox Golder, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed -0. Consent Agenda items 6.A.-J. and L. passed.

President Cox Golder read the guidance for public comment. Both people presenting comment were in reference to Consent Agenda item 6.J. *Approval of Student Fee Rates Charged Pursuant to Governing Board Policy 5-214, A.R.S. §15-342 (24), and A.R.S. § 15-1142.*

Cynthia Jimenez is a parent and has been the CDO Band Booster President for the last three years. She expressed concern for band being changed to an interscholastic fee instead of a class fee as there was not enough notice for parents to plan for the increase. She proposed postponing this change as registration begins next week and groups like their booster have already approved their budget for the upcoming school year and started collecting fair share fees. Ms. Jimenez stated the increase could cause families to have to choose between programs to afford the increase at such short notice.

Andrew Bollck is a parent and the CDO Band Booster Treasurer. He thanked the administration for aligning band with athletics which has long been a desire for bands across the country however he noted that the timing creates significant logistical and financial challenges. Mr. Bollck noted that the booster budget has already been approved for the upcoming year and the change in fees would require an entire budgetary overhaul. He noted the hardship this fee may cause for families without prior notice and asked that the roll out be postponed until the next school year.

Superintendent Jaeger stated the purpose of the fee increase was to take the burden off of the booster groups and create parity with athletics, but he understood how the timing of the change may be difficult for families and booster groups that have already made plans for the upcoming year. He asked Mr. Munger to respond.

Mr. Munger stated the proposed change has been posted for the required thirty days as required by statute. He reiterated that the purpose of the fee increase was to create a bigger bank of funds to draw from for transportation in the same way athletic programs do. Mr. Munger also spoke about the number of band students traveling to competitions is similar to athletics whereas other fine arts programs tend to only send a few students for which a District van can be used to transport or parents transport their students themselves to competition.

Superintendent Jaeger stated he understood the concerns presented this evening, but also the concerns presented at other meetings about the disparity between athletics and fine arts as far as bearing the burden of transportation costs in particular. He explained that the student fees needed to be approved this evening however the Board could delay imposition of this particular fee until it could be studied further.

Dr. Gemma noted that he appreciated everyone was trying to do the right thing, but there are unintended consequences. He expressed concern at being asked to approve something that has already been sent out.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that the District is required to post any proposed change to student fees for thirty days prior to approval.

Dr. Gemma asked if it has been included in registration packets already. Mr. Munger stated fees are not included in packets until the Governing Board approves them.

Dr. Gemma stated that many of these issues had been raised months ago and it is now being presented a week before registration. He noted given the work the booster parents have already put into planning for the year it shouldn't be disrupted with a new fee at this point.

Dr. Gemma moved for item 6. K be approved with the revision that the band fee would be returned to a class fee as opposed to an interscholastic fee for the 2026-2027 school year. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Cox Golder, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. Consent item 6.K. approved with revision of band fee.

A. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel
The Governing Board approved the Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel as submitted in Exhibit 3.

B. Approval of Personnel Changes
The Governing Board approved Personnel Changes as submitted in Exhibit 4.

C. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence
The Governing Board approved Leave(s) of Absence as submitted in Exhibit 5.

D. Approval of Separation(s) and Termination(s)
The Governing Board approved Separation(s) and Termination(s) as submitted in Exhibit 6.

E. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers
The Governing Board approved Stipend for Coaching Volunteers as submitted in Exhibit 7.

F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
The Governing Board approved minutes from the June 23, 2026 meeting as submitted in Exhibit 8.

G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding $9,064,687.96
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 9.

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1352	$167,834.97	1353	$8,726.03	1354	$391,569.37
1355	$47,719.51	1356	$7,485.94	1357	$64,399.76
1361	$26,467.84	1362	$134,400.19	1363	$26,225.72
1364	$122,766.07	1365	$38,293.62	1366	$16,287.58
1367	$51,946.62	1368	$56,769.28	1369	$43,359.50
1372	$600,617.88	1373	$66,330.49	1374	$6,932,190.94
1376	$147,980.81	1377	$51,250.83	1000	$57,552.18
1001	$4,512.83				

H. Acceptance of Gifts
The Governing Board accepted gifts as submitted in Exhibit 10.

I. Approval of Fee Waivers (Class IV User Group) for Facility Rentals 2026-2027 School Year
The Governing Board approved Fee Waivers (Class IV User Group) for Facility Rentals 2026-2027 School Year.

J. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Oro Valley Police Department for School Safety Program
The Governing Board approved the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Oro Valley Police Department for School Safety Program as submitted in Exhibit 11.

K. Approval of Student Fee Rates Charged Pursuant to Governing Board Policy 5-214, A.R.S. §15-342 (24), and A.R.S. § 15-1142
The Governing Board approved Student Fee Rates Charged Pursuant to Governing Board Policy 5-214, A.R.S. §15-342 (24), and A.R.S. § 15-1142 as submitted in Exhibit 12 with noted revision to the fee for band.

L. Approval of Out of State Travel
The Governing Board approved Out of State Travel as submitted in Exhibit 13.

7. <u>STUDY/ACTION</u>

A. Study and Approval of the Proposed Adopted Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027; Public Hearing

For the Proposed Adopted Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 see Exhibit 14.

Superintendent Jaeger stated that the Board is required to adopt a budget by July 15th each year. He asked Mr. Little to present this item.

Mr. Little explained that there is a two-step process for adoption of the annual budget which begins with adopting a proposed budget which was done back in June and gives the public time to look and comment on the budget before adoption. He went on to say there are also public notifications that are required due to the very small tax levy associated with the Adjacent Ways levy. Mr. Little shared that one requirement of the budget adoption is that the budget cannot be increased between the proposed and adopted budget. Since the proposed budget was approved prior to the legislature adjourning, the budget will have to be brought back for revision in September to address the things added in by the legislature.

Mr. Little noted that the District is losing approximately $1.7-$1.8 million a year due to declining enrollment so the budget reflects those changes. He also noted that prior to this meeting there was an error discovered in the FTE's of the administration that was corrected and that is the only change between the proposed budget and what is being presented this evening. He offered to answer any questions.

Dr. Gemma asked if the primary tax rate was the same as last year and asked if it can change.

Mr. Little stated it is the same as last year and that it will actually go down. He went on to say that since the legislature hadn't made final decisions at the time of the proposed budget, current numbers are used at that time and then later revised with actual numbers. Mr. Little stated that numbers will come down based upon growth in assessed valuation and the legislative changes.

Dr. Gemma asked about the increase in vehicle expenditures under capital. He assumes this is bus purchases.

Mr. Little stated he would have to look back to be certain, but he believed there are some budget purchases for smaller buses and maintenance vehicles that need to be replaced.

President Cox Golder declared a public hearing pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-905 to receive input from the public on any item or items in the budget.

There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

President Cox Golder moved to approve the Proposed Adopted Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. Roll call vote in favor- 4. President Cox Golder-Yes, Ms. Day-Yes, Dr. Gemma-Yes, Ms. Zibrat-Yes, Opposed -0. Study/Action Item 7.A. passed.

B. Study and Approval of the District Facility Use Policy Manual and Fee Schedule for the 2026-2027 School Year

For the proposed District Facility Use Policy Manual and Fee Schedule for the 2026-2027 School Year and associated PowerPoint see Exhibit 15.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. La Nasa to present this item.

Mr. La Nasa began with some background and stated that the process to revise the rental policies and fees began last spring. A 14-member committee was formed comprised of various stakeholders from different user groups who gave input on the proposed manual and fee schedule that was presented at the June 9th Governing Board meeting. He gave an overview of the user group classifications and the proposed fee schedule for each of the four user groups.

Mr. La Nasa stated much of the discussion during the committee meeting on July 7th was about what defines a fundraiser event and the use of various accounts. He explained that if proceeds from an event are deposited into a District account such as an auxiliary account as opposed to a student club or booster account, the event is not considered a fundraiser. Mr. La Nasa further explained that if the proceeds from an event are deposited into a student club or booster account, it is considered a fundraiser and the appropriate fees for the event would apply. He noted that the funds deposited into the auxiliary fund for a certain group are for the sole use of the group who deposits them. Mr. La Nasa shared that Mr. Little went into great detail when explaining this to the advisory group to ensure understanding. He went on to say explain the limitations of purchases that can be made with auxiliary funds whereas student club and booster accounts have greater freedom and do not have to adhere to state procurement guidelines. Mr. La Nasa stated there is an advantage to having both types of funds available to groups.

Mr. La Nasa went on to explain more revisions that were made to the manual about Vendor Programs, Courses and Camps as well as to the Terms and Conditions-Outside Facilities that added clarity to the explanations. He explained that if a group's event ends early, they have the option to request a refund for the unused time and that each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the District to determine if a refund is warranted and feasible. Mr. La Nasa highlighted the revisions as they appear in the manual and offered to answer any questions.

Dr. Gemma thanked administration for all their work on this and noted how educational this presentation was. He suggested this presentation be made available to all the booster groups to help build a better understanding of what funds can be used for. President Cox Golder agreed that the presentation helped clarify the different types of funds and their purposes.

Mr. La Nasa stated it would be very easy to incorporate this information into the training that is conducted for booster groups several times a year.

Ms. Day moved to approve the District Facility Use Policy Manual and Fee Schedule for the 2026-2027 School Year. Dr. Gemma seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Cox Golder, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed -0. Study/Action Item 7.B. passed.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

There were none.

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Cox Golder moved to adjourn. Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor -4. President Cox Golder, Ms. Day, Dr. Gemma, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed -0. The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Jen Anderson

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

July 20, 2026
Date

Vicki Cox Golder, Governing Board President

July 28, 2026
Date