



PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE *for* EVERYONE

Regular Board Meeting - 6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

In-Person at Phoenix High School

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85630700502?pwd=kOE9qmiXFp189sLUya0BazlciqJQqp.1>

Password: 551706

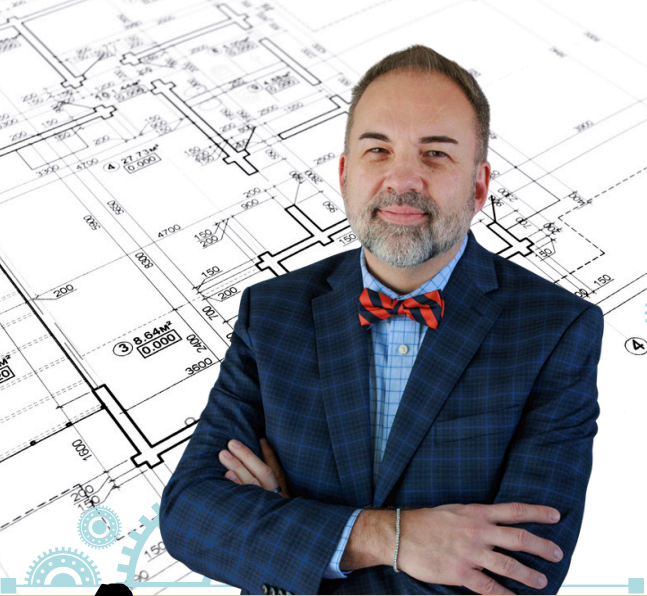
Agenda Español

Minutas Español

AGENDA

- A. **Executive Session - 4:30 p.m. — This session is closed to the public under ORS 192.660 (2)(b)(e)(i)**
- B. **Regular Session Call to Order - 6:00 p.m.**
- C. **Student Representative Report**
- D. **Accentuate the Positive**
- E. **Citizen Comments**
- F. **PTEA/OSEA Association Updates**
- G. **Superintendent Report**
- H. **Program Report: Inclusive Practices**
- I. **Consent Agenda**
 - 1. Approval of Agenda
 - 2. Approval of Minutes from 2/18/26
 - 3. Personnel Report
- J. **Information and Discussion**
 - 1. **Legislative / OSBA Update**
 - 2. **Committee Reports**
- K. **Recess**
- L. **Action Items**
 - 1. **Renewal of Teacher and Administrator Contracts**
 - 2. **OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship for Softball with AHS**
- M. **Review of the Next Meeting Agenda**
- N. **Adjournment**

Phoenix-Talent School District #4 is an Equal Opportunity Employer and, in accordance with Federal and State Legislation, does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, or marital status, physical or mental disability in employment practices or education programs. **If you need special accommodations for language interpretation or because of a disability**, please contact the District Office Executive Assistant two days prior to meeting at 541-535-1511 Voice/TD.



Blueprint & Beyond

COMPONENT DISTRICT
EDITION

A regular update from the
Superintendent's Office
for the districts we serve.



1. Superintendent's Message

Dear Component District Colleagues,

Thank you for the many ways you have supported SOESD in developing our five-year strategic plan. Along with refreshed mission, vision, and core values, the plan will be presented to our board for approval in March. Whether you participated in a focus group, completed one (or more) surveys, or shared input in another way, we are deeply grateful! Our direction is stronger because you took the time to lend your voice to the process. And there are additional opportunities for feedback ahead.

Each year, the SOESD cabinet meets with the leadership teams of our component districts to reflect on our partnership. This spring, we plan to center those conversations around three questions:

1. What is going well?
2. What roadblocks are you experiencing?
3. Is there anyone who has been especially helpful to you?

I would welcome insights on these questions from anyone who engages with SOESD services. Your perspective helps us understand both what is working and where we can improve. You can email our Communications and Partnerships Coordinator, Erin Green, with your feedback: erin_green@soesd.k12.or.us.

Later this spring, we will also launch our annual customer satisfaction survey. This survey provides a more detailed opportunity to share feedback on the specific services we provide.

Our mission, vision, and core values anchor us in the WHY of our work. Our strategic plan clarifies WHAT our priorities will be over the next five years. Your feedback helps us refine HOW we serve you...with greater clarity, responsiveness, and impact.

Thank you for being an engaged and trusted partner in this work. We are better together.

Best!
Mark

Mark Angle-Hobson
ED.D.

This Edition's Topics!

- 1.....Superintendent's Message
- 2.....Local Service Plan: Process & Draft
- 3.....Future of SOESD: Strategic Plan + Vision, Mission, & Values
- 4.....From Southern Oregon to Salem: Advocating for Our Schools
- 5.....SOESD Leadership: Engagement Across Our Region and Beyond
- 6.....Interim Assessment Caravan on March 4
- 7.....Save the Date: District Office Grand Opening

2. Local Service Plan: *Process & Draft*



Digital
LSP Draft

**CLICK
HERE**



Storybook
LSP Draft

3. Future of SOESD: *Strategic Plan + Vision, Mission, Values*



Five-Year Strategic Plan

Timeline:

We've made great strides in our strategic planning process, engaging staff, stakeholders, and community members along the way. Here's a recap of our work so far and where we're heading.

- 9/30/25: Steering Committee Meeting #1
- 10/27-31/25: Focus Groups (134 participants)
- 11/19/25: Steering Committee Meeting #2
- 1/6-8/26: Focus Groups (18 participants)
- 1/9-14/26: Focus Group Survey (46 responses)
- 1/27/26: Steering Committee Meeting #3
- 1/30-2/9/26: Validation Survey (57 responses)
- 2/17/26: Steering Committee Meeting #4
- 3/18/26: Presentation & Vote on Strategic Plan by SOESD Board of Directors

Validation Survey Highlights:

- 57 responses received
- 80–91% of responses were in the top two categories (agree or strongly agree)
- Feedback led to minor revisions, including grammatical adjustments
- Pillar numbers do not indicate rank and will not appear in the final draft
- Readability level: 10th grade / professional level

Vision, Mission, Values



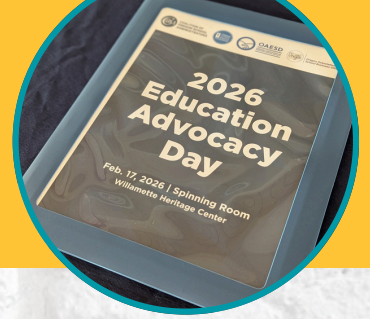
At a recent mid-year retreat, our administrative team dedicated time to reflecting on and drafting updated statements for our vision, mission, and core values. We are now sharing this work with staff to gather feedback, validate the direction, and refine the language. The next step will be to bring the input back to leadership to further refine the statements and plan how we will operationalize our values and support staff in living into our mission and vision.

Together, these statements help answer essential questions: What is our purpose? Where are we headed? How will we show up along the way? When done well, they serve as a daily guide for decisions and actions, not just words on paper.

The revised vision and mission are grounded in our statutory role as an Education Service District and will be presented for a board of director's vote alongside the Strategic Plan on March 18.



4. From Southern Oregon to Salem: *Advocating for Our Schools*



On Tuesday, February 17, SOESD participated in Education Advocacy Day in Salem. It was a day filled with connection, advocacy, and hope. Nearly 100 students, administrators, and education advocates gathered at the Oregon State Capitol to meet with legislators and share how state-level decisions impact our schools. Representatives from Southern Oregon included district and board leaders from Ashland, Phoenix-Talent, Three Rivers, and Grants Pass, along with SOESD.

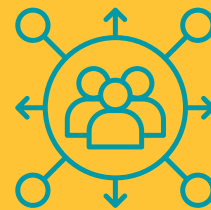
The group's message focused on the importance of the Education Stability Fund, created by voters in 2002 to protect essential student services during economic downturns. The fund has been used nine times, most recently in 2020 when \$400 million helped prevent significant cuts during COVID. We asked lawmakers to commit to accessing the fund in the 2026 session to help avoid reductions to school budgets and ensure students continue to receive critical supports.

SOESD is proud to help connect regional experiences to statewide conversations. We're grateful to everyone who came together to share their time, voice, and stories in support of our schools.



5. SOESD Leadership

Engagement Across Our Region and Beyond



We recently received feedback encouraging SOESD to continue increasing visibility and involvement in regional, statewide, and national leadership efforts. We appreciate this input and are pleased to share a snapshot of how our administrators are currently engaged.

Our administrative team contributes in many ways beyond their day-to-day responsibilities, participating in efforts that advance education, equity, school improvement, and other priorities aligned with our mission and key areas of work. These contributions help amplify SOESD's impact and connect Southern Oregon to broader conversations shaping education.

Please view the list of boards, commissions, advisory groups, and collaborative efforts our leadership team participates in below. We hope this provides transparency into our level of involvement and our continued commitment to serving our component districts.

SOESD Regional,
Statewide, &
National Leadership



We also want to recognize the many SOESD staff members beyond the leadership team who serve on committees and collaborative efforts. We are grateful for their time, expertise, and dedication.



6. Interim Assessment Caravan on March 4

Explore State-Approved Assessment Options

Who:

District and school leaders, assessment coordinators, and educators interested in reviewing state-approved interim assessment options.

What:

The Southern Oregon Interim Assessment Caravan — an opportunity to learn about the interim assessments adopted by the Oregon State Board of Education, connect with vendors, and explore which tools may best meet district needs. Featured assessments include:

- NWEA MAP Growth
- Curriculum Associates i-Ready
- Renaissance Learning STAR Reading & STAR Math
- Cambium Assessment Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

Where:

RCC Medford
101 E. 10th St., Medford, OR 97501



When:

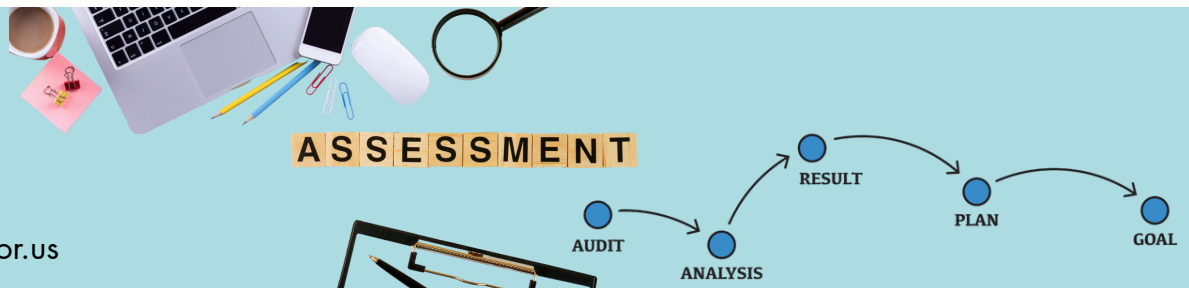
March 4, 9:30am-3pm

How to Register:

<https://pdnetworks.soesd.k12.or.us/public/events/view-event/15479>

Contact:

Aaron Cooke
(541) 776-8590 Ex1107
aaron_cooke@soesd.k12.or.us



STAR™
Assessments



smarter
BALANCED

7. Save the Date: *SOESD District Office Grand Opening!*

You're invited to the

SOESD
District Office

**GRAND
OPENING**

Ceremony + Ribbon Cutting



Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 4 – 6pm

5465 S. Pacific Hwy.
Phoenix, OR 97535



SOESD

Southern Oregon Education Service District





PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE *for* EVERYONE

Board Meeting – 6:00 PM
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
In-Person at Phoenix High School
ZOOM Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85630700502?pwd=kOE9qmiXFp189sLUya0BazlciqJQqp.1>

Meeting ID: 856 3070 0502 Passcode: 551706

AGENDA

- A. Executive Session – 4:30 p.m. — This session is closed to the public under ORS 192.660 (2)(b)(e)(i)
- B. Regular Meeting – Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.
- C. Student Representative Report
- D. Accentuate the Positive
- E. Citizen Comments
- F. PTEA/OSEA Association Updates
- G. Superintendent Report
- H. Program Report: Inclusive Practices
- I. Consent Agenda
 - 1. Approval of Agenda
 - 2. Approval of Minutes from 2/18/26
 - 3. Personnel Report
- J. Information and Discussion
 - 1. Legislative / OSBA Update
 - 2. Committee Reports
- K. Recess
- L. Action Items
 - 1. Renewal of Teacher and Administrator Contracts
 - 2. OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship for Softball with AHS
- M. Review of the Next Meeting Agenda
- N. Adjournment



PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE *for* EVERYONE

Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 6:00 PM Pacific

Orchard Hill Elementary School
1011 La Loma Drive
Medford, OR 97540

Michael Campbell:	Present	Diana Rasmussen:	Present
Nancy Castillo-McKinnis:	Present	Dawn Watson:	Present
Polly Farrimond:	Present (via ZOOM)	Rebecca Weathers:	Absent
Rick Nagel:	Absent	Present: 5, Absent: 2	

A. **Executive Session** - 5:30 p.m. — This session is closed to the public under ORS 192.660 (2)(e)(i)

B. **Regular Session Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

C. Student Representative Report

- Lincoln Potochnick said that winter sports are wrapping up. Quin Davis from the swim team qualified for state, and several guys from the wrestling team also qualified for state.
- Elia Santos said that Saturday was Valentine's Day and the Latino Student Union (LSU) sold concha's, and the leadership team sold candy grams, and they were delivered on Friday. Elia said that there was a lot of excitement surrounding yesterday's snow day.
- Emily Emry said that our CTE night is being moved to next Wednesday due to the weather. Those who attend will learn about the CTE programs that we offer at PHS.

D. Accentuate the Positive

OHES Principal Kent Vallier shared the following:

- Principal Vallier said that Valentine's Day was last Friday, and we had a lot of great parties and excited kids here at Orchard Hill.
- Mr. Vallier shared some outstanding iReady math data from Jenny Weaver's 4th grade class. At the beginning of the year, 21% of her students were at or above grade level in math. Just after our winter testing, that same group went from 21% to 57% at or above grade level. In the same class, in the fall, 29% of students were two or more grade levels below and, after winter testing, that number is now at 4%. Similarly, Ellen Anding's kinder class had some outstanding growth as well. In the fall, 10% of her students were at or above grade level and 65% were emerging. After winter testing, those same students are now at 65% at or above grade level and 30% are emerging. Just two great teachers doing wonderful things — I am happy they are here.

PES Principal Shawna Schleif shared the following:

- Ms. Schleif said they had their Love of Learning event last Thursday night. While families met with teachers, we had the students separated with supervision. Ms. Schleif gave a shout-out to Brianna Miller and said she was grateful for her and her efforts in creating a fun activity with a dance party that was in the gym. Families were really engaged in seeing the data of their students' learning strategies. Ms. Schleif also thanked all the teachers and staff for their efforts in making this all happen.

- Ms. Schleif is grateful to the staff that supervises the playgrounds for keeping a safe recess experience. We have had fewer accidents, fewer incidents and referrals.

TES Principal Heather Lowe shared the following:

- Last week's Love of Learning event was awesome. Ms. Lowe gave a shout-out to our co-leads for our family engagement team, Jodie Yeamans and Nuvia Pineda. Kudos to Shawna for initiating this kind of elementary writing focus.
- Valentine's Day was really sweet and being able to focus on the innocence of kids.
- Officer Divya Amesur with the Talent PD, has taken the initiative to create a stronger partnership with our school as we seek different community service projects for our Sparrow, Emiliano. On Friday, Divya, Joe and I will be making a video about our collaboration and how we can help students be more service oriented.
- We are about to kick off our artist-in-residence, which will be sponsored by our PTA's fundraising. Our artist-in-residence's name is Allegra Brucker, and she is from Ashland. Her vision is beautiful, and she is calling the piece 'The Fish Remember'. The goal is to create an entire mural on the side of our gym, and it will be a homage to the role that salmon and fish have played in this region for indigenous families historically.
- Our checkers' tournament will start next week, so the kids are practicing this week.

TMS Principal Casey Olmstead shared the following:

- Principal Olmstead gave a shout-out to the custodial and maintenance teams and to Stephen McCormick for all the work they did in getting our building ready with the weather challenges.
- Another shout-out was given to Richard Byrd, TMS librarian, for all of his help and support of our students and staff. His help is monumental in getting our students through iReady, tech support for staff, overall library support, and simply appreciating his presence.

PTRA Principal Aaron Santi shared the following:

- The Pollinator Project will be visiting our PTRA classroom this Friday to do a hands-on plant dissection lesson with our students. It's one of our more popular class presentations each year.
- Thanks to all of our ELD teachers and their classified support staff, as well as our ELL students for another seamless administration process. ELPA testing is largely complete.

PHS Asst. Principal & Athletic Director James Joy shared the following:

- We had five wrestlers qualify for the state championships: Weston Miles, Aidric Baynard, Tristian Celeen, Caden Cunningham and Conner Cunningham. Girl's wrestling districts is this weekend and state is the following weekend.
- Quin Davis qualified for state in the swim team. Quin is currently seated as the number one swimmer in the 200 and 500 freestyle.
- Cheer had their state competition last weekend and finished seventh in the four-eight game day competition.
- Our bowling team is headed to their state championships next weekend in Hillsboro.
- DECA is departing this weekend for the state conference in Portland under the care of Mr. Carvalho.
- Next week is National FFA Week.
- CTE Night was moved from tonight to next Wednesday, the 25th.
- The theater production of CLUE starts next week.

- Big shout-out to all of our teachers and staff; 242 students made the honor roll, which is a GPA of 3.5 or higher; of those 242 students, 114 of them had a 4.0 GPA.

Director Dawn Watson said that she is so thankful for the staff we have. Dawn shared that she ran into a new communications person from the Tigard-Tualatin school district. She was a little nervous as she did not have a communications or media background. Dawn asked Joe Zavala, our communications specialist, to reach out to her and offer help, and he was happy to do so. Dawn said that she and Nancy got to see our student art in the tunnel at DC. We have at least one student every year that gets to display their artwork and that is a huge deal.

Chair Campbell attended Love of Learning night at OES last week, and gave kudos to all the staff. Our staff is doing such a good job of informing parents about what is going on in the classroom. I see it and feel it in the communications that we get weekly from our kiddo's teacher. It was great to learn about the rigor. Michael appreciates the way the students are being challenged.

Director Nancy Castillo-McKinnis thanked Director Watson for her leadership at the National School Board Association Advocacy Day at the capital. There was a huge delegation from Southern Oregon at the Education Advocacy event in Salem Nancy is grateful for this school district and for all the support we receive. Supt. Barry participated in a superintendent panel with Southern Oregon Success. It is so important for us to have superintendents at the table, and it was nice to have several from our area present and share what the challenges are.

Director Diana Rasmussen said that we are very lucky to be so well represented with Dawn and Nancy going to DC and meeting with our representatives. Diana was also grateful to hear about the honor roll statistics. Sometimes we get so discouraged by testing scores, but those are just part of the big picture of student success. Also, having attendance rates increase speaks to how students feel they belong and have a place to go.

E. Citizen Comments - None

F. Superintendent Report

- Supt. Barry said he had just returned from the National Superintendent's Conference, and feels grateful to know that our state and our department of education are fighting for our kids, which is not the case in all states.
- We are in the process of adopting new social science instructional materials. We invite families, students, staff, and community members to review the options and provide feedback. Exemplars can be viewed at the district office through March 30th, and we will be presenting our recommendation to the board in April.
- Supt. Barry thanked everyone, including students, staff and families, for their patience this week regarding the weather. Supt. Barry really appreciates Jonel Todd from First Student as she is always on task and so helpful with making the hard decisions in delays and closures.

G. Program Report: TAP Facilities Grant

Supt. Barry said that we have wanted to look at where we are at after the bond, how are facilities are doing, and look at a 30-year-long range facility plan on how we want to support our district.

Jon McCalip said we received two grants. One was for a facilities' assessment, and the second one was for a 30-year-long range plan. Jon introduced Susan Miller, Senior Planner of Capital AE. Susan presented information regarding the Phoenix-Talent Long-range Facilities Master Plan (LRFMP). In summary, Ms. Miller provided information on the purpose of the LRFMP as follows:

- The plan creates a roadmap to:
 - Improve the condition of district facilities
 - Understand enrollment and utilization of school sites
 - Align spaces with current and future academic needs and programming
 - Ensure equitable distribution of resources and supports across the district
- The plan will:
 - Develop a 5-to 10-year vision and implementation plan; remain actionable and flexible, and build for financial sustainability.

Ms. Miller reviewed the challenges and opportunities and the process for the development of the LRFMP. Details on each of the following were presented.

- Key elements of the LRFMP include: demographics, facilities, educational adequacy, finances, and community engagement.
- Challenges addressed included: enrollment, utilization levels, and financial uncertainties.
- Opportunities addressed included: student experience, financial sustainability, and facility conditions.

In conclusion, Ms. Miller provided a timeline for the next steps. There were questions and then discussions ensued.

H. Consent Agenda

I move to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Dawn Watson and seconded by Diana Rasmussen. Being there were no objections, the consent agenda was approved.

- H.1. Approval of Agenda
- H.2. Approval of Minutes from 2/4/26
- H.3. Personnel Report

I. Information and Discussion

I.1. Legislative / OSBA Update

- Director Watson shared that she attended the 2026 Education Advocacy Day, and there was a large group from southern Oregon who attended. It was a joint effort of OSBA, COSA, Oregon Association of Education Service Districts and the Oregon Association of School Business Officials. Director Watson said that time spent in DC went really well.
- Director Castillo-McKinnis said she sees a lot of value in listening to very diverse voices and diverse perspectives. It was nice to ask questions, build relationships, and support others in this process.

I.2. Financial Report

Yazmin Karabinas gave a summary of the financial report. We are currently projecting a 25% ending fund balance due to revenues increasing by \$12.5 million. This was due to, in part, from an extensive analysis of our expenditures. A lot of the positions that we had included in the general fund were reassigned to grants. In addition, we have received a lot of interest from our ADM security funds that we received at the beginning of the year. Projecting to the end of the year, we should have around

\$900,000 from interest alone. Other reasons for the increase in revenue had to do with not filling planned positions so a savings in salary and other benefits, and moving the contingency fund of \$600,000 back into the general fund. Ms. Karabinas also spoke about the projected bond fund and the construction excise tax fund.

I.3. Renewal of Teacher and Administrator Contracts

Supt. Barry said that we are continuing to work with our administrators and our teachers and we will have a final list at the next meeting for the renewals and the non-renewals.

I.4. Drop-out & Graduation Rate

Supt. Barry spoke about the three attachments given, which included a graph comparing PHS grad rates with the county and the state; a four-year cohort graduation rate list and a dropout rate comparison of districts in Jackson County. A discussion ensued with a question regarding contributing factors to our high graduation rate.

J. Recess

K. Action Items

K.1. SOESD 2026-2027 Local Service Plan & SSA Comprehensive Support Plan

Chair Campbell asked for discussion. Director Watson said that she was somewhat reluctant this year about the ESD having six new board members out of nine, a new superintendent, and new administration staff, but she is hopeful for greater changes. Ms. Watson feels like they really want to collaborate and listen more, so she feels very supportive of the plan this year.

I move to approve the 2026-2027 ESD Local Service Plan and Student Success Act Comprehensive Support plan as presented. This motion, made by Nancy Castillo-McKinnis and seconded by Diana Rasmussen, Carried. Rick Nagel: Absent, Rebecca Weathers: Absent, Michael Campbell: Yea, Nancy Castillo-McKinnis: Yea, Polly Farrimond: Yea, Diana Rasmussen: Yea, Dawn Watson: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

L. Review of the Next Meeting Agenda

M. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Michael Campbell, Chair

Brent Barry, Superintendent



PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE *for* EVERYONE

Board Work Session - 6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

In-Person at Phoenix-Talent Schools District Office

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84103423718?pwd=oUielVv1zmw1OhuaF3oQS0K5dpUVWr.1>

Meeting ID: 841 0342 3718 Passcode: 897102

AGENDA

- A. Executive Session – 4:30 p.m. – This session is closed to the public under ORS 192.660 (2)(i)
- B. Work Session call to Order - 6:00 p.m.
- C. Presentation by David Williams of Piper Sandler & Co.
- D. Board Self-Evaluation
- E. Adjournment

Phoenix-Talent School District #4 is an Equal Opportunity Employer and, in accordance with Federal and State Legislation, does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, or marital status, physical or mental disability in employment practices or education programs. **If you need special accommodations for language interpretation or because of a disability**, please contact the District Office Executive Assistant two days prior to meeting at 541-535-1511 Voice/TD.