



HIGLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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June 24, 2025 - Board Meeting Agenda Questions & Responses

Please Note: Board Docs agenda item numbers have updated due to consent items being moved to action items.

6.3 Approve Personnel Action Items-If any related to the new policy, please pull

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

6.4 Ratify Payroll and Expense Vouchers

What is the supplemental material?

Vendor	Vouch	Inv. Date	Invoice	PO No.	Total	Detail Line Description
[Redacted]						[Redacted]

This was payment for coaching an after-school basketball clinic.

Why would we pay this for [Redacted] knowing [Redacted] is leaving the district?

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION	1143	6/3/2025	300138809-2025	[Redacted]
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This is a district membership and once [Redacted] position is filled, the membership will transfer over.

What benefit does this have for the district?

GILBERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	1145	6/9/2025	1072183	202505837	[Redacted]
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Partnering with the Gilbert Chamber of Commerce provides the school district with enhanced community visibility, stronger connections to local businesses, and a direct voice in town planning. Participation in events like awards luncheons and liaison meetings promotes recognition of staff and students, fosters collaboration on workforce and career readiness initiatives, and opens access to valuable resources such as internships, mentorships, and sponsorships. Working closely with the Town of Gilbert ensures alignment on key issues impacting students and families, while also strengthening public trust and support for the district. At this event, Sherry and David were recognized along with other Superintendents for their support of the Chamber by participating as a liaison for the District.

Do we have visibility into how many people access these sites?

NETWORK SOLUTIONS	1145	6/10/2025 MAY 2025	202505768	\$2.25 Higleycenter.com monthly charge to forward to correct website
NETWORK SOLUTIONS	1145	6/10/2025 MAY 2025	202505768	\$2.25 Higleycenter.net monthly charge to forward to correct website

We do not have metrics of how many people have been redirected from this site.

Can you give a general update on consent 6.9? (EVIT)

Attached is the latest information from our attorney. We do not have an agreed upon IGA as of now and do not anticipate having one prior to July 1.

6.10 Receive the Special Education Day School Report: FY25, 4th Quarter

Why do per-student costs vary so significantly between programs like ACCEL and BANNER ESY?

Private day schools independently set their costs. If a student attends a particular private day school during the school year and they qualify for ESY, they attend ESY at that school, and the price is non-negotiable. The student's needs also affect the overall cost (i.e. the need for one-on-one adult support).

Transportation costs, like EVERDRIVEN's \$119,392.83 for 4 students—are there alternative providers or more efficient routing options that could reduce these expenses?

Private transportation contractors set their fees.

Do we gather outcome data, such as student progress metrics, to assess whether high-cost programs like ACES and ACCEL deliver results that justify their expenses?

Students are placed in private day schools due to their extensive needs that cannot be met in the public school setting. Exit criteria is created for students in private day schools, so once they meet the exit criteria, they transition back to their home school. Students in private day schools are required to take the same state assessments as students attending schools in HUSD.

6.12 Approval of MOU between Higley Unified and Higley Education Association– Please pull

Do we evaluate the impact of the NBC supplemental compensation to ensure it effectively incentivizes certification and improves teaching quality? What impact has the NBC supplemental compensation had on teacher quality or student outcomes?

National Board Certified (NBC) teachers are generally more effective than their non-certified peers, particularly in instructional quality and content knowledge. Their students tend to achieve better outcomes, especially in reading and math. Supplemental compensation helps recruit and retain NBC teachers, with targeted,

substantial, and predictable bonuses proving most effective.

This item was moved to an action item.

How many HUSD teachers currently pursue or hold NBC, and what support is provided beyond the \$2,500 supplemental compensation?

HUSD has 37 teachers that hold any form of national certification; we do not track teachers who are pursuing national certification.

What are the specific expectations for mentors, and how is their effectiveness evaluated to justify the \$750 per semester stipend?

Expectations are to:

- Meet with mentee weekly during the first quarter and bi-weekly for the remainder of the school year.
- Observe and provide feedback to their mentee at least once
- Provide documentation of meetings and observations once per semester
- Attend two mentor meetings facilitated by the Director of Curriculum & Instruction and her team

Effectiveness is evaluated through feedback and review of submitted documentation.

How does the mentoring program support new teachers beyond the first year, especially for those in high-need areas like special education?

Formally, we do not have a program for teachers new to the profession beyond the first year, however site Instructional Coaches and District Content Specialists continue to provide support as needed. Special Education also provides ongoing professional development for their staff that is specific to Special Education needs.

What role does the HEA play in monitoring compliance with the MOU, and how are disputes between HEA and HUSD resolved?

HEA and Higley Administration discuss and enforce the MOU throughout the school year via the Meet & Confer process and through open communication with site representatives. Interest-based negotiation is used for all matters.

6.14 Approval of Payment Procedures - Ratify Vouchers and Salaries for FY2026-Please pull

Can the board receive a detailed report of all warrants signed between meetings before the ratification vote, including payee, amount, and purpose?

The board is provided the reports in Board Docs approximately a week before the meeting.

This item was moved to an action item.

Is there a public record of ratified warrants with descriptions available on the HUSD website to ensure community visibility?

Board Docs is a public site on the HUSD website that lists all ratified warrants ensuring transparency and oversight.

Could you expand on consent 6.14? Seems like a backwards approach for what the board does. (DK-E)

A.R.S. 15-321 allows the governing board to authorize the signing of salary and expense vouchers between board meetings. With the limited amount of board meetings, the resolution allows the district to process payroll and pay vendors in a timely manner and maintain day to day operation without delays in paying staff or vendors for work completed.

6.15 Approve Purchasing Contract Renewals for Fiscal Year 2025/2026

This is for existing curriculum, not new — correct? **If it's new, please pull.**

These are all existing contracts as noted in the *Original Board Award* dates listed below and are being recommended for renewal in FY2026. The curriculum is an existing adopted material.

This item will remain on the consent agenda.

Contract Number:	RFP # 23-01-28
Contract Title:	Science Textbook Adoption
Description:	New Science Curriculum District Wide
Awarded Vendor:	Bedford, Freeman & Worth - McGraw Hill - Savvas
Original Board Award:	May 12, 2022
Final Expiration:	June 30, 2028
Primary Funding:	Capital
Contract Number:	RFP #24-01-29
Contract Title:	Middle School Honors Science Textbook Adoption
Description:	Middle School Honors Science Textbooks
Awarded Vendor:	Savvas
Original Board Award:	July 1, 2023
Final Expiration:	June 30, 2029
Primary Funding:	Capital

Does consent 6.15 utilize resources without DEI, CRT and SEL and focus strictly on academics? (Contract Renewals)

These contracts were previously board approved and are ongoing until noted expiration date. This includes curriculum adoptions that follow state standards.

6.16 Approval of Cooperative Vendors Purchasing Threshold to Exceed \$100,000 for FY 2025/2026

Please provide a variance explanation for each vendor in the attached Excel document in column G. (why the increase or reduction).

Changes align to budgeted priorities and anticipated expenditures.

6.17 Appointment of Student Activities Treasurer for FY 25/26-Please pull

We are being asked to designate **2** finance officials (Executive Director of Finance and Operations and the Director of Finance) to oversee the Student Activity Fund. Please name the Executive Director of Finance and Operations and the Director of Finance. These aren't new roles, are they?

The Executive Director of Finance and Operations is not filled (previously CFO position) therefore to have a filled position overseeing the Student Activities fund the current Director of Finance, Sharon Rushcamp, is being recommended as the designee.

Who has been overseeing this fund and why does it require 2 individuals? Why the change? What is the financial impact of this designation?

The Chief Financial Officer has been the designee who has been overseeing the Student Activities Fund, however due to the district updating the position title, the district needs to update the designee.

This item was moved to an action item.

6.20 Approval of Amendment #3 to the Transition from School to Work IGA

What was the amount last year? If it increased, why is that?

The budget has decreased slightly from Amendment #2.
FY25 Amendment #2 - \$232,440
FY26 Amendment #3 - \$231,359

6.21 Approval Alternative Transportation for Private Day Students

The agreement mentions that all vans are equipped with GPS technology which tracks location and driver safety in real time but does not reference any form of surveillance like video or audio recording inside the vehicles. Do you know if there is any video or audio recording for student safety?

No, we do not.

6.30 Approval of 25-26FY Contracted Substitutes from Educational Service Inc.

Document name should say ESI not ESA.

 Higley USD ESA 3rd Amendment 2025-26 Ex B_Signed.pdf (225 KB)

ESA stands for Employee Staffing Agreement.

6.31 Authorization of Expenditure – WFHS Criminal Justice Construction to JS Waltz Construction LLC Change Order

At the 5/13 meeting we approved the following for \$422,382 and now an additional \$136,831.05. That's \$560,713.05 in total which includes the \$1500 for DLR. How much more do we expect this to cost? Are there any additional expenses that I missed?

5/13/25

Submitted by: Tyler Moore, Chief Financial Officer

ISSUE:

Since the Bond Election failed in 2024 the district has researched options to open additional classroom space at Williams Field HS due to the at capacity enrollment levels. After significant discussion the district found an opportunity to move the Criminal Justice CTE program which is currently occupying three (3) classrooms to the old storage/weight room area on the Southwest side of the campus. The proposed space needs several renovations to make it suitable for the Criminal Justice program which is reflected in this expenditure recommendation. The renovations are anticipated to be completed over the summer in turn opening up three (3) additional classrooms at Williams Field HS for FY2026.

COST IMPLICATIONS:

Total - \$422,382.00 (Fund 596 – CTED Budget)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the governing board approve the authorization of expenditure in the amount of \$422,382.00 for the WFHS Criminal Justice Construction to JS Waltz Construction LLC.

 Waltz - HUSD Williams Criminal Justice Workbook Summary 050125[98].pdf (230 KB)

6/24/25

Public Content

Submitted by: Tyler Moore, Chief Financial Officer

ISSUE:

Since the Bond Election failed in 2024 the district has researched options to open additional classroom space at Williams Field HS due to the at capacity enrollment levels. After significant discussion the district found an opportunity to move the Criminal Justice CTE program which is currently occupying three (3) classrooms to the old storage/weight room area on the Southwest side of the campus. The proposed space needs several renovations to make it suitable for the Criminal Justice program which is reflected in this expenditure recommendation. The renovations are anticipated to be completed over the summer in turn opening up three (3) additional classrooms at Williams Field HS for FY2026.

In May the board approved the initial expenditure with design not being fully complete to get a head start on the project. This change order represents the items that were still being completed from the architect; they include HVAC, lighting, and a few special areas.

COST IMPLICATIONS:

Total - \$136,831.05 (Fund 596 – CTED Budget)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the governing board approve the authorization of expenditure in the amount of \$136,831.05 for the WFHS Criminal Justice Construction Change Order to JS Waltz Construction LLC.

 Pending ASI 1 Owner Change Order CTE.pdf (112 KB)

This is the final amendment to the project as the initial expenditure approval was done in advance of the architectural drawing being 100% completed. This was done to get a head start on the work with a short summer break timeline.

6.32 Approval of Banking Services RFP #26-01-31

Who is our current Bank and why the need to change it?

Current bank is JP Morgan Chase. The RFP was solicited to see if the district could receive better banking services/benefits. The solicitation did result in a higher ECR and increased service expectation.

7.1 School Participatory Budgets

How will this increase the school climate?

How many HUSD schools (elementary and secondary) are expected to participate in SPB for 2025–2026?

Will all schools be required to participate, or is it optional? If optional, how will schools be selected?

Is SPB intended to be a one-year pilot for HUSD, or is there a plan for multi-year implementation? If multi-year, how will funding be sustained?

What is the total estimated cost of SPB across all participating HUSD schools, given the \$5,000 (elementary) and \$7,500 (secondary) allocations?

What contingency plans are in place if a winning project exceeds the allocated budget (\$5,000 or \$7,500) or faces unforeseen challenges?

Are there additional costs (teacher sponsor stipends, administrative oversight, or vendor coordination) not covered by the capital budget allocations?

What measures will be in place to ensure that proposed projects are feasible, compliant with district policies, and safe?

Will there be oversight to ensure that student-led projects do not inadvertently create safety or liability issues?

Who will serve as the SPB sponsor at each school, and what qualifications or training will they receive to support the student-led process?

What specific strategies will be used to integrate SPB into the curriculum (civics, financial literacy) to maximize educational benefits?

How will the district address the “civic opportunity gap” mentioned in the document, particularly for students with limited access to leadership roles?

How will the district measure the success of SPB in achieving its goals (improved school climate, civic engagement, or critical thinking skills)?

How will parents and the broader community be informed about SPB and encouraged to support student-led initiatives?

Will there be opportunities for community input during the brainstorming or voting phases to enhance community relations (Strategic Anchor 3)?

This information will be presented at the board meeting.

4.1 & 8.1 FY2026 Budget

Following up on my inquiry during yesterday's meeting about the need for a separate vote on the Adjacent Ways levy before it is included in the budget, I want to reiterate that I continue to have concerns that this process may not be proceeding correctly.

According to A.R.S. § 15-905.01(B), if a school district plans to levy any amount for Adjacent Ways pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-995, it must first:

- Publish a Truth in Taxation notice, and
- Hold a public hearing followed by a roll call vote specifically authorizing the levy during that hearing

These steps are legally required before the district can include such a levy in the official budget. Including the proposed \$2 million Adjacent Ways levy in the FY 2026 budget prior to completing this process could be procedurally inappropriate and noncompliant.

Additionally, subsection B clearly outlines the required format and timing for the Truth in Taxation notice. Specifically:

For any fiscal year in which a school district governing board budgets an amount higher than the truth in taxation base limit, or levies any amount for Adjacent Ways under § 15-995:

1. The district must publish a notice that meets these criteria:
 - (a) Published once in a newspaper of general circulation at least 10 but not more than 20 days before the hearing.
 - (b) Published outside the classified/legal ad section.
 - (c) At least one-fourth page in size, surrounded by a solid black border at least one-eighth inch wide.
 - (d) Must use the heading "Truth in Taxation Hearing – Notice of Tax Increase" in at least 18-point font.

Given the strict procedural requirements outlined in statute, I respectfully request that this matter be reviewed by legal counsel to confirm whether all necessary steps have been completed before finalizing the inclusion of the levy in the FY 2026 budget.

Ensuring compliance is not only essential from a legal standpoint but also critical to maintaining public trust and transparency in our budget process.

The board member has correctly identified the Truth in Taxation notice and hearing requirements to levy Adjacent Ways, by citing 15-905.01 and 15-995.

Given that the District is in the process of publishing the required Truth in Taxation Notice of the public hearing to be held on 6/24/25 (see attached), the District has met **part** of the statutory requirements.

The final part of the adjacent ways levy (tax increase) must be adopted after the Truth in Taxation Hearing **by a roll call vote** of the District's Governing Board, pursuant to 15-905.01.B.4, not a simple voice vote.