



1525 W. Frye Road
Chandler, Arizona 85224
and
Via YouTube

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Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board

Office of the Board
Maricopa County, Arizona
March 26, 2025
7:00 p.m.

1. Study Session – 4:45 pm

1.01 Federal Program

Dr. Korry Brenner, Director of Federal Programs, presented an update on CUSD Federal Programs. Dr. Brenner introduced her team, Dr. Amy Spilde, ELD Academic Coach, Tracy Corbin, ELD Academic Coach, Jamie Williams, ELD Academic Coach, Val Gyory, FIT Advocate & Academic Coach, Lisa St. Peter, Migrant, FIT & Indigenous Family Engagement Specialist, Antonette Shirley, Indigenous Student Engagement Specialist, Lorena Garcia, Academic Migrant Advocate & Recruiter, and Silvia Santizo, District Interpreter & Translator.

1.02 Community Education Programs

Scott VanDerMillen, Director of Community Education, presented an update on Community Education.

1.03 CUSD Fine Arts

Dr. Jessica Edgar, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented a CUSD Fine Arts update.

2. Opening Items - 7:08 pm

2.01 Roll Call

Patti M Serrano, Kurt D Rohrs, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza were present. Barb R Mozdzen was not present. Frank Narducci, Superintendent; Lana Berry, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Craig Gilbert, Associate Superintendent of PreK-12 Educational Services; Colleen Flannery, Chief Technology Officer; Dr. Michael De La Torre, Assistant Superintendent of PreK-12 Schools; Chris Rossini, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Dr. Jennifer Fletcher, Executive Director of Assessment, Accountability and Research; Dr. Jessica Edgar, Executive Director for PK-12 Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Kym Marshall, Executive Director of Student Personalized Learning; Dan Serrano, Executive Director of High Schools, Heather Anguiano, Executive Director of Elementary Schools, East Region; Ken James, Executive Director of Junior High Schools; Leo Schlueter, Executive Director of Elementary Schools, West Region; Stephanie Ingersoll, Executive Director of Marketing and Communication; and Tom Dunn, Executive Director of Support Services; were present. Dr. Jeff Filloon, Executive Director of Human Resources; was not present.

2.02 Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

3. Report / Information

3.01 Student Body President Report

Reports by:
Melanie Sandoval Castro - HHS
Yumi Chan - PHS

3.02 Correspondence

Mr. Narducci presented a letter from the Arizona Department of Education regarding 2024-2025 Office of English Language Acquisition Services Monitoring of Chandler Unified District's English Learner Program Results. The review of CUSD's English Learner program was conducted from January 27, 2025, to January 31, 2025. The Department of Education found that no corrective action was needed.

3. Report / Information (cont'd)

3.03 Superintendent Current Events

Welcome back Governing Board and Staff. I hope your spring break was restful and rejuvenating. Even though we were out, so much great news has happened since we last met.

Perry High School boys and Hamilton High School girls' basketball teams won their championship games meaning both teams took home state titles. Perry has won this title now 4 times in a row! We have invited both teams to be recognized at an upcoming Board meeting. Congratulations to the Huskies and the Pumas!

Andersen Junior High School just received word that they are officially an AVID Schoolwide Site. AVID is a college & career readiness framework and this honor means the AVID model is practiced with fidelity across campus every day. The latest episode of the Superintendent's Focus explains. Video played.

Over Spring Break, Chandler High School Modazz group was invited to perform at the State Capitol. This performance was part of the State Fine Arts Specialists for the Youth Arts Month festival. Great job, Wolves!

On April 1 at the State Capitol, CUSD will be present to promote public schools and public education while sharing information about our district and programs. We look forward to meeting all our great legislators and to Hamilton High School presenting the colors and saying the pledge on the State House floor.

Today Casteel High School held their very first Unified Sports Signing Day! Unified Sports is a program through CUSD athletics that pairs students with special needs with a gen ed student athlete in a variety of sports. Special Olympics Arizona attended today's ceremony to recognize and honor our incredible student athletes.

Yesterday, more than 50 CUSD students were recognized for completing the Arizona Cybersecurity Clinic (on their own time). The University of Arizona puts on this clinic through a grant with Google, and the clinic has been offered for just college students up until now BUT CUSD is the very first K-12 public school district to have this opportunity for students. A representative from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security spoke at yesterday's event saying CUSD students are the future of cybersecurity efforts worldwide...wow! Thank you to CUSD's coordinator of emerging technology Janet Hartkopf for bringing this opportunity to students.

Because we have received concerns about recent legislation and executive orders impacting children, we want to take a moment to remind all stakeholders that Chandler Unified remains committed to protecting the safety & rights of our students. Our priority is and always will be to care for and educate every student enrolled in our schools. Based on statute, neither students nor their families are ever asked about their immigration status, and District staff do not collect or maintain this information. Student records and student information are confidential. Staff will not release student information to any third party. Discrimination and Harassment based on race, color, and/or national origin are prohibited and not tolerated in our schools. We will continue to review policy and recommend updates to the Governing Board for review and approval as required.

Finally, our very own Board president Patti Serrano was nominated for this year's Save Our Schools 2025 Champions of Public Education Award, School Board Member of the Year and the committee selected her as the statewide recipient. She will be honored at an event in just a few days. Congratulations, Board president Serrano, and thank you for serving Chandler Unified.

In closing, let's have a great 4th quarter and we look forward to celebrating even more student, staff and school success.

4. **Comments**

4.01 Citizen Comments

Brett Wingate - CUSD as an Example - Topic changed at podium-question Board President about not saying the Pledge of Allegiance and wanted to know why.
Zeyna Pruzhanovsky - Support of CUSD Programs
Natalie Woods - Dehumanizing language used by board member at previous meeting.

5. **Consent Agenda**

5.01 Approve the Minutes of the February 26, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

The minutes are considered DRAFT until approved by the Governing Board.

5.02 Out of State Student Travel Preplanning

Out of state field trip pre-planning forms for BJHS, HHS and PHS were provided. Following Governing Board pre-approval, the Superintendent (designee) will monitor trip arrangements before providing final approval. The Governing Board will receive a summary of final travel arrangements at the end of the school year.

5.03 Approve and Ratify Payroll and Accounts Payable Vouchers

Requested approval and ratification of the following Payroll and Accounts Payable vouchers:

Payroll for 2024-2025 Year:

Voucher 1046 Payroll 03/06/2025

Voucher 1048 Payroll 03/06/2025

Voucher 1049 Payroll 03/20/2025

Accounts Payable for 2024-2025 Year:

Vouchers 6162-6166 02/20/2025 Check# 1800071872-1800072045

Vouchers 6167-6170 02/27/2025 Check# 1800072046-1800072214

Vouchers 6172-6176 03/06/2025 Check# 1800072243-1800072423

Voucher 6177 03/07/2025 Check# 1800072429

Voucher 6179 03/17/2025 Check# 1800072431

Voucher 6180 03/18/2025 Check# 1800072432-1800072433

5.04 Monetary Gifts

Requested approval of the monetary gifts generously donated to Chandler Schools totaling \$156,503.24.

5.05 Donations

Requested approval of the following items generously donated to Chandler Schools totaling \$29,275.59.

5.06 Employee Benefits Package 2025-2026

Recommended approval of the 2025-2026 Employee Benefits Package. Memo was provided.

5.07 Human Resources

Employment, Separation and Compensation.

Recommended approval for the 2025-2026 school year:

Administrator and Certified Contracts

Salary Schedules

Administrator and Certified Re-recommendation List

Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda as published and presented.

Motion by Ryan Heap, second by Claudia Mendoza.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

6. Action Items

6.01 MOU between CUSD and HealthCorps, Inc.

The Memorandum of Understanding between Chandler Unified School District and HealthCorps, Inc. will provide students (grades 5-12) with a new after-school club opportunity around health and wellness. College students will co-facilitate programming with CUSD staff that integrates health-promoting education, leadership opportunities, and service learning. Through various evidence-based learning activities, students are taught how to make positive changes to behaviors that impact their well-being and ultimately their success both inside and outside the classroom while learning about careers in healthcare. Students must have parent/guardian consent to participate.

Recommended approval of the MOU between Chandler Unified School District and HealthCorps, Inc.

Recommend approval of the MOU between Chandler Unified School District and HealthCorps, Inc. as amended.

Motion by Claudia Mendoza, second by Patti M Serrano.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

Recommend that MOU between Chandler Unified School District and HealthCorps, Inc. be run through the Behavioral Board Council to define behavioral counseling before we proceed with this MOU.

Motion by Kurt D Rohrs, second by Ryan Heap.

Motion Fails

Aye: Ryan Heap, Kurt D Rohrs

Nay: Patti M Serrano, Claudia Mendoza

Recommend approval of the MOU between Chandler Unified School District and HealthCorps, Inc. with an amendment to strike "session either in the classroom or" - MOU revision to state "Facilitate weekly TMHH sessions, each session lasting up to 1.5 hours in an after-school setting."

Motion by Ryan Heap, second by Kurt D Rohrs.

Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

6.02 ElevateEdAZ Memorandum of Understanding between the Greater Phoenix Chamber Foundation and Chandler Unified School District

The Purpose of this agreement is to establish a collaborative partnership between the Greater Phoenix Chamber Foundation and the District that supports students, parents, administration, and faculty to prepare individuals for college and career through stronger alignment between education, business, and the community. This agreement was reviewed by legal counsel for the district.

Recommended approval.

Recommend Approval of ElevateEdAZ Memorandum of Understanding between the Greater Phoenix Chamber Foundation and Chandler Unified School District.

Motion by Ryan Heap, second by Claudia Mendoza.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

6.03 Pilot Program to Address Critical Bus Driver Shortage: Compensation Considerations

As part of our ongoing efforts to address the national and local bus driver shortage, the administration formed a Driver Advisory Board to explore strategies for improving driver retention. The team was comprised of district administration, department administration, and bus drivers.

The first meeting, held on February 24, 2025, covered topics such as ongoing training, route bidding, driver uniforms, and compensation. The consensus from this meeting was that compensation is the

6. Action Items

6.03 Pilot Program to Address Critical Bus Driver Shortage; Compensation Considerations (cont'd)

highest priority in addressing the shortage and demonstrating support for our current driving staff.

Following the meeting, research was conducted on all mentioned topics. Based on the findings, we recommend the following pilot program to immediately address compensation needs.

Pilot Program to Address Critical Bus Driver Shortage: Compensation Considerations

Pilot Effective March 27, 2025, through May 21, 2026

1. Pilot Program to Compensate for Combined Routes

- Back Pay Stipend: \$500 for driving combined routes five or more times.
- 4th Quarter Stipend: \$500 for driving combined routes five or more times.
- Annual Stipend: \$2000 per year (\$500 per quarter stipend).

2. Pilot Program for Hard-to-Fill Routes (currently five routes)

- 4th Quarter Stipend: \$500 for driving hard-to-fill routes.
- Annual Stipend: \$2000 per year (\$500 per quarter stipend).

3. Pilot Program to Compensate for Payout of PTO for Drivers Over Their FTE

- Pilot program to allow drivers to receive payment for requested PTO instead of banking it, when over pay period FTE.

4. Pilot Program for One-Time Driver Shortage Crisis

- Pilot program for One-Time Driver Shortage Crisis Stipend: Pay all continuing drivers \$1000 if they remain employed as a driver through end of this school year. (Drivers must be hired by April 1, 2025)
 - Compensated in June 2025 (\$500) and August 2025 (\$500)

Below are Governing Board approved current opportunities for additional compensation

- New Hire Bonus: \$1,000 for newly signed drivers
- Referral Bonus: \$1,000 for newly signed drivers
- Journey 2025 Bonus: \$600
- Journey to Excellence Stipend: \$1,000
- Wellness incentive: \$400
- Access professional development for additional compensation

The district requested approval for the pilot program to address the critical bus driver shortage. This initiative will be funded using one-time funds from our unreserved fund balance. If the pilot program proves successful, it will be addressed during the annual NP5000 budget process for the next fiscal year.

Recommend approval of pilot program to address the critical bus driver shortage compensation considerations.

Motion by Ryan Heap, second by Kurt D Rohrs.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

6.04 Navarrete Elementary Media Center Renovations

As part of our ongoing efforts to align our facilities with Journey to Excellence, Navarrete Elementary School was selected as one of the sites to reimagine learning spaces. Through a process of collaboration and brainstorming site stakeholders developed a plan with the assistance of SPS+ Architects to reimagine their media center. These renovations will provide Navarrete students with learning opportunities that enhance the implementation of Career Literacy Standards Instruction including:

6. Action Items

6.04 Navarrete Elementary Media Center Renovations (cont'd)

- **Flexible:** Designed to adapt to various teaching pedagogy and learning styles, with movable furniture and modular layouts to provide hands on learning experiences and project-based learning.
- **Collaborative:** Encourages teamwork and group activities with spaces that allow for interaction and communication for the entire school community.
- **Innovative:** Equipped with digital tools and resources, such as interactive whiteboards, tablets, stem lab, amphitheater (presentation, plays) and 3D printer. This space will keep the learning experience fresh and exciting.
- **Student-Centered:** Focuses on the needs and interests of students, offering personalized learning experiences.
- **Inclusive:** Accessible to all students, staff and community, and promotes UDL and a sense of belonging and community.

The scope of the project includes:

- Demo and clear interior space to allow new buildout
- Demo exterior areas for new patio and exterior learning space
- New storefront doors and windows
- Rework bathrooms to make ADA accessible
- Rework HVAC
- Rework all fire alarm and fire sprinklers per code
- Paint and finish all areas per plan
- Exterior learning area with turf and shade canopies.

The district is seeking approval to contract Willmeng Construction Inc. under the 1GPA Contract #23-15PV-14 which complies with all procurement requirements and rules in the amount of \$1,825,276.87.

This project is part of the 2019 Bond - Capital Project List previously approved by the Board. Recommend approval of Willmeng Construction Inc. for the Navarrete Elementary Media Center Renovations in the amount of \$1,825,276.87.

Recommend approval to contract Willmeng Construction Inc. under the 1GPA Contract #23-15PV-14 which complies with all procurement requirements and rules in the amount of \$1,825,276.87.

**Motion by Claudia Mendoza, second by Ryan Heap.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Patti M Serrano, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza
Nay: Kurt D Rohrs**

6.05 Bologna Elementary Media Center Renovations

As part of our ongoing efforts to align our facilities with Journey to Excellence, Bologna Elementary School was selected as one of the sites to reimagine learning spaces. Through a process of collaboration and brainstorming site stakeholders developed a plan with the assistance of SPS+ Architects to reimagine their media center. These renovations will provide Bologna Elementary students with learning opportunities that enhance the implementation of Career Literacy Standards Instruction and Language Immersion includes:

- **Immersive Technology & Dual Language Integration** - Bologna Elementary will use VR and AR to enhance their Spanish immersive learning through interactive simulations. Students will engage in real-world experiences that enhance STEM learning, digital literacy, and career exploration, preparing them for the jobs of the future.
- **Career Literacy & Real-World Connections** - Their redesign aligns with the district's Career Literacy framework, exposing students to various careers through hands-on projects.
- **Innovative Makerspace & STEM Hub** - A collaborative space will serve as a hands-on learning environment where students engage in coding, robotics, and engineering challenges. This space will encourage innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving, reinforcing STEM education and future-ready skills.

6. Action Items

6.05 Bologna Elementary Media Center Renovations (cont'd)

- **Outdoor Learning Spaces** - A redesigned outdoor space will provide hands-on STEM experiences, garden-based science, and sustainability projects, fostering cross-disciplinary learning in a dynamic, natural setting.
- **Future-Ready Learning Environments** - Modernized classrooms and flexible learning spaces will promote engagement, creativity, and prepare students for success.

The scope of the project includes:

- Demo and clear interior space to allow new buildout
- Demo exterior areas for new patio and exterior learning space
- New storefront doors and windows
- Rework bathrooms to make ADA accessible
- Rework HVAC
- Rework all fire alarm and fire sprinklers per code
- Paint and finish all areas per plan
- Exterior learning area with turf and shade canopies.

The district is seeking approval to contract with Willmeng Construction Inc. under the 1GPA Contract #23-15PV-14 which complies with all procurement requirements and rules in the amount of \$1,951,283.04.

This project is part of the 2019 Bond - Capital Project List previously approved by the Board. Recommend approval of Willmeng Construction Inc. for the Bologna Elementary Media Center Renovations in the amount of \$1,951,283.04.

Recommend approval of Willmeng Construction Inc. for the Bologna Elementary Media Center Renovations in the amount of \$1,951,283.04.

Motion by Claudia Mendoza, second by Ryan Heap.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza

Nay: Kurt D Rohrs

7. Information

7.01 Student Activity, Auxiliary Operations, and Tax Credit Reports

Student Activity (SA), Auxiliary Operations (AUX), and Tax Credit (TC) Reports for the months ending July 2024 through February 2025 were provided for your review. There was an error on the SA report. The report was corrected and uploaded to BoardDocs after the meeting.

7.02 CUSD Board Agenda Roadmap

The Board discussed the Agenda Roadmap.

7.03 Board Member Current Events

Kurt Rohrs - Attended the following events: 3/6/24 - Weinberg GA STArt Faire Event and PHS Career Expo; 3/25 ACPHS Cybersecurity Event.

Ryan Heap - Attended the CCHS Choral Concert before break and it was amazing. Working with Rice Elementary on a Hygiene Kit Drive for the Care Center.

Patti Serrano - Congratulated BHS students for their participation in the FCCLA Competition in Tucson and thanked CHS student on her efforts within the Native American community. Ensured families that CUSD schools are prepared and operating as safe inclusive schools for all students. Welcomed everyone back to 4th quarter.

8. Adjournment

8.01 Adjourn the Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Board President