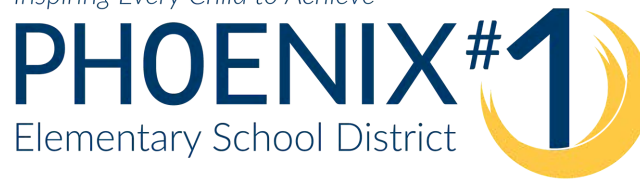


Inspiring Every Child to Achieve



SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

**RECAP**

Performance by 8th grade students from Kenilworth Elementary School led by Ms. Laura Meador.



AUGUST S.T.A.R AWARDS (SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION)



Stephanie Wilson

Child Nutrition Worker II / Edison

Stephanie is a high-performing team member who brings enthusiasm, collaboration, and strong support to the workplace each day.



Christina Chao

Bus Driver / Transportation

Christina consistently goes above and beyond to offer her support whenever it's needed.

➤➤➤ PHOENIX #1 NIGHT OF INSPIRATION AWARDS RECAP

On Friday, August 29, nearly 200 Phoenix #1 employees, families, friends, and community partners walked the red carpet and enjoyed an elegant evening at Warehouse215 in downtown Phoenix. The beautiful, rustic, and historic venue, situated within district boundaries, is just across the street from Plant Services.

The 2025 Phoenix #1 Night of Inspiration theme was A Legacy of Light and emceed by ABC 15 anchor Jamie Warren. Thirty-five Phoenix #1 employees were nominated by their peers for this honor. We are so proud of all of our nominees! The three award categories were Inspiring Support Staff, Inspiring Teacher, and Inspiring Innovator.

Each winner received \$1,500 thanks to the Phoenix One Foundation's generous donation.

The Phoenix One Foundation also awarded all 35 nominees \$150 each before the Phoenix #1 Night of Inspiration.

Do you want to nominate someone who inspires you to be a 2026 Phoenix #1 Inspiration? [You can nominate someone now through April 24, 2026.](#)



Inspiring Support Staff Winner
Michael Garcia
Lead Warehouse/Courier
Plant Services



Inspiring Teacher Winner
Nicole Freed
2nd Grade Teacher
Capitol



Inspiring Innovator Winner
Dr. Brant Lloyd, Director of
Assessment & Accountability
Curriculum & Instruction

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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>>> NIGHT OF INSPIRATION: SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Beacon of Legacy Sponsor
Warehouse215



Radiant Champion Sponsor
Phoenix One Foundation



Luminary Sponsor
CHASSE Building Team



Torchbearer Sponsor
CORE Construction



Kindle Sponsor
Pueblo Mechanical



Kindle Sponsor
1GPA



Kindle Sponsor
Greater Green Gable
Neighborhood Association



NOT PICTURED:
Kindle Sponsors
McCarthy Building Companies
Valley of the Sun YMCA

➤➤➤ TITLE I / CURRICULUM NIGHT

Several schools held their Title I / Curriculum Night, giving families a way to access the content their students are learning this year.



Garfield



Herrera



Edison

➤➤➤ DELIVERING DREAMS

A huge thank you to Delivering Dreams for coming to Edison and providing our families with uniforms and shoes! Your generosity and support mean so much to our community.

The Delivering Dreams Bus provides clothing shelves, a shoe station, dressing rooms and a waiting area. Students try on clothing and shoes, get fitted for the right sizes and take home what they need.



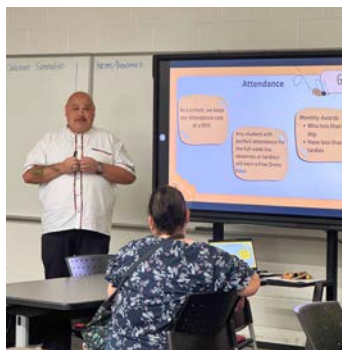
>>> FUN AT BAT

Herrera was proud to be recognized by the Arizona Diamondbacks as a Fun at Bat participant! Supported by Whataburger, this program helps bring fun, active learning to P.E. classes while teaching kids the basics of bat and ball sports. Our students now have access to more equipment and curriculum!



>>> CAFECITOS/COFFEE TALKS

Monthly Cafecitos, Coffee Talks, and Coffee with the Principal events at Phoenix #1 schools create structured and open opportunities to hear from parents and the community. This is an effort to better engagement and communication.



Edison



Herrera



Emerson



Garfield



Lowell

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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➤➤➤ PHOENIX RISING ATHLETE VISIT: COLLIN SMITH

Thank you to Collin Smith from Phoenix Rising FC for visiting Lowell! Our students loved hearing him read, share stories, and answer their questions. Way to inspire our students on and off the field!



➤➤➤ DIAMONDBACKS SURPRISE



We are proud to celebrate Ms. Emily O'Neil, 2nd-grade teacher at Herrera, who was awarded \$1,000 by the Arizona Diamondbacks program, "Read Your Way to the Ballpark" program, supported by Avnet! The D-backs hosted a Q&A with prizes, and Avnet visitors read to the class. Partnerships like these make a lasting impact on our students.

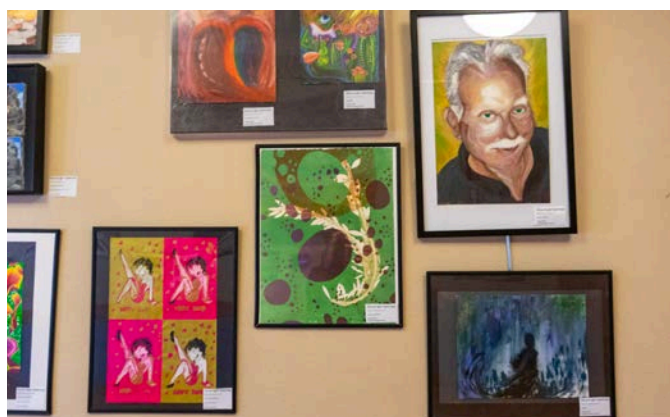
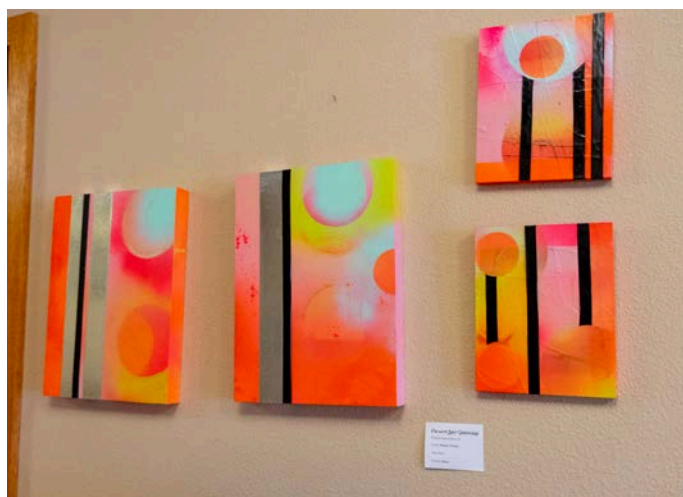
>>> AZELLA RECERTIFICATION

We are so proud of our students! We celebrated the 99 incredible learners who reclassified on the AZELLA, meeting the state requirement for English Language Proficiency! Their hard work, dedication, and perseverance inspire us all. Congratulations to each and every one of you!



>>> FACULTY ART SHOWCASE

Stop by the Phoenix #1 District Office at Emerson Court to see our talented Faculty Art Showcase. The gallery walls are located near the front office reception desk.



INDIAN EDUCATION MEETING

We had a great time at our first Indian Education Program event of the school year! Families gathered to connect, learn, and enjoy delicious food from Emerson Fry Bread food truck. It was a wonderful start to the year!



WARRIOR EDUCATOR AWARD: MELANIE BEGAY



Congratulations to Melanie Begay, our Special Populations Student Support Specialist, for being honored with this year's Arizona Indian Education Association Warrior Educator Award! This award recognizes her long-standing leadership and mentorship that have paved the way for American Indian student success and achievement.

➤➤➤ LOWELL ROUNDTABLE

Phoenix #1 values our community's feedback. Lowell hosted the first Phoenix #1 Community Roundtable of the year inside its media center last month to hear from families and community members about what they'd like to see in the district. Stay tuned for more future roundtable discussion dates.



≡ DONUTS WITH GROWNUPS

We love a good theme! Donuts with Grownups was a huge hit at Faith North. We were happy to see our students, families, and staff connect with each other and smile over a sweet treat.



≡ ARIZONA CARDINALS MILK & COOKIES

Garfield had an unforgettable visit through the Milk and Cookies Reading Program! Arizona Cardinals tight end Tip Reiman read to students, played charades, and answered their questions. The cheerleaders and their mascot, Big Red, joined in, signed merch, and everyone wrapped up the day with milk and cookies!



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

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We have had a wonderful start to the school year. I have been able to visit classrooms, meet with families, and community groups across the district, and work directly with students to hear their ideas about school.

We celebrated several Phoenix #1 Night of Inspiration sponsors and our Phoenix One Foundation, who made it possible to recognize outstanding employees of Phoenix #1 who were named as inspirations of our District. We are grateful for the community and their support as we work to create an educational experience for our children that is of the highest quality.

I am pleased to highlight that September 15th marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs until October 15th. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about and celebrate the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic Americans. From music and art to literature and science, our schools will be engaging in activities that allow our students to explore the rich history, traditions and stories, fostering a deeper understanding of the many different backgrounds represented in our school district.

Speaking of arts, I want to bring your attention to a fantastic opportunity for our students and the families of Phoenix #1. The Musical Instrument Museum is hosting an arts event for our District on October 1 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **We will have musical performances by students from Edison, Garfield, Whittier, and Herrera.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

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Participation in the arts is a crucial part of our educational program at every school in the District. We are proud of the partnerships that provide our students and their families with a hands-on experience that extends beyond the classroom. **Grab your immediate family and RSVP for this free event here!**



Phoenix #1
Night at MIM!

Musical Instrument Museum
4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85050

Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Time: 5:30–7:30 PM

To RSVP, scan the QR Code or Visit:
www.phxschools.org/museumrsvp

**Free Admission
AND
Student
Performances**

PHOENIX#1
Inspiring Every Child to Achieve
Elementary School District

It is important to remember that we mark a somber anniversary for our nation. The events of September 11, 2001, are a part of our shared history, and it's a day when we reflect on the importance of community, resilience, and compassion. It is a time to remember those who were lost and to honor the heroes who responded with courage. This is a day that helps us appreciate the bonds that hold us together as a country and as a community. Let's continue to build community and strengthen our bonds.



ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS WERE APPROVED INCLUDING:

1. Request Approval or Ratification of Payroll Vouchers in the total amount of \$2,060,926.34 (Policy: DKA)
2. Request Approval or Ratification of Expense Vouchers in the total amount of \$998,331.42 (Policy: DKA)
3. Request Approval of the Trust Policy Services Agreement to Use the Trust Model Policy Program and BoardDocs/Diligent Community (Policy: GB)
4. Request Approval of the Agreement between Unitek Learning Education Group Corp. and Phoenix Elementary School District for the 2025-2026 School Year (Policy: LD)
5. Request Approval for the Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with Delivering Dreams of Arizona formally known as Assistance League of Phoenix and Phoenix Elementary District #1 (Policy: KB)
6. Request Approval or Ratification of Employment of Administrative, Certified and Support Staff (Policies: GCF, GDF)
7. Request Approval or Ratification of Employee Contract/Work Agreement Adjustments for Changes in Position (Policies: GCF, GDF)
8. Request Approval of Separation of Employment, Resignations and Retirements (Policies: GCQC, GDQC, GDQB)
9. Request Approval of School - Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)
10. Request Approval of School - Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)
11. Request Approval of School - Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)
12. Request Approval of School - Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)
13. Request Approval for Staff Out-of-State Travel for Professional Development (Policy: GCCE)
14. Request Approval of Consent Agenda (Policy: BEDB)
13. Request Approval for Staff Out-of-State Travel for Professional Development (Policy: GCCE)
14. Request Approval of Consent Agenda (Policy: BEDB)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FINANCED THROUGH BONDS AND CAPITAL FUNDS

Mr. Aaron Whittle, Chief Financial Officer, presented on improvements funded by previous Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Override elections. *Some of the renovations and improvements listed included:*

- District-wide asphalt upgrade projects: \$800,000
- District-wide HVAC repairs: \$1.3 million
- District buses: \$1.3 million
- Turf Installation: \$1.3 million (Bethune, Capitol, Garfield, Lowell)
- Playground repairs: \$55,000 (Bethune, Capitol, Garfield, Kenilworth)
- School flood emergency demolition and construction: \$4.3 million (Herrera)
- Fencing upgrades: \$626,000 (Garfield, Kenilworth, Magnet, Capitol, Whittier)
- Gate repairs: \$234,000 (Edison, Bethune, Monterey Park, Garfield, Dunbar, Shaw, Capitol, Transportation)
- Flooring repairs: \$348,000 (Magnet, Emerson, Edison, Faith North, Heard, Whittier, Capitol, Kenilworth, Herrera)
- District-wide server upgrades: \$654,000
- District-wide technology: \$467,000
- District-wide irrigation repairs: \$373,000
- Shade structures: \$829,999 (Emerson, Garfield, Plant Services, Capitol, Bethune, Dunbar, Faith North)
- Plumbing repairs: \$733,000 (Bethune, Heard, Kenilworth, Shaw, Monterey Park, Herrera, Plant Services)
- Painting services & repairs: \$194,000 (Bethune, Emerson, Garfield, Edison, Heard, Monterey Park)

*See [this presentation](#) for more projects & photos.



Playground at Shaw Montessori



Turf and shade structure at Capitol

Current & upcoming bond projects:

- Phase two of Garfield Elementary School Renovations
- Site Renovations at Edison Elementary School
- LED lighting at various sites
- Security controls at Faith North
- Student laptop upgrades
- Kenilworth elevator replacement



PHOENIX #1 AND SOUTHWEST BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

On August 14, 2025, the Governing Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding to renew Phoenix Elementary School District's partnership with Southwest Behavioral Services.

Mrs. Dawn Baumgartner, Coordinator of Social Services & Wellness, presented the following:



School and Behavioral Health Partnerships

- Why:
 - Schools & Behavioral Health Partners service the same children, youth & families
 - Services are more accessible when in the school setting, removing barriers for families in need
 - Meet the unique needs of students and families
 - Improve or enhance student outcomes, including student achievement, attendance, engagement, focus on learning and a sense of safety

Relevant Statutes & Legislation

ARS 15-120:

All school personnel who interact with students in grades 6-12 must receive approved evidence-based suicide prevention training in suicide prevention once every three years

ARS 15-104:

Parental consent is required before a school site can complete a non-clinical mental health-specific screener.

ARS 36-2272:

Parental consent is required before clinical mental health screening can take place on a minor in any setting.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS



CARMEN TRUJILLO
PRESIDENT



ERIKA DE LA ROSA
BOARD MEMBER



SUANNE EDMISTON
BOARD MEMBER



ERIKA OVALLE
BOARD MEMBER

The Phoenix #1 Governing Board has a focus on student outcomes. The framework is built around six research-informed competencies that describe school board behaviors and the degree to which they create the conditions for improvements in student outcomes:

Vision & Goals, Values & Guardrails, Monitoring & Accountability, Communication & Collaboration, Unity & Trust, and Continuous Improvement.

The September 11 meeting focused on the following Board Goals and Superintendent Guardrails:

Board Goal #1

The percentage of 3rd-grade students with a pass rate on Reading as per AASA will increase from 25% in August 2023 to 40% by August 2028.

Board Goal #4

The percentage of 8th-grade students with a pass rate on Reading as per AASA will increase from 31% in August 2023 to 44% by August 2028.

Superintendent Guardrail #1

The Superintendent shall not allow the District to operate without reciprocal and effective communication between the Board, district employees, and community stakeholders

Board Self Guardrail #1

The Superintendent shall not allow the District to operate without implementing a community-focused plan to mitigate student enrollment barriers.

**VIEW THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA, ALL DOCUMENTS,
AND STREAM MEETINGS ONLINE: [PHXSCHOOLS.ORG/BOARD](https://phxschools.org/board)**