

From: [Kyrene School District](#)
To:
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October 16, 2025

The Kyrene Governing Board has had a busy start to the 2025-26 school year, and the work continues as the board welcomes back students and school staff for the second quarter this week. From long-range financial planning to employee compensation, the board continues to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and a commitment to engaging the community.

Long-Range Planning

One of the governing board's primary responsibilities is to adopt a balanced budget each year, ensuring the long-term financial health and stability of Kyrene School District. That responsibility is evident in the board's focus on long-ranging facilities planning. For years, Kyrene board members have openly discussed the challenges of declining enrollment and the impact on the district's budget. Last year, the board voted to form the [Long-Range Planning Committee](#) to develop a recommendation for a long-range plan that addresses projected enrollment trends and maximizes the use of schools and facilities. The committee reached consensus on a recommendation in August.

Over the past two months, board members have reviewed detailed enrollment and facilities data, listened to public comment, and participated in retreats to provide guidance to district leaders. The board has prioritized community engagement during this process. Individual board members have read and responded to community correspondence, and they have personally met with community members from schools across the district to hear feedback and collaborate on next steps.

As a result of these board discussions, Kyrene has refined the long-range plan proposal and is now moving forward with formal opportunities for additional community feedback. Tonight, the governing board will hold the first of seven public hearings to hear input from families, staff, students and community members.

The Board takes seriously its responsibilities to make financially sound decisions for the future of the district and to represent the voices of the Kyrene community. Background information and opportunities to share input are available online at www.kyrene.org/longrangeplan.

Investing in Team Kyrene

The governing board has taken action to provide additional compensation for Kyrene employees through stipends. Teaching and Learning stipends approved by the board in August will continue the district's investment in instructional excellence and professional growth, and new this year, Kyrene bus drivers have the opportunity to receive a stipend tied to consistent attendance. The board approved the attendance stipend over the summer, acknowledging the critical role bus drivers play in safely transporting students to and from school each day. The board previously approved retention stipends for employees who serve consistently throughout each semester in Kyrene. These stipends are part of the board's ongoing commitment to retain high-quality teachers and education support professionals while maintaining a balanced budget.

Supporting Kyrene Kids

The Governing Board continues to prioritize student safety, well-being and access to essential services through several key actions this fall.

In August, the Board extended Kyrene's partnership with Southwest Behavioral Health to provide mental health services, substance abuse prevention programs, and family training opportunities throughout the District. The Board also approved an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Phoenix to fund three school resource officers for the 2025–26 school year. This agreement ensures that each middle school campus continues to have a dedicated school resource officer, reinforcing the District's commitment to safe and supportive learning environments.

Transportation improvements have also been a priority for the board. In August, the Board authorized the purchase of 20 new buses to replace aging buses in the Kyrene fleet. The board authorized the additional purchase of 10 smaller buses funded through Bond dollars.

Celebrating Super Students

The board began the new school year by recognizing the first "Super Students" of 2025-26. During the August 19 meeting, board members celebrated students from Kyrene de la Paloma, Kyrene de los Niños, Kyrene de la Estrella and Kyrene del Milenio. On September 2, the spotlight turned to outstanding students from Kyrene de los Cerritos and C.I. Waggoner.



The Kyrene Super Students program honors students who exemplify the traits outlined in the Portrait of a Kyrene Kid. Recognized students are adaptable learners, self-advocates, community contributors, communicators, critical thinkers, problem solvers and collaborators. The board looks forward to celebrating exceptional students from every Kyrene campus throughout the school year.

Connect with Kyrene

The Kyrene Governing Board is made up of five members, each elected to serve a four-year term. Kyrene is grateful to the individuals who volunteer their time to serve in such an important capacity. Community members may contact the Board by sending an email to governingboard@kyrene.org. A governing board is a collective body, and individual board member replies may not be representative of the entire board. Regular board meetings, study sessions and board retreats are open to the public and live streamed on the Kyrene website as well as the [Kyrene YouTube channel](#). For more information about Governing Board meetings, policies and responsibilities, visit the [Kyrene Governing Board](#) online.



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