



**LITTLEFIELD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #9
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Administrative Services Site
3490 East Rio Virgin Road
Thursday, August 14, 2025
5:00 P.M.
(Doors Open at 4:45 p.m.)**

Mission Statement

The Littlefield Unified School District is committed to excellence. Therefore, we are committed to providing opportunities for all students to learn and develop socially, emotionally, and academically. We are committed to providing resources to our students, parents and teachers in an ongoing effort to help students transition from childhood to adulthood.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Board President Fagnan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. All Board Members were present, and ten (10) individuals were in attendance.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mike Fagnan, Board President
Mark Cobb, Board Member
Sean Hogan, Board Member
Karen Johnson, Board Member

Troy Heaton, Superintendent/Secondary Principal
Kevin Murray, Elementary Principal
Edward Dickie, Business Manager
Sheree Goessman, Human Resources Director

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

3. Pledge of Allegiance: By invitation of Board President.

AGENDA

4. Consideration of approval of the August 14, 2025 LUSD9 Board Meeting agenda.

Board President Fagnan made a motion to approve the agenda with Item #25 moved before Item #17. Board Member Cobb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board President Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Yes
Board Member Cobb: Yes
Board Member Johnson: Yes**



SPECIAL ITEMS

5. Consideration of appointment of Governing Board Secretary.

Board President Fagnan nominated Sean Hogan as Governing Board Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Board Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Board President Fagnan: Yes

Board Secretary Hogan: Yes

Board Member Cobb: Yes

Board Member Johnson: Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, the public may speak to the Governing Board on topics of concern with the public body's jurisdiction, even if the topic is not specifically included on the agenda. The public must state their full name for the record and will be allowed up to three minutes to address the Governing Board. No action will be taken as a result of public comments. The Board expects that citizens who address the board will present concerns regarding the activities in question rather than make personal attacks upon Board Members, District Personnel or other persons in attendance or absent. In addition, questions or comments on matters that are currently under legal review will not be accepted.

6. Public Comment.

Pastor Tom Reimer of Desert Rose Baptist Church shared that the church has one mission: to help the community. He expressed the importance of being present wherever needs arise. Pastor Reimer stated he came seeking opportunities to assist and noted he has a meeting scheduled with Mrs. Goessman.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

7. Edward Dickie, Business Manager
- Student Activity Balance.
 - Food Service Financial.

Ed Dickie reviewed the student activity funds and the food service financial reports.

Board Secretary Hogan asked if there was an update on the number of free/reduced lunch applications submitted. Mrs. Goessman reported that 100% have not yet been received and families are being contacted to ensure completion. She also explained the process for free, reduced, and paid lunches. Board Member Cobb noted that a couple of donors in Mesquite had been trying to connect with the district to make donations. Mrs. Goessman asked that they reach out to her directly.

Board Member Cobb inquired about how student activity funds are spent. Mr. Heaton explained that throughout the year, funds are used for various events. Students must vote and have minutes recorded before moving forward with a purchase order. Board Member Cobb also asked if the food truck provides proceeds to the school. Mr. Heaton confirmed that they do, and if the district does not sell food, food trucks are invited.



- 8. Kevin Murray, Elementary Principal
 - a. School Update
 - i. August 11, 2025 – First Day of School
 - ii. August 18, 2025 – First Day of Preschool
 - iii. August 21, 2025 – School Picture Day
 - b. Meet the Teacher.
 - c. Other

Kevin Murray shared that the school has many new teachers this year, bringing a fresh energy to the campus. He reported that the training for the Wonders curriculum was very successful. Test scores increased by 17%, raising the school’s overall rating to a “B.” He also reviewed the upcoming school events and noted that the school received numerous donations of various items.

- 9. Troy Heaton, Superintendent/Secondary Principal
 - a. School Update.
 - i. August 11, 2025 – First Day of School
 - ii. September 3, 2025- Mohave County Library Bookmobile: 7:00 am-8:00 am
 - iii. September 4, 2025 – School Picture day
 - b. Summer Food Audit
 - c. Other.

Superintendent Troy Heaton reported a strong turnout of Board Members at the staff back-to-school event and noted that the professional development was very successful. He shared that the high school’s grade improved to a “B” last year, with particularly strong math scores this year.

Mr. Heaton announced that the high school Open House is scheduled for next Wednesday, where Title I funds will be discussed. He also reviewed AZELLA scores and noted that hot dogs and hamburgers will be served at the event.

- 10. Board Reports.
 - a. Other

Board Member Cobb said he is willing to speak directly with potential donors to explore contributions to the schools. Mr. Heaton noted that through the tax program donations can be made that would qualify for a tax write-off. Mrs. Goessman noted the tax credit is only for extracurricular activities. If a person wants to make a donation to one of the schools, she can provide them with a tax letter.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Routine Orders of Business. Documentation concerning the matters on the Consent Agenda may be reviewed at the Littlefield Unified School District Office, located at 3490 East Rio Virgin Road, Beaver Dam, Arizona. Any Board Member may request an item be pulled off the agenda for further discussion.

Board Secretary Hogan made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Board Member Cobb. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board President Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Yes
Board Member Cobb: Yes
Board Member Johnson: Yes**



11. Consideration of approval of the July 10, 2025, Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes.
12. Consideration of approval of Vouchers and Stipends:
 - a. LUSD9 Payroll Vouchers: 02/2602 and 03/2603.
 - b. LUSD9 Vouchers: 2650 and 2651.
 - c. Stipends - None
(Members of the public may view the content of the vouchers 24 hours prior to the board meeting in the district office.)
13. Consideration of approval of a new grant funded position, Literacy Coach, and approval of the job description.
14. Consideration of approval of the following staff resignations, retirements, and terminations:

Name	Position	Effective Date
Briggs, Ron	Secondary Teacher	08/05/2025
Jenkins, Justin	Custodian	07/29/2025
McMillan, Gareth	Elementary Teacher	07/30/2025

15. Consideration of approval of the FY 2025/2026 Certified Personnel, Classified Personnel, Substitutes, and Coaching Staff as outlined in the attached list:

Name	Position	Effective Date
Barber, Wendy	Substitute Bus Driver	08/06/2025
Broadhead, Val	Substitute Bus Driver	08/06/2025
Brown, Shelly	Certified Substitute	08/11/2025
Cummings, Trisa	Classified Substitute	08/11/2025
Dickie, Misty	School Aide	08/06/2025
Etter, Gloria	Bus Driver	08/06/2025
Fjeld, Shannon	Literacy Coach	07/30/2025
Fourman, Christine	Classified Substitute	08/11/2025
Pierce, Melanie	Elementary Teacher	08/06/2025
Powell, Cindy	Custodian	08/12/2025
Reber, Cassadee	Elementary Teacher	08/05/2025
Sandoval, Sara	Classified Substitute	08/11/2025
Stern, Peter	Certified Substitute	08/11/2025
Trenholm, Kathleen	Elementary Teacher	08/11/2025
Vigon, Maddisen	School Aide	08/06/2025

16. Consideration of approval of the updated 2025/2026 Stipend List.

ACTION ITEMS AND/OR DISCUSSION

25. Consideration of approval of a request by Gareth Houston-McMillan to waive the liquidated damages fee of \$2,500 per the Certified Teacher Contract.



- The Employee may request this item be discussed in Executive Session pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(A)(1).

Board President Fagnan asked Mr. McMillan if he would like to hear this item in Executive Session. Mr. McMillan said he is fine with hearing the item in the regular meeting. Board President Fagnan said Mr. McMillan has a mother who is ill and lives in Salt Lake City. He felt his students would suffer with as much as he would need to be gone so he resigned. Board President Fagnan said based on the circumstances he has no problem waiving the liquidate damages fee.

Board Secretary Hogan made a motion to approve waiving the liquidated damages. The motion was seconded by Board Member Johnson and passed unanimously.

Board President Fagnan: Yes

Board Secretary Hogan: Yes

Board Member Cobb: Yes

Board Member Johnson: Yes

17. Consideration of approval for Implementation of Faraday Bags at all Littlefield Schools.

Mr. Heaton explained that the discussion regarding cellphones is specific to the high school, as elementary students generally do not carry them. He noted that the primary issue in classrooms is cellphone use, which disrupts instruction. The current policy requires students to place their phones in a bag on the wall during instructional periods, as studies have shown that phones interfere with learning.

Board President Fagnan noted that the concern raised at the previous meeting was cost. Mr. Heaton clarified that the purchase of Faraday bags would be funded through a COPS grant. Board President Fagnan added that Mesquite and Washington County schools are already using similar systems, which Mr. Heaton confirmed. Mr. Heaton also emphasized that during emergencies, such as lockdowns, communication between administration and emergency responders is critical, and unrestricted cellphone use or social media can interfere. Students would have access to their phones after class, but not during instructional time.

Board Member Cobb expressed opposition to the use of Faraday bags, stating that parents should be able to track their children, especially during emergencies. He suggested that phones could be placed in backpacks and confiscated if necessary. Mr. Heaton explained that each phone would go into a single bag, and while the phone is in the Faraday bag, GPS tracking shows only the last location; it reconnects once removed. Board Member Cobb acknowledged that in larger schools, Faraday bags might be necessary, particularly for students abusing the system, but he expressed concern about emergencies such as fires. Mr. Heaton stated that the bags were purchased with grant funds and cannot be used for other purposes, and noted there are legal considerations in confiscating phones.

Board President Fagnan suggested that a policy be written to use Faraday bags initially as a disciplinary measure. Board Secretary Hogan asked about the location of the bags, and Mr. Heaton stated that they do not currently exist, but he is working with teachers to develop a plan. Board President Fagnan emphasized that the board's focus should remain on students, teachers, and parents and noted that a well-crafted policy could be beneficial. Mr. Heaton mentioned that he had notified parents in advance via a dialer message. Board Secretary Hogan expressed that, as a parent, he strongly values being able to track his children and ensuring they have access to phones in emergencies. Mr. Heaton noted that students had complied with putting their phones away after initial instruction, reinforcing the need for a clear policy.

Mr. Heaton stated he would draft a regulation consistent with ASBA policy for board review. Board



Member Johnson asked about the size of the bags, and Mr. Heaton showed that they would be hung up. Board Member Johnson also inquired about consequences if a student repeatedly misuses phone privileges, and Mr. Heaton confirmed that proper follow-through would be included.

Board President Fagnan made a motion to table the discussion until a regulation is drafted, seconded by Board Member Cobb. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board President Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Yes
Board Member Cobb: Yes
Board Member Johnson: Yes**

18. Consideration of approval of the revised FY 2026 LUSD Annual Expenditure Budget.

Board President Fagnan noted the budget revision increases the budget by \$58,000.

Board Secretary Hogan made a motion to approve the revised FY 2026 LUSD Annual Expenditure Budget, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board President Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Yes
Board Member Cobb: Yes
Board Member Johnson: Yes**

19. Discussion and possible action to approve resignation of Board member Sonny Graham.

Board President Fagnan reminded the Board that they cannot specifically identify an individual. He expressed disagreement with the wording in the resignation letter and stated he would vote *not* to accept it. He noted that, under Arizona statute, the individual is not currently a board member.

Board Member Cobb asked what would happen if the resignation was not accepted. Board President Fagnan replied that state law would then supersede. He added that he only suggested the resignation out of the kindness of his heart.

Board Secretary Hogan made a motion to not approve the resignation, seconded by Board Member Cobb. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 1 abstention.

**Board Member Cobb: Yes
Board President Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Yes
Board Member Johnson: Abstain**

20. Consideration of approval of the Title IA Corrective Action Plan and protocols for Title I-A student participation data.

Mr. Heaton reported that last year the District's student information system (Powerschool) collected all data and submitted it to the state through a contracted company that handled reporting. The District has since transitioned to Synergy; however, no reporting was completed, resulting in a missed state deadline. As a result, the state is requiring the District to submit a corrective action plan outlining how future



reporting will be completed.

Board Secretary Hogan made a motion to approve the corrective action plan and protocols for Title I-A student participation data, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Member Cobb: Yes
Board President Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Yes
Board Member Johnson: Yes**

21. Discussion and possible action to approve in whole or in part the draft 2026 Political Agenda of the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) and direct the District's delegate to the ASBA delegate assembly to represent the Board's determined position.

Board President Fagnan made a motion to direct the District's delegate to vote in favor of all items on the draft 2026 Political Agenda, seconded by Board Member Cobb. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Member Cobb: Yes
Board President Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Yes
Board Member Johnson: Yes**

22. Consideration of approval of the FY 2023/2024 Audited Financial Statements.

Mr. Heaton reported that the district recently completed its audit and noted a number of findings. Board Secretary Hogan commented that the district has a strong team and that the audit results will ultimately be positive for the school district. Mr. Heaton added that this was conducted by a new auditing company.

Board Secretary Hogan made a motion to approve the 2023/2024 Audited Financial Statements, seconded by Board Member Cobb. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Member Cobb: Yes
Board President Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Yes
Board Member Johnson: Yes**

23. Consideration of first reading of Policy Advisory #909-#914.

- a. Policy EB: Environmental and Safety Program.
- b. Policy GCQF: Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members.
- c. Policy IKF: Graduation Requirements.
- d. Policy JCL: Student Health Services and Requirements.
- e. Policy JCLD: Medicines/Administering Medicines to Students.
- f. Policy JLF: Reporting Child Abuse/Child Protection.

Board Member Johnson made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Advisory #909-#914, seconded by Board Secretary Hogan. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Cobb: Yes



Board President Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Yes
Board Member Johnson: Yes

24. Consideration of approval of appointment of a student activities treasurer.

Board President Fagnan noted that, legally, this appointment is required because funds are involved, and the Business Manager serves as the Student Activity Treasurer.

Board Member Cobb made a motion to appoint Edward Dickie as the Student Activities Treasurer, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Cobb: Yes
Board President Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Yes
Board Member Johnson: Yes

26. Suggestions for Future Board Meetings.

Items for next meeting:

1. LUSD/Beaver Dam Title I Parent & Family Engagement Policy.
2. LEA Family and Community Engagement Policy.
3. Second Reading & Adoption of Policy Advisory.
4. Approval of Extracurricular Fee of \$350 per semester for homeschooled students wanting to play sports.

INFORMATION ITEMS

27. News articles about the schools.

28. Upcoming Governing Board Conferences:

- a. ASBA Law Conference – September 3-5, 2025 – JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort & Spa.
- b. ASBA 2025 Delegate Assembly – September 6, 2025 – JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort & Spa.
- c. ASBA-ASA Annual Conference – December 17-19, 2025 – JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa.

29. School Calendar 2025/2026

30. Next Meeting – September 11, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Item #25)

The Board may move to discuss items in an Executive Session pursuant to ARS §38-431.03 (A)(1), (3) and (4), which authorizes discussion and consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of the District.

1. Call to Order



2. Confidentiality Statement: All persons present are hereby reminded that it is unlawful to disclose or otherwise divulge to any person who is not now present, other than a current member of the Board, anything that has transpired or has been discussed during this executive session. To do so is a violation of ARS 38-431.03 unless pursuant to a specific statutory exception.
3. The Governing Board will discuss the request to waive the liquidated damages per the Certified Teacher Contract.
4. Adjourn Executive Session and reconvene regular meeting. (This motion must be done in Open Meeting).

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Cobb made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board Secretary Hogan. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Member Cobb: Yes
Board President Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Yes
Board Member Johnson: Yes**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Mike Fagnan, Governing Board President

Troy Heaton, Superintendent/Secondary Principal

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sheree Goessman
Human Resources Director