Edition #5

December 5, 2025

Inspiring Every Child to Achieve

PHOENIX #1 Elementary School District

NOV. 13 & DEC. 2, 2025 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

>>> RECAP <<<



EMERSON CHOIR STUDENTS PERFORM BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON NOVEMBER 13, 2025.

>>> NEW PHOENIX #1 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER

WELCOME JUSTIN GRAHAM

Maricopa County Superintendent of Public Instruction Shelli Boggs has appointed Justin Graham to Phoenix #1's Governing Board. Mr. Graham fills a board seat vacancy by replacing former board member Dr. Alicia Vink. Welcome to Phoenix #1, Mr. Graham!



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



Valerie Fuentes
Kindergarten Teacher
Emerson



Lizbeth Balderrama
ESS Instructional Assistant
Emerson



Rosemary Prasad
Nurse
Shaw Montessori



Patricia Karnes
Media Clerk
Shaw Montessori

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ



It's fitting that in the month of November, I am filled with gratitude as I thank our community for their support of our District overrides. This support will allow us to maintain smaller class sizes for our students, continue providing a free preschool program at Faith North and to boost our focus on safety and security across the District.

We also want to thank the many people who have joined us for roundtables this first quarter to share their ideas and concerns. Our most recent was a roundtable with City of Phoenix Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington and Councilwoman Anna Hernandez, Arizona State Senator Flavio Bravo, and a staff member from Congresswoman Yassamin Ansari's office. It was a great conversation about school finance, the future vision of our District, and partnerships with the City of Phoenix.



PHOENIX COUNCILWOMAN KESHA HODGE WASHINGTON



PHOENIX COUNCILWOMAN ANNA HERNANDEZ & ARIZONA SENATOR FLAVIO BRAVO



CONGRESSWOMAN YASSAMIN ANSARI STAFF MEMBER

Additionally, I recently served as a panelist at Mayor Gallego's Future of Phoenix event, speaking specifically about the future of education downtown. It was a great time to emphasize our partnerships and our vision, to discuss issues of affordability and safety, and to make a magic wish to fully fund birth-to-5 preschool and beyond-school-day programs like clubs and sports. These are two items that come up frequently in our roundtable discussions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

We know many people have been worried about food insecurity with the threat to SNAP benefits. Again, our community has come together to respond by supporting food drives through our partnership with the Y-Academy at Monterey Park. Food boxes are available to staff and families in Phoenix #1.



PECTA and ESPA, our employee associations, are joining to help with the food drive. Thanks to our child nutrition partnerships, we provided weekend meals on Sunday, November 9th, to 81 people. Thanks to everyone who helped get the space set up, the learning activities available, the food prepared, and the cleanup afterward.



A special thank you to our veterans. The service and sacrifice of our veterans and their families is a precious foundation of our Country's promise of Democracy. Thank you for your service.

I'd also like to acknowledge two 8th graders who spoke at the November 13 board meeting on behalf of the Superintendent Student Advisory team - Trinity Stansbury from Herrera and Genesis Leon from Kenilworth.

Hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving holiday surrounded by people you love. Thank you for partnering with Phoenix #1 to make sure our students are getting the best!

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

>>> Y-ACADEMY FOOD PANTRY





Phoenix #1 District employees helped stock the Y-Academy Food pantry at Monterey Park ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. Business Services collected the largest amount of items and received the “Most Generous Award.”

>>> FALL ART SHOWCASE

Stop by the Phoenix #1 District office lobby for the 2025 Fall Art Showcase. You’ll be impressed by the creativity from Bethune, Capitol, Edison, Emerson, Garfield, Magnet, Shaw, & Whittier students.



>>> SHOES THAT FIT AT KENILWORTH

Thanks to the nonprofit Shoes That Fit, the Lids Foundation, and NFL quarterback Jacoby Brissett, 500 students at Kenilworth Elementary School received new sneakers and hats. We were even featured on FOX 10 AZ AM!



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

>>> RENOVATIONS REVIEW

Your bond dollars at work! Architects from Grace Design Studios presented the renovation designs they have so far for the Edison and Garfield school campuses. We appreciate the collaboration from community members and look forward to the next Renovations Community Review.





>>> PHOENIX #1 ROUNDTABLES

What a powerful showing at our recent roundtables! Staff from across the district gathered for the PECTA & ESPA roundtable to exchange ideas, collaborate, and boost support for our students. We also hosted a community roundtable at Magnet. The top topics discussed were programs and transportation. We appreciate everyone's feedback.





AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

>>> TLC JOB FAIR

Phoenix #1 hosted a mock job fair in partnership with Phoenix Union High School District and Phoenix College to help students in the TLC (Transitioning Learners to College) program gain real-world job experience! From signing paperwork and fingerprinting to interviewing and touring departments, students got a firsthand look at what it's like to join the workforce.





>>> SPIRIT WEEK

Students at **Edison** and **Shaw** had a fun Spirit Week! Themes included: mismatched socks, team pride, superheroes, crazy hair, pajamas, space-themed headbands, bright neon colors, and more.







AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLLEYBALL SEASON RESULTS

What an incredible volleyball season for Phoenix #1! Our student-athletes showed teamwork, dedication, and school spirit all season long. Congratulations to all our teams and to the players who earned individual awards for their outstanding performance on and off the court!

















AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL SCHOOL PRINCIPALS MONTH



Claron Sells
Bethune



Kerby Botts
Capitol



Joseph Fuentes
Edison



Nadine Gofonia
Emerson



Angela Edington
Faith North



Jennifer Sumida
Garfield



Alicia Clynick
Herrera



Anthony Pietrangeli
Kenilworth



Dana Ramos
Lowell



Adrian Walker
Magnet Traditional



Susan Engdall
Shaw Montessori



Richard Holmes
Whittier

Proudly showcasing the principals at all 12 Phoenix #1 schools! Please help us celebrate their commitment to education, excellence, and every child! Their leadership style sets the tone for each campus. We honored each of them for October's National Principals Month!

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT

Our annual High School Night at Garfield gave families a chance to learn about their school options. Thank you to Phoenix Union High School District representatives for setting up in our cafeteria and answering questions to get our Grizzlies ready for high school.



CHEER CLUB

Exciting News! Garfield Middle School held its first Cheer Club informational meeting. Students learned what it takes to be part of the team, show school spirit, and spread positivity all season long.



PXU HIGH SCHOOL EXPO

Future freshmen in action! Herrera Panthers explored their next steps at the PXU High School Expo — researching, learning, and dreaming big.





AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAFECITOS/COFFEE TALKS

We had great October Coffee Talks at **Edison**, **Faith North**, & **Herrera**. Topics addressed included parenting techniques to help kids manage big emotions, how bikers against child abuse protects kids, and a new phonics club available for Quarter 3.



FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER

Thanks to everyone who came out for our all-you-can-eat pancake fundraiser at Applebee's! Your support helps the next Herrera Dance field trip.



FIRST FRIDAY READERS AT BETHUNE

We are so grateful that Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Phi Iota Chapter continues to send readers to Bethune on the first Friday of each month. Thank you for volunteering your time and caring about your community.



LOVE OUR SCHOOL DAY AT WHITTIER

Whittier volunteers showed their love for our school by planting and potting beautiful greenery to brighten our campus. Thanks to everyone who volunteered!



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BALLET ARIZONA AT KENILWORTH

Ballet Arizona visited Kenilworth, inspiring students with a special performance by college-level dancers. Dance AZ students also showcased their own talent with performances before and after the presentation.



NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

Our Superintendent and District Administrators joined students at Herrera to enjoy a delicious school lunch together for National School Lunch Week.



LITERACY DAY AT BURTON BARR LIBRARY FOR SHAW

Shaw Montessori families gathered at Burton Barr Library for a fun night of reading, puppets, rock decorating, and chess!



HERRERA PEFORMANCES

Herrera students shone across the community this month—dazzling the crowd with high-energy dance performances at the Arizona State Fair, presenting creative and meaningful ofrendas at the Arizona Heritage Center, and delivering a heartfelt, harmonious performance at the Greater Phoenix Honor Choir Festival.







TRUNK OR TREAT, CHARACTER PARADES, & FALL FESTIVALS

Our schools kicked off Halloween season with spectacular Trunk-or-Treat events and lively Character Parades—featuring amazing creativity, unstoppable community spirit, and spooky-fun vibes.



WHITTIER



HERRERA



LOWELL



EMERSON



FAITH NORTH



MAGNET TRADITIONAL

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congrats to the Students of the Month at **Lowell** & **Whittier**! It was special to hear why your teacher nominated you!



LOWELL



WHITTIER

QUARTER 1 ACADEMIC AWARDS

Whittier, Emerson, and Garfield teachers handed out Quarter 1 Awards for perfect attendance, academics, and character. Their hard work and dedication continue to make our schools proud. Congratulations to all our award recipients!



WHITTIER



EMERSON



GARFIELD

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNITY DAY AT CAPITOL

Capitol Elementary celebrated Unity Day by wearing orange and standing together for kindness, acceptance, and unity!





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE CHILD AT SHAW

Shaw Montessori celebrated its 2025 International Day of the Child with a parade, choir performances, food, and class presentations. Thank you to all our students and parents who participated in this Global Showcase. What a great way to learn about different cultures!



PBIS ASSEMBLY AT GARFIELD

Garfield Middle School gathered for their Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) assembly to celebrate a successful first quarter. Students reflected on their achievements, reviewed expectations, and set goals for an even stronger second quarter.



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

KIDS AT HOPE AT MAGNET

Teachers and staff rolled out the red carpet, clapped their hands, shook some bells, and loudly showed their support for students as they arrived on campus. It's all part of the Kids At Hope belief system: All children are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS!



HONORING VETERANS AT KENILWORTH

Kenilworth celebrated Veterans Day early with a special performance by our 3rd graders. We also honored our school's family members who have served in the U.S. military with a heartfelt slideshow. Thank you for your service!



SUPERINTENDENT ADVISORY TEAM RETREAT

This is what leadership looks like! The Superintendent's Student Advisory Team gathered for a retreat inside Phoenix #1's Governing Board Room. Select 5th-8th graders from across the district shared ideas, collaborated on projects, and learned how their voices can shape the future of our schools.



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATING GRANDPARENTS AT MAGNET

We enjoyed recognizing the importance and influence grandparents have in our students' lives. We hosted and celebrated Grandparents Day by bringing generations together with creative activities in our cafeteria. Thank you to everyone who participated!



DIAMONDBACKS AND HONEYWELL SURPRISE BETHUNE

Bethune's K-2 students hit a home run! The Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Bryce Jarvis and Honeywell employees stopped by to gift our youngest learners STEM books and inspire future innovators.



SHAW STARS FUN RUN FUNDRAISER

Our Shaw Stars Fun Run fundraiser ended on a COLORFUL note! Can you feel the energy? Thank you to everyone who donated to enhance the Practical Life Room, a hands-on space where students learn valuable Montessori life skills like cooking, sewing, woodworking and household management.



CONSENT AGENDA

ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS WERE APPROVED INCLUDING:

1. Request Approval or Ratification of Payroll Vouchers in the total amount of $4,729,777.28 (Policy: DKA)

2. Request Approval or Ratification of Expense Vouchers in the total amount of $6,709,526.01 (Policy: DKA)

3. Request Approval of Financial Reports for Student Activity Funds (Policy: JJF-R)

4. Request Approval of Award Contract PESD 25-2-30 to Willie Itule Produce, Inc. (Policy: DJE-R)

5. Request Approval to Enter Contract negotiations for Pre-Construction Services with CHASSE Building Team for PESD RFQ 25-5-30 Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Edison Elementary Renovation (Policy: DJE-R)

6. Request Approval or Ratification of Employment of Administrative, Certified and Support Staff (Policies: GCF, GDF)

7. Request Approval of Separation of Employment, Resignations and Retirements (Policies: GCQC, GDQC, GDQB)

8. Request Approval of School - Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)

9. Request Approval of School - Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)

10. Request Approval of Consent Agenda (Policy: BEDB)

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET REVISION



Aaron Whittle, Phoenix #1 Chief Financial Officer, presented the **FY26 Budget Revision**.

This includes the FY26 Maintenance and Override (M&O) budget revision and the FY26 District Additional Assistance (DAA) budget revision.

Click **here** to see the full expenditure breakdown.

FY 26 DAA Budget Revision #1			
	FY26 DAA Adopted Budget July 8, 2025	**FY26 DAA Revised #1 Budget December 2, 2025**	**Difference**
Unweighted ADM	4,458.56	4,461.71	3.1524
Base Level Amount	$549.45	$549.45	$0
Budget Balance Carryforward	$2,049,398	$2,712,199	$662,801
Prior Year Interests	$0	$0	$0
DAA Override	$3,000,000	$3,000,000	$0
Desegregation	$50,000	$50,000	$0
DAA General Budget Limit	$7,499,152	$8,213,685	$714,533

CONTINUED: APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET REVISION

FY26 M&O Budget Revision #1			
	FY26 DAA Adopted Budget July 8, 2025	**FY26 DAA Revised #1 Budget December 2, 2025**	**Difference**
Weighted ADM	6,611.62383	6,055.51434	(556.109493)
Base Level Amount	$5,113.26	$5,113.26	$0
Base Level Control Limit	$33,843,732	$30,987,573	($2,856,159)
Transportation Revenue Control Limit	$1,329,798	$1,329,798	$0
Audit Service Adjustment	$38,500	$38,500	$0
Revenue Control Limit	$35,173,531	$32,317,371	($2,856,159)
Budget Balance Carryforward	$1,000,000	$1,421,127	$421,127
Additional Adds Ons	$298,575	$654,640	$356,065
Desegregation	$11,101,530	$11,101,530	$0
M&O Override (15%)	$5,054,043	$5,233,035	$178,992
M&O General Budget Limit	$52,551,091	$50,727,704	($1,823,387)

GOVERNING BOARD APPROVES ONE-TIME $1,400 PAYMENT FOR STAFF

The Phoenix #1 Governing Board approved a plan to provide a one-time payment of up to $1,400 to all full-time employees in December 2025.

To make this possible, the District will use four cash accounts, which are less restricted than our budget-controlled accounts. This approach ensures we can provide this financial recognition without impacting our general operations.

This payment will be prorated based on FTE.

- Employees hired between November 21, 2025 and March 6, 2026 will receive their payment in May 2026.
- Employees hired after March 6, 2026 will not be eligible for this one-time payment.

Thank you to the Human Resources and Payroll teams for your work preparing to process this payment. We also recognize the important role of PECTA and ESPA, whose collaboration helped bring this plan forward.

Thank you to all employees whose commitment to our students, families, and community continues to strengthen Phoenix #1 each day.

See the full presentation **here**.

NEW AD HOC POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Governing Board agreed to appoint President Carmen Trujillo and board member Suanne Edmiston to an Ad Hoc committee to review current board agenda policies and provide recommendations. Any proposed changes will go through a first and second read before the Governing Board votes on any changes.

FIRST READING OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Governing Board reviewed and discussed revised **Arizona School Board Association (ASBA) Advisory Policy Recommendations**.

ASBA recommends revisions to the following policies:

- **Policy DA** - Fiscal Management Goals/ Priority Objectives
- **Policy DB** - Annual Budget
- **Policy DBF** - Budget Hearings and Reviews / Adoption Process
- **Policy DBJ** - Budget Transfers
- **Policy DD** - Funding Proposals, Grants, and Special Projects
- **Policy DFA** - Revenue from Investments
- **Policy DG** - Banking Services
- **Policy DGD** - Credit Cards
- **Policy DI** - Fiscal Accounting and Reporting
- **Policy DIB** - Type of Funds / Revolving Funds
- **Policy DIC** - Financial Reports and Statements
- **Policy DID** - Inventories
- **Policy DIE** - Audits / Financial Monitoring
- **Policy DJE** - Bidding / Purchasing Procedures
- **Policy DJG** - Vendor / Contractor Relations
- **Policy DK** - Payment Procedures
- **Policy DN** - School Properties Disposition

The Governing Board also reviewed and discussed a change to **Policy BEBD**.

The board reviewed policies as a first reading only. Policies will not change until they are approved by the board.

GOVERNING BOARD STRATEGIC GOALS AND GUARDRAILS

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS



CARMEN TRUJILLO
PRESIDENT



SUANNE EDMISTON
BOARD MEMBER



JUSTIN GRAHAM
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 November 13 / December 2 meeting focused on the following Board Goals and Superintendent Guardrails:

Board Goal #3
The percentage of English Learners increasing proficiency levels at least one category as measured by AZELLA will increase from 32% on August 2023 to 50% by August 2028.

Superintendent Guardrail #3
The Superintendent shall not allow the District to operate without a system designed to recruit, employ, and retain diverse staff who reflect the community and meet the needs of our urban district students and their learning environments.

Board Self Guardrail #3
In attaining the Board's student outcome goals, the Board shall not deviate from the Board's Operating Procedures.

VIEW THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA, ALL DOCUMENTS, AND STREAM MEETINGS ONLINE: PHXSCHOOLS.ORG/BOARD