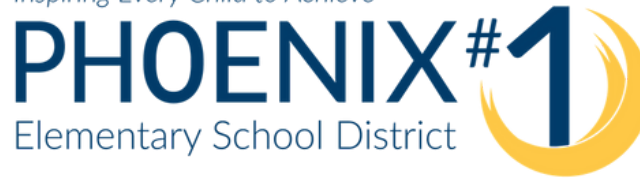


Inspiring Every Child to Achieve



DEC. 11, 2025 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

>>> RECAP <<<



LOWELL CHOIR STUDENTS PERFORM BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON
DECEMBER 11, 2025

>>> NOVEMBER S.T.A.R AWARDS

(SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION)



Briana Guillen
ESS Instructional Assistant II
Lowell



Nayelli Munoz
ESS Resource / Inclusion Teacher K-3
Lowell

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

Thank you to City of Phoenix District 8 Councilmember Kesha Hodge Washington and her staff, along with our partners at Tonatierra, who invited us to attend a community meeting at Herrera about the opportunities for the land reuse strategy around the airport. I got to meet Sylvestre Herrera's niece and learned a lot about the history of the neighborhood and the dreams they have for the area. I look forward to attending their regular meetings and meeting more of the members of the community.

Phoenix #1's Indian Education Winter Celebration Night was held on December 4th, focusing on cultural connection, community building, and the rich tradition of Native American storytelling. Thanks to our leaders, Ms. Melanie Begay and Ms. Ashley King, for setting a respectful tone for all families.



We also had our business partner luncheon and we are so grateful to the amazing community and business partners who have continued to offer their support, insights, and questions as we work to make Phoenix #1 a district of significance for the next 154 years.

The Superintendent Student Advisory Team are some of the best partners we have! We had 5 members serving on the District Safety Committee.

Thank you to Bethune students Joanna Mendoza and Zoe Chavez for updating us about the last Superintendent Student Advisory Team meeting which focused on types of research and data needed to create a sense of belonging at our schools.



On behalf of the Cabinet, our Student Advisory members and myself, we want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

>>> COMMUNITY PARTNER BREAKFAST AT LOWELL

The district values its community partners and the strong relationships that support student success. Through collaboration and effective communication, these partnerships help provide meaningful solutions and resources for students and families. Principal Ramos recently hosted the November Lowell Community Partner Breakfast, strengthening connections and fostering continued collaboration in support of the school community.



>>> PLAYWORKS ARIZONA AT CAPITOL

Playworks Arizona, in partnership with the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury Foundation, visited Capitol School to help students build basketball skills and foster enthusiasm for the sport. The program promotes teamwork, confidence, and personal growth, using play to bring out the best in every student.



»»» HERRERA SPELLING BEE

Herrera School hosted a successful Spelling Bee, recognizing students for their academic achievement and dedication. Participants earned first, second, and third place medals, along with certificates of participation. In addition, each student who took part received recognition within their classroom, highlighting the effort and commitment demonstrated by all participants.



»»» STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: EMERSON & GARFIELD

Emerson and Garfield Schools recognized their Students of the Month, honoring students for their achievements, positive behavior, and dedication to learning. Congratulations to all of the students selected for this distinction.



Emerson



Garfield

>>> WINTER CONCERTS RECAP

Phoenix #1 music teachers and students worked hard to put on their winter concerts, filling the space with music, pride, and seasonal cheer. Students delivered enthusiastic performances as families gathered to support and celebrate the young performers.

The winter concerts brought the community together as families, students, and staff came out to celebrate the season. We extend our sincere appreciation to the parents and community members whose presence and support made these performances a success.



Shaw



Whittier



Herrera



Emerson

>>> COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL: EMERSON

Principal Gofonia hosted another Coffee with the Principal session at Emerson School, engaging parents in a discussion about the school's letter grade. She addressed questions from attendees and welcomed their feedback, fostering open communication and collaboration between the school and families.



>>> WAFFLES WITH THE GRINCH AT FAITH NORTH

Faith North Early Childhood Center held its annual Waffles with the Grinch event, providing students with a festive and engaging seasonal celebration. Attendees enjoyed a breakfast of waffles and participated in themed activities, creating a memorable experience that highlighted the spirit and joy of the holiday season.



>>> LOVE OUR SCHOOL DAY AT FAITH NORTH

Faith North Early Childhood Center demonstrated strong community spirit during Love Our School Day. Families, staff, and volunteers came together to support the event and contribute to the beautification of the campus, showcasing their commitment and dedication to the school community.



➤➤➤ ART ON DISPLAY AT FIRST FRIDAY

Phoenix #1 students, alongside their dedicated art teachers, showcased and sold student artwork at this month's First Friday event. The exhibition highlighted the students' creativity while engaging the community, and all proceeds from the sales were directed back to support student programs and initiatives.



➤➤➤ SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

The district held its first Safety Committee meeting, bringing together students and staff from all 12 schools to share ideas, review procedures, and collaborate on strategies to enhance campus safety. The district extends its appreciation to all participants for their commitment to maintaining a secure and supportive environment for the Phoenix #1 community.



➤➤➤ BE KIND CREW AT CAPITOL

The Be Kind Crew visited Capitol School to lead an engaging assembly focused on expressing gratitude to teachers, promoting kindness, and addressing bullying. The program provided students with meaningful strategies to make a positive impact in their school community and reinforced the importance of respect and compassion in daily interactions.





ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS WERE APPROVED INCLUDING:

1. Request Approval or Ratification of Payroll Vouchers in the total amount of \$4,699,478.61 (Policy: DKA)
2. Request Approval or Ratification of Expense Vouchers in the total amount of \$8,820,087.20 (Policy: DKA)
3. Request Approval of Gifts, Donations and Grants (Policy: KCD)
4. Request Approval of Financial Reports for Student Activity Funds (Policy: JJF-R)
5. Request Approval of Student Activities Fundraisers (Policy: JJF-R)
6. Request Approval of the Disposal of Assets from District-Wide Inventory (Policy: DN)
7. Request Approval or Ratification of Employment of Administrative, Certified and Support Staff (Policies: GCF, GDF)
8. Request Approval or Ratification of Employee Contract/Work Agreement Adjustments for Changes in Position (Policies: GCF, GDF)
9. Request Approval of Separation of Employment, Resignations and Retirements. (Policies: GCQC, GDQC, GDQB)
10. Request Approval of School - Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)

GOVERNING BOARD APPROVES SALE OF PLANT SERVICES PROPERTY

The Phoenix #1 Governing Board approved the sale of the District's Plant Services property located near 1st Street and Grant in downtown Phoenix. Plant Services supports essential operations such as transportation, maintenance, warehouse, and child nutrition.



This is a cash sale and includes a two-year leaseback, allowing the District to continue operating at the current site while a new Plant Services facility is built.

Some community members asked why the District would sell this property—but not any of our schools. The answer comes down to how Arizona school finance laws work. School districts cannot use bond dollars to build or improve non-student facilities, like Plant Services. By selling this property, the District can place the proceeds into a capital account and use those funds to build a modern, efficient Plant Services facility, without touching classroom or school bond funds.

This decision also helps protect future bond dollars so they can be focused on student-centered projects, including renovations at Lowell, Bethune, and updates to the Fillmore property. Any remaining funds after the new facility is built may also help support additional school site improvements—stretching taxpayer dollars further.



Relocating Plant Services is also the right operational decision. The current downtown location creates safety and efficiency challenges due to heavy traffic congestion and frequent railroad crossings, which can delay school buses and staff. The existing facility is outdated and would cost at least \$16 million to renovate, which is funding the District does not have available.

The new Plant Services site, located at the Ann Ott property near 12th Street and Durango, will allow the District to build a safer, more efficient facility that better supports employees, improves transportation reliability for students, and serves the community long-term.

DISTRICT-WIDE SAFETY PRESENTATION

Safety was a key focus of the Governing Board meeting, as district leaders shared an overview of Phoenix #1's comprehensive approach to keeping students and staff safe.

The District's safety framework is built around four connected phases designed to prevent incidents, respond effectively, and continuously improve.

- **Phase 1: Planning & Threat Assessment**

- District and school safety committees meet regularly to assess risks, review past incidents, and plan proactively in partnership with professional agencies.

- **Phase 2: Clear Emergency Response**

- The District uses tiered response protocols for a wide range of situations, including medical and behavioral incidents, evacuations and reunification, natural disasters, active threats, and cyber concerns.

- **Phase 3: Training & Preparedness**

- All employees receive annual safety training, with additional role-specific instruction. Students and staff regularly practice emergency procedures through drills to ensure everyone knows what to do if an emergency occurs.

- **Phase 4: Continuous Review & Improvement**

- Safety plans are updated annually and supported by regular facility inspections, threat monitoring, health and safety reviews, and ongoing cybersecurity checks.

Across all four phases, the District prioritizes exterior safety, interior security, and personal safety supports, including access control, lighting, visitor management, classroom safety measures, communication systems, and health and wellness resources.

Safety is foundational to learning. Phoenix #1 remains fully committed to providing schools where students, families, and staff feel protected, supported, and prepared—every day.

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 December 11, 2025 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% on 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 29% on August 2023 to 44% by August 2028.

Superintendent Guardrail #4

The Superintendent shall not allow the District to operate without a site budget process where resources are allocated equitably.

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