



1525 W. Frye Road
Chandler, Arizona 85224
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Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board

Office of the Board
Maricopa County, Arizona
January 14, 2026
6:30 p.m.

1. Study Session – 4:30 pm

1.01 2026-27 Budget and Rightsizing Recommendations

CUSD Cabinet presented the 2026-27 Budget and Rightsizing recommendations.

2. Opening Items - 6:40 pm

2.01 Roll Call

Patti M Serrano, Barb R Mozdzen, Kurt D Rohrs, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza Frank Narducci, Superintendent; Lana Berry, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Michael De La Torre, Assistant Superintendent of PreK-12 School Operations; Tom Dunn, Assistant Superintendent of Operations; Dr. Jessica Edgar, Assistant Superintendent of PreK-12 Teaching/Learning; Dr. Jennifer Fletcher, Assistant Superintendent of PreK-12; Chris Rossini, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Abby Allen, Executive Director of Human Resources; Heather Anguiano, Executive Director of Elementary Schools, East Region; Stephanie Ingersoll, Executive Director of Marketing and Communication; Ken James, Executive Director of Junior High Schools; Leo Schlueter, Executive Director of Elementary Schools, West Region; and Sarah Stone, Executive Director of Student Personalized Learning; were present.

2.02 Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

2.03 Election of Board President for 2026

The Board elected a President for 2026.

Motion to nominate Patti Serrano as Board President for 2026.

Motion by Barb R Mozdzen, second by Claudia Mendoza.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Barb R Mozdzen, Claudia Mendoza

Nay: Ryan Heap, Kurt D Rohrs

Motion to nominate Kurt Rohrs as Board President for 2026.

Motion by Ryan Heap, second NONE.

Although the motion was not seconded. A roll call vote was still taken:

Kurt Rohrs – Aye Claudia Mendoza - Nay

Barb Mozdzen – Nay Patti Serrano – Nay Ryan Heap - Aye

2.04 Election of Board Vice President for 2026

The Board elected a Vice President for 2026.

Motion to nominate Barb Mozdzen as Vice President for 2026.

Motion by Claudia Mendoza, second by Barb R Mozdzen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Barb R Mozdzen, Claudia Mendoza

Nay: Ryan Heap, Kurt D Rohrs

2. Opening Items - 6:40 pm

2.04 Election of Board Vice President for 2026 (cont'd)

Motion to nominate Kurt Rohrs as Vice President for 2026.

Motion by Ryan Heap, second NONE.

Although motion was not seconded, a roll call vote was taken:

Ryan Heap - Aye

Patti Serrano - Nay

Barb Mozdzen - Nay

Claudia Mendoza - Nay

Kurt Rohrs - Aye

3. Report / Information

3.01 Student Body President Report

Eva Chennikkara, Perry High School

3.02 Correspondence

There was no correspondence to present.

3.03 Superintendent Current Events

Governing Board members, this is our first meeting since winter break, so I would like to welcome everyone to the second semester. This semester is jam packed with events.

Tomorrow we are hosting a ceremonial ribbon cutting ceremony for the CUSD Semiconductor CTE program. As you may know, we are the first district in the nation to have this particular career and technical education class, and it would not have been possible without our industry and higher education partners.

January 28 is our State of the District Annual Report Presentation

February 4 is Night of Recognition where we honor a student, staff member, and volunteer from every school.

March 23 will be our Spring Rally where we will honor years of service milestones.

Then before you know it, we are into testing and graduation!

January is School Board member appreciation month. Governing Board members are elected officials who volunteer their time to serve. To our current Governing Board and all our former Governing Board members, thank you for your service and dedication to our community!

Preschool, Pre-K, Kindergarten, and new student registration for the 2026–2027 school year is officially open! Spots will go fast, register today to secure your child's place in one of our programs. Many CUSD schools are hosting open houses and curriculum nights for new families to tour and visit. Dates of those events are on CUSD80.com. To existing CUSD families, thank you for helping us spread the word about why prospective families should choose Arizona's premier district of choice!

Join CUSD Counseling and Social Services for an informational class with experts from Red Light Rebellion. Discover the latest tools and insights to keep your kids safe from exploitation and digital threats. This is only for CUSD parents and will be January 27, 6-7 p.m. on Zoom.

A team from Hamilton High School has advanced to the Top 32 teams worldwide in a prestigious global debate competition. Hamilton is the only school in Arizona to advance this year, standing out among more than 330 teams from 39 countries.

3. Report / Information

3.03 Superintendent Current Events (cont'd)

CUSD communications and marketing learned this week that the team has earned a statewide award for their work communicating the 2025 bond and override facts. The Arizona School Public Relations Association awards the Copper Medallion honor to select school districts in our state who have demonstrated clear evidence of research, planning, implementation, and evaluation of a major communications project. Our winning submission was titled: Data-Driven, People-Focused: The CUSD Fact Campaign Behind the Yes Vote. The team will be recognized at an upcoming luncheon.

We are about to embark on the State's Read to the Final 4 and the field of 68 schools are set. Making the top 68 are our very own Auxier, CTA Freedom, CTA Independence, Frye, Hull, and Tarwater. Thank you, Helios Foundation, for supporting and Read-on to all of our participating school – last year CTA Freedom placed among the top schools.

Chandler High School will be hosting the Pettengill Civic Leadership Academy for 40 of their Juniors on Tuesday, February 3rd at the Chandler Center for the Arts. The president of Drake University will kick off the event and our students will experience a day of Character and Leadership development.

A great story and special thank you as Basha Elementary Staff were treated to a complete Staff lounge make over In total close to \$150,000.00 of donated work, materials, supplies and furniture. The power of collaboration is seen here with parent Mrs. Jarvis and the Basha El. PTO twiththe support of principal Stephanie Reeves. Engaged Willmeng Construction – VP Travis Jarvis to help spearhead the donation! A shout out to former student Brittany Mahoney who is an executive with Atmosphere Commercial Interiors for assisting with furnishings, and a coordinated effort of the following companies who jumped in to make this happen:

Graydaze Construction

Interior Worx Commercial Flooring

Icon Electric

Sunset Acoustics Inc.

J. Wolf Mechanical

Smith Systems

Amazing collaboration of people making a difference!

3.04 Superintendent Search Update

John Bash, Lead Associate, Dr. Sylvia Ibarra, Associate, and Dr. Lori Casey, Associate of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA), joined remotely and provided an update on:

- Recruiting Results
- January 13, 2026 Governing Board Workshop Summary
- Interviews
- Next Steps and Key Dates
- Questions from the Board

4. Comments

4.01 Citizen Comments

Olivia Allen - Specials Teachers and Deans at Navarrete

Jennifer Pawlik - Career Literacy Teachers

Rachel McConnell - Save our librarians

Marie Kleinberger - Position cuts

Margie Foster - Staff Elimination - Media/Tech

Kylie Benedetti - 26-27 Budget

Ben Bozovich - Reduction in Staff

Katie Nash – Rightsizing

4. Comments

4.01 Citizen Comments (cont'd)

Michael Oei - RIF Plan
Elizabeth Walter - Budget Proposal
Dee Hendrick - Budget Proposal Community POV
Ruth Mendoza - Budget Proposal - Media Spec/Tech
Zeyna Pruzhanovsky - Budget
Lisa Calderon - Rightsizing
Darbi Maki - Shared and weighted considerations
Michael Clark - \$3.3M to keep w/PCMP
Deepti Tanuku - Staffing Changes to CUSD
Katherine Mayo - Deans
Diana Gomes - Staffing Plan
Marie Torres - Library Staffing
Carly Mahlmeister - Right sizing
Aldo Soberon - CUSD Staff Reduction - Staffing to Enrollment
Beau Cross - Specials Teachers and Deans at Navarrete
Benjamin Cross - Specials Teachers & Deans at Navarrete
Amelia Nguyen - No Staffing Cuts
Kelly Fowler - Need for a full-time Indigenous Student Engagement Specialist
Kourtney Helmstelter - Librarian and Tech position cuts
Jen Icasiano - Media & Tech teacher cuts
Lora Kopp - Preschool Special Ed
Chelsea - Ausoglu - Right sizing and closure of preschool programs
Monika Landi - "And then some..."
Megan Craghead - Staffing
Larinda Cook - Indigenous Education Program
Karen Strong - Consolidating Media/Tech Job
Thad Letnes - Library and Tech vs. "Career Literacy"
Sarah Letnes - Proposed Budget changes
Monique John - Indigenous Education Program
Donna Peery - The heart of our school is our librarian. Worried about staff health

5. Consent Agenda

5.01 Approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

The minutes are considered DRAFT until approved by the Governing Board.

5.02 Out of State Student Travel Preplanning

Out of state field trip pre-planning forms for ACP HS and BHS were provided. Following Governing Board pre-approval, the Superintendent (designee) will monitor trip arrangements before providing final approval. The Governing Board will receive a summary of final travel arrangements at the end of the school year.

5.03 Approve and Ratify Payroll and Accounts Payable Vouchers

Requested approval and ratification of the following Accounts Payable and Payroll vouchers.

Accounts Payable 2025-2026:

Vouchers 7014-7018 - 12/04/2025 - Checks 1800079671-1800079884

Vouchers 7109-7113 - 12/11/2025 - Checks 1800079920-1800080148 (checks 1800080000-1800080014 voided due to printer jam)

Vouchers 7114-7118 - 12/17/2025 - Checks 1800080154-1800080358

Voucher 7119 - 12/18/2025 - Checks 1800080359-1800080361

Vouchers 7120-7121 - 01/05/2026 - Checks 1800080389-1800080390

5. Consent Agenda

5.03 Approve and Ratify Payroll and Accounts Payable Vouchers (cont'd)

Payroll 2025-2026:

Voucher 1027 - 12/08/2025

Voucher 1028 - 12/10/2025

Voucher 1029 - 12/12/2025

Voucher 1030 - 12/24/2025

Voucher 1032 - 01/06/2026

5.04 Monetary Gifts

Requested approval of the monetary gifts generously donated to Chandler Schools totaling \$52,274.68.

5.05 Donations

Requested approval of the items generously donated to Chandler Schools totaling \$72,136.87.

5.06 Tips Contract# 230105 Technology Solutions Products and Services

The District currently utilizes a combination of manual and decentralized processes to support visitor management and emergency communication. To modernize the District's security infrastructure, Raptor Technologies provides an integrated safety and communication platform designed to streamline visitor management, staff accountability, and emergency coordination. The system supports faster response, improved situational awareness, and more efficient communication during critical incidents, while reducing reliance on manual processes. Implementing this solution would strengthen the District's overall safety infrastructure and align with best practices for school security.

The District is requested Governing Board approval utilizing Tips contract #230105 to Raptor Technologies for the implementation of the Raptor Alert suite in the amount \$319,477.66 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The due diligence for this cooperative contract has been reviewed by the Purchasing Department and is compliant with the Arizona Schools District Procurement Rules.

5.07 Human Resources

Employment, Separation, Compensation, and Job Descriptions.

Motion to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to move the job descriptions for Career Literacy Teacher and Coordinator of Security to Action Items. These will be moved to Action items 6.01 and 6.02.

Motion by Barb R Mozdzen, second by Ryan Heap.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Barb R Mozdzen, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

6. Action Items

6.01 Job Description for Career Literacy Teacher

We are recommending approval of the job description and establishment of the position of Career Literacy Teacher.

This recommendation is to implement state standards and develop students' multiple literacies through engaging and real-world innovative project-based learning experiences.

Recommend approval job description for Career Literacy Teacher, with request from the Board not to post position at this point.

Motion by Kurt D Rohrs, second by Ryan Heap.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Ryan Heap, Kurt D Rohrs

Nay: Claudia Mendoza

Abstain: Barb R Mozdzen

6. Action Items

6.02 Job Description Coordinator of Security

We are recommending approval of the job description and establishment of the position of Coordinator of Security.

This recommendation is to coordinate district security operations, safety programming, and event support to ensure a safe and secure learning environment across assigned elementary schools and Community Education programs.

Recommend approval of the job description and establishment of the position of Coordinator of Security.

Motion by Barb R Mozdzen, second by Kurt D Rohrs.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Barb R Mozdzen, Ryan Heap, Kurt D Rohrs

Abstain: Claudia Mendoza

6.03 2026-27 Budget and Rightsizing Recommendations

An extensive study session was held tonight regarding reductions to a variety of positions, programs, and budgets. The reductions were proposed to not only meet the decreased budget projections for the 2026-2027 school year, but to remain fiscally responsible as Chandler Unified School District continues to meet the challenge of declining enrollment. District leadership presented a recommendation for the 2026–2027 school year to address a \$12 million budget reduction and a projected 3% enrollment decline. Driven by regional birth rates, housing costs, and expanded schooling options, this plan ensures the District remains fiscally responsible and positioned for long-term sustainability. Our approach is rooted in ethical practices, legality, and proactive communication, ensuring all staffing adjustments remain student-centered. While the plan impacts 123 positions, which is 2% of employee base, our strategy utilizes retirements and attrition to ensure every affected employee can apply for job opportunities within C.U.S.D. or if a certified teacher be placed in another certified teaching position within C.U.S.D. Upon Governing Board approval, this recommendation provides the stability needed to issue contracts to our 5,300+ employees this March.

1. Approval of the plan as presented in the Governing Board Study Session on 1/14/2026. The District administration recommends the suggested position changes due to a \$12 million budget reduction. Reductions will be based on staffing guidelines that follow enrollment numbers, district budgets, cash funds based on labor per meal hours/enrollment in programs, and grant fund availability.
2. The administration recommends the board approves the elimination of the following positions:
 - A. Director of Safety
 - B. Assistant Director of Special Education
 - C. Assistant Director of Student Services
 - D. Instructional Designer
 - E. Elementary Media Specialist
 - F. Elementary Technology Teacher
 - G. Elementary Media-Tech Teacher
 - H. Junior High Media Specialist
 - I. Prevention Coach
3. The administration recommends that the board approves the reduction of the positions based on the school staffing guidelines as enrollment adjusts.
4. The administration recommends the board approves the funding shifts for positions as presented.

Motion to recommend approval of the amended Staffing to Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year: Amendment: Approve all items with the exception of 2E, 2F, 2G, and 2H to re-evaluate and reconvene on January 21, 2026 to look at impact and alternatives for budget.

Motion by Ryan Heap, second by Claudia Mendoza.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Barb R Mozdzen, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

6. Action Items

6.04 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WestEd and Chandler Unified School District #80

Integrated Statistics and Quantitative Reasoning (ISQR) is an approved High School math course which is defined as a hands-on, integrative curriculum that weaves together quantitative, statistical, and data literacy concepts to solve complex, real-world problems. ISQR was developed as another option for a 4th-year math course which offers a project-based learning math instructional model integrating statistics and data analysis. Recommended approval of the MOU for WestEd to partner with CUSD (Hamilton High School and Camille Casteel High School) to participate in the grant-funded development of the new Integrated Statistics and Quantitative Reasoning (ISQR) course.

Approval of the MOU for WestEd to partner with CUSD (Hamilton High School and Camille Casteel High School) to participate in the grant-funded development of the new Integrated Statistics and Quantitative Reasoning (ISQR) course.

Motion by Ryan Heap, second by Claudia Mendoza.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Barb R Mozdzen, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

6.05 Pilot Intersession Program

The district requested approval for the pilot program to provide additional opportunities for students to receive intervention and instruction related to essential standards in core content classes with higher failure rates. This initiative will be funded using one-time funds braided between federal grant funds and Instructional Improvement funds. If the pilot program proves successful, it will be implemented in SY2026-2027 during both fall and spring intersessions with consideration to expand to grades 7 & 8 core courses in Math & ELA. Long term planning, if successful, would be to add core Science courses in grades 7-12 as funding permits.

Recommend approving Pilot Intersession Program stipends.

Motion by Ryan Heap, second by Barb R Mozdzen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Barb R Mozdzen, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

6.06 Climatec HVAC Control Upgrades at CTA Liberty, Navarrete, Payne Junior High, Ryan, and Shumway

Existing HVAC controls (BCM BACTalk Control Modules) at CTA Liberty, Navarrete, PJHS, Ryan and Shumway are no longer being manufactured and are becoming difficult to maintain as they are no longer supported by Alerton (Honeywell).

The district intends to upgrade current control modules to Ascent Control Modules ACM at the above sites.

The scope of work includes:

Replace outdated controls

Controls mapping and graphics

Point to point connections and field verification all devices are communicating

Recommended approval of Climatec utilizing 1GPA contract #25-02PV-03 in the amount of \$108,702.32.

Recommend approval of Climatec utilizing 1GPA contract #25-02PV-03 in the amount of \$108,702.32.

Motion by Ryan Heap, second by Kurt D Rohrs.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Barb R Mozdzen, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

6. Action Items

6.07 High School Scoreboard & Videoboard Projects at Basha High, Chandler High, Casteel High and Hamilton High

Requested Governing Board approval to utilize Daktronics, Inc. Omnia Contract #R220601 in the amount of \$1,051,498 for new scoreboard/videoboards at Basha High, Chandler High, Casteel High and Hamilton High. This project is part of the Arizona Sports & Tourism Authority grant.

BHS - \$296,142.45

CHS - \$276,224.10

CCHS - \$187,739.75

HHS - \$291,391.70

Hardware includes:

Scoreboard/video boards

Power and control system drawings

New controllers with included software for operation

Fiber cable as needed

Recommended approval of Daktronics, Inc. utilizing Omnia Partners contract #R220601 in the amount of \$1,051,498.

Recommend approval to utilize Omnia Contract R220601 awarded to Daktronics, Inc. for scoreboard and videoboards at Basha High, Chandler High, Casteel High and Hamilton High in the amount of \$1,051,498.

Motion by Barb R Mozdzen, second by Kurt D Rohrs.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Barb R Mozdzen, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

6.08 Scoreboard Projects at Basha High, Casteel High, Chandler High, and Hamilton High

Requested Governing Board approval to utilize Precise Sign Company on contract 1GPA 25-05P in the amount of \$266,064.20 for installation of new Daktronic scoreboards at Basha High, Casteel High, Chandler High, and Hamilton High School. This project is part of the Arizona Sports & Tourism Authority grant.

Basha High - \$82,779.85

Casteel High - \$68,619.15

Chandler High - \$53,263.02

Hamilton High - \$61,402.18

Scope of work includes:

Removal of existing scoreboard/videoboards

Addition of structural steel as needed per drawings

Removal of and installation of current controllers

Install and add new electrical gear as needed per drawings

Recommended approval of Precise Sign Company utilizing 1GPA contract #25-05P in the amount of \$266,064.20.

Recommend approval of Precise Sign Company utilizing the 1GPA 25-05P contract in the amount of \$266,064.20 for installation of new Daktronic scoreboards/videobords at Basha High, Casteel High, Chandler High, and Hamilton High School.

Motion by Ryan Heap, second by Barb R Mozdzen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Patti M Serrano, Barb R Mozdzen, Ryan Heap, Claudia Mendoza, Kurt D Rohrs

7. Information Items

7.01 Student Activity, Auxiliary Operations, and Tax Credit Reports

Student Activity (SA), Auxiliary Operations (AUX), and Tax Credit (TC) Reports for the months ending July 2025 through December 2025 were provided for review.

7.02 CUSD Board Agenda Roadmap

The Board reviewed the CUSD Board Agenda Roadmap.

7.03 Board Member Current Events

Ryan Heap - Will be attending the HHS CTE Semiconductor Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, January 15th. This is the first of it's kind.

Kurt Rohrs - Attended the following events: 12/15 Choral Concert at CHS; 1/15 AJHS STEM Showcase; Elementary Choral Festival at CCA is coming up on Jan. 27th

Patty Serrano - Chandler Multicultural event on 1/17/26 in honor of MLK Jr. Day; Thanked the Board, audience and cabinet and all who were in attendance for the meeting.

8. Adjournment

8.01 Adjourn the Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 am.

Board President