Inspiring Every Child to Achieve
PHOENIX #1
Elementary School District

FEB. 19, 2026 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

>>> RECAP <<<



CAPITOL DRAMA STUDENTS PERFORM BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 19, 2026, LED BY MS. FREED, MS. MOORE, AND MS. MEADOR

>>> DECEMBER S.T.A.R AWARDS

(SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION)



DULCE AGUILAR
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST
BETHUNE



BRANDON THOMPSON
MUSIC TEACHER
BETHUNE

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

As we move through February, we continue to acknowledge and celebrate Black History Month. This is a time to honor the incredible contributions, resilience, and history of Black Americans within our classrooms. It is not just about looking back at the past, but also recognizing the brilliance and potential of our Black students and staff who continue to shape the future of Phoenix #1 every day.

This month, we took the opportunity to celebrate our bus drivers and bus attendants. They are the very first and last faces our students see each school day. Their dedication to safety and their ability to build positive relationships before the first bell even rings is foundational to our students' success. We are proud to celebrate their hard work and the care they show our families.





I am thrilled to highlight the remarkable progress in our classrooms. We are seeing above-average growth in literacy across several grade levels. This is a testament to the hard work of our students and the data-driven, tireless efforts of our teachers. Literacy is foundational to future academic success, and seeing this kind of momentum is exactly what we strive for in our district goals.



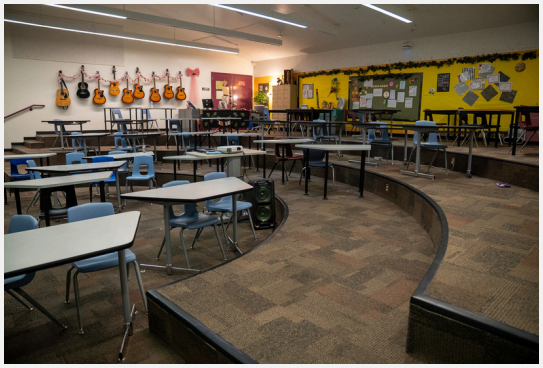
RYLEIGH BRIGHT – WHITTIER

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ (CONTINUED)

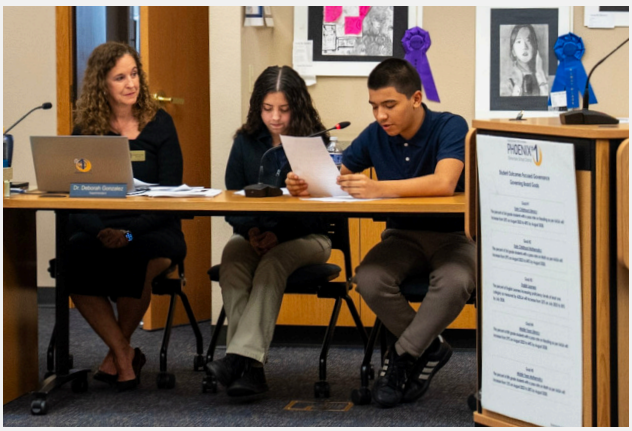
Recently, we hosted tours of the Fillmore property for our families and staff to gather direct input as we consider the exciting possibility of relocating Herrera School for the Arts to the Fillmore Campus. Hearing the insights and visions of those who would be most impacted by this move is essential. We are committed to ensuring that any transition serves the best interests of our students' artistic and academic futures.





And speaking of hearing the insights and the visions of our number one stakeholders - our Superintendent Student Advisory Team has been surveying their peers and they have already received more than 1300 responses.

Adriana Velasquez (8th grade) and Romeo Leon (7th grade) shared that the Superintendent Student Advisory Team explored many different definitions of belonging and realized that it can mean something different to everyone. For them, belonging means feeling welcome, being able to share your voice, getting along with others, and knowing your opinions matter. They connected this idea to their school's theory of action — that when students truly feel like they belong, they can focus better, feel happier, become more involved, and confidently speak up for themselves.



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

>>> ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

OUTSTANDING READING GROWTH, TEACHERS

Congratulations to our teachers whose classes showed the highest amount of reading growth over this past quarter!



LEISLA CHURCH
SHAW



CRISTINA FLORES BASULTO
SHAW



CHELSEA PEREZ
SHAW



FAITH WILLMAN
SHAW



VICTORIA LAZO
KENILWORTH



STEPHANIE GLOSSBRENNER
KENILWORTH



THOMAS SEJEN
MAGNET



NAYELI CLARK
MAGNET

>>> ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

OUTSTANDING READING GROWTH, TEACHERS (CONTINUED)



VERONICA CALDERON HERRERA



MALIA COMMAND HERRERA



TAYLOR FLOWER HERRERA



JESSICA BOLAND, PERLA HERNANDEZ FUENTES, AND JACOB LOTT WHITTIER



EMMA MCEVOY GARFIELD

NOT PICTURED:

- **DANIELLE JOHNSON, CAPITOL**
- **LESLIE KIES, EDISON**

>>> ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

OUTSTANDING READING GROWTH, STUDENTS

Congratulations to our students who showed the highest amount of reading growth over this past quarter!



YAIR ARIAS
BETHUNE



ZAKARIA KAZIMI
EDISON



SECRET MCELROY
GARFIELD



JEREMIAH ORTIZ
WHITTIER



AMY SAAVEDRA
SAGUILAN
MAGNET

>>> ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

OUTSTANDING READING GROWTH, STUDENTS



AVA HODGES HERRERA



DIEGO RODRIGUEZ SHAW



KAVYA CURRIE SHAW

NOT PICTURED:

- **GERALDINE BANKS, CAPITOL**
- **EMMANUAL TAPIA, LOWELL**
- **CALEB GARCIA, MAGNET**
- **ELLEN LEON WOODILL, BETHUNE**
- **ROMAN MANZANO OLVERA, MAGNET**
- **SEBASTIAN FLORES DIAZ, BETHUNE**
- **PHOEBE HORN, SHAW**
- **EVAN ROBLES, HERRERA**
- **JESUS VAZQUEZ CISNEROS, LOWELL**
- **ANNALEE NAVARRO, LOWELL**

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATS TO MRS. PORTER FROM CAPITOL!

Congratulations to Capitol's Mrs. Denise Porter. The Arizona Council for Exceptional Children has named her the Samuel Kirk Special Education Teacher of the Year. The prestigious award recognizes her outstanding dedication to educating students with disabilities. Officials will honor Mrs. Porter at the state conference next month.



WINTER ART SHOWCASE

Phoenix #1 welcomed families and community members to the Winter Art Showcase, celebrating student creativity and sharing their impressive artwork. Guests enjoyed light refreshments prepared by the district's Child Nutrition team, adding a special touch to the festive event.









AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION TEACHER SURPRISE

Herrera and Garfield are celebrating outstanding achievements in education. Taylor Flower of Herrera has earned National Board Certification, a distinction that recognizes her dedication to high-quality instruction and lifelong learning. At Garfield, Principal Jennifer Sumida has maintained her National Board Certification, reflecting her continued commitment to excellence, leadership and student success.



PRINCIPAL JENNIFER SUMIDA



MS. TAYLOR FLOWER

THANK YOU, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALISTS!

Family and Community Engagement Specialists (FACES) continue to make a meaningful impact across the district by supporting families and expanding access to essential resources. By helping families complete free and reduced meal applications, they ensure students receive nutritious meals while increasing critical funding that directly supports schools. Their dedication strengthens services for students and families every day.



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AZ STATE TREASURER KIMBERLY YEE VISITS KENILWORTH

State Treasurer Kimberly Yee visited Kenilworth with her mother, Betty Yee, a former Phoenix #1 teacher, to teach students about saving, spending, and sharing. Students also learned about the 2026 AZ529 Future Career Art Contest and painted piggy banks. Treasurer Yee presented in her mother's former classroom.



COFFEE TALKS AT WHITTIER AND FAITH NORTH

Families participated in two recent parent engagement events focused on kindergarten readiness and school safety. At the Whittier Coffee Talk, representatives from the Phoenix Police Department attended to share community safety information and answer parent questions. At the Faith North Coffee Talk, Principal Edington spoke with families about the transition to kindergarten and answered questions about the upcoming Kindergarten for a Day event on Saturday, February 28. District staff also shared information about all 10 Phoenix #1 schools that offer kindergarten programs.



FAITH NORTH



WHITTIER

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARICOPA COUNTY REGION 3 SPELLING BEE

Phoenix #1 students showcased their academic excellence at the 2026 Maricopa County Region 3 Spelling Bee, which the district proudly hosted for neighboring districts. Representing Phoenix #1 were Ezekiel Lopez of Herrera School for the Arts, Gianna Torres of Magnet Traditional, and Cora McGrath of Shaw Montessori. We are so proud of their preparation and poise!



EZEKIEL LOPEZ
HERRERA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS



CORA MCGRATH
SHAW MONTESSORI



GIANNA TORRES
MAGNET TRADITIONAL

STUDENT OF THE MONTH AT GARFIELD AND WHITTIER

Garfield and Whittier school leaders recognized their Students of the Month during campus celebrations honoring student achievement. Garfield hosted a special breakfast and award ceremony for its honorees, while Whittier students proudly stamped their blue “paw prints” to make the recognition official and celebrate their accomplishments.



GARFIELD



WHITTIER

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP AT HERRERA

Herrera School for the Arts welcomed families to its Kindergarten Roundup, where staff introduced incoming students to the school community and shared information about programs, routines, and resources to prepare families for the year ahead.



VALENTINE'S DANCE AT MAGNET TRADITIONAL

Magnet Traditional School brought students, families, and staff together for a lively Valentine's Dance, creating a festive atmosphere filled with music, laughter, and celebration. The event highlighted the importance of friendship and community, giving everyone a chance to connect, enjoy fun activities, and share in the joy of the occasion.



TOUCH A TRUCK

Phoenix Elementary School District #1 joined the fun at a recent Touch-A-Truck event by bringing one of its school buses for families to explore. Hosted at Chick-fil-A on 7th Avenue and Roosevelt, the event gave children a hands-on opportunity to explore service vehicles, meet community heroes, and enjoy learning through play. The district thanks Chick-fil-A for hosting a fun, family-friendly experience for the community.



CULTURE NIGHT AT EDISON

Edison Elementary celebrated learning and community during its annual Culture Night. Each class represented a different country and presented its traditions, history, and culture. Families attended the event, enjoyed student presentations, and sampled foods inspired by each country. Students' efforts brought the world to life and highlighted Edison's commitment to cultural understanding and community engagement.









VALENTINE'S FAMILY DANCE AT HERRERA

Families filled the gym at Herrera School for the Arts for the annual Family Valentine's Dance. Students and their loved ones danced the night away and celebrated in a fun, welcoming atmosphere that showcased the school's strong sense of community.



PLAYWORKS AT BETHUNE

Playworks Arizona, in partnership with the Phoenix Suns and the Phoenix Mercury Foundation, visited Bethune to help students build their basketball skills and spark excitement for the game. Through structured play, Playworks Arizona works to bring out the best in every student.



BEAUTIFYING BETHUNE

Hands On Greater Phoenix organized two different volunteer workdays to help beautify Bethune. It was incredible to see the amount of care they put into painting, planting, building, and organizing our campus. We are so grateful for their kindness and hard work to make our spaces brighter and more inviting.









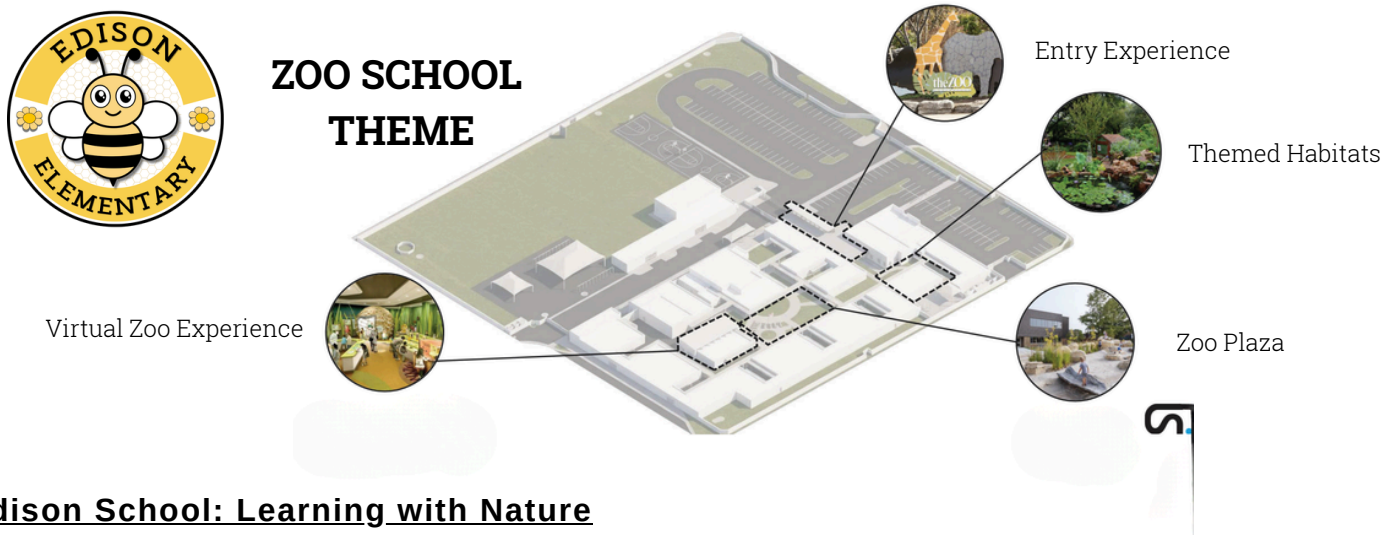
CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request Approval or Ratification of Payroll Vouchers in the total amount of $4,681,655.30 (Policy: DKA)
2. Request Approval or Ratification of Expense Vouchers in the total amount of $3,744,445.88 (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 to Sell Surplus, Damaged, or Outdated Technology and Equipment (Policy: DN)
6. Request Approval or Ratification of Employment of Administrative, Certified and Support Staff (Policies: GCF, GDF)
7. Request Approval or Ratification of Employee Contract/Work Agreement Adjustments for Changes in Position (Policies: GCF, GDF)
8. Request Approval of Separation of Employment, Resignations and Retirements (Policies: GCQC, GDQC, GDQB)
9. Request Approval of the Employee Contract/Work Agreement/Notice of Appointment/Acceptance Incentive Stipend (Policies: GCB, GCBA, GDB, GDBA)
10. Request Approval of the Salary Schedule for the 2026-2027 School Year (Policies: GCB, GCBA, GDB, GDBA)
11. Approval of School Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)
12. Approval of School Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)
13. Approval of School Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)
14. Request Approval for Staff Out-of-State Travel for Professional Development (Policy: GCCE)
15. Request Approval for Staff Out-of-State Travel for Professional Development (Policy: GCCE)
16. Request Approval of Consent Agenda (Policy: BEDB)

INFORMATION

RENOVATIONS UPDATES

Phoenix Elementary School District #1 is planning exciting updates at Edison School and Garfield School to make learning spaces safer, more modern, and better suited for students. These projects are still in the planning stages, and the District wants families to understand what's being considered.



Edison School: Learning with Nature

Edison is known for its nature-based learning, and the renovation plans aim to enhance that experience.

Possible improvements include:

- **Outdoor learning spaces** where students can explore science, art, and teamwork in nature.
- **Upgraded classrooms and facilities** such as lighting, heating/cooling, cafeteria, and restrooms.
- **Beautiful, inviting spaces** that make students excited to come to school every day.

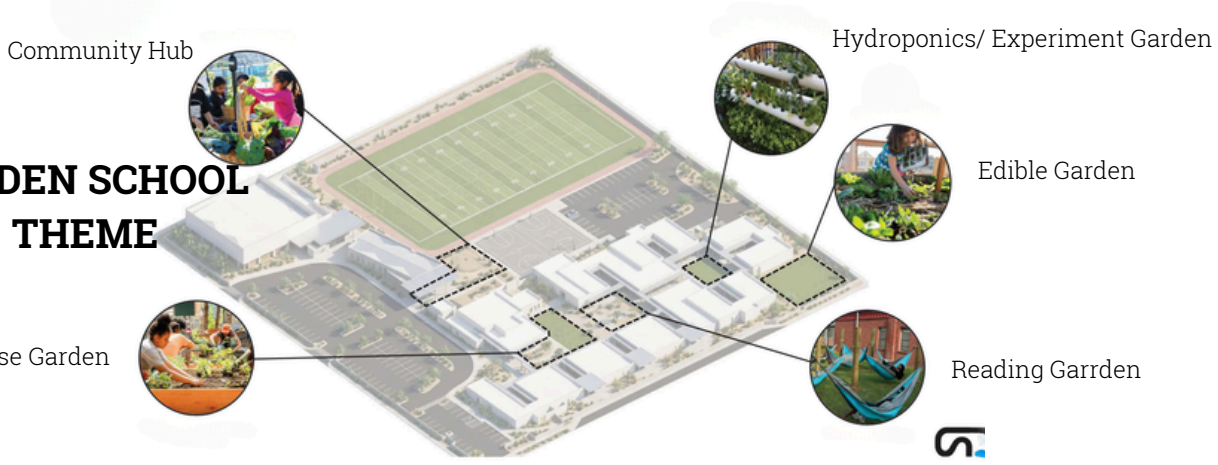
The goal is to create a safe, comfortable, and inspiring environment for K–5 students, combining indoor learning with outdoor exploration.



INFORMATION

RENOVATIONS UPDATES

GARDEN SCHOOL THEME



A Middle School Built for Students

Garfield serves students in grades 5–8, and the proposed updates focus on making the school a more welcoming and flexible place to learn.

Possible improvements include:

- **Flexible classrooms** that allow teachers and students to work in groups or on projects.
- **Updated common areas** where students can collaborate and socialize safely.
- **Improved campus safety** with better entry points and easier ways to move around the school.

These updates are designed to help Garfield continue growing as a strong middle school where students can learn, create, and connect.

Click **here** to see the full presentation.



INFORMATION

HERRERA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS TRANSITION TO FILLMORE PROPERTY

Phoenix Elementary School District #1 is currently exploring the possibility of transitioning Herrera School for the Arts (1350 S 11th St.) to the Fillmore campus (735 E. Fillmore St.) in the future.

If approved, Phoenix #1 would rename the Fillmore campus to the Silvestre S. Herrera School for the Arts and maintain its identity as a fine and performing arts school.

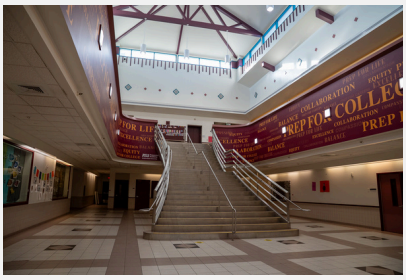
If approved, the Fillmore campus would provide purposeful learning environments, improved academic classrooms, and instructional spaces. It would also allow space to grow Herrera's signature arts-integrated model, offering enhanced environments for dance, drama, music, and visual arts alongside strong academic instruction.

As discussions continue, families and community members will have opportunities to stay informed and engaged in shaping what comes next for Herrera School for the Arts.

Click **here** to watch the video of the Virtual Fillmore Property tour.



CHOIR ROOM



STAIRCASE



AUDITORIUM



GYMNASIUM



PLAYGROUND



CLASSROOM

ACTION ITEMS

MATH CURRICULUM ADOPTION

Dr. Seth Aleshire, Chief Academic Officer, and Dr. Sarah Galetti, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the recommendation for a new K–8 math curriculum to the Governing Board. They led a 23-member curriculum adoption committee that spent 10 months reviewing 11 programs and holding five public meetings to select the strongest option for students.

The committee evaluated each program to ensure it aligns with Arizona state standards, uses research-based math practices, supports all learners, and provides strong instructional tools for teachers and students. After narrowing the field to two finalists, the district held a 60-day public review. Families, staff, and community members reviewed materials online and at school sites, attended presentations, and submitted feedback in English and Spanish. Based on survey results, the committee selected enVision Mathematics by Savvas Learning Company as the highest-rated program.

The new program connects math to real life, includes hands-on and small-group learning, offers digital tools and extra practice, and provides multilingual tutorial videos through QR codes so families can support learning at home. The Governing Board approved, and the district will provide teachers with two years of training and ongoing support to ensure strong implementation.

CONTRACTS AND WORK AGREEMENTS

Each year, the District reviews all employee contracts, work agreements, and notices of appointment to ensure compliance with current state law. For the 2026–2027 school year, the revisions are minimal and reflect updates to dates and statutory requirements. Under Arizona law, districts may not issue contracts before March 15. The District plans to distribute contracts during the week of March 16. The Governing Board voted unanimously to authorize the issuance of employee contracts and work agreements for the 2026–2027 school year.

ACTION ITEMS *(CONTINUED)*

GOVERNING BOARD POLICY UPDATES

The Governing Board approved the following revised fiscal and governance policy recommendations from the Arizona School Boards Association during the third reading of Policy Advisories 876–905.

- **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

GOVERNING BOARD STRATEGIC GOALS AND GUARDRAILS

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS



ERIKA OVALLE
PRESIDENT



SUANNE EDMISTON
VICE PRESIDENT



JUSTIN GRAHAM
BOARD MEMBER



CARMEN TRUJILLO
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 February 19, 2026 meeting focused on the following Board Goals and Superintendent Guardrails:

Board Goal #1
he percentage of 3rd-grade students with a pass rate on ELA 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 ELA as per AASA will increase from 29% on August 2023 to 44% by August 2028.

Superintendent Guardrail #1

The Superintendent shall not allow the District to operate without reciprocal and effective communication between the Board, district employees, and community stakeholders.

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