Inspiring Every Child to Achieve
PHOENIX #1
Elementary School District

MARCH 19, 2026 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

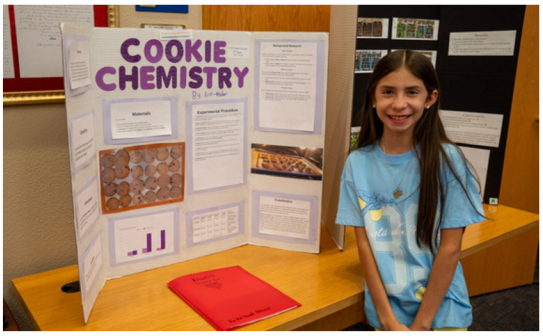
>>> RECAP <<<

DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

Congratulations to all 26 District Science Fair winners! Students from three schools participated: Capitol, Shaw, & Garfield. Winners were invited to the Governing Board Meeting to present their Science Fair Projects to the Governing Board and members of the community.



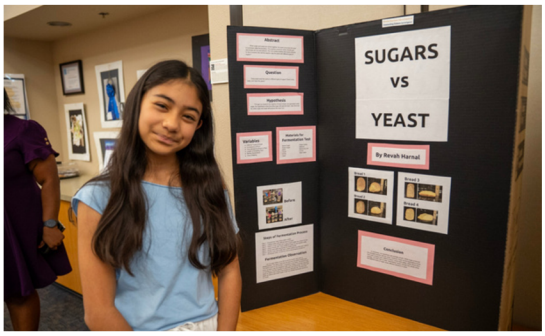
LUCAS PANTLE
SHAW



KRISTI-MADORI HURTADO
SHAW



CORA MCGRATH
SHAW



REVAH HARNAL
SHAW

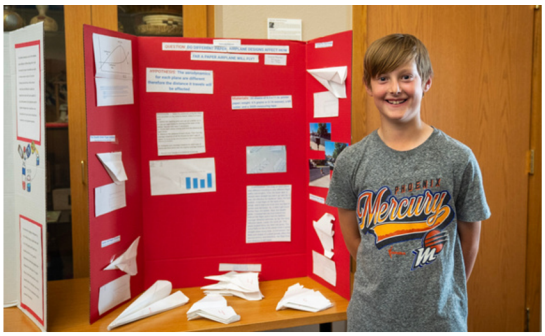


VERA HARNAL
SHAW

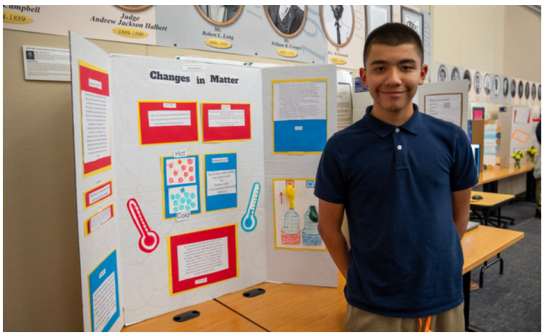


NORA LOPEZ
CAPITOL

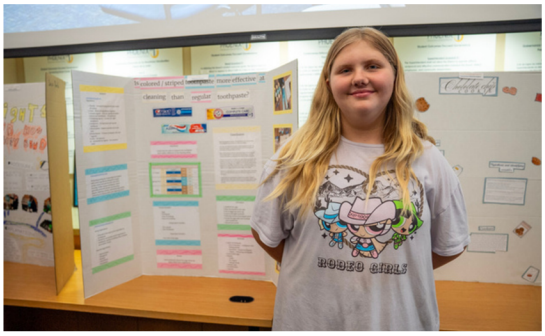
DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS *(CONTINUED)*



EMMITT FOUNDAS
SHAW



RAYMOND LEON
CAPITOL



LAUREN SPEAS
SHAW



ROMEO LEON
CAPITOL

NOT PICTURED:

- LENAIJA ANDERSON, GARFIELD
- ANABELLA CASTRO-MARTINEZ, GARFIELD
- SOPHIA CASTILLO, GARFIELD
- JASON GASTELUM GUTIERREZ, CAPITOL
- ZAIRA GUTIERREZ ARREDONDO, GARFIELD
- LILIANA GUTIERREZ, GARFIELD
- TA'NARI JOY, GARFIELD
- CRISTHOPHER JUAREZ CLEMENTE, GARFIELD
- NORA LOPEZ, CAPITOL
- KEIRA LYONS, CAPITOL
- DEISI MATIAS MIRANDA, GARFIELD
- JESUS MENA, GARFIELD
- ARRYIS PRECIADO-SIEGRIST, CAPITOL
- EVELYN RUYBAL, CAPITOL
- STELLA STRAVITZ, SHAW MONTESSORI
- ASHLEY TAPIA MENDOZA, GARFIELD

>>> FEBRUARY S.T.A.R AWARDS

(SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION)



BRIAN BUI
ESS TEACHER
CAPITOL



MA INES REYES GUEVARA
CUSTODIAN
CAPITOL



SYLVIA BERNAL
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE TEACHER
EDISON



VERONICA HERNANDEZ
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST
EDISON

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

I am happy to welcome everyone back from the Spring Break holiday. It is wonderful to be back together as we begin the fourth and final quarter of the school year. I hope everyone had a rejuvenating Spring Break, as we prepare for a very busy and celebratory season for our district.





On March 17th, school principals, members of the Curriculum and Instruction team, and the Superintendent Student Advisory team were able to spend a morning at the Helios Decision Theater. I won't say too much about that now, as I know our representatives will want to share about that in a moment, but I am grateful to the partners at TNTP who helped make this visit possible and to the staff who are working so hard to help our students continue to show academic gains.

As we looked at the data, it was great to see we are closing learning gaps and are, in most cases, performing at levels similar to those before the Pandemic. So this evening, I am pleased to show the continued growth our English Language Learners are showing across all of our schools. This progress is a direct result of the dedicated work of our educators, their principals, and the focused instructional strategies led by the Curriculum and Instruction we have implemented District-wide. Seeing this continued trend reinforces our commitment to ensuring the programs and curricular support are present so our students continue to thrive.

The District celebrated the success of its "Kindergarten for a Day" event, welcoming new families and future students to campuses including Kenilworth, Lowell's Dual Language Immersion Program, and Magnet Traditional. The event highlighted efforts to build a strong sense of belonging early on, with high family engagement signaling a positive outlook for the upcoming enrollment season. Enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year is now open for preschool through 8th grade.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

Finally, I am honored to welcome members of our Superintendent's Student Advisory Team. It is always a joy to learn from them and the perspectives they bring to our decision-making. I'm excited for them to share their insights with you:



Declan McGrath:
"Hello, my name is Declan McGrath. I am in eighth grade at Shaw Montessori, and I plan to attend Brophy High School, where I was recently accepted. The biggest highlight of being part of the Superintendent Student Advisory Team has been interacting with my peers and hearing their opinions on how to make students feel like they belong in their school. We also visited Helios with the superintendent, District leaders, and principals, where we learned about programs that show school data and ways to improve our schools by learning from others."

Aubrielle Wright:
"Hello, my name is Aubrielle Wright. I am in seventh grade at Shaw Montessori, and I hope to attend Cesar Chavez High School. My favorite part of being on the Superintendent Student Advisory Team has been learning how my classmates feel, whether they feel safe, treated kindly, or the opposite. At our retreat, we worked on action research to share with the Governing Board, and I really enjoyed the food taste test, giving students a voice in shaping our menus. I also learned that while most students feel safe and included, some do not, which is why the team exists to make sure every student feels they belong. We are excited to continue sharing our progress with our schools and District leaders."

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SWEETHEARTS DANCE AT FAITH NORTH

Students and families gathered at Faith North for the school's Sweetheart Dance, sharing an evening full of smiles, music, and fun. The event even featured a special guest appearance from Superman, adding extra excitement for students. Faith North extends its appreciation to the teachers, parents, and volunteers whose support helped make the memorable night possible.



CAPITOL STUDENTS BRING "FINDING NEMO KIDS" TO THE STAGE

Students at Capitol performed a colorful rendition of Disney's Finding Nemo Kids, a 30-minute musical adaptation of the beloved 2003 Pixar film Finding Nemo. The underwater story follows an anxious and overprotective clownfish on a journey that highlights themes of family, friendship, and adventure.





FAMILY MATH NIGHT AT WHITTIER

Whittier welcomed more than 50 students and their families for a fun and engaging Family Math Night. Families traveled from classroom to classroom playing interactive math games and participating in hands-on activities together. Students and their families practiced math skills, created glow-in-the-dark paint-by-number art in the glow room, and enjoyed a spaghetti dinner, making it a memorable evening of learning and connection.





ELEVATE READING BUDDIES AT WHITTIER

Middle school students at Whittier are making a difference by mentoring first graders through the Elevate Reading Buddies program. The program brings students together to read books, build confidence, and strengthen literacy skills. By working side by side, older and younger students form meaningful connections while encouraging a love of reading. Way to go, Wildcats!



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINI HORSES STOP BY EMERSON

Emerson SUN students received a special surprise when two mini horses stopped by for a memorable visit. Students had the opportunity to meet the animals, gently pet them, and learn more about these friendly horses. The visit brought plenty of smiles and excitement as students experienced a fun and unique hands-on learning moment.



WHITTIER ELEVATE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE STEM DAY

Students in Whittier's Elevate program attended STEM Day at Phoenix Raceway, where they participated in a series of interactive learning rotations. Activities focused on coding, technology advancements, game mechanics, circuits, critical thinking, teamwork, and careers in technology. The field trip gave students the opportunity to engage in hands-on STEM experiences while exploring how science and technology connect to real-world careers.





AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIESTA SPORTS FOUNDATION AT BETHUNE

Bethune welcomed students for the Fiesta Sports Foundation Arizona Milk Producers Youth Football Clinic, where staff and volunteers helped create a fun and engaging experience. Former NFL player Brett Hundley, who grew up in the Valley, spoke to students and motivated them during the event. Students practiced football drills, built skills, and most importantly enjoyed a day full of fun and teamwork.







AZ529 WINNER FROM KENILWORTH

Congratulations to Kenilworth first grader, Maritza Corral! She's one of the winners for the recent statewide AZ529 Art Contest. Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee awarded 19 art contest winners with $529 towards an Arizona Education Savings Plan - AZ 529. Check out her super cool entry - ice skaters competing in the Winter Olympics!





BETHUNE STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our Students of the Month at Bethune! These Bethune Bears are showing what it means to work hard, be kind, and lead by example in their classrooms. We are proud of the dedication they bring to school each day. Keep it up, Bears!



READ ACROSS AMERICA AT CAPITOL AND HERRERA

Students at Capitol and Herrera School for the Arts celebrated Read Across America with the help of wonderful community partners and special guest readers. Volunteers visited classrooms at Capitol to share stories with students, helping inspire a love of reading and connect with our school community. The celebration continued at Herrera School for the Arts with visits from former Herrera teachers, Phoenix Public Library staff, and even The Cat in the Hat.













AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

KINDERGARTEN FOR A DAY

At our second Kindergarten for A Day event, families learned why Phoenix #1 is Where Every Bright Future Begins! We had a blast showing off Kenilworth, Lowell, and Magnet Traditional schools. Children and their families rode a school bus, met kindergarten teachers, sampled the Dual Language Immersion program, played on the playground, and enjoyed a meal.









COFFEE TALK AT FAITH NORTH WITH PHOENIX POLICE

Officers from the Phoenix Police Department joined families for Faith North's February Coffee Talk. They answered parents' questions, shared information, and connected with the community. We appreciate their partnership and commitment to helping keep the community safe.



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOYS BASKETBALL SEASON

Congratulations to the Kenilworth boys basketball team for winning the 2026 District Championship! Shaw Montessori put up a good fight and is our District runner-up. Our season co-MVPs are Cisco Dennis Jr. from Kenilworth and Declan McGrath from Shaw. We awarded coach of the year to Mr. Andrew Stravitz! Great job to all of our student-athletes from across The District who participated this season.











>>> DISTRICT TRACK MEET

Our District Track Meet was full of energy and school pride! Students competed in shot put, long jump, relay races, and more, giving their best in every event. Congratulations to Shaw for earning 1st place in 5th-grade boys, 5th-grade girls, and 6th-grade girls, and to Capitol for taking 1st place in 6th-grade boys.

Thank you to North High School for allowing us to use your field and for the amazing volunteers who made the day possible!



5TH GRADE GIRLS
1ST PLACE
SHAW



6TH GRADE GIRLS
1ST PLACE
SHAW



5TH GRADE BOYS
1ST PLACE
SHAW



6TH GRADE BOYS
1ST PLACE
CAPITOL

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request Approval or Ratification of Payroll Vouchers in the total amount of $7,061,141.83 (Policy: DKA)

2. Request Approval or Ratification of Expense Vouchers in the total amount of $2,024,151.27 (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 or Ratification of Employment of Administrative, Certified and Support Staff (Policies: GCF, GDF)

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

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

GOVERNING BOARD TO VOTE ON HERRERA'S RELOCATION PROPOSAL

On April 16, 2026, the Governing Board will vote on a proposal that will shape the future of Herrera School for the Arts.

The proposal includes three actions:

- Relocate Herrera School for the Arts to the Fillmore campus
- Approve a boundary adjustment to support the move
- Preserve the school's identity by naming the new campus Silvestre S. Herrera School for the Arts

Over the past few months, the District gathered feedback from staff, families, and students to inform the proposal and guide planning.

- **Staff** raised questions about safety, staffing, and transition logistics, while emphasizing the importance of strong leadership, arts programming, and student supports.
- **Families** focused on safety, transportation, school culture, and clear communication, with a strong desire to maintain the people and programs that define Herrera.
- **Students** shared both excitement and honest concerns. More than 77% feel positive about the move, citing expanded arts opportunities and improved facilities, while some expressed concern about leaving their current campus and adjusting to a larger school.

The proposal responds to this input while expanding opportunities for students through improved classrooms, dedicated arts spaces, and greater access to programs, performances, and community partnerships.

To prepare for a potential transition, the District is planning for safety, transportation, and technology needs.

If approved, the transition timeline includes:

- June 30, 2026: Fillmore campus becomes available
- July 2026: Packing and relocation
- Mid-July: Move-in completed
- July 2026: Grand Reopening, Open House, and Meet the Teacher events

Teams across Phoenix #1 are working to ensure a smooth transition while preserving the culture and spirit that define Herrera.

The April 16th vote marks the next step in this process.

ACTION ITEMS

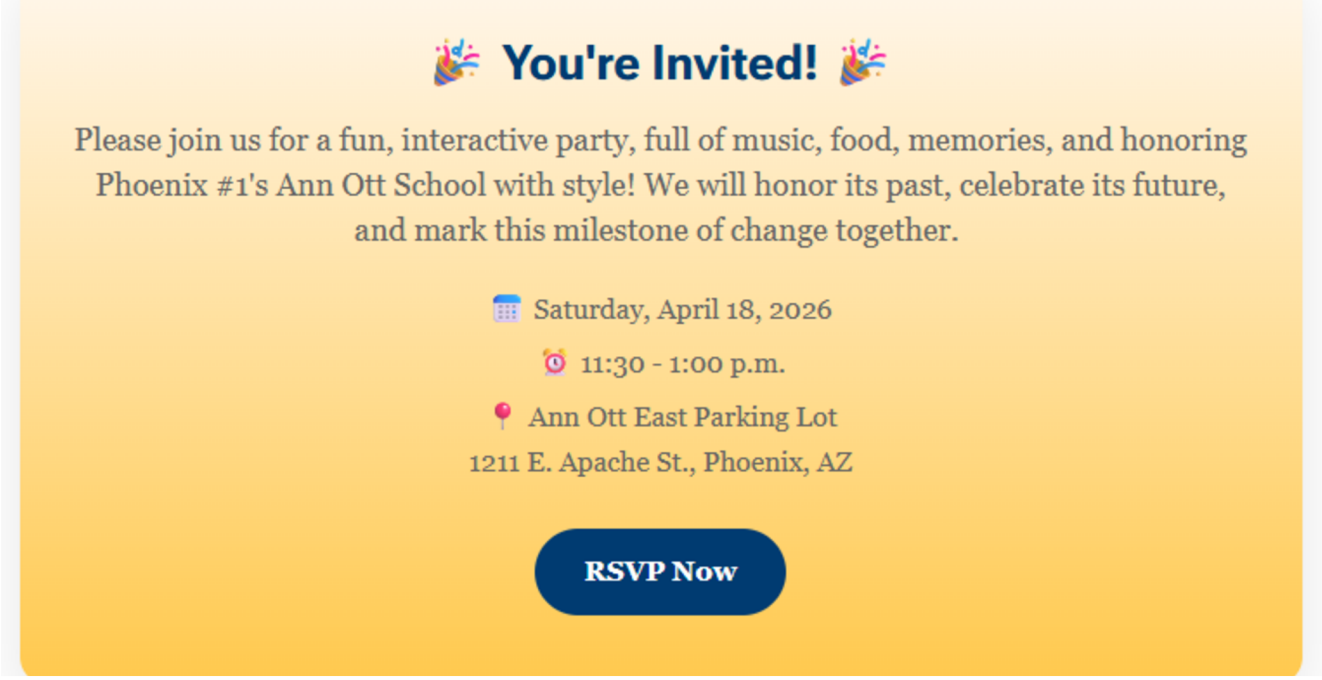
GOVERNING BOARD APPROVES NEXT STEP IN ANN OTT SCHOOL REVITALIZATION PROJECT

The Governing Board approved a construction contractor for the next step of transforming our former Ann Ott School into Phoenix #1's new Plant Services facility.

Plant Services, located in downtown Phoenix near 1st Street and Grant, is the hub for maintenance and operations, transportation, child nutrition, and more. Ann Ott is in central Phoenix, approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the current facility.

The District followed a law-compliant process focused on safety, compliance, and experience when it chose Chasse Building Team to start demolition on Ann Ott this summer. Details on this project can be found on the **Ann Ott Revitalization** tab on our Phoenix #1 website.

As we kick off this project, the community is invited to an interactive party full of fun, food, and music. Let's celebrate and mark this milestone of change together. Click here to **RSVP**.

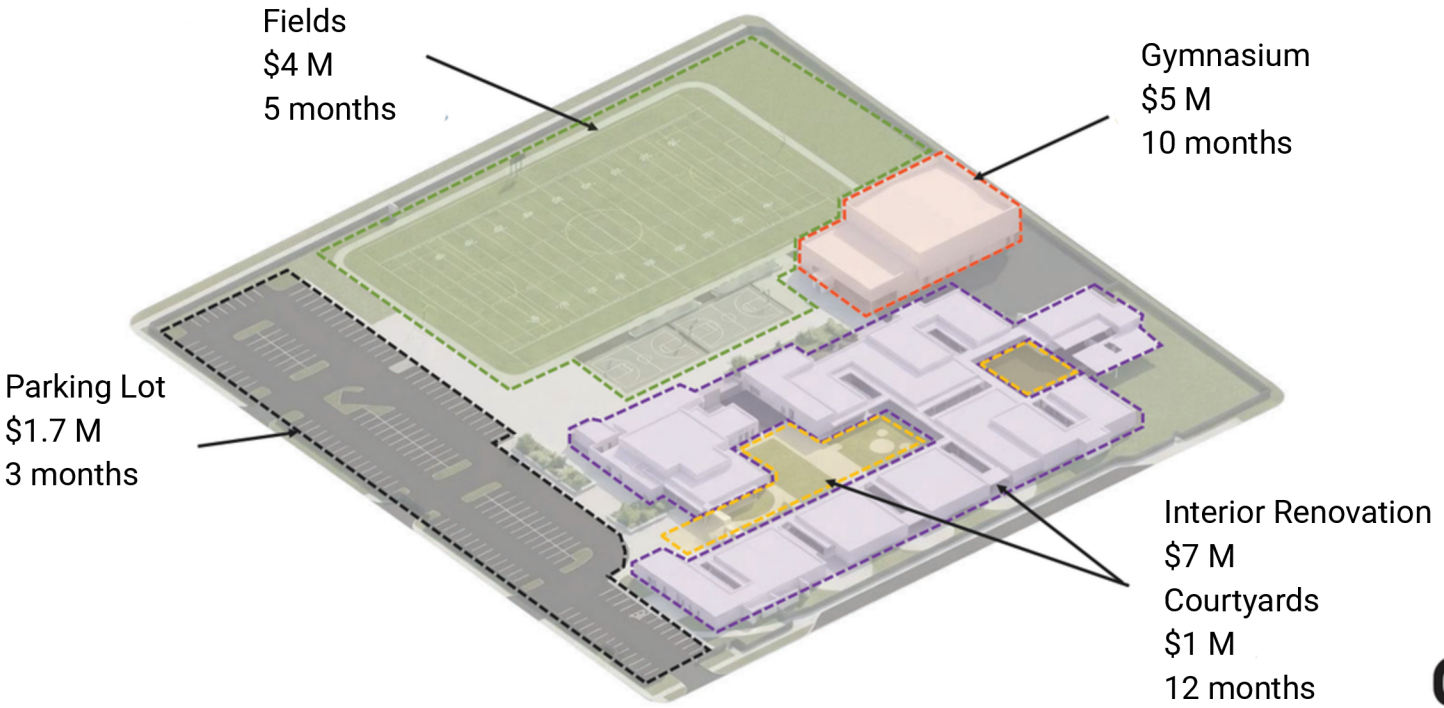


ACTION ITEMS *(CONTINUED)*

GARFIELD REMODEL PLAN UPDATE

Grace Design Studios presented two initial design plans for the Garfield remodel project in February 2026. The project will improve classrooms, expand programs tied to garden and outdoor education, and add new athletic facilities, including a gym and field. It will also create safer parking, increase natural light in classrooms, and redesign the front office. The Governing Board approved a remodel plan that contains key features requested by stakeholders while staying within budget. Chasse Building Team will begin the project in summer 2026.

Garfield Project Cost & Schedule Parameters (Option B)
Projected Project Cost = $18.7 M



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 March 19, 2026 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 #2

The Superintendent shall not allow the District to operate without a human organizational customer service plan to foster trust and collaboration.

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