

COUNTY OF MARICOPA
OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
Governing Board Regular Meeting
February 17, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Osborn School District Governing Board was called to order at 5:30 PM by Board President Violeta Ramos.

Violeta Ramos, Board President
Rhiannon Ford, Board Clerk
Edward Hermes, Board Member
Eric Thompson, Board Member
Ben Blink, Board Member
Dr. Michael Robert, Superintendent

Pledge of Allegiance/Land Acknowledgement

Encanto students Leighton and Alice led the pledge. Mrs. Ford read the land acknowledgement.

Governing Board Reports

Mr. Blink said he was glad to see so many guests and shared that in addition to visiting schools he had participated in Clarendon's Biz Town interviews and a read aloud in Ms. La O' Garcia's class. He also met with OEA co-presidents Kirsten Callisen and Storm Gerlock who shared what it is like to be a teacher in the district.

Mr. Hermes arrived at 5:34 PM.

Mr. Thompson said after touring facilities with Mr. Garcia and Mr. Alexander he is impressed at the amount of scratch cooking the Child Nutrition Department does.

Mr. Hermes attended both a Girl Scout meeting where they were shown how to navigate public transit and the Encanto sweetheart dance.

Mrs. Ford acknowledged February observances and shared that she recently attended her first meeting with the Save Our Schools Board Alliance a collective group of school Board members who share ideas and celebrate public schools. Mrs. Ford also shared the impact of ESA's and vouchers on public schools. She shared that she also participated in the Biz Town interviews at Clarendon, the read aloud in Ms. La O' Garcia's class and expressed appreciation for the celebration of Hispanic culture in the dual language program. Agreeing with member Thompson she noted the need for additional storage for the Child Nutrition Department.

President Ramos attended the Blue Zones class and invited others to follow the Child Nutrition Department on @nutriliciousosborn. She also attended the NSBA Equity and Advocacy Conference with Dr. Robert where discussion took place about communication with families around ensuring their students are safe at school and she was able to share Osborn's policy. She also visited the offices of Representatives Grijalva and Stanton.

School Presentation and Announcements

First grade Dual language teacher Nayely Sanchez Hernandez provided an overview of the program and activities so far including the Hispanic Heritage walk around the school, the día de los muertos celebration and professional development opportunities.

Cristina Delgado then presented the Encanto cheer squad who performed 6 cheers.

Spread L.O.V.E. awards were presented to the following recipients:

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Integrity: Elisia Holden
Equity: Julie German
Joy: Dachi Regis
Growth: Luis Vargas
Relationships: Cristina Delgado-Beagley

President Ramos called for a break at 6:05 PM.

The meeting resumed at 6:11 PM.

Call to the Public

No requests submitted.

Consent Agenda – Approval of Items Since February Meeting

- A. Ratification of Accounts Payable Vouchers
- B. Ratification of Payroll Vouchers
- C. Board Minutes
 - 1. January 20, 2026 Regular/Organizational Meeting
 - 2. December 2, 2025 Public Hearing
- D. Approval of Personnel Items
 - 1. New Employees
 - 2. Extra Duty Contracts
 - 3. Employment Changes/Additions
 - 4. Resignations
 - 5. Terminations
 - 6. Retirements
 - 7. Leaves of Absence
 - 8. Non-Renewal
- E. Donations
- F. Expenditure and Revenue Report
- G. Student Activities Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
- H. Disposal of Equipment
- I. Approval of out of state travel to the AASBO's Annual Spring Conference in Laughlin, NV from April 1-3, 2026.
- J. Approval of Agreement with Madison School District for SPED Services
- K. Approval of Out of State Travel for Felipe Carranza, Amanda Merrill, Amanda Renning and Jeff Martin to travel to New Orleans, Louisiana to attend the NIET National Conference April 1-2, 2026.
- L. Sole Source Listing FY26 Revision
- M. ***Approval of Out of State Travel for Marina Wright to travel to Chicago, Illinois to complete her Prepared Montessorian Institute (PMI) Residency June 1-12, 2026.***

Noting that items K and M did not include costs Mr. Blink requested inclusion of total costs of travel for future items.

Mr. Blink motioned to approve. Mr. Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Ramos aye
Mrs. Ford aye
Mr. Hermes aye

Mr. Thompson aye
Mr. Blink aye

Board Presentation

Mr. Dana provided an overview of projects and tasks from the technology department over the past year. He shared changes with the Helpdesk and meeting the department goal of keeping response times under 3 hours noting that the priority is to keep students safe. He stated that firewalls have been reprogrammed, as well as antivirus protection and individual training with staff. The department has also been involved with bond projects, the remodel at Montecito and reimaging laptops and Chromebooks and alignment of technology and curriculum. Upcoming projects include new ERate and phone and SAN systems.

Members commended the department's average response time of 2.5 hours with Mr. Dana stating that the staff is all trained to wear many hats and able to assist as needed.

Admin Reports

Mr. Blink said he is happy about the templates for reports.

Mr. Hermes was pleased to see lower absence rates over last year.

Information Updates

Working Conditions Survey Update

Providing background, Dr. Robert shared that Osborn was one of ten districts chosen in 2010 to become part of the TAP model rubric that was part of a 5 year Ready for Rigor grant that ended in 2014-2015. When the grant ended the district wanted to expand the survey, originally was only for teachers, to include classified staff and begin a mid-year survey. Sharing results of both certified and classified responses from Spring 21/22 to the most recent responses, marked higher percentages were seen from Spring 24/25. Administrators were charged with sharing the results with their sites and teams as well as with the community. Mrs. Ford questioned whether there were site councils at each site and if the data had been disaggregated by school. Dr. Robert confirmed that the data had been disaggregated and will provide further information about site councils. Members were pleased to learn the data reflects a 98% response rate from staff.

A short discussion took place with agreement that although results reflected positive responses that there is still room for improvement.

OEA Update

Co-President Ms. Gerlock said that she and Co-President Ms. Callisen will continue to provide updates from meetings and advocacy numbers. She said there were 9 advocacy cases in January bringing the total to 22 for the year.

OEA Secretary Ms. Palma reviewed that the group continues to deepen connections and share resources in support of families.

Co President Ms. Callisen that the group discussed meet and confer and the conversation from the January Work Study. She looks forward to meeting with Dr. Robert and Dr. Woodland and will make recommendations after reviewing policies if there are areas where practice and policy are not aligned.

Members thanked presenters for their advocacy efforts and collaboration with outside agencies.

Action Items

Recommendation to Approve Contract Language and Issue 2026-27 Certified Teacher Contracts

Dr. Woodland stated that the request for approval will align with issuance by March 16, 2026 noting that clause 8 should be stricken as it is no longer germane.

Mr. Thompson motioned to approve with the removal of section 8. Mr. Hermes seconded. Motion carried. 5-0.

Mrs. Ramos aye
Mrs. Ford aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Thompson aye
Mr. Blink aye

Recommendation to Approve Contract Language for 2026-27 Support Professionals, Classified Exempt and Administrator Contracts

Dr. Woodland shared that the request was for approval of contract language, striking clause 8 similar to the teacher contract. Dr. Woodland clarified for Mr. Hermes that approval is for contract language not issuance as Budget Committee will need an opportunity to identify funds.

Mr. Hermes moved to approve as amended. Mr. Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Ramos aye
Mrs. Ford aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Thompson aye
Mr. Blink aye

Approval of Procurement for Project Management Services

Ms. McCabe explained that the previous conversation left off with looking at projects the district could manage internally and which the district would need to hire a management group. Discussion took place around the role of a project manager and co-op and vendor processes.

Mr. Hermes moved to approve. Mr. Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Ramos aye
Mrs. Ford aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Thompson aye
Mr. Blink aye

Approval of Child Nutrition GMP 01- Kitchen Equipment Early Procurement

Ms. McCabe said she is excited to bring the 1st GMP allowing for significant lead time and ensures the kitchen equipment will arrive before it is needed. She said GMP 2 for the renovation will be brought to the March meeting.

Mrs. Ford. motioned to approve. Mr. Hermes seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Ramos aye
Mrs. Ford aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Thompson aye
Mr. Blink aye

Approval of the 2026-2031 Gifted Learner Scope & Sequence

Mrs. Potter Davis provided an overview of what the Gifted Learner Scope and Sequence is sharing the program's mission and goal to ensure that the gifted students are supported.

Ms. Robinson shared how students are identified and screening for the program noting that they would like to change the cut score from 95% to 90% to align with Phoenix Union. She said at the beginning of the year 43 students were identified and had been in the district at least 3 years. Changing the cut score to 90% would result in approximately an additional 18 students identified for the program.

Mrs. Potter Davis explained that gifted learner plans are needed once a child is qualified.

Mrs. Ford shared concerns around completion of learner plans and whether those responsible for completing the reports would have a gifted endorsement.

Mr. Blink expressed concern about the extra time and support needed may pull support away from other students. Discussion continued around resources and plans to move forward with the program.

Mr. Blink stated that with limited resources and concerns with performance he was not in favor of approving the item before Board goals are established.

Dr. Robert said he did not believe that anything in the plan would involve taking anything away from other students.

Mr. Blink motioned to table the item. Mrs. Ford seconded. The motion to table the item carried 4-1.

Mrs. Ramos nay
Mrs. Ford aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Thompson aye
Mr. Blink aye

Board Development

Mrs. Ford stated that members need to be intentional about communicating achievements. She also said she appreciates how the packet is put together and is available to the public in its entirety.

Mr. Blink said the book was outstanding and he greatly appreciated the focus of student outcomes. He said he is excited about implementation and spending 50% of time in the meetings highlighting outcomes.

Mr. Hermes also enjoyed the book noting the amount of communication with community when there is a vacancy on the Board and to find ways to have more of those conversations.

Dr. Robert shared that previously there was thought around putting more of the agenda items under consent but wouldn't want to lose the transparency the current agenda affords.

Mr. Thompson said he too looks forward to having more of a focus on outcomes questioning how to get the message to the public and how to connect more.

President Ramos stated that what the community needs is separate. Referring to guardrails in the book she said that as Board Members they are the boss of one person, the Superintendent. The school board has the opportunity to inform the community and receive input from them, suggesting members could collaborate with no more than 2 members at a time setting up time to connect with the community, so as not to have a quorum. She also expressed appreciation for the transparency of the district and having all the information they as members receive available online for the public.

Dr. Robert added that future conferences were listed in the packet noting that members interested in attending should contact Ms. Nye ensuring that the out of state travel is included on an agenda.

Future

Mr. Blink

- Schedule work session to discuss goals
- Recommendations to find what smart goals should be

President Ramos

- Student recruitment strategies

Adjournment

Board President Mrs. Ramos declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

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Lisa Nye, Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent and Governing Board

Rhiannon Ford, Board Clerk