Inspiring Every Child to Achieve
PHOENIX #1
Elementary School District

APRIL 16, 2026 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

>>> RECAP <<<

>>> SALON DES ENFANTS AWARD WINNERS



Superintendent's Award:
Cruz Olivas
Kenilworth



Best in Show:
Ariana Laguna
Herrera School for the Arts



Governing Board Choice:
Citalin Oltehua
Garfield



Honorable Mention:
Janie Hernandez
5th Grade, Emerson



2nd Place:
Sky Rodriguez
6th Grade, Kenilworth



2nd Place:
Sofia Flores
7th Grade, Shaw Montessori

SALON DES ENFANTS AWARD WINNERS *(CONTINUED)*



Honorable Mention:
Morgan McHenry
5th Grade, Kenilworth



Honorable Mention:
Adan Gael Mendez
6th Grade, Lowell



2nd Place:
Delilah Gutierrez
8th Grade, Garfield

NOT PICTURED:

Cabinet's Choice:
Bella Campbell - Shaw Montessori

8th Grade:
1st: Vicente Bracamonte Feliz - Bethune
3rd: Eshioe Domingo - Shaw Montessori
Honorable Mention: Brooklyn Ramirez - Kenilworth
Honorable Mention: Elianna Altamirano - Herrera School for the Arts

7th Grade:
1st: Natalia Lopez - Garfield
3rd: Alondra Moreno Toscano - Capitol
Honorable Mention: Emiliano Valenzuela - Whittier
Honorable Mention: Anahi Bautista - Garfield

6th Grade:
1st: Rosita Quintana - Herrera School for the Arts
2nd: Sky Rodriguez - Kenilworth
3rd: Jacob Palacios - Whittier
Honorable Mention: Daleyza Gonzalez Barrios - Garfield

5th Grade:
1st: Jaden Salazar - Herrera School for the Arts
2nd: Raquel Carilo - Kenilworth
3rd: Violet Lazos - Herrera School for the Arts

>>> MARCH S.T.A.R AWARDS

(SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION)



DAISY ANDRADE
ESS ASSOCIATE TEACHER
FAITH NORTH



BRIANA ORTIZ
ESS INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT
FAITH NORTH



ADAM PILOT
PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER
WHITTIER



LUZ ESPINOZA
OFFICE MANAGER
WHITTIER

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

This month, I am proud to share several highlights that reflect the incredible work happening across our District.





CARMEN TRUJILLO
BOARD MEMBER

First, I want to congratulate Governing Board Member Carmen Trujillo who was recognized at the recent Mexican American Policy Alliance (MAPA) Conference earlier this month. She is acknowledged as a leader driving meaningful progress through her advocacy as a Governing Board Member and her support of the value in focusing on student outcomes.

Right now, our Governing Board room has the outstanding artwork of Phoenix #1 students on display. Thank you to our teachers and our families for supporting these talented artists. We are proud to have such a strong focus on the arts at each of our schools.



I also want to congratulate our school leaders, the staff, and the students who have completed their state assessments. I am so proud of the work our students are doing to show up and give their best. Thank you to our students, their families, and the teachers who have put so much into showing their growth on these tests.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

I am so incredibly proud to get to work with the outstanding students on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Team. This marks our last meeting with student representatives, but next month, they will provide a full presentation to the Governing Board before our 8th graders matriculate to high school. I'm excited for Cielo Tavizon Baltierra, an 8th grader at Whittier, to share her insights with you:



"Hello, my name is Cielo Tavizon Baltierra. I currently attend Whittier Elementary School, and I am in 8th grade. I will be attending North High School. I am a member of the Superintendent Student Advisory Team. Our work as a team provides us with leadership opportunities to improve our schools and the school District. I think it's a memorable thing for my 8th-grade year to be a part of this leadership team. I think I was able to represent a voice for students who don't feel heard all the time. I have learned that not every student feels comfortable speaking up, even when they think something is wrong. Teams like this are important, so most students can be heard and acknowledged. I was able to listen and carry their message. I know that teamwork will make an impact on the community. I had the opportunity to attend Helios. It was really important to see not just my school's stats but also other schools' stats. I saw how they compared and contrasted and learned about what we can be doing to make a positive impact. I sat with Dr. Deborah Gonzalez. I really liked that when something important came on the screen, she would point it out and explain everything to me. Our Superintendent Student Advisory Teams have to present the slides we created about belonging to the leadership team at our schools. Presenting this to the school leadership team will be an honor because we can show them the parts of the school we enjoy and what we can work on to help people belong. We are going to share our ideas about how to make people feel like they belong. We are excited to share our research and recommendations related to the belonging research we did at the next board meeting on May 14."

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

KENILWORTH ROBOTICS ON THE NEWS, WINS $1,000 GIFT CARD

Kenilworth's Robotics Club won a $1,000 VISA gift card thanks to ABC 15's Helping Kids Go Places on Sonoran Living, courtesy of Valley Toyota Dealers. The Kenilworth Robotics team is honored by the nomination and plans to use the funds to purchase additional robotics parts and recruit more students.



STOP THE BLEED TRAINING

All 12 school nurses in Phoenix #1 completed Stop the Bleed training to strengthen emergency response skills. The hands-on session covered scene safety, bleeding control, and tourniquet use, ensuring nurses remain certified and ready to respond in critical situations.



GARFIELD LITERACY NIGHT

Garfield Middle School hosted Literacy Night with family-centered activities, including blackout poetry, idiom bingo, Wordle, and creating thank-you cards. The classroom with the highest attendance earned a special treat.



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Students from Kenilworth, Lowell, Capitol, Herrera, Bethune, Shaw Montessori, Magnet Traditional, and Whittier performed at the District Instrumental Music Festival, showcasing skills developed over the past two months. Hundreds of family members and friends attended to support the musicians, highlighting strong community pride in student achievement. Thank you to our music teachers for your hard work preparing students for this festival!





EMERSON AUTISM WALK

Emerson Elementary hosted a meaningful Autism Walk! Students, staff, and families walked together to show support and celebrate inclusion. They visited fun game stations and shared smiles along the way. We celebrate every student, and we build a community where everyone belongs!





AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON RESULTS

Phoenix #1 girls basketball teams demonstrated strong teamwork and determination throughout the season. Whittier earned the District Championship, and Garfield finished as runner-up. Lacey Henderson of Herrera School for the Arts was named All-Star Game MVP, Amaya Smith of Whittier earned Season MVP honors, and Ryleigh Bright of Whittier was recognized as Coach of the Year.















AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOYS BASKETBALL SEASON

Students competed in the District All-Star Game, highlighting top talent from across Phoenix #1. Cisco Dennis Jr. of Kenilworth earned All-Star Game MVP honors, and the West team secured the gold medal.







BETHUNE DENTAL DAY

Students at Bethune participated in a hands-on dental health event led by Phoenix College dental students. The activities focused on proper brushing techniques and healthy habits, leaving students engaged and motivated to care for their smiles.



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH NORTH CULTURE DAY

Faith North celebrated cultural diversity with a day of learning and connection. Students explored different countries and shared what makes each of them unique.



FAITH NORTH READ ACROSS AMERICA

Faith North marked Read Across America Day by bringing staff and community members together to read with students. The event fostered a love of reading, created meaningful connections, and supported early literacy development.



PHOENIX POLICE DETECTIVES INVITED BACK ON CAMPUS

Detectives from the Phoenix Police Department returned for a second time to Ms. Freed's second-grade classroom at Capitol. The detectives had such a positive experience at Read Across America Day that they chose to come back with pizza and read more books to students.



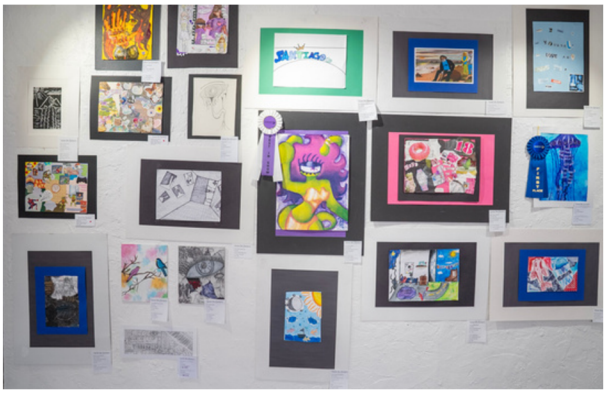
SALON DES ENFANTS EVENT RECAP

Salon Des Enfants, our annual student art showcase at Alwun House in the Garfield neighborhood, celebrated creativity. The event featured student performances along with free food and beverages, creating a welcoming community atmosphere. All artwork was available for purchase, with proceeds directly supporting the student artists.









AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHAW SPRING CARNIVAL

Shaw Montessori hosted a successful Spring Carnival featuring student activities such as face painting, rock climbing, bubbles, and a petting zoo. Parent volunteers supported the event, helping create a fun and engaging experience for students.



DENISE PORTER AWARD VIDEO

Denise Porter, who won the Samuel A. Kirk Arizona Special Education Teacher of the Year Award, was officially recognized in front of her colleagues at the Arizona Council for Exceptional Children Annual Statewide Conference. Check out the announcement video.



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH NORTH'S FAMILY FRIDAY ART WALK

Faith North hosted a Family Friday Art Walk to close out a week of celebrations for the Week of the Young Child. The event, part of the National Association for the Education of Young Children initiative, highlighted the importance of early education while recognizing the role of teachers, families, and communities in supporting young learners.



FAITH NORTH LITTLE LIBRARY

Faith North unveiled a new lime green community library, built and donated by a student's family. The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the addition of a shared resource, and staff and families are encouraged to help stock it with books for students.



FAITH NORTH EGG HUNT

Faith North hosted a spring egg hunt, bringing students together for a festive day of activities alongside a special bunny guest. Staff and volunteers created a fun and memorable experience for students.



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HERRERA DANCE PERFORMANCE

Herrera School for the Arts Students performed at the Maricopa County Fair, showcasing the skills they developed throughout the school year. They delivered energetic performances in colorful costumes and received strong community support.





DISTRICT SPRING ART SHOWCASE

Phoenix #1 is showcasing student artwork at its District offices as part of the Spring Student Art Showcase. The exhibit is open for viewing during regular business hours and highlights the creativity of student artists across the district.

DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION OPEN HOUSE

Lowell hosted a Dual Language Immersion Open House, welcoming families of incoming kindergarten, first, and second-grade students. Attendees observed English and Spanish classrooms in action and received information about the program's academic and long-term benefits.



CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request Approval or Ratification of Payroll Vouchers in the total amount of $2,338,492.45 (Policy: DKA)

2. Request Approval or Ratification of Expense Vouchers in the total amount of $4,904,467.46 (Policy: DKA)

3. Request Approval of Financial Reports for Student Activity Funds (Policy: JJF-R)

4. Request Approval or Ratification of Employment of Administrative, Certified and Support Staff (Policies: GCF, GDF)

5. Request Approval or Ratification of Employee Contract/Work Agreement Adjustments for Changes in Position (Policies: GCF, GDF)

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

7. Request Approval of Health Insurance Renewal for Employees for the 2026-2027 School Year (Policies: GCB, GDB)

8. Approval of School Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)

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

ACTION ITEMS

BOUNDARY CHANGE AND RELOCATION FOR HERRERA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS TO FILLMORE PROPERTY

The Phoenix #1 Governing Board voted to approve the relocation of Herrera School for the Arts to the Fillmore campus beginning in the 2026–2027 school year. This decision followed months of planning, community engagement, and thoughtful discussion. We are committed to ensuring a smooth and successful transition for all Herrera students and families.

What this means for families

Herrera School for the Arts will move in its entirety to the Fillmore campus for the 2026–2027 school year. The school's arts-focused programming, staff, and identity will remain the same, continuing the strong tradition that makes Herrera such a special place.

Facility improvements and safety

At the same meeting, the Governing Board also approved a contract to begin construction on a new front office and lobby at the Fillmore campus. This upgrade is designed to enhance campus safety and security and will be completed before students return to school on August 3, 2026.

Opportunities to visit the campus

Ahead of the new school year, families will have the opportunity to attend an Open House at the Fillmore campus to tour classrooms, meet the teachers, and learn more about what to expect in the upcoming school year. Stay tuned for details.

Transportation and arrival

Transportation and arrival procedures are being carefully planned to support a smooth transition for all families. Bus transportation will continue to be available in alignment with District guidelines. We are also developing detailed plans for traffic flow, parking, and supervision during drop-off and pick-up to prioritize safety and minimize wait times. For students who currently walk to school, an option will remain available for them to walk to Herrera and take district transportation to the Fillmore campus. More specific details will be shared with families ahead of the start of the school year.

We understand that this is a significant change, and we are committed to ensuring a smooth and successful transition for all Herrera students and families.

ACTION ITEMS

2025-2026 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE REVISED

The Governing Board approved the revised Governing Board meeting schedule to add 9 a.m. study sessions for:

Monday, May 4, 2026

Monday, June 8, 2026

The Governing Board also agreed to amend the July 9, 2026 Governing Board meeting change from 5:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. for July 9, 2026.

PRE-CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR FOR ANN OTT REVITALIZATION SELECTED

Out of the two choices, Chasse Building Team and W.E. O'Neil Construction, the Governing Board voted to select and approve Chasse Building Team to begin pre-construction services for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) on the Ann Ott site. This is one of the first steps in transforming this site into the new Plant Services building, the District's hub for transportation, child nutrition, maintenance and operation, and more.

JOB OPENINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS FOR DEPARTMENTS IN PLANT SERVICES

The Governing Board approved to post the following job openings, located at our Plant Services facility, on our District website:

- Facility Operations and Safety Coordinator
- Transportation Coordinator
- Revision of the Building Maintenance and Construction Coordinator Positions

ACTION ITEMS - EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following action items were discussed in executive session. The Governing Board's vote was public, but due to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(C), details on what was discussed in executive session are to be kept confidential. Violating this can lead to legal consequences.

PENDING LITIGATION CASE CV2025-018519

The Governing Board approved authorizing the Governing Board's attorney to process as directed in executive session regarding pending litigation case CV2025-018519.

AGREEMENT IN CHARGE NO. EEOC 540-2026-01481

The Governing Board approved the Superintendent to process as directed in executive session the Agreement in Charge No. EEOC 540-2026-01481.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO TERMINATE TEACHER

The Governing Board approved to accept the statement of charges presented by administration for the intent to terminate Sergio Andre Jose Casole Gouveia, a 4th grade teacher at Capitol Elementary School.

AUTHORITY DELEGATED TO SELECT HEARING OFFICER

The Governing Board approved to give Dr. Deborah Gonzalez, superintendent of Phoenix #1, the authority to select a hearing officer(s) related to the notice of intent to terminate teacher Sergio Andre Jose Casole Gouveia.

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 April 16, 2026 meeting focused on the following Board Goals and Superintendent Guardrails:

Board Goal #2
The percentage of 3rd-grade students with a pass rate on math, as per AASA, will increase from 29% in August 2023 to 54% by August 2028.

Board Goal #5
The percentage of 8th-grade students with a pass rate on math as per AASA will increase from 13% on August 2023 to 38% by August 2028.

Superintendent Guardrail #3
The Superintendent shall not allow the District to operate without a system designed to recruit, employ, and retain diverse staff who reflect the community and meet the needs of our urban district students and their learning environments.

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