



June 23, 2026 - Board Meeting Agenda Questions & Responses

5.3 Ratify Payroll and Expense Vouchers

Voucher 1114 has been moved to an action item.

Please pull this voucher 1114- What was the purpose of purchasing *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, and how many copies were purchased, where will they be used (library, classroom, or curriculum), for which teacher?

Vendor	Vouch	Inv. Date	Invoice	PO No.	Total	Detail Line Description
AMAZON BUSINESS	1114	6/9/2026	11XN-QNPR-KVWN	202605124	\$426.61	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (National Book Award Winner)

50 copies were purchased for curricular/instructional purposes and approved for use with Dual Enrollment classes with parental permission required.

Please pull voucher 1110 - What was the purpose of purchasing the following books, and how many copies were purchased of each, where will they be used (library, classroom, or curriculum), for which teacher?

AMAZON BUSINESS	1110	5/27/2026	1J9J-CVKT-PF34	202605345	\$239.98	Crying in H Mart: A Memoir
AMAZON BUSINESS	1110	5/27/2026	1MVF-XQNW-R7X3	202605119	\$1,696.08	Invisible Man

Voucher 1110 has been moved to an action item.

Crying in H Mart: 30 copies were purchased for curricular/instructional purposes and are approved for 10th grade English.

Invisible Man: 160 copies were purchased for curricular/instructional purposes and are approved for 12th grade English with parental permission required (replacing worn lit set)

Amazon business - Invisable Man and Where the Crawdads Sing voucher 1110 on page 2

Where the Crawdad Sings: 90 Copies were purchased for curricular/instructional purposes and are approved for 11th grade English with parental permission required and only for literature circles (replacing worn lit set)

What is the educational purpose?

Is student audio being recorded? If so, what privacy safeguards are in place?

AMAZON BUSINESS	1110	5/27/2026	1NM3-L3XD-RHNL	202605275	\$164.72	112 Languages, 64GB Memory, Audio Recorder for Meetings Interviews with 4 Accessories
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The tool is being purchased for administrator to use as a note-taking tool when observing teachers to record instructional delivery, review transcript and gather specific instructional components that can be discussed in post-observation meetings.

5.5 Receive the Monthly Maintenance & Operations Financial Report Fund 691 – SFB Building Renewal Grants - Ending balance after encumbrances of negative \$34,640

Will additional state funding cover the deficit? Is this simply a timing issue?

SFD works similarly to grants where the district pays for the repairs upfront and then requests reimbursement from SFD. This creates a negative balance in this fund until reimbursement has been requested and received.

5.11 Authorization of Expenditure- Town of Gilbert Police Department-Student Resource Officers

What about the SRO for Sossaman Middle School?

Since Town of Queen Creek was unable to provide a dedicated School Resource Officer to Sossaman Middle School, we utilized a School Safety Officer (SSO) which was covered under the same grant as the School Resource Officers from Town of Gilbert. ADE handled the coordination of the SSO provided by this grant.

5.13 Approval of Student Fundraisers for FY27

How does approving a list of fundraiser categories satisfy the board's statutory responsibility to approve student activities when the board is not being provided the specific fundraiser, sponsoring club or organization, anticipated revenue, anticipated expenses, or intended use of the proceeds?

ARS 15-1121 requires board approval of student activities.

The board is being asked to approve broad categories rather than actual fundraising activities.

This is a relatively new USFR compliance questionnaire requirement from the AZ Auditor General's Office related to the district's annual audit. This does not take the place of the district's current policies and/or procedures related to student fundraising. These are the most common fundraisers that take place regularly. Below is the question the district auditors must answer:

GBMP10	The governing board approved student clubs' and organizations' fund-raising events. A.R.S. §15-1121 and AG Opinion I84-018	For the deposits sampled in CR11, determine the governing board gave prior approval for student activities events. Indicate in the comments any events that included raffles, bingo, or other forms of gambling, which are not legal events for student clubs.
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5.14 Approval of Cooperative Vendors Purchasing Threshold to Exceed \$100,000 for FY26/27

How much of the \$5.8 million in requested cooperative purchasing authority represents known planned purchases versus contingency spending authority?

The current request for FY27 is \$4.76M and approximately 80% of this dollar figure is expected to be spent in FY27.

Is the ESI FY26 Spend of 350k correct?

This question is listed in reverse-see below.

FY26 Spend: \$350,000

Per consent agenda 5.14 documentation; FY25/26 spend is listed as \$3,000,000.

FY27 Request: \$3,000,000

Per consent agenda 5.14 documentation; FY27 is listed as \$350,000

What service does Game One provide?

Game One replaced BSN Sports as the district's athletic department supply provider.

5.16 Approve the use of Cooperative Purchasing Agreements for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027

How much did Higley spend through each cooperative purchasing organization during FY2026

\$33,426,622

and what documented savings were achieved compared to conducting district procurements?

Need more time to research this.

Does administration evaluate whether cooperative contracts remain the most cost-effective option before making purchases, or are cooperative contracts assumed to be the best value without further market comparison?

This depends on the type and timing of the purchase. The district will get quotes, or search online, to ensure that the pricing on the cooperatives is fair and reasonable.

5.17 Approval of Sole Source Procurement Determination

Arizona State University (\$120,000) – I thought we aren't going to use ASU for graduation next school year because it will be under construction?

ASU has not officially told us they will be under construction. We are being proactive in case we are still able to use the facility.

On 5.17 update the ASU price possibly

Pricing is usually not available until the start of the new calendar year.

Is 5.20 for salaries and still compliant to boards ruling?

Yes. Timely processing and payment of payroll and accounts payable (AP) are critical operational functions that cannot be delayed to coincide with monthly governing board meetings for approval. The following are key reasons why these payments must occur on established schedules:

1. Payroll is governed by strict federal and state labor laws that require employees to be paid on regular, predefined paydays. Failure to meet these deadlines can result in penalties, fines, and potential legal action.
2. Similarly, vendor contracts and procurement regulations often specify payment terms that must be honored to remain compliant. Timely payments help the organization avoid penalties, interest charges, and unfavorable credit terms. Maintaining consistent payment practices can also support better pricing, early payment discounts, and strengthened vendor partnerships.

While board oversight is essential, it is more effective to establish clear policies, delegated authority, and internal controls that allow routine payments to be processed efficiently. Regular reporting to the board can provide transparency without delaying critical transactions.

5.21 is this standard company to use?

ESI has been the vendor that we have partnered with for the last several years for substitute services.

5.22 FY26-27 Encore Contracted Staff from Educational Service Inc.

How many Encore employees did Higley have in FY2025-26, what positions did they fill, and what was the total actual cost compared to budget?

There are 5 Encore Return to Work employees for this current fiscal year of which 1 terminated in December 2025. The positions are:

- Assistant Principal

- Science teacher
- 5th grade teacher
- Sped teacher
- 1st grade teacher

The total cost was \$41,515.67 less due to the 1st grade teacher resigning in December.

5.25 Is McGraw staying up to date on Age-appropriate content being consistent with laws in place?

Yes

5.27 Approval of Student Discipline Hearing Officers

Who are these people? The board is being asked to approve a list of individuals without any information about who they are, their qualifications or performance.

What qualifications, training, and experience are required for an individual to be placed on The Trust's approved hearing officer panel, and how does the district evaluate whether these hearing officers are providing fair and consistent disciplinary recommendations?

Same answer as August of 2025

The Hearing Officer list is a of Trust approved hearing officers who have been properly trained to preside over expulsion and long-term suspension hearings. These are 3rd party contractors who are able to provide a due process hearing within the requirements set forth by state and federal guidelines for student discipline measures resulting in expulsions or long-term suspensions.

6.1 Approval of the Adoption of the FY2026/2027 Proposed Expenditure Budget

The budget notes that CSF funding increased and salaries/benefits funded through CSF increased 3%, yet the average teacher salary only rises 2%. Why is that?

What specific projects make up the \$2.416 million furniture/equipment budget?

The average teacher salary was explained at the June 2 board meeting during the proposed budget presentation. This information will also be presented again at the 6/23 board meeting.

This is an estimate based on prior year's spending and includes items like: security cameras, district wide replacement furniture, audio/visual equipment, athletic equipment, garbage disposals, water heaters, HVAC units, cooling towers, cafeteria tables, laundry appliances, musical instruments. This is not an all inclusive list.