



HIGLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
2935 South Recker Road, Gilbert, Arizona 85295
(480) 279-7000 • www.husd.org

July 14, 2026 - Board Meeting Agenda Questions & Responses

5.1 Meeting Minutes-Please correct my quotes to the following for each action item

6.2 Proper Quote

Board Member Anna Van Hook explained that she requested the voucher be pulled because it included the purchase of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. She stated that she has previously raised concerns about purchasing and assigning books containing sexually explicit content to students. She said it was "mind-boggling" that the district continued to expose children to such material, referenced Arizona statutes regarding materials harmful to minors, acknowledged that parent permission slips are used, but maintained that the district should exercise greater judgment in selecting instructional materials. She stated that, as board members, they have a responsibility to protect students and concluded that she could not support using taxpayer dollars to purchase and assign books containing what she described as sexually explicit content when other quality literary works are available. She also stated that she had read portions of the book and believed that content discussing masturbation was not appropriate for students.

This update has been made.

6.3 Proper Quote

Board Member Anna Van Hook explained that she requested the voucher be pulled because it included *Crying in H Mart* and *Invisible Man*. She stated that *Crying in H Mart* is identified as an adult audience book but is assigned to tenth-grade students. She expressed concerns that *Invisible Man* contains sexual situations, violence, and other disturbing themes. She noted that parents in the district have repeatedly expressed concerns about similar instructional materials and reiterated previous comments that students are being assigned books containing references to rape, sodomy, sex, and masturbation. She concluded by stating that if the district is serious about improving enrollment, it should consider changes to ensure students are not exposed to material she believes is inappropriate.

This update has been made.

5.3 Voucher 1116

Can administration provide a summary of the legal services reflected in these Title IX invoices so the board can understand the nature of the work being paid for? Are these charges related to investigations, policy compliance, student complaints, litigation, or another category of Title IX work?

UDALL SHUMWAY, PLC	1116	6/11/2026	334193	202604650	\$1,760.00	blanket PO for student services Title IX charges in the district
UDALL SHUMWAY, PLC	1116	6/11/2026	334192	202604627	\$4,576.60	Not to Exceed \$4800;blanket PO for student services Title IX charges in

These charges are related to procuring a formal decision maker in formal Title IX investigations.

5.4 Donation 2026.07.14

I think it's great that the AIA made this donation, but is it typical for them to make donations like this?

Yes, AIA has grant funding to provide equipment to eligible Unified Sports Programs.

5.7 Board Report - All Funds 2026-06

Food Service spent approximately \$135k more than it generated during FY2026. What factors caused expenditures to exceed revenue, and do we expect FY2027 meal price increases to restore structural balance?

We will continue to post revenue back to June throughout July for funds that are received and are generated from FY26 activity. Also, in FY26 we purchased a food truck which was a unique expense. The expectation is that for FY27, the income will be higher than the expenditures.

Fund 596 (JTED) spent approximately \$2.65 million this year against \$1.70 million in revenue, reducing the remaining budget balance to about \$307,000. Can administration explain what drove this level of spending? What were the major expenditures that caused the fund to use nearly \$1 million of reserves other than the Criminal Justice Class?

If the district and EVIT are unable to reach a new IGA, what is the district's plan for sustaining our satellite JTED programs? Based on the current balance in Fund 596, it does not appear there are sufficient reserves to support these programs for an extended period without an agreement. How long does the district estimate it could continue operating the satellite programs using existing fund balances, and what programs or services would be affected if no agreement is reached?

Budget-Controlled Funds		Budget (Adopted/Allocated)	YTD Expenses	Balance	Encumbrances	Budget Balance
596	JTED	\$ 1,276,759.82	\$ 1,704,964.06	\$ 2,646,839.36	\$ 27,417.22	\$ 307,467

Due to ongoing negotiations with EVIT, we will hold off on responding to these matters at this time while discussions continue.

5.13 ACES 26-27 Transportation Agreement

The board memo attributes this agreement to the district's bus driver shortage. How many district bus driver vacancies remain today, and is the expectation that this contract is temporary until those positions are filled?

We currently have 5 driver vacancies and 4 aide vacancies. If those vacancies were filled, it would not alleviate the need for the contracted transportation services. These services are utilized for the following reasons:

- To cover open routes due to vacancies
- To provide temporary or short-term services for our displaced students – contract agencies are able to meet the need immediately.
- To provide transportation for students on a unique/specialized schedule due to program hours or individualized student need.
- To provide transportation services for students that exhibit extreme/dangerous behaviors during transport. Contract agencies have personnel that are trained to navigate difficult behaviors during transport.

5.14 Approval of First Things First Quality First

How many scholarship slots has Higley been awarded for the last 4 yrs, and what is the estimated average total reimbursement under this agreement?

Overall the last four years,

Below is the number of scholarships we have received over the past four completed school years. The approximate amount for the last 4 years is \$290,000.

2025-26 – 6 Scholarships

2024-25 – 6 Scholarships

2023-24 – 9 Scholarships

2022-23 – 9 Scholarships

The agreement incorporates the SFY27 Policies and Procedures by reference, but they are not included in the board packet. Can you please include a copy?

[Policy & Procedures](#)

6.1 DJE BIDDING _ PURCHASING PROCEDURES 1st Read

How many purchases last year fell between \$10,000 and \$15,000?

FY26 had 115 purchase orders, and this includes all funds. As a reminder, fund 850, Student Activities, is exempt from this threshold.