

Explorer School Council Meeting

Date: Aug 10, 2026

Time: 08:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual

Facilitator: Troy Fox, Principal

Committee Members Present:

- **Administrator Representative** – Troy Fox, Principal
- **Community Member Representative** – Sharon Kuehl
- **Teaching Staff Representative** – Kara Rosales, 8th grade teacher
- **Teaching Staff Representative** – Zachary Bennett, 7th grade teacher
- **Support Staff Representative** – Lauren Tarr, Administrative Assistant
- **Parent Representative** – Kristie Cowles
- **Parent Representative** – Karen Jackson

Purpose: To fulfill the legal requirement of A.R.S. 15-351 and provide an opportunity for local school improvement through teaming with the principal to address meaningful issues.

Outcomes: Discussed our School Success Plan, the Elective Offerings and PBIS. Also discussed using Tax Credit money for various items throughout the school year.

Agenda/Minutes

I. Welcome

- A. Introduced new people to the Council. Kathleen Alexander as our new Assistant Principal and Kristie Cowles as our new 7th grade Parent Representative

II. School Success Plan

- A. There have been some successes and weaknesses in our State Testing. Administrators have training at the end of the month to learn new ways to improve our students scores. We need to work on improving our High-Proficiency students as there has been a slight decline in our numbers. A slight shrinkage in our 7th grade scores and slight increase in our 8th grade scores.

III. Elective Offerings

- A. We have lost several electives over the past few years including Engineering, Mandarin, Computer Science, Coding and French. This is mainly due to a decrease in enrollment due to rezoning, private schools, Pinnacle Peak Prep's K-8 program, Mountain Trail's Journey program increasing their numbers over the years from 50, then 100 and now 200 students, as well as an increase in students continuing their education online.
- B. We hope to work with High Schools to align our standards with their Academies so students will want to enroll at Explorer.
- C. We also hope to resurrect our Tech classes in the future.

IV. PBIS

- A. We had our first assembly which was a success. Students were responsive to the message.
- B. Shadow Mountain High School's Color Guard came and performed
- C. New students were introduced to the Trailblazer Lounge and the Trailblazer Trading Post

V. Tax Credit Expenditures

- A. The Council approves undesignated tax credit expenditures for all items relating to field trips, field trip substitutes, field trip transportation, scholarships for field trips, admission and/or fees, before and after school academic or enrichment clubs, registration for competitions, conferences, etc. for our school groups to represent the school/district. Any other expenditures not listed above will be brought to the Council for consideration.
- B. Approve Use of Arizona school tax credit funds: Annual approval to use Arizona school tax credit funds up to \$50,000.00 for before/after school classes including but not limited to: drama, festival sports, scholarships, Character Education, and intervention tutoring programs.
 - 1. Motion to approve made by Sharon Kuehl.
 - 2. Second made by Kara Rosales.

- VI. Future Meetings: September 8, 2026, October 20, 2026, November 10, 2026, December 8, 2026, Jan 1, 2026, February 9, 2026, March 9, 2026, April 13, 2026, May 11, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 08:48 a.m.