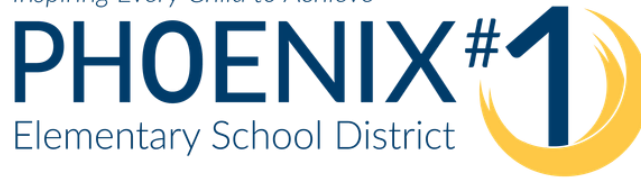


Inspiring Every Child to Achieve



SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING



RECAP



Performance by 4th-grade students from Lowell Elementary School led by Ms. Caitlin Mahoney.

>>> AUGUST S.T.A.R AWARDS (SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION)



HANAYUKI PALACIOS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
PLANT SERVICES



ANA VASQUEZ
KENILWORTH CHILD NUTRITION MANAGER
CHILD NUTRITION

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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CELEBRATING THE 2026 PHOENIX #1 NIGHT OF INSPIRATION

We celebrated 40 outstanding employees during our annual Phoenix #1 Night of Inspiration awards ceremony at The Be Kind Community Center in Downtown Phoenix. Congratulations to our three award winners: Benita Meza, Edwin Maturino, and Eden Goding! This year's theme, "The Ripple Effect," highlighted how one act of kindness or encouragement can positively impact students, families, colleagues, and entire communities. Thank you to our generous sponsors (see below) for helping make this celebration possible.



**INSPIRING TEACHER
WINNER:**
EDWIN MATURINO
ELL INTERVENTIONIST
GARFIELD



**INSPIRING SUPPORT STAFF
WINNER:**
BENITA MEZA
LEAD CUSTODIAN
SHAW MONTESSORI



**INSPIRING INNOVATOR
WINNER:**
EDEN GODING
IEIS
CAPITOL



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

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I sincerely thank our employee associations, PECTA and ESPA, for hosting an outstanding Governing Board Candidate Forum. The forum provided our community an opportunity to engage, and it reflects our shared commitment to transparent, student-centered leadership. Thank you to everyone who organized, participated, and attended to make the forum such a success.

Special thanks to three members of our Superintendent Student Advisory Team, who completed their first retreat of the year and spoke at our Governing Board Meeting.



Romeo: Hello, my name is Romeo Leon. I attend Capitol Elementary, and I am in the 8th grade. I am a member of the Superintendent Student Advisory Team. Our work as a team provides me with leadership opportunities to improve my school and the school district. I hope to attend Franklin Police and Fire Academy.

Bella: Hello, my name is Bella Arvayo. I attend Lowell Elementary School, and I am in the 8th grade. I am also a member of the Superintendent Student Advisory Team. I hope to attend Metro Tech High School.

Lily: Hello, my name is Liliana Vasquez. I attend Capitol Elementary, and I am in the 7th grade. I am a member of the Superintendent Student Advisory Team. One thing I like about being on this team is how we can voice our opinions and actually take action to help our schools. I hope to attend Tolleson High School.

Romeo: Today was our first retreat of the year. We had a discussion to decide what qualities a student leader should have.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

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Bella: Our discussion had many opinions, and we had the opportunity to use our voice. Every student voiced their opinion, and as student leaders, we had a thorough discussion.

Romeo: The five main characteristics we came up with were empathy, honesty, collaboration, accountability, and creativity. Because we had such a great discussion, we are still talking about adding a sixth quality. The three we are still considering are patience, resourcefulness, and responsibility.

Lily: Moving forward, we will have virtual meetings the first Friday of every month. These meetings will help us decide what improvements to our school and district we can make and how we can make everyone feel like they belong.

Romeo: We also want to make everyone aware that September is National Suicide Prevention Month and today is world suicide prevention day, a time to raise awareness, share resources, and reduce any stigma about mental health.

Bella: The purple and teal ribbon represents suicide prevention month. We are handing out ribbons that you can wear to show your support. 9-8-8 is the suicide crisis lifeline that is available 24-7 to anyone needing support.

Prior to their remarks, Bella, Lily, and Romeo passed out purple and teal ribbons to recognize and talk about Suicide Prevention Month. Mental health and emotional well-being are foundational to our students' ability to learn, grow, and thrive. Our students have led the charge in making belonging a hallmark of the work we do in Phoenix #1. We remain deeply committed to building safe, welcoming environments where every student and staff member feels valued, supported, and connected. With the help of our Superintendent Student Advisory Team, I encourage our entire community to look out for one another, to stay connected, and to reach out if you are struggling.

I also want to reflect on the 25th somber anniversary of our nation and the events of September 11, 2001. It is a time for us to remember those who were lost, honor the bravery of our first responders, and the many heroes who emerged in this tragic moment. Taking the lead from our student leaders, let's commit to the values of empathy and compassion, and the strength that comes from building communities of belonging that are safe spaces for everyone.

>>> COFFEE TALKS ACROSS PHOENIX #1

Schools across Phoenix #1 welcomed families for coffee with the principal this month. Edison, Herrera, Garfield, and Faith North hosted gatherings where families connected with school leaders, received important updates, and learned more about the school year ahead.



EDISON



HERRERA



GARFIELD



FAITH NORTH

>>> ANN OTT REVITALIZATION PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

Demolition is moving forward at the historic Ann Ott campus near 12th Street and Apache. While we say goodbye to a site filled with meaningful memories, this marks the beginning of an exciting revitalization project that will serve the Phoenix #1 community for years to come.



➤➤➤ CAPITOL STUDENTS TAKE THE BE KIND PLEDGE

The Be Kind People Project Crew visited Capitol to teach students the Be Kind Pledge through engaging skits, songs, and dance. Students explored 10 essential kindness skills that encourage respect, civility, positive relationships, and proactive solutions to bullying and cyberbullying.



➤➤➤ DELIVERING DREAMS SUPPORTS CAPITOL STUDENTS

Fifty Capitol students in kindergarten through eighth grade received new school uniforms and shoes at no cost. Thank you to Delivering Dreams of Arizona and the volunteers who helped students find their right sizes.



➤➤➤ CELEBRATING EMERSON'S STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Emerson's Students of the Month! These outstanding students were recognized for their hard work, positive attitudes, dedication to learning, and commitment to setting a wonderful example for their fellow Eagles.



➤➤➤ TREASURER YEE VISITS MAGNET TRADITIONAL

Ms. Barron's fifth-grade students welcomed Arizona State Treasurer Kimberly Yee for a fun and educational visit. Students participated in a pool noodle stacking challenge while learning about money, saving, planning for the future, and the [AZ 529 Education Savings Plan Essay Contest](#). The deadline to enter is October 11, 2026.



➤➤➤ EDISON WELCOMES FAMILIES FOR TITLE I NIGHT

Edison Elementary welcomed families for its Title I Night. Families learned about available programs and resources, connected with school staff, and discovered ways to support their children's learning and success throughout the school year.



➤➤➤ PHOENIX ZOO ANIMAL AMBASSADORS VISIT EDISON

Edison students welcomed several fascinating Phoenix Zoo animal ambassadors, including ferrets, blue death-feigning beetles, and tortoises. As part of the Edison Zoo School curriculum, students put their observation skills to the test while learning more about wildlife and exploring their natural curiosity.



>>> GARFIELD CELEBRATES STUDENTS AND STAFF OF THE MONTH

Garfield Middle School honored its Students of the Month with a special recognition breakfast. The school also celebrated fifth-grade teacher Danielle Carloni Schulze as its Staff Member of the Month. Congratulations to these amazing Grizzlies!



>>> A HOME RUN FOR KENILWORTH READERS

Kenilworth's fifth-grade teachers received \$1,000 for new classroom books from Avnet and the Arizona Diamondbacks' "Read Your Way to the Ballpark" program. Students also received a special visit from D-backs mascot, Baxter, and player Mitch Bratt, who stopped by to read to the classes.



>>> CREATIVITY SHINES AT THE FACULTY ART SHOWCASE

The Phoenix #1 District Office was filled with color and creativity during our Fall Faculty Art Showcase. Thank you to everyone who helped create, organize, and display the impressive work of our talented artists.





1. Request Approval or Ratification of Payroll Vouchers in the total amount of \$2,689,495.67 (Policy: DKA)
2. Request Approval or Ratification of Expense Vouchers in the total amount of \$11,961,596.75 (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 Uncompensated Leave of Absences (Policy: GCCC)
8. Request Approval of the Phoenix ESD Data Sharing Agreement with Phoenix Union (Policy: LC)
9. Request Approval of Staff Laptop Refresh Administration Provided by Dell Technologies (Policy: IJNDB)
10. Request Approval of the Issuance of a Purchase Order for Edupoint Educational Systems, LLC (Policy: DJE-R)
11. Request Approval of School - Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)
12. Request Approval of School - Out-of-District/County/State or Overnight Field Trips (Policy: IJOA)
13. Request Approval for Staff Out-of-State Travel for Professional Development (Policy: GCCE)
14. Request Approval for Staff Out-of-State Travel for Professional Development (Policy: GCCE)

>>> BOARD REVIEWS REVISED ASBA POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS DURING FIRST READING

The Governing Board reviewed proposed updates to several District policies during a first reading. The policies include:

[Policy ACA](#) – Sexual Harassment

[Policy ACAA](#) – Title IX Sex Discrimination

[Policy DGD](#) – Credit Cards

[Policy GBEA](#) – Staff Ethics

[Policy GBEB](#) – Staff Conduct

[Policy GBK](#) – Grievances

[Policy GCFC](#) – Fingerprinting Requirements

[Policy GCQE](#) – Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal

[Policy GDF](#) – Support Staff Hiring

[Policy GDFA](#) – Support Staff Qualifications and Requirements

The Arizona School Boards Association recommended these revisions to reflect changes in state law, combine policies that cover similar topics, and make the information clearer and easier to follow. The Governing Board did not take action during the first reading. Administration will bring the policies back to the Board at its next scheduled meeting for a second reading and possible approval.

>>> FISCAL YEAR 2026 BOND & CAPITAL OVERRIDE PROJECTS

Chief Financial Officer Aaron Whittle provided the Governing Board with the District's annual update on [projects funded through bonds and the District Additional Assistance \(DAA\) Override](#). He outlined the previous year's expenditures, the current year's budgeted expenses, and the progress of related capital improvements. Mr. Whittle also compared each bond-funded project's current status with its original plans, reviewed costs for projects underway or completed, and shared information about the District's future bond plans. This [annual public update](#) fulfills Arizona reporting requirements and allows community members to learn about the projects and provide feedback.

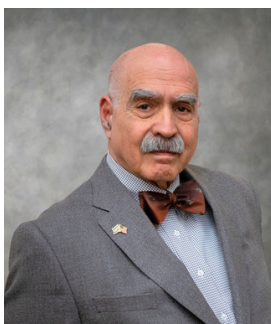
GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS



ERIKA OVALLE
PRESIDENT



SUANNE EDMISTON
VICE PRESIDENT



BARRY AARONS
BOARD MEMBER



**DAMIEN SANDOVAL
BARRERA**
BOARD MEMBER



**CARMEN
TRUJILLO**
BOARD MEMBER

>>> SUPERINTENDENT'S PERFORMANCE-BASED PAY APPROVED FOR 2025-2026

The Governing Board approved \$14,000 in performance-based pay for Superintendent Dr. Deborah Gonzalez for the 2025–2026 school year. The amount was awarded out of a possible \$20,000 and approved in accordance with Paragraph 3.2 of the superintendent's employment contract.

>>> BOARD ADVANCES GARFIELD RENOVATION WITH GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE (GMP3) APPROVAL

The Governing Board approved CHASSE Building Team's third Guaranteed Maximum Price package for the phased renovation of Garfield. GMP3 covers the full renovation of Building D, including utility work, landscaping, and related site improvements. With GMP2 scheduled for completion in September 2026, the approval allows the District to transition directly into the next phase, maintain the construction schedule, and move forward with subcontractor scheduling and material purchases. It also helps prevent potential delays and additional contractor remobilization costs.



»»» REVISED ASBA POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED

Following a second reading, the Governing Board approved ASBA Policy Advisory No. 1050 and the related revisions to policies BG, BGB, and BGC. The recommendation increases the financial threshold for items requiring Governing Board approval from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The change aligns District policy with current guidance from the Arizona School Boards Association and the Uniform System of Financial Records.

»»» STRATEGIC PLAN SCOPE OF WORK DISCUSSION MOVES TO THE NEXT BOARD STUDY SESSION

The Governing Board considered the proposed scopes of work for developing a Board strategic plan but chose to allow additional time for review and discussion before taking action. Board members will continue the conversation during the next regularly scheduled study session, where they will have more flexibility to discuss the available options and address remaining questions. The item will then return for consideration of approval at the next regular Board meeting.

**VIEW THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA, ALL
DOCUMENTS, AND STREAM MEETINGS ONLINE:
[PHXSCHOOLS.ORG/BOARD](https://phxschools.org/board)**