Edition #4

October 30 , 2026

Inspiring Every Child to Achieve

PHOENIX #1 Elementary School District

OCTOBER 15, 2026 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

>>> RECAP <<<



Performance by Kenilworth Elementary School students led by Ms. Laura Meador.

>>> EXPLORING HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Magnet Traditional School, Bethune, and Garfield Middle School welcomed representatives from area high schools for High School Nights. Families learned about academic programs and opportunities to help students prepare for the transition to high school.







AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



LEIDY GONZALEZ
ESS ABC K-3 TEACHER
HERRERA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS



CAMILLE HAMILTON
INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT I
HERRERA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS



DAVID NANCE
P.E. TEACHER
KENILWORTH



MARTA ALDRETE
INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT III
KENILWORTH

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ

We are proud to recognize the many diverse groups who make the Phoenix #1 community an exceptional place to learn together. This month we celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Day and Hispanic Heritage Month. Recognizing the contributions of all members of our District community including the history, traditions, and various perspectives are critical aspects of belonging that make Phoenix #1 great.

We also celebrated our Child Nutrition teams for National School Nutrition Week. Last year we served 1,064,503 meals to students and 28,983 meals to students in our summer programs. Thank you to our amazing Child Nutrition Department. We are proud of the work you do!

Our partnerships also make Phoenix #1 great and ensure our students and families feel that sense of belonging. This past month, the Phoenix One Foundation awarded grants to Lowell's Dual Language Immersion Program, Edison's Zoo School, and the Garfield Garden on the Corner. We also recently received a wonderful donation to Garfield Middle School from the Reiser Foundation to provide new media center furnishings.

The most powerful partner in shaping student outcomes is our families. We have our Quarter 1 student progress conferences on October 22nd and 23rd so you can see how your children are progressing with their grade-level standards and get ideas to support learning at home. You will also get a chance to give us feedback on how we are doing in the quarterly surveys at your school.

Our facilities crews work hard to keep our schools beautiful, but when there are bigger jobs like adding shade sails and walkways, removing connex storage containers, vinyl wraps from walls, and repairing bleachers, we need a hand. Thanks to our wonderful partners at CHASSE Building Team and their contractors, whose talents and expertise gave some areas at Bethune and Herrera some extra love.

This extra attention to making sure all of our schools are beautiful, safe, and welcoming places is one of the things our students have told us makes them feel a strong sense of belonging.

Members of the Superintendent Student Advisory Team, Jordan Franco and Brianna Delgadillo, from Herrera School for the Arts, spoke at our Governing Board Meeting about the important work they're doing.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. DEBORAH GONZALEZ



Jordan Franco:
Hello, my name is Jordan Franco.
I currently attend Herrera School for the Arts, and I am in 7th grade.
I hope to attend Metro Tech High School.

Brianna Delgadillo:
Hello, my name is Brianna Delgadillo.
I currently attend Herrera School for the Arts, and I am in 6th grade.
I hope to attend BioScience High School.

Jordan Franco:
We are members of the Superintendent Student Advisory Team. I have noticed we are good at working as a team and communicating.

Brianna Delgadillo:
This is my first year as a member of the leadership team. So far, I see that everyone on the team bonds, and no one has problems with anyone. It's so peaceful.

Jordan Franco:
During our meetings, we are working on the Portrait of a Student Leader and agreed on five qualities that make a good student leader. The five qualities are empathy, honesty, collaboration, accountability, and creativity.

Brianna Delgadillo:
Herrera School for the Arts defined accountability as a quality that makes a good student leader. We think accountability is a big part of being a responsible leader and helping people trust you.

Jordan Franco:
We have also been talking about what we can do to help students not be absent as much. Student absence has been a big part of students having low grades and academic levels.

Brianna Delgadillo:
When students are absent, they come back, and they are off task because they don't know what to do. Instead of asking for help (they usually don't), they play around and don't try to get work done, which leads to bad grades and low academic levels.

Jordan Franco:
Our team thinks giving students a reason to want to come to school could work. We think it may help if student leaders made a presentation on why it's important to come to school.

Brianna Delgadillo:
We are excited to share our process and results with the Governing Board and Community.

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HERRERA WELCOMES THE BE A LEADER FOUNDATION

Herrera School for the Arts welcomed The Be A Leader Foundation for an inspiring presentation on leadership and the pursuit of higher education. Thank you for sharing your time and encouraging our students to become future leaders!



CAPITOL CELEBRATES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Capitol Elementary's Students of the Month! These Cougars were recognized for their hard work, positive attitudes, and contributions to their school community.



SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT ADVISORY TEAM KICKS OFF THE YEAR

Student representatives gathered for the first Superintendent's Student Advisory Team meeting of the year. Students shared their ideas, perspectives, and goals to help ensure student voices shape the future of Phoenix #1.



GARFIELD UNVEILS NEW CAFETERIA MURAL

Garfield Middle School unveiled a new vinyl mural featuring its Grizzly mascot and school garden. Student leaders from the Superintendent's Student Advisory Team helped brainstorm ideas for the design. What a great way to showcase school pride!



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL VISITS HERRERA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

Central High School students and staff visited Herrera School for the Arts eighth graders to share information about academic programs, extracurricular activities, and high school opportunities. Thank you for helping our students explore their next steps!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE APS SUPPLY MY CLASSROOM WINNERS!

Congratulations to our Phoenix #1 teachers for winning APS Supply My Classroom awards! Emerson teacher Ms. Zayra Reyna and Herrera School for the Arts teacher Mr. Gerardo Romo received $500 each to purchase classroom supplies and support student learning.





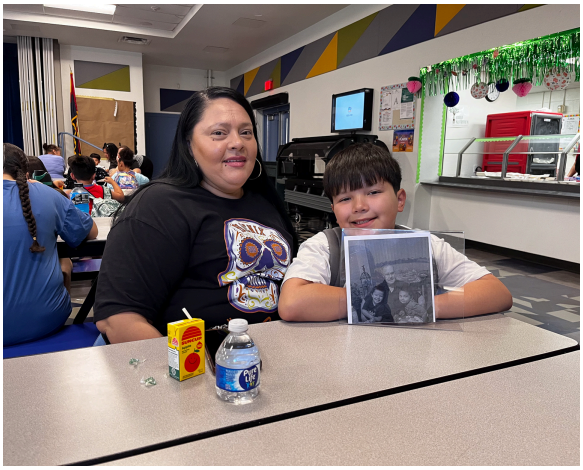
WHITTIER TEACHER RECEIVES PARKER & SONS GRANT

Congratulations to Whittier fourth-grade teacher Ms. Jessica Boland, who received a $500 classroom grant from Parker & Sons! Her special surprise and interview were featured on 12 News Arizona Midday.



GRANDPARENTS' DAY AT LOWELL AND MAGNET

Lowell Elementary and Magnet Traditional School celebrated Grandparents' Day with crafts, food, and special moments together. Thank you to all the grandparents who joined us and made the celebrations memorable!





BINGO NIGHT BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER AT SHAW

Shaw Montessori hosted a fun-filled Bingo Night featuring games, prizes, and plenty of community spirit. Thank you to our volunteers, staff, and generous donors for making the event a success!



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS AT FAITH NORTH

Faith North Early Childhood Learning Center welcomed families for its Crafts with My Favorite Pal event. The colorful, creative celebration brought loved ones together for hands-on fun. A big thank you to our parent volunteers for making the event so wonderful!



COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL

Bethune, Lowell, Emerson, and Garfield hosted Coffee With the Principal events, giving families opportunities to connect with school leaders, hear important updates, and discuss ways to strengthen their school communities.



BETHUNE



LOWELL



EMERSON



GARFIELD

TITLE I NIGHTS CONNECT FAMILIES WITH RESOURCES

Whittier, Garfield, Lowell, and Capitol hosted Title I Nights to help families learn about academic resources and student support. Title I is a federally funded program that provides additional resources to help students succeed and encourages family involvement in education.



WHITTIER



GARFIELD



LOWELL



CAPITOL

PHOENIX #1 NIGHT AT THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM

Phoenix #1 students and families enjoyed a special evening at the Musical Instrument Museum in North Phoenix! Families explored music and cultures from around the world, made lasting memories, and cheered on students who had the opportunity to perform from Whittier, Capitol, and Kenilworth.



KENILWORTH



WHITTIER & CAPITOL



INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ABILITY360 BRINGS WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TO HERRERA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS



Through our partnership with Ability360, Herrera students experienced the excitement of wheelchair basketball! The demonstration highlighted inclusion and showed students that sports and fitness are for people of all abilities.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION DAY



We celebrated our incredible custodial teams for their dedication to keeping our schools clean, safe, and welcoming. Thank you for everything you do for our students, staff, and families!

EDISON STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR NEW PLAYGROUND



Thanks to voter-approved bond dollars, Edison Elementary students are enjoying a brand-new playground! Students celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, orange hard hats, and their first playtime in their new favorite spot.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

October is National Principals Month! We're celebrating our outstanding principals for their leadership, dedication, and commitment to student success. Thank you for all you do to help our school communities thrive!



From left: Joseph Fuentes/Edison, Andrea Edington/Faith North, Jennifer Sumida/Garfield, Dr. Alicia Clynick/Herrera School for the Arts, Adrian Walker/Magnet Traditional, Claron Sells/Bethune, Richard Holmes/Whittier principals pictured with Dr. Deborah Gonzalez (middle).



Kerby Botts
Capitol



Nadine Gofonia
Emerson



Dana Ramos
Lowell



Susan Engdall
Shaw Montessori

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHOENIX #1 BUSINESS PARTNER LUNCHEON

We celebrated the partners who make a difference for our students and schools at the Phoenix #1 Community & Business Partner Luncheon. The event recognized our Phoenix #1 Night of Inspiration sponsors and featured a special performance by Edison students led by Ms. Corker. Thank you to our partners for supporting student success!





DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

Students, families, and staff came together for the first District Budget Committee meeting of the year. Participants learned about the previous bond, discussed allowable expenses, and shared feedback on how they think the District should use funds. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these important conversations!



CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request Approval or Ratification of Payroll Vouchers in the total amount of $6,932,005.35. (Policy: DKA)

2. Request Approval or Ratification of Expense Vouchers in the total amount of $2,269,837.32 (Policy: DKA)

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

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

5. Request Approval to Sell Surplus, Damaged, or Outdated Technology and Equipment (Policy: DN)

6. Request Approval of Gifts, Donations and Grants (Policy: KCD)

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

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

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

10. Request Approval for Staff Out-of-State Travel for Professional Development (Policy: GCCE)

~~11. Request Approval of the Property Lease Agreement between Phoenix Elementary School District #1 and Year Up United Inc. at Herrera Elementary (Policy: DN)~~

12. Request Approval the purchase of two School Buses in the amount not to exceed $270,755.25 from Canyon State Bus Sales under Mohave Educational Services Cooperative contract NO. 23D-CSBS-0905 pricing. (Policy: DJE-R)

13. Request Approval of the Prior Year Unpaid Invoices (Policies: DB, DK)

14. Request Approval of the Adjusted FY24 Budget, FY24 AFR, FY25 Budget, FY25 AFR and FY26 Budget (Policy: DBC, DIA)

ACTION ITEMS

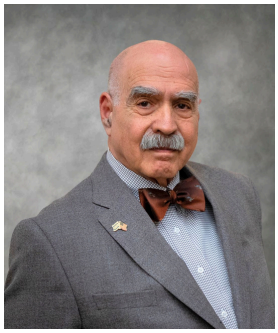
GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS



ERIKA OVALLE
PRESIDENT



SUANNE EDMISTON
VICE PRESIDENT



BARRY AARONS
BOARD MEMBER



DAMIEN SANDOVAL BARRERA
BOARD MEMBER



CARMEN TRUJILLO
BOARD MEMBER

GOVERNING BOARD POSTPONES STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOVERNANCE MODEL DISCUSSIONS

The Governing Board voted to table consideration of the proposed scopes of work for the District's strategic plan and governance model after hearing presentations from Uriah Ward Consulting, LLC and the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA). With upcoming Governing Board elections, board members chose to postpone further consideration to allow the newly elected board to participate in these decisions.

PHOENIX #1 PROPERTY LEASE AGREEMENT ON PAUSE AT HERRERA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

The Governing Board removed the proposed property lease agreement between Phoenix Elementary School District #1 and Year Up United Inc. at Herrera School for the Arts from the consent agenda and tabled the item until the next Governing Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

GOVERNING BOARD UPDATES DISTRICT POLICIES

The Governing Board updated the following District policies based on recommendations from the Arizona School Board Association:

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 GCQF - Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal
Policy GDF - Support Staff Hiring
Policy GDFA - Support Staff Qualifications and Requirements

ACTION ITEMS

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (AFR) FOR FY26 APPROVED

The Governing Board approved the District's fiscal year 2025-26 Annual Financial Report.

In accordance with Arizona law (ARS § 15-904), the District is required to publish its Annual Financial Report (AFR) on or before October 15 each year. The report, presented by Phoenix #1's Chief Financial Officer, Aaron Whittle, outlines budgeted and actual expenditures for the previous fiscal year, FY 2025–2026. It is submitted to the Maricopa County School Superintendent and the Arizona Department of Education.

The report provides an overview of District revenues and expenditures, highlighting approximately $109 million in total spending. Of the maintenance and operations budget, 73.3% of funds supported classroom-related expenses, including instruction and student support.

The report also highlighted $23.5 million in bond expenditures for school construction projects and bus purchases, reinforcing the District's commitment to financial transparency and responsible use of public funds.

The report is available on the District's website, promoting transparency and accountability in how public funds are used.

2026 Expenditures
2026 AFR

ACTION ITEMS

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (AFR) FOR FY26 APPROVED (CONTINUED)

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS (M & O) BY FUNCTION

FY26 Phoenix Elementary School Spending Report

Classroom Spending (73.3%)

Instruction	$27,504.100.07	54.4%
Instructional Support Students	$6,645,268.40	13.1%
Instructional Support	$2,916,194.63	5.8%

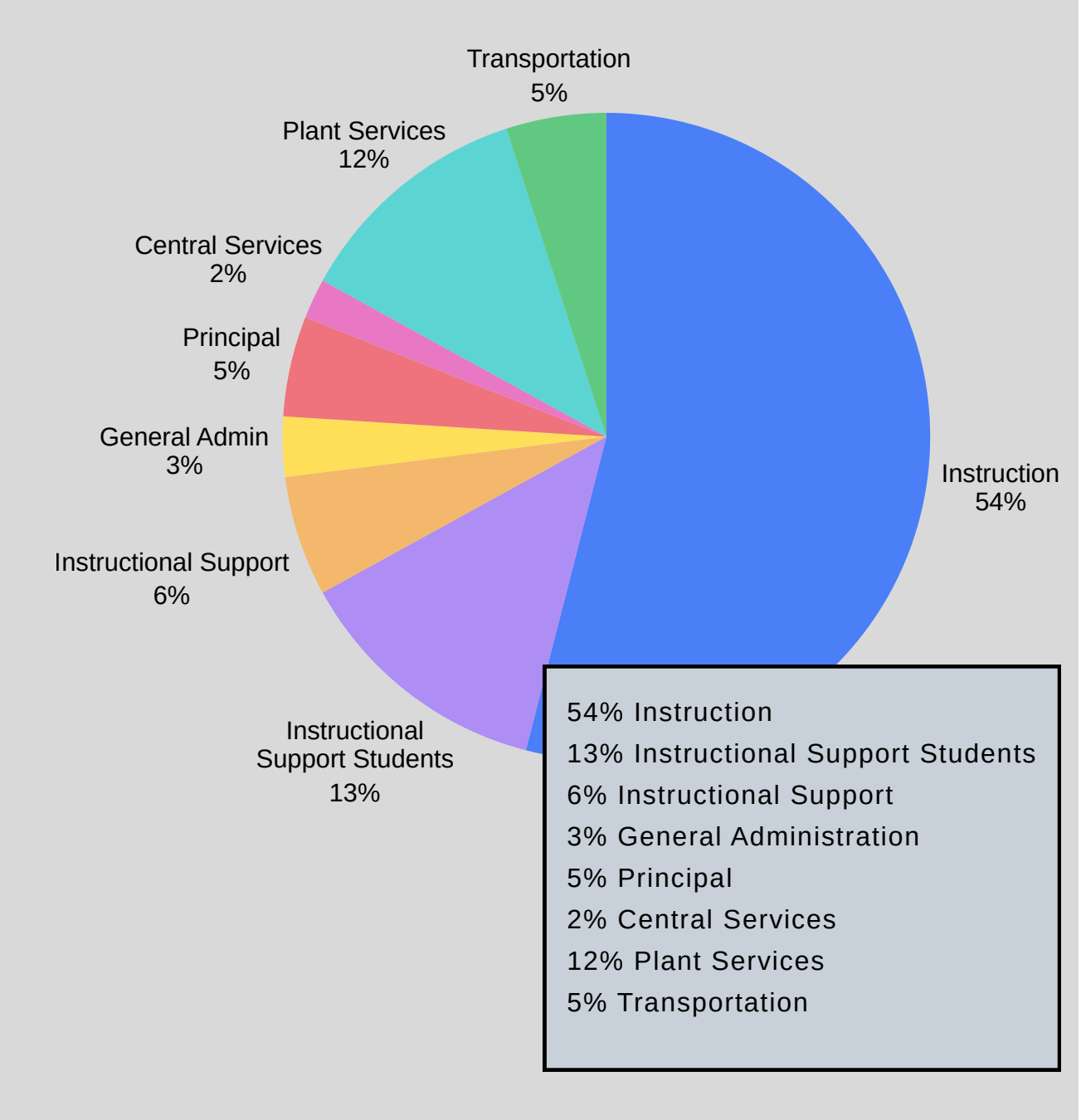
Non-Classroom Spending (26.7%)

General Administration	$5,081,203.67	10%
Plant Services	$5,784,630.65	11.4%
Transportation	$2,647.268.28	5.2%
Nutrition Services	$6,934.16	0%

ACTION ITEMS

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (AFR) FOR FY26 APPROVED (CONTINUED)

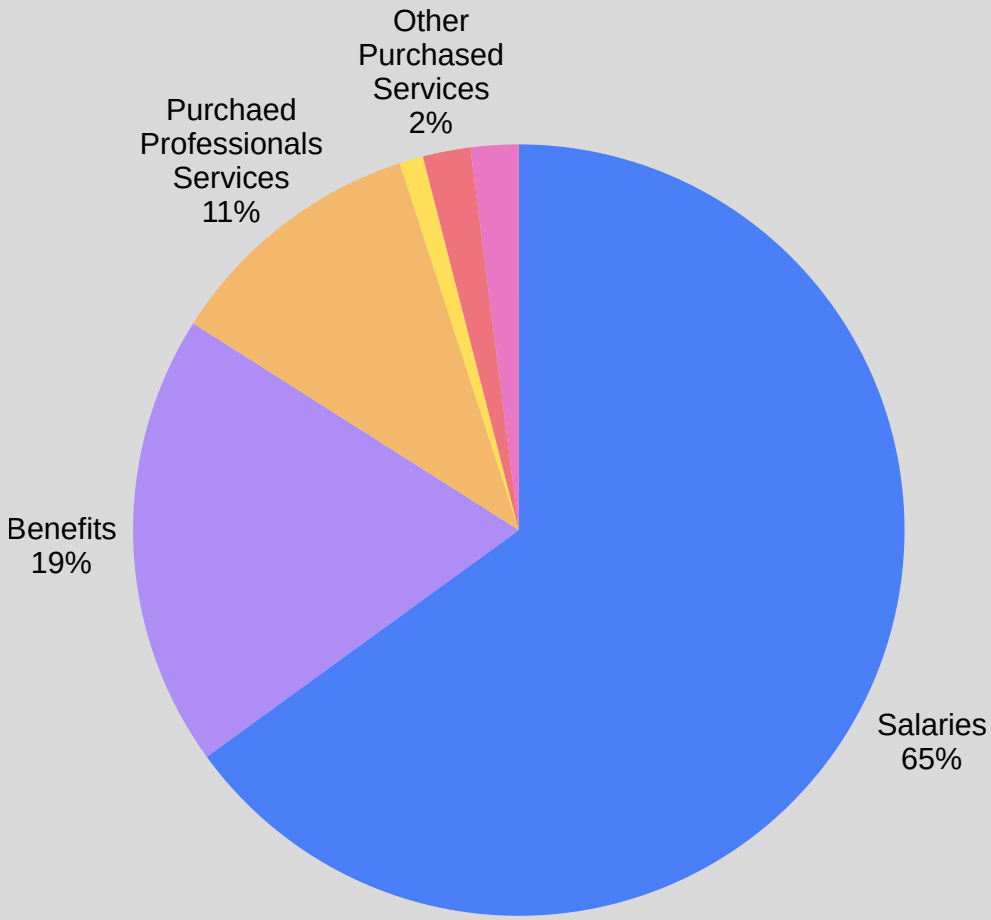
M & O EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



ACTION ITEMS

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (AFR) FOR FY26 APPROVED (CONTINUED)

M & O EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



FY26 Budget - $52,579,049
FY26 Expenses - $50,575,589
FY26 BBCF - $2,003,460

65% Salaries
19% Benefits
11% Purchased Professional Services
1% Purchased Property Services
2% Other Purchased Services
2% Supplies
0% Dues & Fees

GOVERNING BOARD DISCUSSES ARIZONA OPEN MEETING LAW

Susan Segal of Gust Rosenfeld PLC, gave a presentation on Arizona's Open Meeting Law and public comment procedures.

The presentation reviewed the limits on board members' responses during public comment. Under state law, board members may respond to criticism, ask staff to review an issue, or request that a topic be added to a future agenda. However, they may not discuss or take action on matters that are not properly listed on the meeting agenda.

Board members also discussed clarifying questions during public comment and procedures for handling written comments. Ms. Segal said that the District may establish reasonable guidelines allowing in-person speakers to address the board, while written comments may be forwarded to board members for review.

The discussion reinforced the importance of following state law while maintaining transparency and providing opportunities for community input.

GOVERNING BOARD LEARNS ABOUT PROPOSITION 320 AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHOENIX #1

Jimmy Arwood, Governmental Relations Director at the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA), explained Proposition 320 and how it could affect school district budgets.

If passed in November, the measure would require school districts with 7,500 or more students, or those in counties with populations exceeding 500,000, to spend at least 60% of their operational expenditures on direct instruction. Direct instruction includes teacher salaries, instructional aides, classroom supplies, and other instructional expenses.

In fiscal year 2025, Phoenix #1 spent 48.8% of its operational expenditures on direct instruction, 11.2% below the proposed requirement. Beginning in the 2028–2029 school year, districts that spend less than 60% must increase their instructional spending percentage by at least 0.5 percentage points annually until they meet the requirement.

Proposition 320 would not provide any additional funding. Therefore, districts may need to redirect existing funds from transportation, school safety, food services, custodial services, and student support services. These examples illustrate potential impacts, not budget reductions the District has approved. Arwood also shared that Phoenix #1 spends less on administration than the statewide average.

View the full ASBA Proposition 320 presentation here.

SEVERAL PHOENIX #1 SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES SEE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Mrs. Sara Sims, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives, updated the Governing Board on facility improvements across the District. The following highlights are capital improvement projects from FY 25-26 and FY 26-27.

The improvements include:



Garfield: New roof and heating and cooling systems, along with improved classrooms with windows, a garden, and flex learning improvements.
Funding Source: 2022 bond



Edison: New parking lot to improve safety for school pick-up and drop-offs. Edison also received a new playground.
Funding Source: 2022 bond



Ann Ott: Demolition of the school building
Funding Source: Sale from Plant Services near 1st St & Grant property for $21.9 million.



Herrera School for the Arts:
Security upgrades to the front office
Funding Source: Capital



Preparing second-floor spaces for possible renters, including cleaning, stage, exterior door access, and pony wall installation across both stairwells
Funding Source: Civic Funds



Kenilworth: ADA-compliant elevator, flooring & drywall
Funding Source: 2022 bond



Transportation: Six electric buses and charging stations
Funding Source: 2022 bond



Campus Upgrades and Repairs: Playground, accessibility, security, and energy-efficiency improvements were completed at several schools
Funding Source: 2022 bond

INFORMATION

The list below shows renter-funded improvements.



Heard: Beyond Autism completed campus renovations, including new signage, an interior refresh of classrooms, offices, and the kitchen, a washer and dryer, and is working to open a transitional preschool program.



Monterey Park: The YMCA paid for the installation of a concrete pad and shed, a washer and dryer, classroom and office refresh, and opened up a Resource Center for families in need.

The list below shows community and volunteer-funded improvements.

Love Our Schools Day: Thanks to School Connect, our partners completed the following projects during the 2025-2026 school year.



Whittier: Volunteers planted and placed potted plants outside the front office.



Faith North: Volunteers painted colorful designs on the school walkways to brighten up the campus.

CHASSE Building Team Gives Back: Huge thank you to CHASSE Building Team and their subcontractors for completing the following projects over Fall Break:



Bethune: New shade sails, gates for the dumpster enclosure, irrigation, and pavers to create a designated walking path to reduce the muddy mess after it rains.



Herrera School for the Arts: Outdoor lighting, bleachers, and removal of vinyl and new paint for hallway walls.

To see the full presentation, click here.

These updates reflect the District's continued efforts to maintain school facilities, improve learning environments, and make the most of available funding and community support.