

The BOARDER



A Summary Report of the September 9, 2025, CFSD Governing Board Meeting

Outstanding Achievements

Superintendent Denise Bartlett shared the following student and staff achievements:

Postal History Foundation Postcard Design Contest Winners

Elizabeth Luxbacher, a freshman at Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS), has been named the Grand Prize Winner in the Postal History Foundation's postcard design contest, celebrating Tucson's 250th birthday. Her artwork, featuring a Gila Woodpecker among blooming saguaros, will represent Tucson in this historic milestone year. Ventana Vista third grader Saison Maultsby placed third in the contest. More information, including how to order the postcards, can be found at www.postalhistoryfoundation.org.

Catalina Foothills High School

Catalina Foothills senior Chase Cesarek captured the championship at the Brophy Rodeo golf tournament on Saturday, August 23 at Grayhawk Golf Club's Raptor Course in Scottsdale. This marks Chase's second consecutive Brophy Rodeo title, a true accomplishment in a highly competitive high school golf tournament. Chase recently committed to Division I Utah Tech but continues to shine for the Falcons under the guidance of Head Coach Julie Walters. Congratulations, Chase, on this outstanding performance and well-deserved victory!

We are proud to celebrate Renee Shane-Boyd, Director of Bands, for being named a finalist for the 2025 Raytheon Leaders in Education Award by Tucson Values Teachers. This recognition honors PreK-12 teachers across Pima County who demonstrate exceptional commitment to educating youth, show leadership within their communities, and foster collaboration among peers. Renee was selected as one of just eight finalists from across Southern Arizona, for her remarkable contributions to student learning and to the broader education community.

Renee's leadership in our band program has inspired hundreds of students to pursue excellence in music and beyond. Under her direction, Catalina Foothills High School ensembles have earned regional and state accolades while

providing students with life-changing opportunities to perform, compete, and grow as musicians and leaders. Her work is defined not only by high standards of artistry, but also by her ability to create an inclusive, supportive environment where every student feels a sense of belonging.

The Raytheon Leaders in Education Award will be presented at Stand Up 4 Teachers on November 6, 2025, at the Tucson Convention Center. Four awardees will be selected from the finalists to each receive \$2,500, along with an additional \$2,500 in matching funds for their districts. All finalists will be honored at the ceremony.

Approval of Revisions to Policy IJ and Regulation IJ-R, Instructional Resources and Materials (second reading)

Revisions to Policy IJ and Regulation IJ-R, *Instructional Resources and Materials*, were presented by Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment Sheryl Castro for a second reading to align with the recent *Mahmoud v. Taylor* (2025) decision. In addition to objection to any learning material or activity because of sexual content, violent content, or profane or vulgar language, the updates clarify that a parent/legal guardian may additionally object to an activity or learning material based on the assertion that the materials or activity are harmful, including because the materials or activity would question the family's beliefs or practices in sex, morality, or religion. Other changes standardize terminology, set clear guidelines for the use of videos and digital resources, and streamline processes for accessing or objecting to instructional materials. The governing board approved Policy IJ and Regulation IJ-R, as presented.

Consideration of Revisions to Policy GCQF, Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members (first reading)

Associate Superintendent Mindy Westover shared proposed revisions to Policy GCQF *Discipline Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members* to align with Arizona Senate Bill 1659 which amended Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) §15-350. The update adds a new section clarifying that schools and districts may request information

from the State Board of Education regarding allegations of misconduct by current or prospective employees, whether certificated or non-certificated. The State Board must provide this information unless it would impede an active investigation. In this case, it will be released once the investigation is complete. The policy will return to the agenda for a second reading on September 25, 2025.

Consideration of Revisions to Policy IKF, Graduation Requirements (first reading)

Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment Sheryl Castro presented proposed revisions to Policy IKF *Graduation Requirements* to align with Arizona House Bill 2540 which amended A.R.S. §15-741 regarding high school assessments conducted outside of the district and allowances for written assessments. Students who complete a nationally recognized assessment (adopted by the State Board of Education) outside of the district may submit their official score report, which the district will record, report to the State Board of Education and the Department of Education, and accept in place of the school administered assessment if the student's score was submitted before the date of the school administered test. The District may offer the statewide assessment in written form for students whose individual education plan (IEP) or section 504 plan requires it, special circumstances, religious reasons, or at a parent/legal guardian's request. The policy will return to the agenda for a second reading on September 25, 2025.

Consideration of Revisions to the District's Arizona State Seal of Arts Proficiency Program Description (first reading)

A revision to the District's Arizona State Seal of Arts Proficiency program description was presented by Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment Castro, adding Film & TV 1, Film & TV 2, and Film & TV 3 as qualifying Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses for students pursuing the Arizona State Seal of Arts Proficiency. The program recognizes students who demonstrate advanced proficiency in the arts through coursework, projects, and creative experiences. The second reading of the proposed revision to the District's Arizona State Seal of Arts Proficiency program description is scheduled for September 25, 2025.

Consideration of Superintendent's Proposed Performance Goals for 2025-2026 (first reading)

Superintendent Bartlett presented the first reading of her proposed performance goals for the 2025-2026 contract year. These goals are in addition to responsibilities identified in her job description, noted in Policy CBA *Qualifications and Duties of Superintendent*. Guided by the district strategic plan, the superintendent will lead initiatives that:

1. Reduce the gap between current and desired student academic achievement
2. Raise the engagement of students so they are highly motivated to set and achieve increasingly challenging goals for deep learning
3. Partner with families and community to achieve our strategic priorities

The goals have a direct connection to the outcomes of increasing student achievement and learning of all students, retaining high quality teachers and staff, improving school climate and culture, and increasing community outreach and awareness to foster strong relationships with our community.

The superintendent's goals will be brought back to the board for a second reading at its next meeting on September 25.

Approval of Resolution in Support of Legendary Teacher Day, September 25, 2025

The governing board reviewed a resolution in support of Legendary Teacher Day, which takes place on September 25, 2025. Superintendent Bartlett explained how the program, now in its twelfth year, recognizes teachers who have made a significant difference in our lives. Legendary Teacher tributes can be submitted online at <https://www.legendaryteacher.com/tribute>. Board member Gina Mehmert read the resolution, and the governing board approved the resolution in support of Legendary Teacher Day, September 25, 2025, as presented.

Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Law Conference Report

Vice President Eileen Jackson and Board Members Jacquelyn Davoli and Tom Logue reviewed information from the ASBA Law Conference held on September 3-5, 2025. They reported on topics surrounding legislative actions that affect the interest of public schools.

ASBA Delegate Assembly Report

Board Member Logue shared information from the ASBA Delegate Assembly that he attended virtually on September 6, 2025. He reviewed the process and the outcome of the political agenda. Mr. Logue indicated that delegates performed a systematic review of each item on the political agenda recommended by ASBA's Legislative Committee.

2025 Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity

There was no discussion.

Consent Agenda Items

The governing board approved the following consent agenda items:

- August 26, 2025, regular governing board meeting minutes
- Expense voucher memorandum
- Field trip request memorandum
- Fundraising request memorandum
- Personnel memorandum
- Terms and conditions for the acceptance of monies from the School Facilities Division Building Renewal Grant (BRG) Fund for BRG Project Number BRG-007605 for the replacement of two water valves at Catalina Foothills High School in the estimated amount of \$9,257.97
- School Facilities Division award to Midstate Mechanical for the HVAC Replacement at Ventana Vista Elementary School in the amount of \$42,370.00
- School Facilities Division awards to Concord General Contracting, Kelly, Wright & Associates, and Swaim & Associates for the HVAC replacement project at Orange Grove Middle School totaling \$1,749,908.00



Please welcome new CFSD staff members!

Heather Bixby, EA Inclusion, MZES
Robert Heath, EA Inclusion, ECMS
Sarah Lynch, EA Classroom, OGMS

Upcoming Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled governing board meeting is **Thursday, September 25, 2025, 6:30 p.m., at the Carole Siegler Boardroom at Valley View Early Learning Center. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.** Topics on the September 25 agenda include:

- Super Volunteer Recognition
- Approval of Revisions to Policy GCQF, *Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members* (second reading)
- Approval of Revisions to Policy IKF, *Graduation Requirements* (second reading)
- Approval of Revisions to the District's Arizona State Seal of Arts Proficiency Program Description (second reading)
- Approval of Superintendent's Proposed Performance Goals for 2025-2026 (second reading)
- Consideration of Revisions to Policy GDFA, *Support Staff Qualifications and Requirements* (first reading)
- Pima County School Board / Superintendent Collaborative Meeting (September 15, 2025) Report