

MINUTES-DRAFT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING-THATCHER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 5:30 p.m.
District Administrative Center, 3490 West Main Street, Thatcher, Arizona

Dr. Gary Sorensen, President
Kate McCluskey, Member

Dr. Debbie Chapman, Clerk
Susan Hancock, Member

J. Travis Smith, Member
Matt Petersen, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by Board President Dr. Gary Sorensen at 5:30 p.m. All board members are present. Pledge of allegiance led by Dr. Gary Sorensen.

Approval of the Agenda dated April 7, 2026

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the agenda as submitted.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

Approval of the Meeting Minutes dated March 10, 2026 & Work Study Minutes of March 24, 2026

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the meeting minutes from March 10, 2026 and work study minutes of March 24, 2026 as submitted.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

Summary of Current Events & Activities

- Superintendent Petersen advises:
 - Current enrollment
 - JDPS 405
 - TES 537
 - TMS 264
 - THS 501
 - EOA 56
 - Total: 1763
 - Kindergarten round-up is currently in the process
 - Open enrollment is currently open
 - Open positions within the district:
 - 4th grade teacher
 - TMS choir teacher
 - THS Math teacher
 - THS SPED teacher
- Coach Haller and track students expressed appreciation to the Governing Board and Superintendent Petersen for the new track facility. Many students attended in support.

Call to the Public

N/A

Approval/Ratification of Financial Matters

Motion J. Travis Smith to approve/ratify payroll and expense vouchers dated (March 11, 2026 thru April 7, 2026).

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

Approval of Employment Matters-Staff Changes (*Contingent on file clearance, as applicable)

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve staff changes as submitted.

Classified:		Sharie Price/Bus Driver
Transfers:	SY 26/27	Bailey McCray/Transfer from THS SPED Teacher to JDPS SPED Teacher, Brandon Udall/Transfer from THS Math to THS English Teacher, Jessica Ajeman/Transfer from 6 th Grade Teacher to 5 th Grade Teacher, Tiffany Worley/Transfer from 3 rd Grade Teacher to 6 th Grade Teacher
Certified:	SY 26/27	Lindsey Nelson/TMS 8 th Grade SPED Teacher, Bailey Mattice/THS Dual Enrollment English Teacher, Bridgette Mennen/TES 6 th Grade Teacher, Emily Lockridge/TES 5 th Grade Teacher, Christina Robles/TES 3 rd Grade Teacher
Mentor Teachers Stipend:		Elaina Estrada, Ashley French, Morgan Matthews, Emily Curtis, Dave Cluff, Aviva Cashetta, Jennifer Phillips, Phil Oliver, Kylee Nagy, Spencer Lamoreaux, Kevin Ruland, Chris Carrell, Lynaya Sanders, Megan Medina, Bailey Mattice
Mentor Specialists Stipend:		Cindy Rickert, Beth Green
New Teacher Training Stipend:		Daniel Smith, Jenny Stevens, Brandon Udall, Ruth Luster, Bailey McCray, Aubrianna Smith, Bridgette Mennen, Kasey Gibson, Sherri Clarkson, Johnathon Quintana, Amy Palmer, Tiffany Worley, Keri Yamnick
Resignations:		Teleysha Smith/TMS Choir-Art Teacher (effective 5/21/26), Johnathon Quintana/TES 5 th Grade Teacher (effective 5/21/26), Michelle Sherman/TES 5 th Grade Teacher (effective 5/21/26), Bethany Dixson/6 th Grade Teacher (effective 5/21/26)
Extra-Curricular:	Game Help:	McKay Kempton, Andrew Heinze, Nick Merritt, Scott Howard, Malayah Renteria
	TMS Softball:	Sadee Skousen/Volunteer
	THS Girls Tennis:	Britni Kartchner/Volunteer
	THS Spiritline:	Mandy Muenchow/Head Coach

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Discussion by J. Travis Smith. Superintendent clarified.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

Approval of THS Football Fundraiser

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the THS football fundraiser.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Discussion by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

Approval of 2% Salary Increase for Certified Staff to Include Educational Advancements

Motion by J. Travis Smith to approve a 2% salary increase for certified staff to include educational advancements.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Discussion by Kate McCluskey. Superintendent Petersen gave clarification.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

Approval of Certified Salary Schedules for SY26/27

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the certified salary schedules for SY26/27.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

Approval of ASBAIT Health Insurance Increase and Additional Employee Benefits

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the ASBAIT health insurance increase of 8% for full time employees, district contribution of \$2600.00 for employee HSA benefits & district contribution of \$2500.00 for employee insurance opt-out.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

Approval of General Statement of Assurances (Lower Tier Transactions)

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the general statement of assurances (lower tier transactions).

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Discussion and clarification by Superintendent Petersen.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

Approval of IGA-EAC Dual Enrollment Courses for SY's 2026-2029

Motion by J. Travis Smith to approve the IGA-EAC dual enrollment courses for SY's 2026-2029.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Discussion by J. Travis Smith & Ryan Conrad. Superintendent Petersen gave clarification.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

Approval of Postponement of Bond 2026

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to postpone bond 2026 preparation.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion by J. Travis Smith, Susan Hancock of athletic lights and possible bond in 2027.

Superintendent Petersen gave clarification.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

Acceptance of FY25 Annual Audit Report

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to accept the FY25 annual audit report.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Discussion by Superintendent Petersen.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

(Roll-call vote: Dr. Debbie Chapman-yes, Susan Hancock-yes, Kate McCluskey-yes, J. Travis Smith-yes, Dr. Gary Sorensen-yes)

Approval of Open Enrollment Capacity for SY 26/27

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the open enrollment capacity for SY 26/27.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Discussion by Susan Hancock directed to Ashlee Griffin. Superintendent Petersen gave clarification.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

UPCOMING EVENTS/CALENDAR REVIEW/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Closing Social: May 8, 2026 @ 1:00 p.m.
Thatcher High School Commons

Next regularly scheduled board meeting: May 14, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.
District Administrative Center

Baccalaureate: May 17, 2026 @ 8:00 p.m.

Diploma Presentation:

Dr. Gary Sorensen & Dr. Debbie Chapman

Graduation

May 22, 2026 @ 8:00 p.m.
EAC John Mickelson Field

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, motion by J. Travis Smith to adjourn at 5:59 p.m.
Second by Susan Hancock.
Voted, passed, unanimous.

Dr. Gary Sorensen, President

Dr. Debbie Chapman, Clerk