

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

Thursday, August 13, 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 5:32 p.m. All board members are present with the exception of board clerk Dr. Debbie Chapman. Pledge of allegiance led by Dr. Gary Sorensen.

Approval of the Agenda dated August 13, 2026

Motion by J. Travis Smith to approve the agenda as submitted.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of the Meeting Minutes dated July 7, 2026

Motion by J. Travis Smith to approve the meeting minutes from July 7, 2026 as submitted.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Summary of Current Events & Activities

Superintendent Petersen advised:

- Opening Training & Social for all employees was August 10, 2026. Included a presentation by our District Attorney.
 - Student Supervision
 - Sexual Harassment-Title IX
 - Interactions and Boundaries with Students
 - Acceptable Use of Social Media
 - Mandatory Reporting
 - Hazing
- Technology Training for Certified Staff
- School started August 12, 2026
 - 15 New Teachers
 - 8 already in the district or returning
 - 7 out of district
- AZ Healthy School Act
 - Legislation passed and implemented 7/1/26
 - Eliminating 11 ingredients, ultra-processed foods during normal school day
 - Vending machines have been changed out to meet requirements
 - Spee-D-Eagle has changed two items
 - Eagles Roost is off campus, parents can provide but not for sharing with other students
 - Concessions are after school
 - Awaiting response from attorney as to "normal school day" hours
 - If found out of compliance, we could not receive approximately \$50,000 in commodities

Discussion by board member Susan Hancock inquiring of flyers to parents. Superintendent Petersen gave clarification and guidance on our district website.

- Update on Bonding-Future
 - In communications with EMC² and Performance Services-Educational Planning Services. Work with districts for no fee currently.
- THS Lighting Project-Graham County Coop & Town of Thatcher
 - Currently working on details for placement of transformers, possibly next to concessions at baseball field.
 - Received \$50,000 grant for project.
 - Budget is being reviewed, TUSD rolled \$800,000 to balance budget. Have reduced budget significantly for SY 26/27. Have been in communication with Muscow Lighting and Never Give Up. Never Give Up assisted with TMS lighting project. Possibility of applying for a loan has been discussed.

Discussion by board member Susan Hancock, board member J. Travis Smith and board president Dr. Gary Sorensen as to multiple clarifying questions of the project. Superintendent Petersen clarified to the board.

Call to the Public

N/A

Approval/Ratification of Financial Matters

Motion Kate McCluskey to approve/ratify payroll and expense vouchers dated (July 8, 2026 thru August 13, 2026).

Second by Susan Hancock.

Discussion by J. Travis Smith. Superintendent Petersen gave clarification.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

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

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve staff changes as submitted.

Classified:	SY 26/27	Robin Rasmussen/Bus Driver, Fernando Castro/Bus Driver, Nancy Breon/ Crossing Guard, Vanessa Waldron/Bus Driver
Inclusion Aides:		Kelsey Rolando/TES Laycee Kelly/TES, Mercedes Montoya/TES Katie Carpenter/JDPS, Raylynn Quiroz/JDPS, Macie Abraham/JDPS, Amanda Hatch/JDPS, Lois Kempton/TES, Laney Lamoreaux/TMS, Kendyl Barney/JDPS, Kaitlin Layton/JDPS, Susie Walters/THS, Margaret Ball/TMS, Casey Rogers/JDPS, Rebecca Norris/TES,
Instructional Aide:		Daniel Richardson/TES Instructional Aide
Janitorial:		Fernando Castro, Bryany Morris, Rickie Ruiz, Shane Harris, Deliana Valencia, Kristin Adams
Certified:	SY 26/27 Stipends:	Laura Griffith/Vocal Music, Tye Stewart/Athletic Director, Cindy Rickert/ Cognia Accreditation, Melinda Terry/THS Knowledge Bowl, Daniel Smith/ Yearbook, Chris Cook/HOSA-CTSO, Dave Cluff/FCCLA CTSO, Tracy Dodson/Skills USA CTSO, Maya Martinez/FBLA CTSO, Chris Cook/Student Council, Aubrey Larson/Student Council, Harry Goslin/Dual Enrollment, Chris Cook/Dual Enrollment, Callie Ruiz/Dual Enrollment, Melinda Terry/Dual Enrollment, Carlos Salas/Dual Enrollment, Jenni Bryce/Dual Enrollment, Alexis Glazier/IEP Stipend, Stacy Morris/IEP Stipend, Bailey McCray/IEP Stipend, Keri Yamnik/IEP Stipend, Dana Jones/IEP Stipend, Shannon Rapier/IEP Stipend, Amy Palmer/IEP Stipend, Lynaya Sanders/IEP Stipend, Lindsey Nelson/ IEP Stipend, Sarah Porter/IEP Stipend, Morgan Matthews/IEP Stipend, Ashley French/IEP Stipend, Layla Fox/GATE Advisor, Dave Cluff/THS CTE Director, Angie Adams/EOA CTE Director, Heather Allred/District Head Nurse, Kasey Gibson/TMS Knowledge Bowl
Substitutes:	SY 26/27	Melissa Derry, Nathan Palmer, Martha Cano, Cynthia Pando

Resignations:	Kasandra Dahl/TMS ISS Aide, Natalyn Rogers/TES Inclusion Aide, Amie Browning/TES Inclusion Aide, Noah Beecroft/Janitorial, Elwyn Lash/Janitorial, Kimberly Mattice/Janitorial, Maya Martinez/Janitorial, Jaden Crookston/Janitorial, Candace DeLeon/Janitorial, Megan Fillerup/Janitorial, Shaycee Garcia/Janitorial, Emma Lamoreaux/Crosswalk, Tiffany Spitzer/TMS Inclusion Aide,		
	Heber Richins/Janitorial, Harmony Fairchild/JDPS Inclusion Aide, Ivy Jarosz/JDPS Instructional Aide		
Extra-Curricular:	SY 26/27		
	THS V-Ball:	Brandon Lunt/JV Coach	
	SY 26/27		
	Game Help:	Duane Despain, CJ Gonzales, Emma Meehl, Michael Penrod, Dustyn Brown, Nick Orr, Brooks Knight, Kylee Nagy, Chad Smith, Kenny Smith, Kyle Hull, Harold Quinonez, Elaina Estrada, Phil Oliver, Spencer Lamoreaux, Avery Bingham, Kelsey Peru, Vincent Peru	
	SY26/27		
	TMS V-Ball:	Rachel Norton/Volunteer	
	Other:	Steve Orme/Trainer	
ESI-Participation:	Matthew Petersen		

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of TES Fundraisers

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve TES Fundraisers: Student/Adult T-Shirt Fundraiser, Penguin Patch Fundraiser, Fall & Spring Book Fairs and Love of Reading Week.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of THS Fundraiser

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the THS Spirit Line-Cheer Clinic Fundraiser.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of SY 26-27 Performance Pay Distribution Plan

Motion by J. Travis Smith to approve the SY 26-27 Performance Pay Distribution Plan for certified teachers and counselors.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of SY 26-27 Professional Growth Plan

Motion by J. Travis Smith to approve the professional growth plan for certified teachers, counselors and administration.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of Curriculum

Motion by Susan Hancock to approve the current curriculum for SY 26-27.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion by Susan Hancock, Superintendent Petersen gave clarification of current curriculum.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval Qualified Teacher Evaluators

Motion by Susan Hancock to approve the listed qualified teacher evaluators; Matt Petersen, Angie Adams, Ashlee Griffin, Lin Gifford, Tony Vincent, Jessica Medlin, Ryan Conrad, Tye Stewart, Leah Meehl. Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of Delegate ASBA Assembly

Motion by Susan Hancock to approve Dr. Gary Sorensen to be the delegate at the ASBA Assembly. Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion by Dr. Gary Sorensen.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of Donation from “Hungry for Music” of Multiple Orchestra Instrument’s

Motion by Dr. Gary Sorensen to approve the donation from “Hungry for Music” of multiple orchestra instruments to the TES music department.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of THS Sports Passes for 2026-2027

Motion by Susan Hancock to approve the THS Sport Passes for 2026-2027 school year.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion by Kate McCluskey and Tye Stewart. Superintendent Petersen gave clarification.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of THS Band to Travel Out of State September 19, 2026 to Las Cruces, NM for Battle of the Americas

Motion by J. Travis Smith to approve the out of state travel-THS Band to Las Cruces, NM on September 19, 2026 for the Battle of the Americas.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Information/Discussion of SY 26/27 Employee, Student & Athletic Handbooks

All handbooks were provided to the board members in their board packets.

Discussion by Susan Hancock. Superintendent Petersen gave clarification.

Information/Discussion of ASBA Policy Advisories 1047-1064—FIRST READING—

Policy Advisory No. 1047 Policy BEDB—Agenda, Policy Advisory No. 1048 Policy CBA—Qualifications and Duties of the Superintendent, Policy Advisory No. 1049 Policy DJ—Purchasing Ethics, Policy Advisory No. 1050 Policy DJE—Bidding/Purchasing Procedures, Policy Advisory No. 1051 Policy IHA — Basic Instructional Program, Policy Advisory No. 1052 Regulation IHB-R—Special Instructional Programs, Policy Advisory No. 1053 Regulation IKE-RB—Promotion and Retention of Students, Policy Advisory No. 1054 Policy IKF—Graduation Requirements, Policy Advisory No. 1055 NEW Regulation JF-R—Student Admissions, Policy Advisory No. 1056 NEW Regulation JFAA-R—Admission of Resident Students, Policy Advisory No. 1057 NEW Regulation JFAB-R—Tuition / Admission of Nonresident Students, Policy Advisory No. 1058 NEW Regulation JFABC-R—Admission of Transfer Students, Policy Advisory No. 1059 NEW Regulation JFABD-RB—Admission of Homeless Students, Policy Advisory No. 1060 NEW Regulation JFABDA-RB—Admission of Students in Foster Care, Policy Advisory No. 1061 NEW Regulation JFB-RB—Open Enrollment, Policy Advisory No. 1062 Policy JJAB—Limited Open/Closed Forum, Policy Advisory No. 1063 Regulation JR-R—Student Records, Policy Advisory No. 1064 Policy KFA—Public Conduct on School Property

Discussion by Superintendent Petersen as to G Section of the policy manual.

UPCOMING EVENTS/CALENDAR REVIEW/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next regularly scheduled board meeting

September 17, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.
District Administrative Center
3490 West Main Street
Thatcher, Arizona 85552

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, motion by Susan Hancock to adjourn at 6:17 p.m.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

Dr. Gary Sorensen, President

Dr. Debbie Chapman, Clerk