

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

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Thursday, April 10, 2025 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 with the exception of J. Travis Smith. Pledge of allegiance led by Bryany Morris.

**Approval of the Agenda dated April 10, 2025**

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

Second Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes dated March 13, 2025**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the meeting minutes from March 13, 2025 as submitted.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Summary of Current Events & Activities**

Superintendent Petersen advises-

- Enrollment to date:
  - JDPS: 428      last year 438
  - TES: 544      last year 529
  - TMS: 263      last year 292
  - THS: 486      last year 488
  - EOA: 65      last year 65
  - Total: 1786      last year 1812
- Staff recognition:
  - School Safety Audit-2<sup>nd</sup> phase. Quick response from the leadership team in a short amount of time to provide required information.
- 25/26 Open enrollment is currently open
  - 312 students
  - 42 new students
  - 25 kindergarten students

**Call to the Public**

N/A

**Approval/Ratification of Financial Matters**

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve/ratify payroll and expense vouchers dated (March 14, 2025 thru April 10, 2025).

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Approval of Staff Changes (\*Contingent on file clearance, as applicable)**

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

Classified:

Kristianna Gomez/Sub Bus Driver, Harmony Fairchild/ESY Inclusion Aide

Pre-K & K-8 Summer Inclusion Aides for SPED Program: Danielle Mortensen,  
Karla Cano, Sheri Thomas

Certified: SY25/26 Savannah Lewis/TES 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, SY25/26 Kasey Gibson/TMS ELA Teacher, SY25/26 Mandy Muenchow/THS ELA Teacher, SY25/26 Bethany Dixon/TES 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, SY25/26 Audra Payne/TES 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, SY25/26 Amy Palmer/TES 6<sup>th</sup> Grade SPED Teacher

Pre-K ESY Summer Special Education Teacher: Stacy Morris, Alexis Glazier

Summer Preschool Screenings/Eval/Meetings: Stacy Morris, Alexis Glazier

K-8 ESY Summer Special Education Teacher: Summer Fierro

Resignations: Jessica Gowan/Maintenance-Shipping & Receiving, Lindsey Nelson/JDPS 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher

Extra-Curricular: TMS Game Help: Brynzee Hansen, Emma Workman, Nick Merritt, McKay Kempton, Scott Howard (Softball/Baseball Umpire) Al Summers, Dallas Huish, Jaylynn Jurado, Jimmy Bolinger, Brett Gettz

THS Softball: Sadie Skousen/Volunteer, Sara Bingham/Softball Assistant

THS Summer: Bryanny Morris/Spiritline Advisor, Dan Jones/Summer Weights

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion/clarification by Superintendent Petersen.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Approval of Salary Increases for SY25/26 (Classified Staff)**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the salary increase for classified staff of 4% for SY25/26.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Approval of Salary Schedule for SY25/26 (Classified Staff)**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the classified salary schedule for SY25/26.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Approval of General Statement of Assurances (Lower Tier Transactions)**

Motion by Kate McCluskey approve the general statement of assurances-lower tier transactions.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Approval of the Student Success Advisor at Thatcher Middle School**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the student success advisor position at Thatcher Middle School.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Acceptance of the Annual Audit Report FY24**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to accept the FY24 Annual Audit Report as submitted.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

(Roll-Call: Dr. Debbie Chapman-yes, Susan Hancock-yes, Kate McCluskey-yes, Dr. Gary Sorensen-yes)

**Approval Baccalaureate Speaker Mary Ann Layton**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve baccalaureate speaker, Mary Ann Layton.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Approval of Out of State Travel-FCCLA National Convention in Orlando, FL July 4-10, 2025**

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the out of state travel for FCCLA National Convention July 4-10, 2025 in Orlando, FL.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Approval of Out of State Travel-FBLA National Conference in Anaheim, CA June 27-July 3, 2025**

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the out of state travel for FBLA National Conference June 27-July 3, 2025 in Anaheim, CA

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Information/Discussion of ASBA Policy Advisories 809-818-FIRST READING (information)**

Policy Advisory No. 809 Policy A	District Mission and Belief Statement
Policy Advisory No. 810 Policy AA	School District Legal Status
<b>DELETED</b> Exhibit AA-E	School District Legal Status
Policy Advisory No. 811 Policy ABA	Community Involvement in Education
Policy Advisory No. 812 Policy ABAA	Parental Involvement
Policy Advisory No. 813 Policy AC	Nondiscrimination / Equal Opportunity
Regulation AC-R	Nondiscrimination / Equal Opportunity
Exhibit AC-E	Nondiscrimination / Equal Opportunity
Policy Advisory No. 814 Policy ACA	Sexual Harassment
Regulation ACA-R	Sexual Harassment
Exhibit ACA-E	Sexual Harassment
Policy Advisory No. 815 Policy ACAA	Title IX Sex Discrimination
Regulation ACAA-R	Title IX Sex Discrimination
Policy Advisory No. 816 <b>DELETED</b> Policy AD	Education Philosophy/School District Mission
Policy Advisory No. 817 Policy GBK	Staff Grievances
Policy Advisory No. 818 Policy JII	Student Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances
Exhibit ACA-E	Sexual Harassment
Policy Advisory No. 815 Policy ACAA	Title IX Sex Discrimination
Regulation ACAA-R	Title IX Sex Discrimination
Policy Advisory No. 816 <b>DELETED</b> Policy AD	Education Philosophy/School District Mission
Policy Advisory No. 817 Policy GBK	Staff Grievances
Policy Advisory No. 818 Policy JII	Student Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances

**UPCOMING EVENTS/CALENDAR REVIEW/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Closing social: May 2, 2025 @ 1:00 p.m.  
Thatcher High School Commons

Next regularly scheduled board meeting: May 8, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.  
District Administrative Center  
3490 West Main Street  
Thatcher, Arizona 85552

Baccalaureate: May 11, 2025 @ 8:00 p.m.

Diploma Presentation: Dr. Gary Sorensen & J. Travis Smith

Thatcher High School Graduation:

May 16, 2025 @ 8:00 p.m.  
EAC John Mickelson Field

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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Dr. Gary Sorensen, President

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Dr. Debbie Chapman, Clerk