

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

Thursday, January 8, 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 Clerk Dr. Debbie Chapman at 5:30 p.m. All board members are present with the exception of Board President Dr. Gary Sorensen and Board Member J. Travis Smith. Pledge of allegiance led by Clay Bowman.

Election of Governing Board Members (President)

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to re-elect Dr. Gary Sorensen as Thatcher Unified Schools Governing Board President.

Second by Kate McCluskey

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Election of Governing Board Members (Clerk)

Motion by Kate McCluskey to re-elect Dr. Debbie Chapman as Thatcher Unified Schools Governing Board Clerk.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of the Agenda dated January 8, 2026

Motion by Susan Hancock to approve the agenda as submitted.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of the Meeting Minutes dated December 9, 2025

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the meeting minutes from December 9, 2025 as submitted.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Summary of Current Events & Activities

- Superintendent Petersen expressed appreciation to the Governing Board as this is National School Board Recognition Month. All in attendance enjoyed cake in celebration.

Call to the Public

N/A

Approval/Ratification of Financial Matters

Motion Kate McCluskey to approve/ratify payroll and expense vouchers dated (December 10, 2025 thru January 8, 2026).

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

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

Motion by Susan Hancock to approve staff changes as submitted.

Classified:

Inclusion Aides:

Erica Crowther/JDPS, Paige Perea/JDPS, Lily Robbins/JDPS, Kasandra Dahl/TMS ISS, Katelyn Cardon/TMS, Alma Estrada/JDPS, Monique Rios/JDPS

Substitutes:	Daniel Richardson, Mary Ellen Quinnan, Krystal Winn
Other:	Breanne Kartchner/Janitorial, Kole Van Shaar/Janitorial
Resignations:	KaSandra Morris/JDPS Inclusion Aide, Hayleigh Mitchell/TMS Inclusion Aide, Savanna Wahl/JDPS Inclusion Aide, Emma Bushman/Janitorial, Stephanie Nickle/JDPS Inclusion Aide
Extra-Curricular:	Game Help: Avery Bingham, Desmond Andrews, Riley Woods
	TMS Track: Megan Finch/Coach, Rachel Allen/Coach
	TMS Softball: Savannah Solberg/Coach
<u>SY 26/27</u> <u>THS Volleyball:</u>	Marcie Lopeman/Head Coach, Karli Layton/Coach, Cassidy Quinlan/Coach, Ellen Robertson/Volunteer
<u>SY 26/27</u> <u>THS X-Cntry:</u>	Eric Haller/Head Coach, Tia Palmer/Assistant, Wesley Pena/Assistant
<u>SY 26/27</u> <u>THS Football:</u>	Dan Jones/Head Coach, Russ Jones/Assistant, Ethan Estes/Assistant, Billy Farris/Assistant, Kody Taylor/Assistant, Michael Romney/Assistant, Will Shill/Volunteer, Cole Motes/Volunteer

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of THS Fundraisers-THS Baseball & THS Softball

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the THS fundraisers as noted.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Discussion by Susan Hancock, Dr. Debbie Chapman & Kate McCluskey. Superintendent Petersen gave clarification.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Discussion of Bond Election-November 2026

Superintendent Petersen briefed the board members as to Thatcher taxes and surrounding areas. Also discussed school facility board and capacity. Discussion to continue on this matter in upcoming months.

Approval of 2026 Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates and Times

Motion by Susan Hancock to approve the 2026 schedule of regular meeting dates and times.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of the Annual Approval and Authorization, General Operating Procedures

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve and authorize general operating procedures-banking and payment procedures.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of Sole Source Vendors

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the sole source vendors.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of Policy DGA Signatories

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve Matt Petersen, Clay Bowman, and Angie Adams as signatories to policy DGA.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of Policy JJF Student Activities Fund

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve Mary Lane as treasurer for student activity accounts to policy JJF.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Authorization to Dispose of District General Fixed Assets

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve and authorize the disposal of district general fixed assets.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of FY 26/27 Academic Calendar

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the FY 26/27 academic calendar.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Discussion by Susan Hancock and Dr. Debbie Chapman. Superintendent Petersen clarified.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Executive Session (pursuant to A.R.S. §15-843(F)(2)(a): Discussion and/or Consideration of Appointing a Hearing Officer: Student Expulsion

Motion by Kate McCluskey to recess into executive session.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Dismissed into executive session at 5:52 p.m.

****EXECUTIVE SESSION****

Motion by Kate McCluskey to reconvene regular session at 5:58 p.m.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Motion by Susan Hancock designating the Thatcher School Board as the hearing officer.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Executive Session (pursuant to A.R.S. §15-843): Discussion and/or Consideration of Student Expulsion

Motion by Kate McCluskey to recess into executive session.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Dismissed into executive session at 5:58 p.m.

****EXECUTIVE SESSION****

Motion by Susan Hancock to reconvene regular session at 6:09 p.m.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Motion by Susan Hancock for expulsion.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS/CALENDAR REVIEW/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next regularly scheduled board meeting:

February 12, 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 6:10 p.m.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

Dr. Gary Sorensen, President

Dr. Debbie Chapman, Clerk