

MINUTES-DRAFT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING-THATCHER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4
Thursday, September 17 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. Pledge of allegiance led by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Approval of the Agenda dated September 17, 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, J. Travis Smith)

Approval of the Meeting Minutes dated August 13, 2026

Motion by Susan Hancock to approve the meeting minutes as submitted.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Summary of Current Events & Activities

Superintendent Petersen advised:

- District Enrollment
 - Jack Daley Primary 425
 - Thatcher Elementary 550
 - Thatcher Middle 284
 - Thatcher High 465
 - Eagle Online Academy 56
 - Dan Hinton 29
 - Total: 1809 Students
- Open enrollment has increased, primarily due to kindergarten enrollment
- Graham County Supervisors Office has cancelled the upcoming school board election
- Proposition 320-Increase of Instructional Spending. Discussion of proposition on upcoming election ballot. Does not impact Thatcher Schools due to population.
- THS Lighting Project
 - Director of Operations Blaine Morris updated the board
 - \$50,000 grant to be utilized

Discussion by board member Susan Hancock. Superintendent Petersen and Blaine Morris gave clarification to the board members.

Call to the Public

- Ryan Conrad

Approval/Ratification of Financial Matters

Motion Kate McCluskey to approve/ratify payroll and expense vouchers dated (August 14, 2026 thru September 17, 2026).

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

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

Motion by Susan Hancock to approve staff changes as submitted.

Classified:	Instructional Aide:	Angelica Gasca/JDPS, Chandler Johnson/TMS ISS
	Inclusion Aide:	Maryanne Moran/TMS, Raymond Landry/TES, Raeann Lee/TES, Emma Lamoreaux/TES, Katrina Whitmire/JDPS, Emily Alvarez Leon/TES
	Substitutes:	Taryn Summers, Allie Frost, Mary Tolin, Julia Fairbanks, Christian Holder, Benjamin Burk, Chandler Johnson, Lauren Miller Viste, Justin Fitzgerald, Kim Pierce, Drew Curley
	Other:	JayAnn Palmer/Substitute Nurse
Transfers:		Cole Innes/Transfer from Full-Time Mechanic to Part-Time Mechanic, Laney Lamoreaux/Transfer from Inclusion Aide from TMS to JDPS
Certified:	Stipends:	Leah Meehl/TMS Athletic Director, Heather Udall/TMS Vocal Music, Phil Oliver/TMS Student Council, Jenni Bryce/CTE Career Counselor, Kim Rhodes/CTE Career Tech
	Mentor Stipends:	Cindy Hatch/JDPS, Shelby Angle/JDPS, Rosalina Clonts/JDPS, Jolee Gutierrez/JDPS, Kylee Nagy/TES, Lisa Hatch/TES, Jenna Gasca/TES, Stephany Apodaca/TES, Dana Jones, TES, Phil Oliver/TMS, Renee Ajeman/TMS, Dave Cluff/THS, Denise Hughes/THS, Melinda Terry/THS, Elaina Estrada/THS, Cindy Rickert/Design Team, Beth Green/Design Team
Resignations:		Denise Budd/TES Inclusion Aide, Christyn Lee/TES Inclusion Aide, Sheri Thomas/JDPS Inclusion Aide, Cynthia Payne/JDPS Instructional Aide, Janae Jones/Spee-D-Eagle Assistant
Extra-Curricular:	TMS X Cntry:	Lindsey Nelson/Coach, Shawn Nelson/Volunteer
	TMS FBall:	Ramon Morales/Coach
	THS Boys BBall:	Nick Elkins/JV Coach, Chad Smith/Froshman Coach, Russell Carter/Volunteer, Kenny Smith/Volunteer
	THS FBall:	Leo Christensen/Volunteer, Michael Carter/Volunteer
	THS Wrestling:	Gabriel Jaurigue/Coach, Tracy Dodson/Volunteer
	THS Volleyball:	Maci Bloomfield/Volunteer, Olivia Lunt, Volunteer, Rachel Bingham/Volunteer, Shaka Seale/Volunteer, Ashtyn Ochoa/Volunteer, Macee Bingham/Volunteer
	THS Band:	Christopher Nidiffer/Volunteer
	Game Help:	Quinton Youngker, Esther Romero, Angie Polley, Rebekah Pease, Alvin Summers, Randy Conrad, Melinda Terry, Nathan Smith, Brett Jones, Cody Jones, Brandon Udall, Chris Cook, Sam Gomez, Dakota Casillas, Leah Meehl, Marcia Lopeman, Stephen Walden, Kyle Hull, Dan Jones, Maya Martinez, Declan Carlton, Shaylee Hughes
	Trainers:	Jory Gallegos, Eliza Wilson

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of THS Band/Orchestra Fundraiser

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the THS Band/Orchestra Fundraiser.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of THS Choir Fundraiser

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the THS Choir Fundraiser.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of THS National Honor Society Fundraiser

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the THS National Honor Society Fundraiser.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of TMS Choir & Theater Fundraiser

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the TMS Choir & Theater Fundraiser.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval to Update Dual Enrollment IGA Addendum for 2026-2029

Motion by J. Travis Smith to approve to update the Dual Enrollment IGA Addendum for 2026-2029.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of ASBA Policy Advisories 1047-1064—SECOND 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

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

Discussion by all board members. Superintendent Petersen and building principals gave clarification.

Board Member J. Travis Smith wish to express appreciation to THS Cross County Team and bus driver for assisting the Safford Team while broken down on the way home from an event.

UPCOMING EVENTS/CALENDAR REVIEW/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next regularly scheduled board meeting	October 6, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m. District Administrative Center 3490 West Main Street Thatcher, Arizona 85552
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Graham-Greenlee County ASBA Workshop	October 28, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m. Pima High School Pima, Arizona
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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, motion by J. Travis Smith to adjourn at 6:10 p.m.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.