

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

Thursday, March 13, 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. Pledge of allegiance led by Board President, Dr. Gary Sorensen.

Approval of the Agenda dated March 13, 2025

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

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes dated February 26, 2025

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the special meeting minutes from February 26, 2025 as submitted.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

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-

- Enrollment to date:
 - JDPS: 429 last year 437
 - TES: 541 last year 532
 - TMS: 264 last year 293
 - THS: 486 last year 489
 - EOA: 62 last year 64
 - Total: 1782 last year 1815
- Staff recognition:
 - Maintenance Department for the continued attention to the grounds district wide
- 25/26 Open enrollment is currently open
- Upcoming District Projects
 - Transportation road-to be completed during Spring Break
 - THS track to begin in April
 - TMS lights-on going
 - Testing to begin after Spring Break
 - Teacher contracts will be available March 25, 2025-15 business days to return

Call to the Public

N/A

Approval/Ratification of Financial Matters

Motion by J. Travis Smith to approve/ratify payroll and expense vouchers dated (February 14, 2025 thru March 13, 2025).

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Susan Hancock, Kate McCluskey, J. Travis Smith, 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:	Bridgette Mennen/TMS ISS Aide, Mary Apodaca/Bus Driver
Resignations/ Retirement:	Becky Woodside/TMS Special Education Teacher, Teresa Boren/TES 3 rd Grade Teacher, Callie Ruiz/THS ELA Teacher, Tracy Brown/THS Vocal Music
Transfers:	KaSandra Morris/transfer from TMS ISS Aide to TMS Inclusion Aide
Extra-Curricular:	TMS Game Help: Bradyn Willey/Wrestling Referee
	TMS Track: Seth Carlsen/Coach, Granger Moffett/Volunteer
	THS Track: Jessie Green/Volunteer
THS Softball:	Kamia Arbizo/Volunteer, Sara Bingham/Volunteer

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion by Dr. Gary Sorensen

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Fundraiser-THS Spiritline

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the THS Spiritline summer fundraiser.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Fundraiser-THS Baseball

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the THS Baseball fundraiser.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of Salary Increases (Certified Teaching Staff & Administrative/Support Staff)

Presentation by Superintendent Petersen of salary increases for certified teaching staff & administrative/support staff for SY25/26.

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the salary increases for certified teaching staff of 4%, administrative and support staff of 2%.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion by Dr. Debbie Chapman and Dr. Gary Sorensen

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of Salary Schedules for SY25/26

Presentation by Superintendent Petersen.

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the certified, administrative and support staff salary schedules for SY25/26.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion by Dr. Debbie Chapman & Dr. Gary Sorensen.

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 J. Travis Smith to approve the district covering the 5.8% increase of health insurance for full time employees, district contribution of \$2600.00 for employee HSA benefits and district contribution of \$2500.00 for employee insurance opt-out.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval/Request to Waive Facility Fee's for Pioneer Days on 07/19/25

Mr. Palmer/applicant addressed the Governing Board.

Motion by J. Travis Smith to allow Superintendent Petersen to work with applicant and accordance to policy, adjust facility fees as needed.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Discussion by J. Travis Smith, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen and Superintendent Petersen.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

Approval of the Evaluation of Superintendent for Awarding of Performance Pay

(Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431-03(A)(1) to discuss or consider the employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of Superintendent)

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to adjourn into executive session.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Dismissed into executive session at 6:09 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Kate McCluskey to reconvene regular session at 6:55 p.m.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Motion by J. Travis Smith to award performance pay to Superintendent Petersen.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS/CALENDAR REVIEW/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next regularly scheduled board meeting:

April 10, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.
District Administrative Center
3490 West Main Street
Thatcher, Arizona 85552

District Closing Social

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to adjourn at 6:56 p.m.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

Dr. Gary Sorensen, President

Dr. Debbie Chapman, Clerk