

**MINUTES-DRAFT**  
**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING-THATCHER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4**  
**Thursday, September 12, 2024 5:30 p.m.**  
**District Administrative Center, 3490 West Main Street, Thatcher, Arizona**

*Dr. Gary Sorensen, President*  
*Kate McCluskey, Member*

*Dr. Debbie Chapman, Clerk*  
*Kenny Smith, 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 Member, J. Travis Smith.

**Approval of the Agenda and Minutes of August 8, 2024**

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

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Summary of Current Events & Activities**

Superintendent Petersen advises-

- Enrollment to date:
  - JDPS 417, last year 429
  - TES 550, last year 538
  - TMS 272, last year 300
  - THS 518, last year 517
  - EOA 48, last year 40
  - Total: 1805, last year 1824
- Second month of new teacher training. Good attendance. Six more rotations to be completed.
- Recognition to staff members Beth Green, Cindy Rickert and Angie Adams for their amazing organization and making this training possible to new teachers.

**Call to the Public**

N/A

**Approval/Ratification of Financial Matters**

Motion by Dr. Kenny Smith to approve/ratify payroll and expense vouchers dated (August 9, 2024 thru September 12, 2024) & budget balance reports ending (August 30, 2024).

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Discussion: Board member J. Travis Smith asked for clarification as to the expenditure report. Director of Business Clay Bowman and Superintendent Petersen gave clarification of the information requested.

Voted, passed.

(Ayes: Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Kenny Smith, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

(Nay: J. Travis Smith)

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

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

Classified:	Harmony Fairchild/JDPS Self Contained Inclusion Aide, McKenna Griffiths/JDPS Inclusion Aide, Amie Browning/TES Inclusion Aide, Kayden Duffin/TES Inclusion Aide, Kylie McPherson/TMS Inclusion Aide, Mary Black/TMS Inclusion Aide, Anastassiya Ionova/JDPS Inclusion Aide, Sadie Viera/TES Inclusion Aide, Joanna Stone/Janitorial
Transfers:	Jessica Keller transfer from TMS Inclusion Aide to THS ISS Clerk, Machel Jones-transfer from Part Time Clerical Aide at TES to Full Time Clerical Aide at TES, Jennifer Workman/transfer from JDPS Instructional Aide to JDPS Librarian Clerk Aide
Certified:	David Cluff/FCCLA Advisor, Tracy Dodson/SKILLS USA Advisor, Chris Cook/HOSA Advisor, Maya Martinez/FBLA Advisor, Katie Udall/Part-Time EOA Teacher, Melinda Terry/Knowledge Bowl Coach for SY24/25

IEP Writing Stipend:	Morgan Matthews, Ashtyn Ochoa, Alexis Glazier, Stacy Morris, Melissa Price, Yadira Fierro, Dana Jones, Shannon Rapier, Ashley French, Lynaya Sanders, Becky Woodside
GIFT/GATE Teacher:	Layla Tadlock
Resignations:	Desiree Schnell/JDPS Librarian Clerk, Bryan Ruland/JDPS Inclusion Aide
Extra-Curricular:	THS Trainer: Steve Orme/Trainer, Jory Gallegos/Trainer
TMS &THS Game Help:	Jason Gherna, Melinda Terry, Gianna Villegas, Jaylen Jurado, Taylor Christensen, Phil Oliver, Sophia Welker, Missy Windsor, Lydia Molina

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

#### **Fundraisers-TMS Choir Performance and Dinner 09/30/2024**

Motion by Kenny Smith to approve the TMS Choir Fundraiser-Performance and Dinner on 09/30/2024.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

#### **Approval of Facility Usage-Families Fighting Cancer Together November 8-9, 2024**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the facility usage for Families Fighting Cancer Together for their fundraising event on November 8-9, 2024.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion: J. Travis Smith reiterated that the facility usage would be of no charge but should cleanup be required, the organization will be invoiced. Board members and Superintendent all in agreement.

Voted, passed, unanimous

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

#### **Approval of FY25 Capital Plan to Arizona School Facilities Board**

Motion by Kenny Smith to approve the FY25 Capital Plan to Arizona School Facilities Board.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Discussion: Superintendent Petersen gave clarification as to ADM and capacity.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

#### **Approval of 24/25 Performance Pay Distribution Plan**

Motion by Dr. Gary Sorensen to approve the 24/25 Performance Pay Distribution Plan for teachers, counselors, administrative and support staff.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

#### **Approval of 24/25 Professional Growth Plan**

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the 24/25 Professional Growth Plan for teachers, counselors, administrative and support staff.

Second by Kenny Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

#### **Approval of IGA Addendum with EAC for Dual Credit Classes 2023-2026**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the IGA addendum with EAC for dual credit classes for 2023-2026.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Discussion: Board Member Kate McCluskey requested clarification as to the gift program, dual enrollment and high school teachers teaching the college course. Superintendent Petersen gave clarification. Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Approval of Out of State Travel 09/21/24-THS Band to Las Cruces, NM**

Motion by Dr. Gary Sorensen to approve out of state travel-THS Band to Las Cruces, NM on 09/21/2024. Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Approval to Grant Early Graduation for Eagle Online Students K.F. & J.W.**

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the early graduation of two Eagle Online students K.F. and J.W. Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Discussion/Information Instructional Time Model-THS Senior Seminar—FIRST READING—**

Dr. Gary Sorensen verified the information was provided in the board packet. Will continue to review in preparation for the next board meeting.

**Discussion/Information ASBA Policy Advisories 788-800—FIRST READING—**

Dr. Gary Sorensen verified the information was provided in the board packet. Will continue to review in preparation for the next board meeting.

Policy Advisory No. 788 Policy ACA	Sexual Harassment
Policy Advisory No. 789 Policy ACAA	Title IX Sex Discrimination Sexual Harassment
Regulation ACAA-R	Title IX Sex Discrimination Sexual Harassment
Policy Advisory No. 790 Policy GBK	Staff Grievances
Policy Advisory No. 791 Policy JII	Student Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances
Policy Advisory No. 792 Policy BBBA	Board Member Qualifications
Policy Advisory No. 793 Policy GCF	Professional Staff Hiring
Policy Advisory No. 794 Policy GDF	Support Staff Hiring
Policy Advisory No. 795 Policy IHA	Basic Instructional Program
Policy Advisory No. 796 Policy IKF	Graduation Requirements
Policy Advisory No. 797 Policy JFABC	Admission of Transfer Students
Policy Advisory No. 798 Policy JFB	Open Enrollment
Regulation JFB-R	Open Enrollment
Policy Advisory No. 799 Policy JHD	Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
Regulation JHD-R	Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
Exhibit JHD-EA	Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
Exhibit JHD-EB	Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
Policy Advisory No. 800	
Regulation JLCD-R	Medicines / Administering Medicines to Students

**Approval of Superintendent's Evaluation and 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 Kenny Smith to dismiss into executive session.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Dismissed into executive session at 5:49 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman reconvene regular session at 6:22 p.m.

Second by Dr. Gary Sorensen.

Motion by Kenny Smith to approve the Superintendent's evaluation and award performance pay.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

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

Next regularly scheduled board meeting:

October 10, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.  
District Administrative Center  
3490 West Main Street  
Thatcher, Arizona 85552

Graham County ASBA Workshop

October 21, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.  
David M. Player Center for the Arts

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, motion by Dr. Gary Sorensen to adjourn at 6:24 p.m.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

---

Dr. Gary Sorensen, President

---

Dr. Debbie Chapman, Clerk