

# MINUTES

## GOVERNING BOARD MEETING-THATCHER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4

Thursday, April 11, 2024 5:30 p.m.

District Administrative Center, 3490 West Main Street, Thatcher, Arizona

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

*Jenni Bryce, Clerk*  
*Kenny Smith, Member*

*Dr. Debbie Chapman, 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 Board Member, Kenny Smith. Pledge of allegiance led by Board President, Dr. Gary Sorensen.

### **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes of March 14, 2024**

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the agenda and minutes as submitted.

Second by Jenni Bryce.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

### **Summary of Current Events & Activities**

Superintendent Matt Petersen advised-

- Staff Recognition-
  - Graham County Youth Advocates presented to the Governing Board in hopes of providing anti-vape kits to all middle schools in Graham County. They educated the board as to the struggles of vaping and how the anti-vape kits can assist in cravings.
  - THS Skills USA, Advisor Mr. Dodson and students attended the Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The students provided a demonstration of a styrofoam cutting proto type machine they invented. Students explained the importance of preparing for the work force.
- Current District Wide Enrollment
  - JDPS 438, 427 last year
  - TES 529, 537 last year
  - TMS 292, 282 last year
  - THS 490, 536 last year
  - EOA 67, last year 37
  - Total 1816, last year 1819
- Teacher contracts have been issued, due 04/23/24
- Closing Social 05/03/24 at the THS Commons

### **Call to the Public**

N/A

### **Approval/Ratification of Financial Matters**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve/ratify payroll and expense vouchers dated (March 15, 2024 thru April 11, 2024) & budget balance reports ending (March 31, 2024).

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

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

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve staff changes as submitted.

Classified: Aaron Abril/Janitorial, Kaden Lines/General Maintenance-Grounds, Sheri Thomas/ESY Inclusion Aide, Mia Gallosa/ESY Inclusion Aide

Certified: Stacy Morris/ESY Summer Teacher, SY24/25 Rhyanna Mennen/THS Mathematics Teacher, SY24/25 Garrett Stanlick/TMS Social Studies Teacher, SY24/25 Anthony Vincent/ES Assistant Principal-District Safety Coordinator

Transfers:	SY 24/25 Leah Meehl/Art-PE Teacher to TMS Dean of Students, SY 24/25 Ahlora Lawson/Instructional Aide to JDPS 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher
Resignations:	Clint Draper/TMS Inclusion Aide, Braydee Sanders/TMS 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher, Shelby Angle/JDPS 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, Kayla Roderick/JDPS 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, Kaydee Webster/TES 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Rebecca Romero/TES 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, Marissa Hunt/JDPS TK-Preschool Inclusion Aide, Jadey Skinner/JDPS Instructional Aide, Victoria Fritz/TES Inclusion Aide
Extra-Curricular:	Game Help: Brynzee Hanson/TMS Softball Umpire
	THS Volleyball: Marcie Lopeman/Head Coach, Ashtyn Ochoa/JV Coach, Raynee Norton/Freshman Coach, Ellen Robertson/Volunteer
	THS Boys BBall: Kyle Hull/Head Coach, Brandon Duncan/JV Coach, Russell Carter/Freshman Coach, Nick Elkins/Volunteer
	THS Cross Ctry: Chris Cook/Head Coach, Eric Haller/Assistant Coach, Tia Palmer/Assistant Coach, Wesley Pena/Volunteer
	THS Girls BBall: Elaina Estrada/Head Coach, Crandall Aaron/JV Coach, Wayne Nelson/Volunteer, Glen Orr/Volunteer, Melissa Vise/Volunteer, Brandon Lunt/Volunteer
ESI-Participation:	Amy Boltinghouse/TMS

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

### **Fundraisers**

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve multiple fundraising projects/events as listed:

- THS Girls & Boys Basketball-youth camps 07/08/2024-07/10/2024
- THS Volleyball-Youth volleyball camps 05/21/2024-05/22/2024
- THS Volleyball-concessions during July 24, 2024 celebration

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

### **Approval of Classified Salary Schedules**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the salary schedules of classified staff.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion: Superintendent Petersen provided the Governing Board with the proposed classified schedule that shows a 5% increase plus movement. Mr. Petersen indicated to the Governing Board he wishes to take care of his staff and by doing so is recommending a 5% increase and re-classification to select employee groups for SY24/25 as indicated.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

### **Approval of Classified Increases of 5% plus movement of select employee groups for SY24/25**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve a 5% increase to classified staff plus movement of select employee groups for SY24/25.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Discussion: Superintendent Petersen provided the Governing Board with the proposed classified schedule that shows a 5% increase plus movement. Mr. Petersen indicated to the Governing Board he wishes to take care of his staff and by doing so is recommending a 5% increase and re-classification to select employee groups for SY24/25 as indicated.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

### **Approval of SY24/25 Updated Certified Salary Schedule**

Motion by Jenni Bryce to approve the updated certified salary schedule for SY24/25.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Discussion: Superintendent Petersen advised it was discovered an adjustment to the index was necessary. A few teachers were affected by the bottoming of the schedule. These teachers' years of experience range from nine to thirty-one years. Superintendent Petersen also made record that he encourages movement based on educational credits but also wishes to take care of his staff. New contracts will be issued to those affected by the discovery. Teachers will receive the entire 6% raise that was board approved in March 2024.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

**Approval of Continuation of ASBAIT for Employee Insurance Benefits with 12.7% Increase for SY24/25**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve continuation of ASBAIT employee insurance benefits to reflect the 12.7% increase for SY24/25.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

**Approval of General Statement of Assurances-Lower Tier Transactions**

Motion by Dr. Gary Sorensen to approve the general statement of assurances-lower tier transactions.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

**Approval of the Annual Audit Report (roll-call vote)**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the annual audit report.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Roll-Call: Jenni Bryce-aye, Dr. Debbie Chapman-aye, Kate McCluskey-aye, Dr. Gary Sorensen-aye)

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

**Approval of Baccalaureate Speaker Dr. Scott Sellers**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the baccalaureate speaker Dr. Scott Sellers.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

**Approval of New ASBA Policy Advisories 763-786-SECOND READING**

Motion by Dr. Gary Sorensen to approve the new ASBA policy advisories 763-786 as listed.

Policy Advisory No. 763	Policy BEDB--Agenda
Policy Advisory No. 764	Regulation BGC-R Policy Revision and Review
Policy Advisory No. 765	Policy BGE--Policy Communication/Feedback
	Regulation BGE-R Policy Communication/Feedback
Policy Advisory No. 766	Regulation CCB-R Line and Staff Relations
Policy Advisory No. 767	Policy CFD--School-Based Management
Policy Advisory No. 768	Regulation EB-R--Environmental and Safety Program
Policy Advisory No. 769	Policy EBAA--Reporting of Hazards/Warning Systems
Policy Advisory No. 770	Policy EBC--Emergencies
Policy Advisory No. 771	Policy ECB--Building and Grounds Maintenance
Policy Advisory No. 772	Policy EEAA--Walkers and Riders
Policy Advisory No. 773	Regulation EEAE-R--Bus Safety Program
Policy Advisory No. 774	Policy GBEF--Staff Use of Digital Communications and Electronic Devices
Policy Advisory No. 775	Policy GDC--Support Staff Leaves and Absences (Removal/Reference Only)
Policy Advisory No. 776	Policy IHA--Basic Instructional Program
Policy Advisory No. 777	Policy IKA--Graduation Requirements
Policy Advisory No. 778	Policy IMA--Teaching Methods
	Regulation IMA-R--Teaching Methods
Policy Advisory No. 779	Policy JFABDA--Admission of Students in Foster Care
Policy Advisory No. 780	Policy JH--Student Absences and Excuses
Policy Advisory No. 781	Regulation JHD--Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
Policy Advisory No. 782	Regulation JIH--Student Interrogations, Searches, and Arrests

Policy Advisory No. 783  
Policy Advisory No. 784  
Policy Advisory No. 785  
Policy Advisory No. 786

Policy JJE--Student Fund-Raising Activities  
Exhibit JK-EA--Student Discipline  
Exhibit KB-EB--Parental Involvement in Education  
Policy KEC--Public Concerns/Complaints About Instructional Resources

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

**Approval of Early Graduation for A.C.**

Motion by Kate McCluskey to approve the early graduation of Eagle Online student A.C.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Discussion: Governing Board congratulated the student for his hard work and early graduation request from our Eagle Online Academy. (Student was not present)

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

**Approval of Dual Enrollment Incentive Instructor Stipend**

Motion by Dr. Gary Sorensen to approve the dual enrollment incentive instructor stipend.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes: Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

**Approval & Renewal of Superintendent's Contract**

*(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 Kate McCluskey to adjourn into executive session.

Second by Jenni Bryce.

Dismissed into executive session at 6:04 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Dr. Gary Sorensen to reconvene regular session at 6:25 p.m.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve Superintendent Petersen's contract.

Second by Kate McCluskey.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

(Ayes, Jenni Bryce, Dr. Debbie Chapman, Kate McCluskey, Dr. Gary Sorensen)

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

Closing Social: May 3, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m.  
THS Commons

Next regularly scheduled board meeting: May 9, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.  
District Administrative Center  
3490 West Main Street  
Thatcher, Arizona 85552

Baccalaureate: May 12, 2024 @ 8:00 p.m.  
EAC Fine Arts Auditorium

Graduation May 17, 2024 @ 8:00 p.m.  
EAC John Mickelson Field

Diploma Presentation: Dr. Debbie Chapman & Kenny Smith

Dr. Sorensen wished to welcome our new Assistant Principal grades 3-6 Anthony Vincent. Mr. Vincent was present with his family.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, motion by Dr. Gary Sorensen to adjourn at 6:28 p.m.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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Dr. Gary Sorensen, President

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Mrs. Jenni Bryce, Clerk