

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

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**Tuesday, March 10, 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 President Dr. Gary Sorensen at 5:30 p.m. All board members are present. Pledge of allegiance led by Dr. Gary Sorensen.

**Approval of the Agenda dated March 10, 2026**

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

Second by Susan Hancock.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes dated February 10, 2026**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to approve the meeting minutes from February 10, 2026 as submitted.

Second by Susan Hancock.

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:
  - Love of Reading presentations by JDPS Principal Lin Gifford and TES Principal Michelle Ferrin
  - Current enrollment
    - JDPS                    404
    - TES                     538
    - TMS                    265
    - THS                    503
    - EOA                    64
    - Total:                 1771    Last year:         1782
  - Kindergarten enrollment opened March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Spring sports has begun and in full swing
  - District Annual Audit recently finalized, awaiting results
  - DPS Fingerprint Audit has been completed. Policy and procedures were updated per audit findings
  - Testing will begin after Spring Break
  - Board packets are available at the General Services Building, election November 2026

**Call to the Public**

N/A

**Approval/Ratification of Financial Matters**

Motion Susan Hancock to approve/ratify payroll and expense vouchers dated (February 11, 2026 thru March 10, 2026).

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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



**Discussion/Possible Action of Continued Discussion of Bond 2026**

Motion by J. Travis Smith for continued discussion of the possible bond for November 2026 election.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Discussion and presentation at length by Superintendent Petersen, board members and members of the gallery. Continued discussion at upcoming meeting.

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 J. Travis Smith to adjourn into executive session.

Second by Susan Hancock.

Dismissed into executive session at 7:04 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Dr. Debbie Chapman to reconvene regular session at 7:39 p.m.

Second by J. Travis Smith.

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**

Work Study RE: Bond 2026

March 24, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.  
District Administrative Center  
3490 West Main Street  
Thatcher, Arizona 85552

Next regularly scheduled board meeting:

April 7, 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 Dr. Gary Sorensen to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

Second by Dr. Debbie Chapman.

Voted, passed, unanimous.

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Dr. Gary Sorensen, President

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Dr. Debbie Chapman, Clerk