

The BOARDER



A Summary Report of the December 10, 2024, CFSD Governing Board Meeting



Super Volunteer Recognition

The governing board recognized Angela Jackson for her commitment to the Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS) sports programs and the CFSD learning community. Ms. Jackson was nominated by CFHS Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Charles Pierce. Ms. Jackson's support of the football program consists of organizing game day nutrition and hydration, away game meals, senior night, picture day, snack bar volunteers, Lift-A-Thon fundraisers, and her willingness to pitch in when needed, including obtaining a last-minute permit for a high school event, exemplifies the part of our CFSD mission that underscores the importance of a "caring and collaborative learning community." Mr. Pierce reflected on the commitment Ms. Jackson has for the students and thanked all booster club members for their continued support during his first year as athletic director. Ms. Jackson graciously accepted the super volunteer recognition on behalf of all booster club members, who work together like a family to support the students of our extracurricular programs. She was joined by her son CFHS Senior Aiden Jackson and was presented with a certificate and key chain.

CFSD STAR Award

The governing board recognized the CFHS Girls Swim and Dive Division II State Championship team Gwen Alviar, Annika Barg, Maddie Carney, Skyler Finical, Izzy Geiger, Viri Henikman, Amber Janky, Lilian Li, Shay Pittner, Catelyn Reed, Mia Reidy, Sophie Roos, Annalise Runyon, Ruby Smith, Wren Smith, Leila Stafford, Zoey Switzer, Connolly

Taylor, and Courtney Tong, and their coach, Tamara Brandhuber, Division II Coach of the Year.

Board member Doug Hadley reflected upon the team's remarkable performance at the Division II finals, noting each team members' contribution to the effort to earn the state championship. The CFHS Girls Swim and Dive team ended a ten-year drought since the high school's last Swim & Dive Division II state title in the 2014-2015 school year. Each team member and their coach were presented with a certificate and a pin.



Outstanding Achievements

Superintendent Denise Bartlett shared the following student and staff achievements:

HOBY Nominees

Each year, the Catalina Foothills High School counseling department can select sophomores to participate in the prestigious Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Seminar. This program is dedicated to training and nurturing the young leaders, empowering them to explore their potential and develop into effective leaders. This year, we are pleased to announce the nomination of seven outstanding sophomores who will represent Catalina Foothills High School at this summer's HOBY Leadership Seminar: Annelise Kohut, Jameson Leary, Ezra Mandel, Jules Manger, Madison McCoy, Soleil Sakali, and Jane Volk.

All State Jazz Choir

Congratulations to Catalina Foothills High School Senior Zach Pittner for being selected to sing as one of twenty

voices, in the Arizona All-State Jazz Clinic Choir under the direction of Dr. Craig Peterson. The choir spent three days preparing for their set of advanced vocal jazz literature, including arrangements of “Everybody Wants to Rule the World” by Tears for Fears, and “Getting to Know You” by Rogers and Hammerstein.

ECMS Choir

We are proud to celebrate the exceptional achievements of 15 talented Esperero Canyon Middle School students who were selected to participate in the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) statewide Cantaremos Honor Choirs. This event was held at Camelback High School in Phoenix on Saturday, November 23rd. There were thirteen students in the 7th-9th grade soprano I, soprano II, and alto (SSA) Honor Choir and two students in the 5th-6th grade Honor Choir. The following students earned their places through competitive auditions:

7-9 Grade Treble SSA Honor Choir: Savanna Arzate, Lyra Boyd, Scarlett Braun, Sylvia Garbarino, Abigail Gordon, Rayla Mekkelsen, Emma Moseke, Emma McNulty, Gwen Seppala, Elizabeth Sinclair, Cecilia Suarez, Elena Suarez, and Elise Woolley

5-6 Grade Honor Choir: Andrew Moseke and Lucy Rao

These students spent the day rehearsing and performing alongside other outstanding young singers from across the state, guided by choral educators. Mrs. Julia Higgins is the choir director of Esperero Canyon Middle School.

We also congratulate Catalina Foothills High School Choir Director Jeffrey Evans, who served as the clinician and conductor for this year’s state Tenor/Bass Honor Choir. Congratulations to these students, their families, Mrs. Higgins, and Mr. Evans.

FIRST® Lego Robotics

Catalina Foothills School District (CFSD) was proud to host our first Tucson Regional FIRST® Lego League (FLL) tournament this year at Orange Grove Middle School on Saturday, December 8. All eight CFSD Community Schools teams, comprised of elementary and middle school students, performed exceptionally well, with six teams advancing to The Arizona FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Challenge State Championship, scheduled for January 18, 2025, at Arizona State University’s Memorial Union in Tempe, Arizona.

24-25 FLL Teams and Awards

Champions Award – Team 5155 Reef Rangers: Sophia Barrios, Emily Fink, Isadora Friedman, Damon Hayden, Lucas Rodriguez, Lily Ruiz, Mikey Stefano, Andrew Trombetta, and Gigi Trombetta.

Engineering Excellence Award – Team 5158 Partners for Life: Sebastian Bonomolo, Lucas Byrne, Noah Chavez, Ethan Luo, Graham Martin, Kason Strunk, and Brenden Sult.

Breakthrough Award – Team 5151 Marine Micro Masters: Isha Bandopadhyay, Luke Danilowitz, Turner Jason, Malcolm Milhorn, Dylan Pan, Amelie Puell, Richelle Yang, and Yihan Yang.

Motivate Award – Team 5153 Illuminators: Ellie Bao, Rebecca Black, Jacob Colman, Sylvia Goldstein, Kaeli Greer, Brooke Miller, Gideon Singerman, and Liam Wilhelm.

Innovation Project Award – Team 5152 Barbaric Blooms: Ben Barlow, Blake Brasfield, Lilly Candlish, Connor Flaherty, Natasha Jain, Mara Janjić, Claire Varden, and Colin Wilhelm.

Core Values Award – Team 5154 Tellers of the Propellers: Cyrus Candlish, Ezra Coan, Landry Henderson, Henry Kiser, Beckett Latcham, Brooks Matchett, Ava Moore, Stella Obler, and Ezra Rottenstein.

2nd Place Robot Performance - Team 5156 N20 Laughing Matter: David Bui, Max Hao, Kodi Iatarola Nicholas Huttenhoff, Peter Nathalong, Everett Olson, and Jonathan Parsons.

5th Place Robot Performance - Team 27725 Foramula 1: Josie Lowrie, Otis Newheim, Ridley Newheim, Elise Peterson, Aaheli Shil, Jackson Smith, Maxwell Tritz, and Melody Yu.

The tournament’s success was made possible by the leadership of current and former FLL and CFHS Pioneer Robotics students. CFHS student Christian Pierson received the outstanding Mentor Award, nominated by the teams he worked with throughout the season. CFSD community member Justine Annucci-Bonomolo and Foothills grad Nik Gruber co-directed the tournament, and Orange Grove Middle School Principal Mark Rubin-Toles warmly welcomed teams and guests to OGMS.

Executive Session

The governing board held an executive session for legal advice, confidential records, and the mid-year performance review of Superintendent Bartlett.

Consideration of Proposed Arizona School Board Association (ASBA) Bylaws

President Eileen Jackson presented the ASBA’s bylaw proposal to enhance governance practices within ASBA. Updates were designed to improve transparency, accountability, and member engagement, ensuring ASBA continues to operate with the highest standards of integrity and effectiveness. Board members reviewed the summary of changes to the bylaws provided by ASBA. The governing board approved the ASBA Bylaws, as presented. The governing board approved Amie Sams as its designee to cast the governing board’s vote online regarding the ASBA bylaw, as presented.

Consideration of Revisions to Policy IMG and Regulation IMG-R, Animals in Schools (first reading)

Superintendent Bartlett presented updates to the policy and regulation to clarify language based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In the policy, the term service animal was included as an animal that is permitted on school buses. The definition of service animal was updated, and language was added regarding the need for the service animal to always be under the control of the handler. In the regulation, language was added regarding the required documentation to be provided to the principal before the approval of any service animal or non-service animal in the classroom, including vaccination history, proof of current licensure, proof that the animal has been spayed or neutered, proof of treatment for fleas and ticks, and current certificate from a veterinarian that the animal is healthy and disease free. Additional language to the guidelines section of the regulation was also proposed to ensure animals are not transported in District vehicles without written authorization; classrooms are kept clean and free of any animal waste; staff members adhere to local, state, and federal laws, and to the District policies and regulations regarding service animals; and the liability of the owner of the service animal for any damage to District or personal property and injuries caused by the owner’s animal while on District property. The governing board will review the policy and regulation again on January 14.

Approval of Resolutions Recognizing the Outstanding Service of Board Members Doug Hadley and Carole Siegler

The governing board unanimously approved the resolutions recognizing board members Doug Hadley and Carole Siegler as their terms of governing board service end December 31, 2024. Vice President Amy Krauss read each resolution and board members expressed their gratitude for the service provided to the students, families, and the community of the Catalina Foothills School District by Mr. Hadley and Ms. Siegler during their time on the governing board.



Mr. Hadley has served with distinction for two terms, constituting eight years of uninterrupted service, dedicating

countless hours to attending meetings, engaging with the community, and addressing the needs of students and families, while acting with integrity, fairness, professionalism, and in a collaborative spirit, with a focus on the best interests of students. Mr. Hadley has been instrumental in sustaining the district’s robust curriculum and supporting the implementation of new academic programs, demonstrating a special interest in athletics and Career and Technical Education, while remaining committed to retaining high-quality educators. He has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the academic success, well-being, and future of all students in the Catalina Foothills School District and has worked for the betterment of its faculty, staff, and community at large.



Ms. Siegler who previously served with distinction on the governing board for twenty-six years of uninterrupted service through December 2022 and further demonstrated her unwavering commitment to the Catalina Foothills School District by serving again after the tragic passing of the governing board’s colleague Amy Bhola. Ms. Siegler showed exceptional compassion during a difficult time for the Catalina Foothills School District community. She assumed this role with grace and commitment, honoring the legacy of Ms. Bhola while ensuring continuity in governance and support for district students and families.

Mr. Hadley and Ms. Siegler were given a copy of their signed resolution, and a copy will be placed in the official records of the Catalina Foothills School District.

Fiscal Year 2026 Draft Budget Process

Superintendent Bartlett outlined the timeline for the fiscal year 2026 draft budget process, which culminates in the governing board’s adoption of a 2026 budget by July 15, 2025.

2024 Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity

There was no discussion.

Consent Agenda Items

The governing board approved the following consent agenda items:

- November 25, 2024, regular governing board meeting minutes
- Expense voucher memorandum
- Field trip request memorandum

- Personnel memorandum
- Gifts and donation memorandum
- School Facilities Division Award to Tolin Mechanical for the Replacement of an Air Conditioner Unit at Manzanita Elementary School in the amount of \$28,124

Upcoming Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled governing board meeting is **Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 6:30 p.m., at the Carole Siegler Boardroom at Valley View Early Learning Center. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.** Topics on the January 14 agenda include:

- Outstanding Achievements
- CFSD Star Award
- CFSD Foundation Semi-Annual Gift to the District
- Election of Governing Board President and Vice-President
- Approval of Revisions to Policy IMG and Regulation IMG-R, *Animals in Schools* (second reading)
- Consideration of Changes to High School Courses and Programs for 2025-2026 (first reading)
- CFSD Assessment Program K-8 Report
- Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) New Board Member Orientation Report (December 18, 2024)
- ASBA – Arizona School Administrators (ASA) Annual Conference Report (December 19-20, 2024)



Please welcome new CFSD staff members!

Lori Cole, Classified Instructor-Biotechnology, CFHS
Collin Dylia, Classified Instructor-PE & Health, CFHS
Maria Gutierrez Vega, School Secretary, ECMS
Lily Suter, CARE Activity Leader, CVES