

The BOARDER



A Summary Report of the January 28, 2025, CFSD Governing Board Meeting



Super Volunteer Recognition

The governing board recognized Jody Ponzo for her dedication to the Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS) learning community. Ms. Ponzo has served as the CFHS Family Faculty Organization (FFO) President for the past two years. Board Member Tom Logue shared insights about her unique background, as both a parent and an educator, which has made her a very effective FFO leader. Ms. Ponzo leads a team of ten other parent volunteers, each of whom chairs a subcommittee within the FFO. She creates agendas and runs both the executive committee and the regular FFO meetings. Ms. Ponzo oversees the planning and execution of major high school events throughout the school year, such as Fall Fling, Grad night, staff appreciation meals, parent outreach during Fall and Spring open houses, and merchandise sales at major school events. She is an advocate and a champion for both CFHS and the Catalina Foothills School District.

CFHS Principal Chris Lambert thanked Ms. Ponzo for her support during his first year in his new role at the high school, adding that her experience in education, sense of humor, energy, and joy have made his first year as the principal much easier. Board members also expressed their appreciation to Ms. Ponzo and her family members in the audience. She was presented with a certificate and a key chain.

Approval of Revisions to Policy KI and Regulation KI-R, Visitors in Schools (second reading)

Superintendent Bartlett shared revisions to the policy and regulation to provide clear direction to schools on who is

allowed to visit schools while students are on campus. In the regulation, the proposed language that visitors, other than parents/legal guardians, need permission from the school principal to visit a campus was included. A section was added regarding Private Service Providers to preserve the limited time that teachers have to provide standards-based education and related services to students. The restriction will not apply to law enforcement personnel, Child Protective Services caseworkers, or visitors invited by the teacher or school personnel. The legal reference 13-3101 was added to the policy to define weapons and 13-3102 was amended to define misconduct involving weapons. The governing board approved the policy and regulation, as amended.

Approval of Revisions to High School Courses and Programs for 2025-2026 (second reading)

Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment Sheryl Castro presented proposed revisions to high school courses and programs for the 2025-2026 school year which include changes in eligibility procedures for one component of the high school academic awards program as well as changes to the Social Studies, Career and Technical Education, and World Languages programs. Changes to the *Academic Recognition* section were proposed to reduce confusion for students and families about which semesters count for eligibility at a given grade level. Presently, eligibility for grades 9, 10, and 11 is determined by the spring semester of one grade level and the fall semester of the next grade level. In 2025-2026, students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will earn the distinction for a full academic year at their grade level, allowing freshmen to be recognized for academic excellence achieved during the first semester of their first year of high school. Under *Social Studies*, changes to the grade threshold recommendation for prerequisite social studies courses were proposed for Advanced Placement courses to include the letter grade and the rubric score. Language was included to support the high school's current practice of waiving prerequisites for students when appropriate. Under *Career and Technical Education (CTE)*, proposed changes to CTE courses involve course requirements, prerequisites, professional certifications, and Pima Community College (PCC) dual enrollment course titles and numbers. A \$40 lab fee was added to the sports

medicine pathway for the purchase of medical scrubs. Under *World Languages*, no changes were made to the course pathway. Proposed modifications to course descriptions include the reference of cultural topics and/or cultural competence, the description for AP courses modified to align closer to College Board course descriptions, and the adjustment to prerequisites and targeted proficiency outcomes for several courses. The governing board approved the changes to high school courses and programs for 2025-2026, as presented.

CFSD Assessment Program Report

Coordinator of Student Data, Assessment, and Accountability Justin Robinson shared a summary report of the state assessments used by the district to measure student proficiency and growth and the related performance results. CFSD uses a variety of assessments to gather relevant information about student performance and to make educational decisions. State assessments include:

- AASA (Arizona’s Academic Standards Assessment) which measures proficiency in English language arts (ELA) and Mathematics
- AzSCI (Arizona’s Science Assessment) which measures proficiency of the Arizona Academic Content Standard in Science at grades 5, 8, and 11.
- ACT Aspire which is used with freshmen to measure student performance in English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing
- ACT which is used with juniors to measure student performance in English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing.

Additional assessments offered at the high school include the Preliminary SAT (PSAT), Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP), and Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

Detailed information about the [CFSD Assessment Program Report](#) was made available to the CFSD community as part of the governing board meeting agenda item 7.1 on the CFSD website.

Study Session: Arizona School Finance

In preparation for the fiscal year 2026 budget cycle, the governing board participated in a study session on Arizona School Finance for K-12 public education presented by Dr. Mary Kamerzell. Areas summarized were the equalization formula for Arizona public school districts; the three options to exceed state budget limit: bonds, capital override, and maintenance and operations override, of which all three require voter approval; the statutory timeline for districts to propose and adopt an annual expenditure budget; and CFSD’s current expenditure budget categories of maintenance and operations, Classroom Site Fund, Instructional Improvement Fund, special projects including federal and state grants, and other funds such as food

services, Civic Center, Community Schools, tax credits, and student activities. A brief overview of Average Daily Membership (ADM) including the base support level per full-time student was provided, along with the tools used by the CFSD governing board to budget for the next fiscal year.

2025 Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity

Board members discussed the future of Proposition 123 which will not likely be included on a ballot in May, but rather in August or November. Funding will be provided by the State of Arizona to K-12 public education through the general fund until a decision is made by the legislature regarding Proposition 123.

Consent Agenda Items

The governing board approved the following consent agenda items:

- January 14, 2025, regular governing board meeting minutes
- January 14, 2025, executive session governing board meeting minutes
- Expense voucher memorandum
- Field trip request memorandum
- Fundraising memorandum
- Personnel memorandum
- Gifts and donation memorandum
- Education Technology Consortium Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Northern Arizona University

Upcoming Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled governing board meeting is **Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 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 February 11 agenda include:

- Outstanding Achievements
- Super Volunteer Recognition
- CFSD Certified Retention Report
- Arizona School Boards Association Board Operations and Leadership Training Seminar Report



Please welcome new CFSD staff members!

Stacey Harrison, Office Clerk/Health Assistant, VVELC
Amber Hemstreet, Social Studies Teacher, CFHS
Jessica Pearce, EA Inclusion, MZES