

# The Board

## A Summary Report of the March 12, 2024 CFSD Governing Board Meeting



Esperero Canyon Middle School (ECMS) Counselor Britney Griffith, ECMS Principal Mary Setliff, and Board Vice President Amy Krauss celebrate Ms. Griffith being named Arizona Counselor of the Year with a STAR Award

### Catalina Foothills STAR Award

On behalf of the board, Vice President Amy Krauss presented a CFSD STAR Award to ECMS Counselor Britney Griffith. The board recognized Ms. Griffith for being named Arizona School Counselor of the Year by the Arizona School Counselors Association (AzSCA). Each year AzSCA selects one counselor in our state who demonstrates the highest standards of personal and professional conduct. Vice President Krauss congratulated Ms. Griffith on her selection and highlighted some of her many accomplishments, including the establishment of ECMS's counseling center - a welcoming and inclusive environment where students and families receive support and advice.

Award recipients receive a monetary reward and further consideration for National Counselor of the Year.



## Outstanding Achievements!

### Outstanding Achievements

Superintendent Mary Kamerzell shared the following student and staff achievements:

#### Girls State

CFHS Juniors Samantha Farbarik and Emma Lindsay were selected for the 2024 Arizona Girls State. Heloise

Declercq and Maxine Polson are alternated. Girls State is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary which educates young women in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.

#### Regional Honor Choir, Band, and Orchestra Winds

Twenty-four CFHS students were selected for the Arizona Music Educators Association (AMEA) Regional Honor Choir. Sopranos - Jackie Foley, Izy Garcia, Sakari Hamamoto, Haleith Hinkle, Julia Jonas, and Siena Mayfield; Altos - Meryl Abdelmessieh, Mariah Coats, Isabella Gamas Collazo, Sagelynn Dundas, Aisha Gereau, and Andy Marie; Tenors - Sebastian Mehl-Dominguez, Andrew Peterson, Zah Pittner, Luis Urtaza, and Hayden Vigilia; Basses - Carter Ferrell, Fox Foster, Anderson Peters, Jaden Peterson, Marcos Reyes-Escudero. The director of choirs is Jeffrey Evans.

Sixty-Eight band students were selected for the AMEA Regional Honor Band and Regional Honor Orchestra Winds. Honor Band - Nathan Adler, Mareliss Alvarez, Kai Asbill, Ethan Beckett, Ethan Blakely, Jacob Braitberg, Yash Chauhan, Landon Cione, Siena Davoli-Boen, Heloise Declercq, Jesse DeLong, Nathan Green, Jonathan Hanson, Zachary Henson, Xiaowen Kang, Eli Leviton, Madeline Lister, William Liu, Eric Lu, Jackson Metzger, Antonio Padilla, Logan Peck, Colten Quackenbush, Madeleine Reed, Keenan Sammani, Nathan Schlosser, Grace Seo, Amy Sternberg, Sofie Thorn, Vito Toapha, Oliver Ward, Zechariah Wright, and Bryan Zhang; Honor Orchestra Winds - Katie Beach, Scarlett Bolton, Jet Bolton, Orsi Brown, Taylor Brown, Isabella Campa, Camilla Castro, Shelby Giachetti, Connor Gillespie, Benjy Grandner, Saki Grobe, Matthew Hanson, Mason Hashim, Zoey Hinson, Sean Hull, Titus Kim, Steven Klestadt, Nicolas Lawrence, Isaac Leviton, Lucas Litteer, Sage Newcomb, Anna Nielsen, Sara Nielsen, Felisberto Ponca, Jessica Roudebush, Isabella Samaniego, Jess Steele, Tyler Tom-Lin, Tyler Tosca, Caleb Vanderford, Ruby Wray, Zac Young, Michael Zacarias, and Angelina Zhang. Renee Shane-Boyd is Director of Bands, with Assistant Director of Bands Thomas Gerald and Director of Percussion/Steel Drums Tina Walton.

#### Chinese Speech Contest

Eleven Sunrise Drive students placed in the Chinese Language Teachers Association speech contest. Division A (Heritage) - Ruiyang Situ, 1st place;

Ming Hsiu Reid, 3rd place; Julian Moraff, 3rd place; Division A (Non Heritage) - Eva Sofia Blanco Vietor, 2nd place; Brian Wu, 3rd place; Dash Wood, 3rd place; Division B (Heritage) - Lillian Moraff, 1st place; Ace Chou, 2nd place; Jonathan Parson, 3rd place; Myra Peng, 3rd place; Division B (Non Heritage) - Beatrice Barbieri, 2nd place. Their teacher coach is Siyi Chen.

#### Hispanic Heritage Foundation Youth Awards

Three CFHS seniors were chosen for the Hispanic Heritage Foundation Youth Awards. The Youth Awards honors Latino high school seniors who excel in the classroom and community and for their excellence in various categories including Community Service, Education, Engineering, Entrepreneurship & Business, Green Sustainability, Healthcare & Science, Media & Entertainment, Public Service & Social Justice, and Technology.

CFHS award winners are Anissa Madrid, Gold, Public Service & Social Justice; Seth Rojas, Silver, Technology; and Ilana Valenzuela, Bronze, Technology. It is an extraordinary honor to have three award winners from one school.

Gold, Silver, and Bronze award recipients are selected in each category and receive a one-time grant to fund their college education or to fund a community service effort that tackles a social issue.

#### CFHS FIRST Tech Challenge

Pioneer Robotics won the MOTIVATE Award at state competition on February 17, which recognized their inspiring passion for FIRST robotics and their ability to ignite that same enthusiasm in others. In addition, the team received the *Finalis Alliance Award* for reaching the division finals in the Robot Game and having one of the highest scores of the day.

The Pioneers who participated in the state championship are Estaban Aguirre, Elyse Ardolina, Henry Bonomolo, Owen Cantor-Goldner, Braeden Gracy, Zakary Gruber, Ethan Lin, Kyle Lo, Isaak Martin, Dale Nelson, Christian Pierson, Seth Rojas, Cole Warnock, Nathan Wu, and Aiden Zhou. Their coaches are Charlotte Ackerman and San Kunzeman (Caterpillar). Mentors are Jackson Tint, Josh Tint, Lukas Gruber (Leonardo, Inc.), James Wang (Texas Instruments), and Jack Lo (RTX).

#### National Merit Scholarship Program

Congratulations to CFHS Seniors Ethan Blakely, Matalyn Hall, and Luke Sadalla who were named 2024 National Merit Scholarship Finalists.

#### Theatre Arts

Congratulations to CFHS Intermediate Theatre Arts students Owen Cantor-Goldner and Louisa Stine who

were selected as finalists to participate in the regional Shakespeare competition at the University of Arizona.



**Artists from left to right: Ellen Kim, Makena Thompson, and Reuben Martinez**

#### Art

Three CFHS art students were selected by the Arizona Art Education Association to participate in a special exhibit at the Western Spirit Museum – Scottsdale’s Museum of the West. They are Ellen Kim, Reuben Martinez, and Makena Thompson. Their artwork will be displayed from March 17-31. Their teacher is Zoe Reinhardt.

#### DECA

Ten CFHS DECA students competed at State. Five are going on to the International Center Development Conference. Aiden Amado and Andrew King placed second in Arizona for Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making. Zachary Wagenheim placed fifth in Arizona for Automotive Services Marketing. Jacob Bergthold, Anissa Madrid, and Sophia Mallino received medals for their finishes among the top ten finalists in their events, and Jaocuin Islas and Lexcea King both competed at the finalist level as well. Their sponsor is CFHS Teacher Jason Reinhardt.

#### Orchestra

Our three CFHS orchestras performed well at the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association’s (ABODA) Area Concert Festival at Gilbert High School on March 5. The Symphonic Strings earned a Superior with Distinction rating. The Sinfonia earned a Superior rating. The Concert Orchestra earned an Excellent rating. Their director is Ryan Watson.

#### Esperero Canyon Band

The ECMS band also performed well at an ABODA Festival on March 2. The Intermediate Band received a rating of Excellent. Seventh Grade Band received a rating of Superior with Distinction. Eighth Grade Band also received a Superior with Distinction rating. Their director is Cory Walavich.

**Approval of Revisions to Policy and Regulation IJNDB, Use of Technology Resources (second reading)**

Associate Superintendent Denise Bartlett presented the second reading of revisions to policy and regulation IJNDB to remove outdated terminology and clarify rules governing the appropriate use of technology by students and staff. Since the first reading on February 27, 2024, there were additional revisions, including adding “*up to and including termination*” to the list of disciplinary actions that may be taken if an employee misuses, abuses, or chooses not to follow the policy, and adding “*students*” to the list of those for whom an employee’s social media post should not reflect negatively upon. The board underscored the importance of all CFSD employees knowing about board policies, regulations, and procedures, and then they approved the revised policy and regulation, as presented.

**Approval of Revisions to Policy and Regulation CCB, Line and Staff Relations (second reading)**

Dr. Kamerzell presented the second reading of revisions to policy and regulation CCB to eliminate reference to a repealed statute and a parental satisfaction survey that is contained in another policy (KB, *Parental Involvement in Education*). The board approved the revised policy and regulation, as presented.

**Approval of Revisions to Policy CFD, School-Based Management (second reading)**

Dr. Kamerzell presented the second reading of revisions to policy CFD to remove reference to the number of members on school/site councils and to stipulate that the process for appointing school/site council members applies only during its organization (and thereafter the council applies its own adopted guidelines). Since the first reading, “*site*” was added to each reference of a school council and two outdated terms were replaced. The board approved the revised policy, as presented.

**Approval of Revisions to Policy EBAA, Reporting of Hazards / Warning Systems (second reading)**

Dr. Kamerzell presented the second reading of revisions to policy EBAA to align the policy with current statutes regarding pesticide application and eliminate outdated legal references regarding the application of pesticides. The board approved the revised policy, as presented.

**Approval of Revisions to Policy ECB, Buildings and Grounds Maintenance (second reading)**

Dr. Kamerzell presented the second reading of revisions to policy ECB to remove reference to an *indoor air quality management plan* or *coordinator* because both are obsolete. A paragraph was added to define

“preventive maintenance.” The board approved the revised policy, as presented.

**Approval of Revisions to Policy, EEAA Walkers and Riders (second reading)**

Dr. Kamerzell presented the second reading of revisions to Policy EEAA to conform the policy with the governing statute. The policy now specifies “*no more than 30*” as the number of one-way miles within which the district may provide bus transportation. The board approved the revised policy, as presented.

**Approval of Non-Renewable Teacher Contracts**

Dr. Bartlett presented for the board’s approval a list of teachers to be hand-delivered a written notice about the governing board action not to renew their employment contract for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Bartlett explained the reasons why certain employment contracts are ineligible for automatic renewal, such as when a contract is held by a first-year or retired teacher, is grant-funded, was entered into after September 1, or is part-time. The board approved the list of non-renewable teacher contracts, as presented.

**Consideration of Revisions to Policy JFABDA, Admission of Students in Foster Care (first reading)**

Dr. Bartlett presented the first reading of revisions to conform the district’s policy for admission of students in foster care with new statutory language. The policy now states that “*within two days*” these students will be enrolled and academic records from the last school of enrollment will be requested. Previously the timeframe for doing both was “*immediately*.”

**Consideration of Revisions to Policy JH, Student Absences and Excuses (first reading)**

Dr. Bartlett presented the first reading of revisions to Policy JH, *Student Absences and Excuses*. Revisions include adding “*mental or behavioral health*” to the list of reasons for an excused absence and removing the requirement of obtaining an admission slip after an absence. The board suggested other revisions for consideration before the second reading.

**Consideration of Revisions to Policy JHD, Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance (first reading)**

Dr. Bartlett presented the first reading of revisions to Policy JH, *Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance*. The revisions include expanding the list of appropriately certified health professionals who can identify chronic health conditions. The board discussed consideration of adding “*therapist*” to the list.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

The governing board approved the following consent agenda items:

- February 27, 2024, governing board meeting minutes
- Expense voucher memorandum
- Personnel memorandum
- Gifts and donations memorandum
- Intergovernmental agreement between the Arizona Department of Education and the Catalina Foothills School District
- Replacement of the CFHS Stadium Track

### **Upcoming Board Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled governing board meeting is **Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 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 April 9 agenda include:

- Outstanding Achievements
- Approval of Revisions to Policy JFABDA, *Admission of Students in Foster Care* (second reading)
- Approval of Revisions to Policy JH, *Student Absences and Excuses* (second reading)
- Approval of Revisions to Policy JHD, *Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance* (second reading)
- Fiscal Year 2025 M&O Budget Report
- Approval of Professional Salary Schedule for 2024-2025
- Approval of District Contribution to Cafeteria Plan of Employee Benefits
- Approval of First Round of Certified Contracts for 2024-2025
- Pima County Board / Superintendent Collaborative Meeting Report



**Please welcome a new CFSD staff member!**

Luis Rivera, Educational Technical Specialist - CFHS  
Jesse Lamberton, Education Assistant Inclusion -  
CFHS