

# The BOARDER



## *A Summary Report of the June 10, 2025, CFSD Governing Board Meeting*

### **Outstanding Achievements**

Superintendent Denise Bartlett shared the following student and staff achievements:

#### **CFHS Track & Field Athletes Shine at State Championships**

Congratulations to our Catalina Foothills High School track and field athletes for their strong performances at the 2025 Arizona Open State Track & Field Championships held May 16–17 at Mesa Community College!

We are proud to celebrate:

- Katherine McNulty – Open State Champion in both the 1600m and 3200m  
Her double win places her among the elite distance runners in the state—way to go, Katie!
- Aliyah Akinbile – 4th place in the 300m Hurdles and 7th place in the 100m Hurdles  
Aliyah competed with heart and grit in two of the state's most competitive hurdle events.

We're incredibly proud of these athletes coached by Blake Hinson and his staff, for their leadership and dedication throughout the season. Congratulations to all who competed—you've made CFHS proud.

#### **CFHS HOSA Students Shine at National Anatomage Tournament**

We're proud to celebrate five Catalina Foothills High School HOSA – Future Health Professionals members who represented CFSD at the National Anatomage Tournament this past weekend in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Congratulations to Ella Hennings, Zoya Zar, Milaia Hart, Alexa Fischer, and Nathan Wu on qualifying and competing at this national event. This event brings together the top 5% of high school anatomy students from across the country. These Falcons earned their spot at nationals through exceptional performance in regional and virtual qualifiers.

A special congratulations to Alexa Fischer, who took first place in the suture competition.

We are proud of these future health leaders for representing CFSD nationally.

#### **CFSD Robotics Teams Compete at Western Edge FIRST LEGO League Open**

Two robotics teams from Catalina Foothills School District—Partners for Life and Reef Rangers—were selected to compete at the Western Edge FIRST LEGO League Open, an international tournament hosted in Long Beach, California. The event brought together 90 top teams from around the world for two days of STEM-focused competition and teamwork.

Partners for Life Team Members:

Brenden Sult (Orange Grove), Ethan Luo, Graham Martin (Sunrise Drive), Kason Strunk (Ventana Vista), Lucas Byrne (Sunrise Drive), Noah Chavez (Orange Grove), and Sebastian Bonomolo.

Reef Rangers Team Members:

Andrew Trombetta, Damon Hayden, Emily Fink, Gigi Trombetta, Lily Ruiz, Mikey Stefano, and Sophia Barrios (all Orange Grove); Isadora Friedman (Sunrise Drive); and Lucas Rodriguez (Esperero Canyon).

Both teams were led by CFSD coach Charlotte Ackerman, who emphasizes a student-driven approach that builds confidence and problem-solving skills. This approach was on full display during the “On the Spot” challenge, where students programmed new missions without coach assistance. Volunteer coach Nancy Hsiao assisted the teams.

The event also celebrated student leadership beyond the competition. Henry Bonomolo, class of 2024 was promoted to Head Referee, and rising senior Christian Pierson volunteered as a mentor. These students are a reflection of CFSD's strong culture of student mentorship. Congratulations to all!

#### **Executive Session**

The governing board held an executive session for personnel, pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) §38-431.03 (A)(1) – Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body – Annual Performance Review of the Superintendent.

**Approval of Revisions to the Facility Rental Rate Schedule per Policy KF, Community Use of School Facilities (second reading)**

Director of Community School Travis Kolter researched and compared rental rates of fields and indoor spaces at local parks and other Tucson area school districts, and he presented no changes to the facility rental rate schedule initially proposed to the governing board on May 27. Due to a utility rate increase experienced by the district over the past year, Mr. Kolter proposed a 7% increase to the facility rental rate schedule for the 2025-2026 school year. Additionally, the Facility Rental Application Fee and Change Fee—unchanged for over 15 years—will increase from \$15 to \$25 each to better cover administrative costs. The rental agreement form provided to outside user groups includes language to allow the district to recover any additional utility charges that might be initiated by utility providers during the 2025-2026 school year. The current \$1 million dollar liability and \$1 million dollar property damage insurance certificate will continue to be required of all renters. The governing board approved the revisions to the facility rental rate schedule per Policy KF *Community Use of School Facilities*, as presented.

**Approval of Revisions to Policy IKF, Graduation Requirements (second reading)**

Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment Sheryl Castro presented revisions to the graduation requirements policy to ensure alignment with the high school course guide, clarify language, and update statutory references. Key updates include a clarified definition of “enrolled full-time” for all high school grade levels and revised statutory language for Holocaust and genocide education, requiring instruction in two separate class periods between grades 7–12 and the inclusion of geography taught in grades 9-12. Additional changes include the removal of phased-in social studies requirements (2022–2025), updated headings and language on civics testing, and the reference to “parents” updated to “parents/legal guardians” under the special education section. Due to new revisions presented, Policy IKF *Graduation Requirements* will be presented to the governing board for a third reading at the June 24, 2025, regular meeting.

**Approval of Academic Standards for K-12 World Languages (second reading)**

Ms. Castro proposed no changes to the Academic Standards for K-12 World Languages presented to the governing board during the first reading on May 27. The refreshed standards align with state standards and emphasize real-world communication and cultural competence, with a focus on what students can do with language in authentic contexts, aiming to develop globally minded, culturally aware communicators. The standards reflect CFSD’s commitment to prepare students for success in a global society by

fostering collaboration across cultures and engagement with diverse perspectives. The Academic Standards for K-12 World Languages was approved by the governing board for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

**Approval of Classified Wages**

Associate Superintendent Mindy Westover presented the proposed 2025-2026 classified wage schedule. The schedule was modified to eliminate the first step of the 2024-2025 classified wage schedule and to extend the end of the schedule by one step. A recommended one horizontal step movement for all classified employees results in a 2% increase to wages and an increased cost to the maintenance and operations budget of \$119,505. A recommended 2% increase for all classified exempt employees results in an increased cost of \$18,281. The increase will not impact any student program or staffing formulas.

The governing board approved the proposed 2025-2026 classified wage schedule, as presented.

The governing board approved the one horizontal step movement for all classified employees on the proposed 2025-2026 classified wage schedule, as presented.

The governing board approved a 2% increase for all classified exempt employees for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

**Approval of Classified Notices of Appointment**

Ms. Westover presented the list of classified staff to be offered a Notice of Appointment for the 2025-2026 school year, along with a sample of the notice of appointment. The governing board approved the classified staff notices of appointment for the 2025-2026 school year and directed that they be issued as presented to the staff members listed.

**Consideration of Revisions to Policy JLF, Reporting Child Abuse / Child Protection (first reading)**

Ms. Westover presented proposed revisions to Policy JLF, *Reporting Child Abuse / Child Protection* to align the policy with Arizona State Senate Bill 1437, which updated Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) 13-3620 and A.R.S. 15-514 on mandatory reporting obligations. Key updates include an expanded definition of school personnel to include substitute teachers and governing board members as mandatory reporters. Reports made to School Resource Officers (SROs) or School Safety Officers no longer satisfy mandatory reporting obligations unless law enforcement is notified. SROs must now immediately report information to law enforcement. New guidance allows SROs to accept voluntary student victim reports and ask limited follow-up questions per county protocols. To provide clarity, a section was added to include the definitions of School Safety Officer, School Resource Officer, and Peace Officer. The proposed

revisions clarify procedures and responsibilities of school personnel when handling suspected abuse or reportable offenses. The board will review the policy again on June 24 at the next regular governing board meeting.

**Consideration of Revisions to Policy JR and Regulation JR-R Student Records (first reading)**

Ms. Castro shared proposed revisions to Policy JR and Regulation JR-R, *Student Records*, to ensure compliance with House Bill 2514, which amends laws related to parental involvement and student directory information. The policy would require schools to notify parents/legal guardians or eligible students of the types of directory information collected, their right to opt out, and the timeframe for doing so. Disclosure of student addresses, phone numbers, or emails to military recruiters is prohibited without written consent, or the parent/legal guardian or eligible student has not opted out, in accordance with A.R.S. [15-142](#), subsection A. Both the policy and regulation include an updated definition of “eligible student”. Proposed revisions to the regulation further clarify procedures for transcript release, allowing students to specify recipients such as postsecondary institutions, the state militia, or U.S. armed forces. The policy and regulation will return to the governing board agenda for a second reading on June 24.

**Review of Fiscal Year 2026 Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Straw Budget and Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget (State Forms)**

Director of Finance Lisa Taetle shared key updates to the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2026 expenditure budget since the governing board’s May 13 review, including the incorporation of a 2% inflationary adjustment based on current state guidance, as the Arizona State Legislature has not yet finalized the state budget. Preliminary expenditure budget forms have been released by the Arizona Auditor General, with a formal CFSD FY 2026 budget revision to follow in August once the state budget is approved. Updates to the 2026 Classroom Site Fund (CSF) reflect actual FY 2025 performance pay and benefit expenditures, with \$88,475 reclassified from FY 2025 deletions to FY 2026 additions, making those funds available for next year’s performance pay. The governing board approved the fiscal year 2026 proposed budget, as presented.

**Approval of Superintendent’s Performance Pay**

President Amy Krauss provided background information on the superintendent’s performance pay process. In compliance with A.R.S. 5-341 (A)(40), the contract for the superintendent is structured in a manner in which up to 20% of the total annual salary is classified as performance pay.

The governing board approved the 2024-2025 performance pay for the superintendent in the amount of \$5,000.00, the

maximum contingent performance pay amount noted in the superintendent’s contract.

**2025 Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity**

Board members discussed a delay in state funding to public and charter schools, with districts receiving only 60% of their expected payments due to a federal funding hold. Ongoing discussions at the state level include the aggregate expenditure limit and budget approvals. Thanks to prudent financial planning and community support, the district remains in a stable financial position to manage the funding shortfall without disruption.

**Consent Agenda Items**

The governing board approved the following consent agenda items:

- May 27, 2025, regular governing board meeting minutes
- Expense voucher memorandum
- Field trip request memorandum
- Fundraising request memorandum
- Personnel memorandum
- Gifts and donations memorandum
- Addendum to the intergovernmental agreement between Pima County JTED and CFSD
- Award to Concord General Contracting for the artificial playground turf replacement at Valley View Early Learning Center in the amount of \$103,635
- Award to Concord General Contracting for the repair and resurfacing of the basketball and tennis court at Sunrise Drive Elementary School in the amount of \$106,996

**Upcoming Board Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled governing board meeting is ***Tuesday, June 24, 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 June 24 agenda include:

- Approval of Revisions to Policy IKF, *Graduation Requirements* (third reading)
- Approval of Revisions to Policy JLF, *Reporting Child Abuse / Child Protection* (second reading)
- Approval of Revisions to Policy JR and Regulation JR-R, *Student Records* (second reading)
- Consideration of Revisions to Policy IJNDB, *Use of Technology Resources in Instruction* (first reading)
- Public Hearing of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
- Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget



**Please welcome new CFSD staff members!**

**Maya Collier**, Health Teacher, CFHS  
**Stacey Gist**, Principal, ECMS  
**Devra Harden**, ELA Teacher, ECMS  
**Kyle Johnson**, Business Teacher, CFHS  
**Megan McDonald**, EA Classroom, MZES  
**Kathryn Pekarske**, Social Studies Teacher, CFHS  
**Samantha Ramirez**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, SDES  
**Daniel Vega**, Band Teacher, OGMS  
**Carrie Williams**, CS Office Coordinator, MAC