

The BOARDER



A Summary Report of the January 14, 2025, CFSD Governing Board Meeting



Amy Krauss
President



Eileen Jackson
Vice President



Election of Governing Board President and Vice President

The governing board elected Amy Krauss as board president and Eileen Jackson as vice president for 2025.

CFSD Foundation Semi-Annual Gift to the District

CFSD Foundation President Amy Morales-Baum presented the semi-annual gift in the amount of \$50,000.00 in support of the *Great Beginnings* new teacher program. The mission of the CFSD Foundation is to attract, develop, and retain excellent educators for the Catalina Foothills School District. Board members accepted the check with gratitude and expressed appreciation to the CFSD Foundation for their continued generosity in support of students and staff.



CFSD Star Award

The governing board recognized the Director of Facilities and Transportation Brian McNitt and Procurement Specialist Carolyn Seivert for their outstanding commitment to securing and procuring School Facilities Division (SFD) awards which benefit the district's ability to maintain a safe and secure educational environment for students and staff. President Amy Krauss shared the unique backgrounds of both staff members who have collaboratively secured \$4,628,778.61 in SFD awards over the last two years. The building renewal grants have saved the district from using District Additional Assistance (DAA) funds for expensive repairs and building maintenance, allowing the district to use DAA funds for wages and benefits. The governing board thanked Mr. McNitt and Ms. Seivert for their tireless work and presented them with a certificate and pin.

Outstanding Achievements

Superintendent Denise Bartlett shared the following student and staff achievements:

CFHS Robotics

At the Diamondback Qualifier on December 14, held at San Miguel High School, Pioneer 327 secured a place as the first team selected for the winning alliance and earned the prestigious Connect Award for their outstanding community outreach and dedication to fostering STEM opportunities. Their performance earned them a spot at the First Tech Challenge (FTC) State Championship, which will take place at Northern Arizona University.

Team members include Yash Chauhan, Audrey Dessent, Braeden Gracy, Ethan Lin, Kyle Lo, Ali Lucas, Isaak Martin, Archer Matika, Valerie McLamarrah, Quin Mekkelsen, Sarah Orr, Milo Peters, Christian Pierson, Kaden Semanko, Nathan Wu, Zac Young, Zoya Zar, and Aiden Zhou.

The team is guided by their dedicated coaches, Charlotte Ackerman and Chris Young, whose mentorship has been instrumental in cultivating a culture of resilience, innovation, and teamwork.

The team has developed a tactile, auditory app to support special needs students in programming LEGO robots in our elementary schools. Team members actively mentor younger robotics teams in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL). These initiatives reflect their deep commitment to making STEM accessible, inclusive, and impactful for all learners.

Pioneer Robotics has garnered significant support from leading engineering and technology companies throughout the state. These partnerships provide essential financial resources and affirm Pioneer Robotics' role as one of the state's top high school robotics teams. Pioneer Robotics' 2024 corporate sponsors include REV Robotics, Texas Instruments, IBM, Caterpillar Inc., Dilas Coherent, ARCCA, and BAE Systems.

Their achievements exemplify the values of the Catalina Foothills School District and underscore the importance of STEM education in preparing students for future success.

Flinn Scholarship Semifinalists

Catalina Foothills High School seniors Fox Foster and Bryan Zhang have been named 2025 Flinn Scholarship semifinalists, a distinction awarded to only 78 of Arizona's top high school seniors. This prestigious recognition highlights their exceptional academic achievements, leadership qualities, and dedication to community service.

The Flinn Scholarship is one of the most competitive merit-based scholarships in the state, providing recipients with a comprehensive undergraduate education at an Arizona university, as well as unique professional and cultural opportunities. Being selected as semifinalists is a testament to hard work, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to excellence.

We wish them the very best as they move forward in the selection process and celebrate this remarkable milestone in their academic journey.

DECA Regional Competition Results

The Catalina Foothills High School DECA chapter shone brightly at the District 3 Regional Leadership Conference and Competitions on Friday, January 10, proudly representing CFHS with integrity and sportsmanship. Held at the Rothery Educational Service Center in Sierra Vista, the team competed against over 200 students from across Southern Arizona and achieved outstanding results:

- 24 out of 29 members earned at least one medal.
- 20 members have already secured their spots in the State Competitions, taking place February 27 - March 1, 2025.
- 4 additional members are awaiting final rubric results, which may qualify them for State as well!

Individual Results:

Aiden Amado: Test medal and placed 1st in his event
Kyleigh Benton: Placed 1st in her event
Jacob Bergthold: Test medal and placed 3rd in his event
Charisma Corkle: Test medal and placed 2nd in her event
John Donelly: Test medal and placed 2nd in his event
Shelby Drake: Test medal
Arthur Filgueiras Pinto: Test medal and placed 1st in his event
Isabelle Franco: Test medal and placed 2nd in her event
Sydney Hellbusch: Test medal and placed 2nd in her event
Samuel Irish: Test medal and placed 3rd in his event
Joaquin Islas: Test medal and placed 1st in his event
Andrew King: Placed 1st in his event
Sophia Mallino: Test medal
Walker Nighswander: Placed 3rd in his event
Daniela Oliver: Test medal and placed 1st in her event
Natalia Ortiz: Placed 2nd in her event
Dylan Panno: Test medal
Shubh Patel: Test medal and placed 2nd in his event
Ely Savir-Baruch: Placed 3rd in his event
Thomas Vamos: Test medal and placed 1st in his event
Zarya Vinal: Placed 1st in her event
Zachary Wagenheim: Test medal
Sage Wexler: Test medal and placed 1st in her event
Aiden Wilt: Placed 2nd in his event

DECA is coached by Jason Reinhardt, CFHS Business Management and Finance teacher.

Congratulations to all our DECA competitors for their hard work and success. Your achievements exemplify the excellence and dedication of our CatFoot community!

CFHS Varsity Pomline

Congratulations to the Catalina Foothills High School Pomline on their outstanding performance at the recent UDA dance competition on Saturday, January 11. Varsity Pomline earned 1st place in Large Pom and 2nd place in Large Jazz. This incredible achievement reflects the team's hard work, dedication, and passion for excellence.

Varsity Pomline members include Avelyn Alcott, Jazlynn Arias, Alexis Bates, Haley Brett, Liliana Clevenger, Audrey Dessent, Mary (Emmie) Gooding, Elizabeth Harlow, Norah Jackson, Adalyn Maynes, Annika Maynes, Aubrey Maynes, Coral Michel, Talia Monash, Peighton Rolfe, Presley Sarullo, Cally Sulger, Lauren Thompson, and Katelyn Trenka. Pomline is coached by Camryn Breese.

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

Superintendent Bartlett shared revisions to the policy and regulation since the board's initial review on December 10. In the policy and the regulation, language was added to distinguish between service animals and non-service animals. In the policy, the words, "*and in other district vehicles*" was included to indicate that service animals are

allowed on school buses and other district vehicles. In the regulation, the term “*non-service*” was added to indicate that the regulation pertains to non-service animals which is different than the policy which pertains to service animals. Updates to the policy and regulation clarify language based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The governing board approved the policy and regulation, as amended.

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

Superintendent Bartlett introduced 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, 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 policy and regulation will return to the governing board agenda at the next regular meeting on January 28.

Consideration of Changes to High School Courses and Programs for 2025-2026 (first 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 freshman 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 for prerequisite social studies courses were proposed for Advanced Placement courses. 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. 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 proposed revisions will be reviewed by the board again on January 28.

Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) New Board Member Orientation Report (December 18, 2024)

Board members Jacquelyn Davoli and Tom Logue shared highlights from the orientation hosted by ASBA on December 18, 2024.

ASBA – Arizona School Administrators (ASA) Annual Conference Report (December 19-20, 2024)

President Amy Krauss and Vice President Eileen Jackson provided information from the ASBA Delegate Annual Business meeting held on December 19, 2024, which included the election of the ASBA officers for the 2025 term and the outcome of the ASBA bylaw amendment vote.

2025 Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity

Board members discussed the start of the legislative session and Governor Katie Hobbs’ state of the state address, which included three areas of focus: the renewal of Proposition 123, the aggregate expenditure limit, and reasonable income caps for Education Scholarship Account (ESA) qualifications.

Consent Agenda Items

The governing board approved the following consent agenda items:

- December 10, 2024, regular governing board meeting minutes
- December 10, 2024, executive session governing board meeting minutes
- December 13, 2024, special governing board meeting minutes
- Expense voucher memorandum
- Field trip request memorandum
- Fundraising memorandum
- Personnel memorandum
- Gifts and donation memorandum
- Updates to the sole source vendor list for fiscal year 2024-2025
- School Facilities Division award to Breckenridge Group Architects for the assessment of the brick archway at Orange Grove Middle School in the amount of \$2,495.
- K-12 core and supplemental resources
- Agreement in Resolution of United States Court Case No. 4:23-cv-00318-RM

Upcoming Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled governing board meeting is ***Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 6:30 p.m., at the Carole Siegler Boardroom at Valley View Early Learning Center. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for a Study Session***

which begins at 4:45 p.m. Topics on the January 28 agenda include:

- Study Session: Arizona School Finance
- Super Volunteer Recognition
- Approval of Revisions to Policy KI and Regulation KI-R, *Visitors in Schools* (second reading)
- Consideration of Changes to High School Courses and Programs for 2025-2026 (second reading)
- CFSD Assessment Program



Please welcome new CFSD staff members!

Paul Black, Remote School Psychologist, MAC
Marcos Chavez, EA Inclusion, CFHS