

**MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
FOR THE FOWLER SCHOOL DISTRICT #45
1617 SOUTH 67TH AVENUE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
July 7, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The Governing Board meeting was called to order by Ms. Montoya at **3:59 p.m.**

Public Hearing – FY27 Budget Adoption

The Public Hearing for the FY 27 Budget adoption was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Holland presented a comprehensive overview of the district's budget development and adoption process. The presentation detailed the critical financial mechanisms, statutory calculations, and strategic factors shaping the district's fiscal planning.

The floor was opened for public comment; however, no questions or comments were brought forward by the public.

Public Hearing Adjournment

There was a motion made by Mr. Montoya, seconded by Ms. Perez to adjourn the Public Hearing.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

*Yea: Ms. Montoya, Ms. Perez and Mr. Montoya **adjourned** the meeting at 4:16 p.m.*

**OPENING OF REGULAR MEETING:
Roll Call**

Ms. Lisa M. Perez, Ms. Francisca Montoya, and Mr. Joe Montoya were present

Others Present

Vincent Medina, Laura Lozoya, Gary Holland, Jessica Larsen, Andrea Barrera, Vinh Hoang, Joey Ohnesorge, Cindy Bradley, Andrea Dale, Amy Hablutzel, Yvette Ortiz, Roy Valenzuela, Viviana Valenzuela, Pattie Campos, Elisabeth Mendoza, Amelia Sanchez, Loni Fife, Robert Altavilla, Jennifer Quirk, Elizabeth Camu, Stacie Swartz, Janice Irby, Christina Quintero, Martha Gontarz, Helen Nance, Teresa Zimmerman, Michelle Eastman, Peggy Eastman, Jazmine Hyatt-Dominguez, Michael Halpert, Melanie Halpert, Eli Halpert, Max Halpert

Approve Agenda

There was a motion made by Mr. Montoya, seconded by Ms. Perez, to approve the agenda for July 7, 2026, Tabling agenda items H and I.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Ms. Montoya, Ms. Perez, and Mr. Montoya

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Montoya asked Mr. Medina lead the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion made by Ms. Perez, seconded by Ms. Montoya, to approve the minutes for:

- June 9, 2026, Regular Meeting
- June 17, 2026, Executive / Public

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Ms. Perez, Ms. Montoya, and Mr. Montoya

PRESENTATIONS None

COMMENTS/CALL TO THE
PUBLIC None

ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation to Approve FY27 Budget Adoption	There was a motion made by Ms. Perez, seconded by Mr. Montoya, to Approve the Action Item as presented. Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Ms. Perez, Ms. Montoya and Mr. Montoya
Recommendation to Accept the Resignation of David Irvin without Liquidated Damages	There was a motion made by Mr. Montoya, seconded by Ms. Perez, to Approve the Action Item as presented. Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Ms. Perez, Ms. Montoya and Mr. Montoya
Recommendation to Accept the Resignation of Bernadette Allen without Liquidated Damages	There was a motion made by Mr. Montoya, seconded by Ms. Perez, to Approve the Action Item as presented. Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Ms. Perez, Ms. Montoya and Mr. Montoya
Recommendation to Accept the Resignation of Jasmine Hyatt-Dominguez without Liquidated Damages	There was a motion made by Ms. Perez, seconded by Mr. Montoya, to Approve the Action Item as presented. Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Ms. Perez, Ms. Montoya and Mr. Montoya
Recommendation to Approve the Resolution Authorizing the Maricopa County School Superintendent's Office as an Authorized Representative of Fowler for Handling Employee Garnishments	There was a motion made by Mr. Montoya, seconded by Ms. Perez, to Approve the Action Item. Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Ms. Perez, Ms. Montoya and Mr. Montoya
Recommendation to Approve the Hiring of Dr. Michael Halpert as Superintendent	There was a motion made by Ms. Perez, seconded by Mr. Montoya, to Approve the Action Item as presented. Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Ms. Perez, Ms. Montoya and Mr. Montoya
Recommendation to Approve Governing Board Communication to Staff and Community Members Regarding Hiring of New Superintendent Dr. Michael Halpert	There was a motion made by Ms. Perez, seconded by Mr. Montoya, to Approve the Action Item as presented. Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Ms. Perez, Ms. Montoya and Mr. Montoya
Recommendation to Approve Addendum to 2026-2027 Notice of Indefinite Term Appointment for Vincent Medina	There was a motion made by Ms. Perez, seconded by Mr. Montoya, to Approve the Action Item as presented. Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Ms. Perez, Ms. Montoya and Mr. Montoya

CONSENT ITEMS:

Personnel Changes Summary of Report:	- One (1) <i>New Employee</i> was processed - Twenty (20) Employees <i>Separated</i> from employment - Fifty- (50) Supplementals for <i>Additional Duties</i> or <i>Stipends</i>		
Payroll and Expense Vouchers	Payroll vouchers FY26 32.1031, 33.1032, 34.1033 and 35.1034 Expense vouchers FY26 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676 and 2677		
Budget and Expenditure	The Budget and Expenditure Report was provided to the Governing Board for approval. By approving the report monthly, the Board approves any minor changes between programs that the Finance Department may make as needed.		
Student Activities and Fundraising Activities	The Student Activity Reports and their planned Activities through June 2026.		
Donations	Location	Donor	Amount
	Sunridge	Donors Choose-Classroom Essentials	\$37.33
	Sunridge	Donors Choose – Books	\$474.13
	Sun Canyon	Donors Choose - Books	\$774.86
	WVES	Donors Choose – Headphones & mice	\$176.00
	WVMS	Donors Choose – Music Supplies	\$91.67
	WVMS	Donors Choose – Classroom Essentials	\$24.04
	There was a motion made by Mr. Montoya, seconded by Ms. Perez, to Approve consent items 1 through 5 as presented. Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Ms. Perez, Ms. Montoya, and Mr. Montoya		

E. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Food Service Reports	The Food Services report covers June 2026. All are presented for information purposes only.
Head Start Monthly Report	The Fowler Elementary School District Head Start Monthly Report for June 2026 was presented for information purposes only.
ASBO Awards	The Fowler Elementary School District recognizes ASBO Awards

Request for Future Agenda Items

Ms. Montoya: Requested to add an action item regarding Kendra Johnson's July 7, 2026, resignation.

Ms. Perez: Fourth request in regards to live streaming the board meetings.

REPORTS:
Acting Superintendent

Summary of Current Events

Acting Superintendent's Report – Mr. Medina

Meet the Teacher Night: Scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2026, for elementary campuses and WV.

District Welcome Back Event: Scheduled for **Tuesday, August 4, 2026**, at WV schools.

Mr. Medina took time to honor and recognize **Ms. Laura Lozoya**, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, who is officially stepping down on Monday, July 13, 2026, to enter retirement via ASRS disability and focus on her health after 20 years of dedicated service to the Fowler Elementary School District.

Governing Board Members

Board President & Members Expressed Gratitude: Members thanked Ms. Lozoya for her exceptional professionalism, friendliness, and grace under pressure while managing tight deadlines, board dynamics, and administrative tasks over her two decades of service. The Board emphasized that her support was instrumental to their success as a governing body and noted she would be deeply missed.

Ms. Lozoya's Closing Remarks: Ms. Lozoya thanked the Board for their kind words, noting that Fowler ESD has been her "home away from home" for 20 long years. She expressed immense gratitude for the deep relationships she built across the district and shared that while it was a difficult decision to step away to care for her health, she plans to stay connected and visit the district community.

Appointment of New Superintendent: The Board congratulated Dr. Harper on becoming the new Superintendent. The Board noted that a thorough recruitment process was conducted over the last month, incorporating input from administrators, teachers, and public forums held at Fowler Elementary and Western Valley, alongside online comments.

New Superintendent Remarks: Dr. Halper thanked the Board and expressed that leading the district is a mission for the students and families. He recognized his wife Melanie his two sons, Eli and Max, and stated he is eager to work collaboratively with the staff and community.

Recognition of Acting Superintendent: The Governing Board extended sincere thanks to Mr. Medina for stepping up to serve as the Acting Superintendent during an arduous transition period. The Board commended his leadership, professional grace, and long hours spent guiding the district office.

Mr. Medina's Closing Remarks: Mr. Medina thanked the Board and community for their trust, collaboration, and support during his interim tenure. He celebrated the positive progress made by the district and officially passed the leadership torch to Dr. Halper, pledging continued support for his success.

Additional Staff Recognitions: Ms. Perez also extended explicit words of appreciation to:

Dr. Berg for her dedicated service and contributions to the district.

Mr. Ostrom for his responsiveness, approachability, and supportive communication style.

Ms. Ulloa (Former Superintendent) for her 22 years of deep service, community outreach, and lasting leadership impact within the Fowler community.

Adjournment

There was a motion made by Mr. Montoya, seconded by Ms. Perez, to adjourn the meeting.

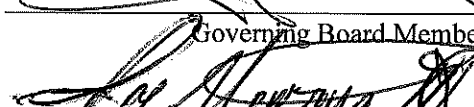
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Ms. Perez, Ms. Montoya and Mr. Montoya

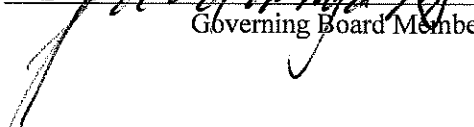
Ms. Montoya adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.



Governing Board Member



Governing Board Member



Governing Board Member

August 11, 2026
Date