

SANTA CRUZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #28

The Little Red School
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 20th, 2026
MINUTES

(Those in attendance are respectfully requested to silence their cell phones/electronic devices)

Pursuant to A.R.S. #38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Governing Board of the Santa Cruz Elementary School District #28 and to the general public that the Board will hold a Regular Board meeting, on Tuesday, January 20th 2026 at 5:30p.m., in the District Office located at 7 Duquesne Rd, Nogales, AZ. Doors will be opening for the public @ 5:15 P.M.

The Board may hold one or more executive sessions during the meeting pursuant as indicated below. Executive sessions are not open to the public. The Governing Board reserves the right to move into executive session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A) (3) for legal advice from the attorney for the district, either in person or telephonically, on any agenda item.

The governing Board reserves the right to reschedule, delete, or rearrange items on the agenda, to efficiently conduct its business.

Notices and agendas are posted at: Santa Cruz Elementary School District Office located at 7 Duquesne Road, Nogales, Arizona 85621, accessible to the public 24 hours a day District website at: <http://www.sced28.com/>

If you are in need of translation services or are a person with a disability seeking reasonable accommodation in order to access the Governing Board meeting, please contact Danitza Garcia @ dgarcia@sced28.com (1) working day prior to the Governing Board meeting.

A. Call to order: @ 5:30 P.M

1. Roll call:

Board Clerk:	Mr. Noon
Board Member:	Mr. Ron Fish
Board Member:	Dr. Pottinger
Board Member:	Mrs. Debbie Gonzales
Superintendent/Principal:	Ms. Romero

All board members present

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mr. Noon

C. Call to the Public: NONE

Members of the public wishing to address the Board on education-related matters within the jurisdiction of the Board are required to complete the appropriate "Request to Speak" form and submit the completed form to the Board prior to the meeting. The President will recognize individuals from the public to address the Board. Public comments should be limited to 3 minutes or less in order to continue with the efficiency of the meeting. The Board requests that the public refrain from the use of speech or language that is offensive or inappropriate to the proper conduct of the meeting. At the conclusion of the call to the public, individual members of the Board may only respond to criticism, ask staff to review a matter or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda. The Board shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action on

the current agenda. Members of the audience are also reminded that personal attacks on individuals are discouraged; the Board policy allows complaints about individual employees of the District to be addressed by completion of Policy KEB.

D. School Board Minutes:

Discuss/Approve the following Board Minutes:

1. Board Meeting Minutes, December 9th, 2025

Mr. Noon motioned to approve, Dr. Pottinger 2nd.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Dr. Pottinger	x		
Mr. Noon	x		
Mr. R. Fish	x		
Mrs. D. Gonzales	x		

E. Reports/ Discuss: NONE

F. New Business:

1. Oath of Office for appointed Board Member, Dr. Dean Fish

Dr. Dean Fish appointed by County Superintendent Office Maya Donnelly.

2. Election of Board Officers.

a) Board President

Mr. Ron Fish nominated Robert Noon, Dr. Pottinger nominated Mrs. Debbie Gonzales

Name	Debbie	Robert
Dr. Pottinger	x	
Mr. Noon		x
Mr. R. Fish		x
Mrs. D. Gonzales	x	
Dr. Fish		x

President Robert Noon

b) Board Clerk

Dr. Pottinger nominated Debbie Gonzales

Name	Debbie
Dr. Pottinger	x
Mr. Noon	x
Mr. R. Fish	x
Mrs. D. Gonzales	x
Dr. Fish	x

Clerk Debbie Gonzales

Mr. Noon elected President, Mrs. Debbie Gonzales elected as clerk.

3. Discussion of meeting days and meeting times for 2026 Board Meetings.
Board meeting times and dates to remain the same.

4. Discussion of Santa Cruz Elementary District #28 high financial risk status FY25.
Mrs. Denisse Melendez reported Az. Auditor General Office contacted sced28, will be placed on high financial risk due to frozen taxes and our cash balances being in negative due to county's embezzlement.

5. Discuss/Approve tribute in honor of Danny Fish with dedication of trees from Arbor Day Foundation.

Dr. Pottinger motioned to approve for school to be involved in collecting donation, no school funds will be used, Mrs. Debbie Gonzales 2nd.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Noon	X		
Mrs. D. Gonzales	X		
Dr. Pottinger	X		
Dr. Fish	X		
Mr. R. Fish	X		

6. Discuss/Approve to pursue SCED#28, Little Red School House as designated historical building.

Dr. Fish motioned to approve, Mrs. Debbie Gonzales 2nd.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Noon	X		
Mrs. D. Gonzales	X		
Dr. Pottinger	X		
Dr. Fish	X		
Mr. R. Fish	X		

7. Discuss/Approve hiring of Janitor, Vanessa Estrada for SY 2025-2026.

Mrs. Debbie Gonzales motioned to approve, Dr. Pottinger 2nd.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Noon	X		
Mrs. D. Gonzales	X		
Dr. Pottinger	X		
Dr. Fish	X		
Mr. R. Fish	X		

8. Discussion/Approve pursuant to policy IIB, JFB-R, and JFB closed Open enrollment for SY

26-27 based on enrollment of in-district students and employee children, established on current year student enrollment not to exceed 125 students during a given year. Administration may bring in additional students based on current numbers decreasing from the 125 total student enrollment.

Mrs. Debbie Gonzales motioned to approve, Dr. Pottinger 2nd.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Noon	X		
Mrs. D. Gonzales	X		
Dr. Pottinger	X		
Dr. Fish	X		
Mr. R. Fish	X		

9. Discuss/Approve pursuant to IHB, IHBA, IHBB, and policy regulations IIB-R determination of school capacity for Special Education Programs capacity of 15:1 (15 students per 1 teacher), then on open enrollment students pursuant to Policy JFB and Policy Regulations JFB-R, reserving two additional seats to accommodate additional students moving into the district for school year 26-27; the capacity can be exceeded by additional students moving into the district.

Mr. Ron Fish motioned to approve, Dr. Pottinger 2nd.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Noon	X		
Mrs. D. Gonzales	X		
Dr. Pottinger	X		
Dr. Fish	X		
Mr. R. Fish	X		

G. Reports:

1. Superintendent/ Principal Report:

District happenings:

Ms. Romero reported, Current enrollment 124, ½ Kinders = 117, December events went very well, academic and staff meeting ongoing for academic achievement, letter sent to school families that school has no intention of closing or merging with another school district.

2. Board Member Briefing: Mrs. Debbie Gonzales reported on the book she read called “Energy Bus”, she encourages teachers to read this story to our students she greatly believes that the story helps students to stay positive, be resilient and to take ownership accountability.

Dr. Pottinger expressed her disappointment of the election of new Board President, she expressed that Mrs. Gonzales is very involved at Little Red School and the community. She commended Mrs. Gonzales for being very passionate about Little Red School.

Mrs. Debbie Gonzales stated "this school has shown tremendous resilience and commitment to students and community through thick and thin". People need to have factual actual information.

FY 2025-2026

January 2026

PAYROLL:

RATIFY: FY2025-2026

PP00012	\$37,096.85
PP0012.1	\$6,842.92
PP0012.2	\$4,528.67
PP00013	\$37,118.82
PP0013.1	\$1,344.49
PP00014	\$34,202.84
PP0014.1	\$7,581.21

EXPENSE

RATIFY: FY2025-2026

E-2611	\$51,799.00
E-2612	\$25,769.67
E-2613	\$31,786.71
E-2614	\$16,821.83

Mrs. Gonzales motioned to ratify payroll and expenses, Dr. Pottinger 2nd.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Noon	X		
Mrs. D. Gonzales	X		
Dr. Pottinger	X		
Dr. Fish	X		
Mr. R. Fish	X		

H. BUDGET BALANCE SUMMARY:

Reported by Mrs. Denisse Melendez

Mr. Ron Fish motioned to approve, Dr. Pottinger 2nd.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Noon	X		
Mrs. D. Gonzales	X		
Dr. Pottinger	X		
Dr. Fish	X		
Mr. R. Fish	X		

I. Future Agenda Item: proposed calendar for SY 26-27. AZ. Auditor General Finance Report Virtually next board meeting, update from School Facilities, County Letter.**J. Next Board Meeting:** **Tuesday, February 10th, 2026****K. Adjournment:** @ 6:35 P.M.Dr. Pottinger motioned to approve adjournment, Mrs. Gonzales 2nd.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Noon	X		
Mrs. D. Gonzales	X		
Dr. Pottinger	X		
Dr. Fish	X		
Mr. R. Fish	X		