

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
GOVERNING BOARD
HEBER-OVERGAARD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6**

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 | 7:00 PM
Performing Arts Center, 3375 Buckskin Canyon Rd, Heber, AZ 85928

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Leedy, Wendy Hall, Craig Blackburn, Pattie Weber, John Piva.

ALSO PRESENT: Ron Tenney (Superintendent), Nathan Stoelk (Principal, Mountain Meadows Primary & Capps Middle Schools), Reed Porter (Principal, Mogollon Jr. High & High School), Andrea Despain (Business Manager), Amanda Crandell (Board Secretary/Clerk).

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Tim Leedy called the Regular Meeting of the Heber-Overgaard Unified School District No. 6 Governing Board to order at 7:00 PM.

PRAYER & PLEDGE

The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Mr. Leedy. Mrs. Hall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was conducted. Members listed above were recorded as present. No absences were recorded.

CALL TO PUBLIC

Per Board Policy 1-302, the Board accepted public comment. Three (3) individuals signed up to address the Board regarding Agenda Item 8.2 – Turing Point USA Club. Ten (10) individuals signed up to address the Board regarding Agenda Item 8.3 – Athletic Director Position. Each speaker was allotted two (2) minutes.

Public Speakers – Agenda Item 8.3 (Athletic Director Position):

- **Tim Slade** – Retired educator with 32 years of experience, including 17 years in the Heber-Overgaard School District; former principal at Capps and Mountain Meadows. Spoke in support of Josh Edwards, referencing his coaching history in the District and the hiring committee's due diligence in selecting Edwards to replace Coach Gamboa.
- **Reese Perry** – Lifelong Heber resident. Spoke in support of Josh Edwards, describing working with him as an assistant basketball coach, noting his scouting contributions, and stating he had no concerns about Edwards's abilities or character.
- **Duane Tomlinson** – Has known Josh Edwards and his family for over 13 years. Spoke in support of Edwards, citing joint involvement coaching Little League, JH football, and HS Golf; community volunteer work; and youth programs including Mighty Mustangs and Ponderosa Pines Little League.

- **Tiffany Martineau** – Served on the Athletic Director hiring committee. Stated the majority of the committee recommended Edwards following a thorough interview process. Noted Edwards was prepared and professional, acknowledged areas for growth, and proactively discussed obtaining a CTE teaching certificate if needed. Urged the Board to trust the committee's process and recommendation.
- **Brian Starks** – Former teacher who worked under Tim Slade at the school for eight years. Stated Edwards frequently assisted in his classroom with no concerns about his character. Also coached with Edwards outside of school with the same positive experience.
- **Jennifer Taylor** – Teacher whose class included Edwards's child. Described Edwards as a highly involved, respectful, and professional parent who supports the school community. Recommended him as athletic director based on his leadership qualities and character.
- **Laura Tomlinson** – Worked with Edwards as a Title I assistant and through JH Athletics. Highlighted his positive energy, leadership, communication skills, and ability to act as a fair mediator. Acknowledged working through a disagreement regarding her son's football situation, noting Edwards handled it respectfully.
- **Macky Slade** – Son of Tim Slade; volunteer football assistant at Mogollon HS since 2017 and head Basketball Coach 2018–2024. Noted Edwards's consistent presence and volunteerism despite not previously being hired for District positions. Urged the Board to honor the committee's decision and not allow personal bias to influence the process.
- **Josh Edwards** – The candidate himself. Described participating in the committee interview process and receiving an offer. Outlined his vision for a competitive and accountable athletic program with clear coach expectations, strong parent communication, and alignment with district and AIA policies. Expressed gratitude for community support and commitment to serving the district.
- **Sharon Baker** – Special Education Teacher at Mountain Meadows, Special Education Director for the district, and junior high cheer coach. Has known Edwards for approximately two years through his children's enrollment at Mountain Meadows. Cited his classroom involvement, attendance at athletic events, coaching history, and volunteerism with the Little League board. Recommended Edwards as fair, impartial, and dedicated.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Leedy made a motion to table item 8.3 Athletic Director Position and approve the rest of the agenda as presented. Mr. Blackburn seconded the motion. Motion carried with one oppose from Mr. Piva.

INFORMATION

Good News

Board members and administration shared positive developments and community highlights.

Leadership Team Information

Mountain Meadows Primary & Capps Middle Schools – Mr. Nathan Stoelk

Mr. Stoelk reported that NEHS completed their global community service project at Feed My Starving Children in February and other clubs have had successful activities as well including an art show that was on display during the meeting. Capps will be hosting a STEM Night for the community. Mountain Meadows had a fun Dr. Suess Week with activities each day. Mr. Stoelk thanked the teachers for how positive they are and how they are truly here for the kids.

Mogollon Jr. High & High School – Mr. Reed Porter

Mr. Porter reported that the school is preparing for upcoming standardized testing, including the ACT for Juniors (scheduled for the following Tuesday) and the AZ Science test for 8th and 10th graders. Sports highlights included the wrestling team finishing 4th overall with multiple placers at State, and both Boys and Girls Basketball teams advancing to the State Quarterfinals.

Business Manager Information – Mrs. Andrea Despain

- **Levy Funds / Financial Review:** Mrs. Despain reported that cash balances are depleting as expected for this time of year. Expenditures will be reduced next month as the district prepares to wrap up the fiscal year. Budget reports were included in board backup materials.
- **Performance Audit Compliance Review:** The district is awaiting 100th Day reports from school secretaries to be submitted to the auditor. All secretaries have completed their reports and are uploading them. Mrs. Despain will send the reports directly without waiting for further outreach. The district is also awaiting a transportation report. The Arizona Auditor General met with Mr. Bryce (IT) during spring break to address IT findings; most issues have been resolved and completion is anticipated within the next few weeks.
- **AZ Auditor General Spending Analysis FY2025:** The Auditor General's spending analysis report was included in board materials, showing how the district compares to peer districts in spending allocations. Discussion arose regarding proposed state legislation (attributed to Representative Grass) that would require districts to spend 60% of funds in the classroom. The district currently spends approximately 58.7% on instruction. Concerns were raised about the "one size fits all" nature of such legislation, particularly for small rural districts with different spending patterns and special education makeups. Lobbyists are working on behalf of school districts to mitigate the legislation. The board was advised to continue current operations and adjust if/when legislation is signed into law.
- **Chromebook Inventory:** Mrs. Despain noted that Chromebook tracking will be transferred entirely to Bryce Computers, which already manages more detailed tracking than required by statute. This will significantly reduce the district's own inventory list.
- **Audit (Item 8.7 Preview):** The ACFR & Single Audit is not yet finalized. The auditing firm (Heinfeld & Meech) is wrapping up final questions. The deadline to submit to the state is March 31, 2026. Mrs. Despain will email the board the final draft upon receipt and submit it to the state. Official board approval of the audit will be placed on the April agenda.

Superintendent Items – Mr. Ron Tenney

Mr. Tenney reported on the following: (1) Approximately 1,200 education-related bills are before the state legislature this session. (2) The garden lease is being revised per requested changes from the other party; no legal review is anticipated to be needed. (3) The district is working with the county on a land division for parcels south of the district, which will be listed for sale upon completion. (4) Mr. Tenney expressed appreciation for Business Manager Andrea Despain's return. (5) Mr. Tenney recognized district bus drivers for their dedication in transporting students.

Information from Governing Board

No items from governing board members at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: *Mrs. Weber moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Piva seconded the motion. All those in favor – motion carried.*

Items approved under Consent Agenda:

Minutes: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 10, 2026 approved.

Auxiliary and Student Accounts: January 2026 accounts approved.

Vouchers:

Payroll Voucher	#17: \$178,195.81
	#18: \$158,012.33
Expense Voucher	#9031: \$23,051.92
	#9032: \$19,105.35
	#9033: \$35,361.33
	#9034: \$4,452.14
	#9035: \$10,724.76

New Hires:

Carol Matthies – 4th Grade Teacher

Hayden Crook – One-on-One Aide

Reassignment: None

Resignations/Terminations:

Paula Hunt – Jr/Sr High School Secretary

Patty Bennett – Preschool Teacher

Volunteers:

Jeffrey Eley – HS Track

Ian Rose – JH Girls Basketball

Malaki Porter – Baseball

Timothy Porter – Baseball

Fundraisers: None

Disposal of Assets

REGULAR AGENDA

Move June & July Board Meeting Dates

Mr. Tenney explained that board meeting dates must be adjusted to accommodate the budget hearing timeline and state submission deadline. The June meeting will be moved from June 9 to June 23, 2026 and the July meeting from July 14 to July 7, 2026.

MOTION: Mrs. Hall moved to change the June board meeting to June 23, 2026 and the July board meeting to July 7, 2026. Mrs. Weber seconded the motion. All those in favor – motion carried.

Turning Point USA Club

Three students — Gavin Owens, Vidant Bhakta, and Lyla Crandell — addressed the Board to request approval of a Turning Point USA (TPUSA) chapter at Mogollon High School for grades 9–12.

TPUSA is a nonprofit organization focused on promoting freedom, free markets, and limited government through student civic engagement. Speakers emphasized the club's commitment to respectful, politically neutral discussion and critical thinking. Mr. Porter noted that the site council had reviewed the proposal and expressed concern about potential political divisiveness. He stated that the club would be expected to remain politically neutral. Jonathan Crandell has agreed to serve as faculty sponsor. Supporting documentation (minutes, bylaws, interested students) was included in board backup.

MOTION: Mrs. Weber moved to approve the establishment of the Turning Point USA Club at Mogollon High School. Mr. Piva seconded the motion. All those in favor – motion carried.

Athletic Director Position

Public comment on this item was received during Call to the Public.

MOTION: Mr. Leedy moved to table Item 8.3 Athletic Director Position to the April 14, 2026 regular board meeting so that complete information could be included in the board packet. Mr. Blackburn seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes – majority; Opposed – Mr. Piva. Motion carried.

Item 8.3 is carried to the April 14, 2026 agenda.

Preliminary Budget Data Discussion & Approval – FY2026-27 Teacher Contracts

Mr. Tenney and Mrs. Despain presented preliminary budget data for FY2026-27. Because the state budget has not yet been finalized, contracts will be issued at the current base pay level. If legislative changes occur, contracts will be amended or addended accordingly. The district will follow the lead of its legal counsel on any required contract revisions. Contracts will be issued as soon as possible per state-allowed timelines.

MOTION: Mr. Piva moved to approve the quarterly payouts as presented by Mrs. Despain for FY2026-27 teacher contracts. Mr. Blackburn seconded the motion. All those in favor – motion carried.

FY2026-27 Certified, Admin, Extra Duty Salary Schedules

Salary schedules for certified staff, administrators, and extra duty assignments were presented for board approval. Base pay remains the same as the current year pending legislative action. Contracts will be issued immediately following approval, with FTE-based adjustments made as schedules are finalized. If significant legislative changes occur, the district will consult legal counsel and make necessary revisions.

MOTION: Mrs. Weber moved to approve the FY2026-27 salary schedules. Mr. Piva seconded. All those in favor – motion carried.

Wellness Plan

The Business Manager presented the District's Wellness Plan for Board approval. The Wellness Committee reviewed multiple topics, including:

- (1) Smart Snacks compliance – The district is required to sell only Smart Snack-approved items within 30 minutes before and after the school day. This creates challenges for some fundraisers and concession stands (which sometimes open at 2:30 PM). The committee will propose solutions.
- (2) Snack sales during meal service – The district will restrict snack sales during cafeteria meal times to protect food service revenue and reduce the need to subsidize food service with M&O funds.
- (3) Lunch price increase – A minimum 25-cent increase in paid lunch prices is planned for next school year, compared to the typical 5–10 cent annual increase.

(4) No homemade items during the school day – Items outside the school day (e.g., at tournaments) were discussed; the committee agreed to allow board-approved fundraiser items outside the 30-minute window.

(5) Concession stands – The committee recommended using the Smart Snacks list until 30 minutes after the last bell, then allowing other items after that time.

The district currently subsidizes food service annually. Free and reduced lunch eligibility is approximately 60% at Mountain Meadows, 50% at Capps; the high school and junior high do not consistently qualify for district-wide free and reduced status.

MOTION: Mrs. Hall moved to approve the Wellness Plan as discussed. Mr. Leedy seconded the motion. All those in favor – motion carried.

Audit Acceptance – ACFR & Single Audit (Roll Call Vote)

The audit (ACFR & Single Audit) is not yet finalized. The auditing firm is completing final questions with Mrs. Despain. The deadline to submit to the state is March 31, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Blackburn moved to table Item 8.7 (Audit Acceptance). Mrs. Weber seconded the motion. All those in favor – motion carried.

Policy Review – Chapter 5: Students – Part 1 (3rd Viewing)

This was the third viewing of Policy Manual Chapter 5 Students, Part 1, covering Student Enrollment & Attendance and Curriculum & Instruction. All questions and corrections have been addressed.

MOTION: Mrs. Weber moved to approve the third viewing of Policy Manual Chapter 5 Students, Part 1. Mr. Piva seconded the motion. All those in favor – motion carried.

Policy Review – Chapter 5: Students – Part 2 (2nd Viewing)

This was the second viewing of Policy Manual Chapter 5 Students, Part 2, covering Student Rights & Responsibilities and Student Health, Safety & Welfare. Mrs. Weber requested that the District's detailed dress code policy (Policy 5-302, Student Attire) be added to this section, as the current policy language is general and does not reflect the district's more comprehensive dress code found in the student handbook.

MOTION: Mrs. Weber moved to approve Item 8.9 as amended, to add the District's dress code policy to the Student Attire section (Policy 5-302) of Chapter 5 Students, Part 2. Mrs. Hall seconded the motion. All those in favor – motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

LAUNCH

Mr. Porter presented the monthly theme from the Capturing Kids' Hearts program: Courage. Courage was defined as the ability and strength to face something difficult or challenging — not the absence of fear, but the willingness to persevere and stand up for what is right, even when uncertain or uncomfortable.

ADJOURNMENT


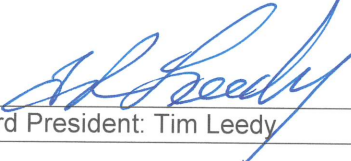
MOTION: Mrs. Weber moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hall. All those in favor – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Next Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Performing Arts Center @ Capps Middle School, 3375 Buckskin Canyon Rd, Heber, AZ 85928

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing are the official minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of Heber-Overgaard Unified School District No. 6, held on March 17, 2026, and that these minutes were approved by the Governing Board at its meeting on April 14, 2026.

 Board Secretary / Clerk: Amanda Crandell	 Board President: Tim Leedy
Date: <u>4/14/26</u>	Date: <u>4/14/26</u>

Per A.R.S. 38-431.01, these minutes are available for public inspection within three (3) working days of the meeting.