

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

GOVERNING BOARD OF THE HEBER-OVERGAARD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Performing Arts Center, 3375 Buckskin Canyon Road,
Heber, AZ 85928

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Leedy (President), Wendy Hall, Pattie Weber, John Piva

ABSENT: Craig Blackburn

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

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

Mr. John Piva offered the opening prayer. Mrs. Wendy Hall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Leedy requested two modifications to the agenda: (1) Item 7.12 (Sole Source Vendor Update) to be pulled from the Consent Agenda for a separate vote due to a conflict of interest; and (2) Item 7.15 (Flag Pole Expenditure) to be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda before Item 8.1.

MOTION: Mrs. Hall moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mrs. Weber seconded. Motion carried.

CALL TO PUBLIC

None

INFORMATION

Good News

Mr. Porter noted that the MHS baseball team remained in state competition and three MHS track athletes competed in the state divisional event.

Leadership Team Information

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

Mr. Stoelk recognized Patty Bennett upon her retirement after seven years of service at Mountain Meadows. Mrs. Bennett earned the state's Early Childhood Educator of the Year award during her tenure. Mr. Stoelk presented her with a retirement plaque on behalf of the district.

Mr. Stoelk reported that the 4th–12th grade band and orchestra concert in April was well-attended and featured a Star Wars theme. He recognized Mr. Long and Mrs. Owens for their outstanding work with the music programs. American Legion Post 86 visited Mountain Meadows for the Poppy Poster Awards and engaged students in patriotic education. CAPPs erected a memorial wall honoring Ms. Kelsey, which was brought to her celebration of life. At the National Teacher Appreciation Assembly, students shared tributes to their teachers, including a remembrance of Ms. Kelsey.

On May 4th, CAPPs held an assembly on the dangers of drug use, featuring a guest speaker arranged by Mr. Quinn. April testing at both CAPPs and Mountain Meadows went smoothly with fewer technical issues than the prior year. The 3rd grade field trip to the aquarium was completed successfully. Preschool graduation was held earlier that day, drawing approximately 75 families. Mr. Stoelk thanked Mr. Tenney, volunteers, and the PTC for organizing Teacher Appreciation Week, and recognized the businesses of Heber-Overgaard for their generous donations.

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

Mr. Porter expressed deep appreciation for all teachers, staff, custodians, front office personnel, and paraprofessionals for their exceptional work throughout the school year, and echoed gratitude for the community's support during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Mr. Porter reported that senior presentations were praised by visiting community professionals. Band, orchestra, and choir concerts were all well-attended; the choir program is available on YouTube. He recognized Mrs. Martineau, Mrs. Slade, Mrs. Tenney, LJ Crandell and Encore for their contributions. The academic awards banquet was held the prior evening; food was provided by the culinary class; NHS students served as waitstaff; and community organizations awarded over \$70,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors.

Business Manager Information — Mrs. Andrea Despain

Levy Funds: Mrs. Despain reported that the district is drawing on its cash balance carry forward. The district is expected to remain financially stable through the current fiscal year and into FY26-27, with more significant budget impacts anticipated the following year.

Performance/USFR Audit Compliance Reviews — EXIT: The Arizona Auditor General conducted two exit meetings. The ADE Performance Review exit is awaiting JLAC approval; 8 items remained partially corrected, representing substantial improvement over three years. The USFR Compliance Audit identified 9 items still requiring correction; some cited regulations are not yet finalized and are expected in June. The audit team noted significant overall improvement. A new conflict of interest form will be released by the state in June; the district must ensure timely completion going forward.

Bids: Propane and waste service bids have been posted publicly and on the district website. Bids close at the end of May and awards will be brought to the board in June. Propane services begin July 1; waste services begin in October.

Food Service: An emergency electrical expenditure was required at the high school kitchen due to appliance upgrades overloading existing circuits. Mrs. Despain commended cafeteria staff for their adaptability during the transition.

Summer Food Program: The district is awaiting final state approval for a free summer food program. If approved, families will pick up food bags twice per week, each containing breakfast, lunch, and a snack, with milk provided in gallon or half-gallon containers. Details will be posted the following week.

Superintendent Items for Discussion — Mr. Ron Tenney

Retirement Recognition — Paula Hunt: Mr. Porter recognized Mrs. Paula Hunt upon her retirement after 29 years of service to Heber-Overgaard Unified School District, beginning at the high school in 1998. Mrs. Hunt was praised for her mastery of PowerSchool, Tyler SIS, and other systems, and for her dedication to accuracy and service. Superintendent Tenney also recognized her long service on the domestic water/sanitation board.

Superintendent’s Report: Superintendent Tenney reported that County School Superintendent Rachel Lewis is sponsoring a teacher professional development in-service series in July in Holbrook. The district will compensate teachers who choose to attend.

Mr. Tenney presented data on homeschooling and ESA enrollment within district boundaries: 29 families have filed traditional homeschool affidavits with the county; an additional 21 students are enrolled in state ESA programs — representing approximately 50 students who may reside within district boundaries but are not enrolled in HOUSD schools. Statewide, ESA costs total \$1.067 billion; the largest ESA grade is 3rd grade with nearly 10,000 students statewide; per-student ESA allocations range from \$7,000–\$9,000, exceeding the per-pupil funding the district receives. The district is developing enrichment programs, including a summer gardening program at Mountain Meadows (approximately 18 students), to increase community engagement.

Information from Governing Board

No items were brought forward by board members.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Leedy noted that Item 7.12 would be voted on separately due to his conflict of interest and that Item 7.15 had been moved to the Regular Agenda. Mrs. Hall was asked to preside over the vote on Item 7.12.

MOTION: Mrs. Weber moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Items 7.12 and 7.15. Mr. Piva seconded. Motion carried.

The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

Minutes: Regular Board Meeting of April 14, 2026.

Auxiliary and Student Accounts: March 2026

Vouchers for April 2026:

Payroll Vouchers	Voucher #21 — \$160,071.75
	Voucher #22 — \$169,617.22
Expense Vouchers	Voucher #9040 — \$16,491.68
	Voucher #9041 — \$150,274.48
	Voucher #9042 — \$234,136.31
	Voucher #9043 — \$20,076.99

New Hire: None

Reassignments:

Jody Rose — Mountain Meadows Reading Specialist to Capps Middle School Secretary

Karilee Ammons — JH Technology/PE Teacher to JH Science Teacher

Resignations/Terminations:

Kelsey Hartman — SPED Aide

David Moon — Custodian

Taylor Gamboa — JH & JV Volleyball

Volunteer: None

Fundraisers:

HS Cheer — Bake Sale at Red Onion

HS Cheer — Bake Sale at June's Café

HS Cheer — Burrito Sales on July 4th

Navajo County Special Services Consortium & HOUSD Agreement FY2627

Facility Use Agreement

Facility Use Policy

Emergency Bid — HS Electrical

Summer Enrichment Approval/Summer School

CTE Federal Perkins CTE Math Improvement Plan Stipend

Sole Source Vendor Update (Separate Vote — Mrs. Hall Presiding)

MOTION: Mr. Piva moved to approve the Sole Source Vendor Update. Mrs. Weber seconded. Motion carried. (Note: President Tim Leedy did not vote — conflict of interest.)

REGULAR AGENDA

Flag Pole Expenditure (moved from Consent Agenda)

Mrs. Despain presented the Flag Pole Expenditure. The funding source is one-time additional state capital funds — not M&O funds or tax revenue. The flagpole expenditure (estimated at \$4,000–\$5,000) covers the cost of extending electrical service to the existing flagpole structure. Superintendent Tenney noted the item was pulled from the Consent Agenda to ensure full public transparency that civic/capital funds, not general budget funds, are being used.

MOTION: Mrs. Hall moved to approve the Flag Pole Expenditure. Mrs. Weber seconded. Mr. Piva abstained due to conflict of interest. Motion carried.

Budget Revision II — FY2526

Mrs. Despain presented the Second Budget Revision for Fiscal Year 2025–2026. Key findings included:

- Total district budget decreased 2.7% from original projections due to student enrollment decline.
 - Instructional expenditures decreased 12.1% (partially reflecting reallocation of rollover balance, not programmatic cuts).
 - General administration decreased 1.7%; school administration increased 13.8%; central services (2500 fund) increased 28%; transportation increased 10%.
-

- Weighted student count improved from 409 to 529.79 through corrections made by SPED teachers, SPED director, secretaries, and Katie Bryce. Mrs. Despain commended these staff members for their work with BSA55 reporting and state data uploads.
- Approximately 89% of the district budget is allocated to staffing (positions, salaries, and benefits).
- The district is continuing the SPED early intervention preschool program and has posted the preschool position; no general education preschool is currently offered.
- Discussion included a recommendation to hold excess balances in the insurance line item rather than the salary line for cleaner budget presentation.

MOTION: Mrs. Hall moved to approve the Second Budget Revision for FY25-26. Mrs. Weber seconded. Motion carried.

Applied Economics Demographic Study

Mr. Tenney introduced a proposal from Applied Economics to conduct a demographic study of the Heber-Overgaard Unified School District. The vendor is on a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Scope of work includes four tasks: (1) data collection — enrollment trends, housing data from Navajo County, and land use inventory; (2) analysis and forecast — 10-year housing projections, student generation rates, and census data; (3) in-district enrollment projections by grade over 10 years; and (4) a PowerPoint presentation of findings to the governing board.

The study is relevant to evaluation of the current bond (sunsetting in 2028), potential future bond consideration, and possible K–6 campus consolidation strategies if enrollment continues to decline. This would be the first demographic study completed in the district's recent history. The timeline is approximately 12 months.

MOTION: Mrs. Hall moved to approve the Applied Economics Demographic Study. Mr. Piva seconded. Motion carried.

Hiring Policy (Discussion Only — No Action Taken)

Mr. Tenney presented a draft hiring policy for board discussion. Key points discussed included:

- Internal candidates should receive first opportunity to apply (3–5 day internal posting window) before positions are opened externally, when time and circumstances permit.
- The policy should distinguish between exempt and non-exempt positions per Fair Labor Standards Act requirements; position type details to be reflected in job descriptions rather than the posting itself.
- Interview committees should include a minimum of three members, but are not limited to three.
- Board members should not serve on personnel interview committees to maintain neutrality, as the board serves as the final hiring authority.
- The policy should include clear definitions for transfers versus new hires, with qualification requirements for transfers.

This is a non-action item. The revised hiring policy will be brought back for board approval at the June 2026 meeting.

Cell Tower Update: The cell tower matter remains unresolved. The district’s contact is out of the office due to surgery and is expected to return May 14. An update is anticipated at the June meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was required.

LAUNCH

Mr. Nathan Stoelk delivered the Launch reading in honor of Patty Bennett, Paula Hunt, and the graduating seniors, reading excerpts from Dr. Seuss’s “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. Weber moved to adjourn. Mrs. Hall seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the HOUSD Conference Room, 3375 Buckskin Canyon Road, Heber, AZ 85928.

These minutes are respectfully submitted for Board approval.

Amanda Crandell, Board Secretary/Clerk
Date Approved: _____

Tim Leedy, Board President