

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

HEBER-OVERGAARD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6 GOVERNING BOARD

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Performing Arts Center
3375 Buckskin Canyon Road, Heber, AZ 85928

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER & PLEDGE

Mr. Craig Blackburn offered the opening prayer. Mrs. Pattie Weber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Tim Leedy (President), Craig Blackburn, Pattie Weber, John Piva

Members Absent: Wendy Hall

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), Katie Tomerlin (Board Secretary).

CALL TO PUBLIC

No members of the public came forward to speak.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: *Mrs. Weber moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Piva seconded. All those in favor — aye. Motion carried unanimously.*

INFORMATION

Good News

Board members shared items of good news. A board member shared that family members will be relocating to Northern Arizona and hope to find a home in Heber. It was also reported that the softball field, damaged by the recent water-tank break, had been cleared of mud and debris over the weekend, and that water service has been restored. Any damage to the sprinkler system will not be known until the system is turned back on.

Leadership Team Information

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

Mr. Stoelk reported that the first day of school and Meet the Teacher Night went very well. The ACE reward trip to Flagstaff Extreme [to be confirmed] took place on Friday, August 21; approximately 60 of the 81 eligible students attended with staff chaperones, and he thanked Kathy Vosburgh and the community for funding the trip.

Nikki Shipley of Capturing Kids' Hearts visited the district and was impressed by the student leaders who gave tours and by the maturity and character of the students. Mr. Stoelk thanked students, teachers, the maintenance team, and the community for keeping school running through both water outages, using portable restrooms and water jugs to refill toilets. He introduced new staff members Carol Matthias (4th grade, formerly of Snowflake) and Katie Porter (preschool), and reported that both are doing excellent work.

In response to a Board question about the early release during the water outage, administrators explained that a partial day counts toward instructional time on an hourly basis. State minimums are 356 hours for kindergarten, 712 hours for grades 1–3, 890 hours for grades 4–8, and 720 hours for high school. The district tracks these hours on a spreadsheet and has additional snow days built into the calendar. Most teachers stayed through the end of their contract day to prepare for the following week.

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

Mr. Porter reported that the school year has started well and thanked the teachers and staff. He reported that Nikki Shipley of Capturing Kids' Hearts praised the teachers, the student behavior, and the relationships between students and staff at the high school. Approximately 300,000 gallons of water from the tank break damaged the fields, and grounds staff have prepared the church softball field for play. An anonymous community member donated more than 800 bottles of drinking water to the school.

The gym floor was recently reconditioned, and PE classes are using the track for a walking program called Steps to keep the floor in good condition, since refinishing is a recurring expense. Mr. Porter thanked Mrs. Weber for keeping the school marquee up to date and Mr. Blackburn and his crew for repairing the parking-lot lights. He and Mr. Stoelk will attend the annual Principals and the Law conference. A board member noted that some donated water remains at the fire station.

Business Manager Information — Mrs. Andrea Despain

Financial Review: Mrs. Despain reported that the district is still operating in two fiscal years. The encumbrance period is now closed, and she recognized Katie and Katrina for their work closing it out. A few more weeks of journal entries and reconciliation remain before the Annual Financial Report (AFR). Cash balances are in good standing. Staff have met several times to identify budget reductions, and she thanked staff for helping control utility costs by turning off lights, closing doors, and watching water use.

County Reconciliation: No treasurer's reports have been received yet, but reconciliation with the county is going well. New county reports have helped districts reconcile more accurately and on time.

Proposition 320 [to be confirmed]: Mrs. Despain explained that a proposed ballot measure raised with her by Mr. Stoelk is not expected to affect HOUSD, as it applies only to districts of

approximately 7,000 or more students or in counties of 500,000 or more residents. The district will share a five-page fact sheet with anyone who has questions.

Grants: In response to a Board question, Mrs. Despain explained that the district aims to close all grants at the end of each fiscal year. The CTED Perkins grant is the exception; it rotates between funds 260 and 261 so that spending can carry into the following year. Title I was not extended this year. Completion reports are due September 15. Remaining work includes indirect cost journaling and correcting deposits the county placed in the wrong accounts. She credited Duane with keeping reimbursement requests on schedule throughout the year.

Superintendent Items for Discussion — Mr. Ron Tenney

Staff Training: Superintendent Tenney thanked staff for their work during the recent Capturing Kids' Hearts visit and refresher training. Vicki Solomon of Nexus Coalition trained staff on naloxone, and each attendee received a free kit.

Minimum Wage Increase: Final figures are not expected until the end of September. The increase is now projected at approximately 4%, higher than the 2% previously estimated.

Trust Summit: Mrs. Weber, Mrs. Hall, and Superintendent Tenney attended the Trust Summit in Phoenix. The Superintendent will share material from an Open Meeting Law breakout session with the Board. One of the summit presenters will visit the district in October. Parking and reservations at the venue were a problem, but the training was very worthwhile.

Demographic Study: Rick Brammer of Applied Economics has been working with district staff on student data and would like to hold a stakeholder meeting with business and community leaders. The Superintendent is looking for dates later in September and invited board members to take part.

Water Outage: Superintendent Tenney thanked students, staff, and families for their patience during the water outage. When word came on Thursday that water would not be restored until late that night, students were released early after a partial day. The Heber water company is covering the liability for the damage, so no claims are being processed through the district's insurance. The artificial turf on the softball field will need to be replaced. The water company met with representatives of ADEQ, the Governor's office, WIFA, and Sylvia Allen, and may receive approximately \$2 million to help replace the tank and cover related costs. The district is working with the company on cleanup and on repairs such as fencing.

Board Discussion — Salary Compression: A board member raised concerns about the growing salary compression caused by successive minimum wage increases. Superintendent Tenney agreed that the issue is becoming more pressing and will need further discussion.

Information from Governing Board

The Board scheduled its annual campus visits and working board meeting for Tuesday, October 13, 2026, beginning at 8:00 AM at the District Office, with lunch and tours of each campus. Mrs. Despain noted that the Board must approve the Annual Financial Report before the October 15 submission deadline, and it will be presented at that meeting.

The Board also discussed a budget study session and agreed to hold it in November, after the 40th day of school (October 14), so that enrollment figures and, if possible, Mr. Brammer's

demographic study are available. The November regular meeting is expected on Tuesday, November 10, 2026. Superintendent Tenney will contact Mr. Brammer regarding his timeline.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Mr. Blackburn moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Weber seconded. There was no discussion. All those in favor — aye. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Minutes — Regular Session Board Meeting of August 11, 2026.

Auxiliary and Student Accounts for July 2026.

Vouchers:

- Payroll Vouchers for August 2026
 - Voucher #3 — \$77,073.09
 - Voucher #4 — \$151,281.65
 - Voucher #5 — \$165,431.45
- Expense Vouchers for August 25/26
 - Voucher #9056 — \$22,240.61
 - Voucher #9057 — \$942.95
 - Voucher #9058 — \$3,169.22
 - Voucher #9059 — \$38,501.48
- Expense Vouchers for August 2026
 - Voucher #1004 — \$99,666.19
 - Voucher #1005 — \$40,147.18
 - Voucher #1006 — \$17,393.52
 - Voucher #1007 — \$67,851.31

New Hires:

- Larry Parrish — Maintenance
- Carlos Blackburn — Bus Driver
- Michael Toombs — Substitute Custodian

Reassignment — None.

Volunteers — None.

Resignations/Termination:

- Kelly Williams — Maintenance
- Jeanette Moline — Substitute
- Liberty Duffy — Substitute

Fundraisers — None.

ESI Agreement.

REGULAR AGENDA

HOUSD Affordable Housing Project

This item was presented for information only. Board members and Superintendent Tenney who have taken part in community meetings on the project reported that local residents have approached the district about affordable housing in the Heber-Overgaard area. The concept under discussion is to lease approximately five acres of district land at Mountain Meadows, west of the self-storage facility off Mogollon, to a developer to build site-built homes, which were preferred over container homes because of cost.

Priority would go to teachers and district staff, then to others such as first responders and veterans, and then to the wider community, with eligibility criteria for tenants. The Board discussed Blue Ridge Unified's ESSER-funded container-home project, where none of the eight units is currently rented; possible reasons included a no-pets rule, the small size of the units, and the original wording of the listing. The district's attorney has advised that several Arizona districts have completed or are pursuing similar projects. No action was taken.

Gate Proposal for Community Garden

The Board reviewed a proposal to install a gate on the south end of the community garden behind Mountain Meadows, similar to the existing 12- to 14-foot gate on the east side, to provide access to new production beds. The garden group will cover all costs, so there is no cost to the district; under the district's agreement with the garden, improvements are brought to the Board for approval. A board member also asked that maintenance staff recheck the garden's water pump, which is cycling excessively and could fail during the growing season. Mr. Piva declared a conflict of interest with respect to this item.

MOTION: Mrs. Weber moved to approve the gate for the community garden. Mr. Blackburn seconded. All those in favor — aye. Motion carried, with Mr. Piva abstaining due to his declared conflict of interest.

Lead Custodian

The Board reviewed a proposal to designate one of the district's custodians as Lead Custodian, retroactive to July 1. The position will work with the new maintenance supervisor on ordering and purchasing supplies, train new custodians, and manage custodial schedules; the employee has already been managing the summer cleaning schedule and crews. The high school has started the year without a full-time custodian while another employee is on leave, and the designation compensates the employee for these added duties.

MOTION: Mrs. Weber moved to approve the Lead Custodian position as presented, retroactive to July 1. President Leedy seconded. All those in favor — aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Facility Use Revision

The Board reviewed a before-and-after comparison of the facility use fee schedule. The custodial fee was replaced with a higher flat fee for utilities and supplies such as toilet paper and paper towels; the rest of the schedule is unchanged. It was explained that users had objected to a custodial fee when they cleaned up after themselves. In response to a question from Mrs. Weber, it was confirmed that outside organizations must provide their own insurance under the district's tiers, and that insurance is not part of the fee schedule.

MOTION: Mr. Piva moved to approve the Facility Use Revision as presented. Mr. Blackburn seconded. All those in favor — aye. Motion carried unanimously.

The Trust Model Policy Program — Part 3 & Part 4 (First Reading)

The Board considered policy updates from The Trust, most arising from the latest legislative session and discussed at the Trust Summit. Parts 3 and 4 were presented for first reading, with adoption to be considered at the next meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Piva moved to approve the first reading of The Trust Model Policy Program, Parts 3 and 4. Mrs. Weber seconded. All those in favor — aye. Motion carried unanimously.

The Trust Model Policy Program — Part 1 & Part 2 (Second Reading)

Parts 1 and 2, presented for first reading at the August 11, 2026 meeting, were presented for second reading and adoption.

MOTION: Mr. Blackburn moved to approve the second reading and adoption of The Trust Model Policy Program, Parts 1 and 2. Mr. Piva seconded. All those in favor — aye. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was required or held. The Board proceeded directly to the Launch.

LAUNCH

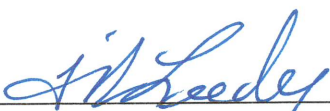
The Launch presented this month's Capturing Kids' Hearts theme: empathy. The speaker shared the following: "Empathy is seeing with the eyes of another, listening with the ears of another, and feeling with the heart of another." The speaker observed that sympathy comes easily, but empathy means truly feeling how others feel, and that staff are working to teach students, and themselves, to see others as they see themselves and treat them accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. Weber moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Piva seconded. All those in favor — aye. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 8:00 AM at the HOUSD District Office, held in conjunction with the Board's campus visits and working session.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2026.



Board President, Tim Leedy

Date Approved: 10/13/26