



FOUNTAIN HILLS

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BOARD FOUNTAIN HILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 98

"We Achieve and Celebrate Educational Excellence"

October 15, 2025

Business Meeting

6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Time 6:00 p.m.

Board members present are Dr. Rich Rutkowski, President, Lillian Acker, Member, Kim Duckworth, Member and Bernie Hoenle, Member.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Rutkowski asked Mrs. Duckworth to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Mrs. Acker

Second: Mrs. Duckworth

The board approved 4-0

IV. Approval of Minutes for September 17, 2025 Board Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Acker

Second: Mr. Hoenle

The board approved 4-0

V. Informational Reports

a. Summary of Current Events

o Superintendent

- Dr. Jagodzinski shared that he is glad to be back and he hopes everyone enjoyed the break.
- He thanked all the principals, as it is national principal's month. He appreciates the amazing job they do day in and day out

improving outcomes, working strong with the community and most importantly having great relationships with our students.

- He shared that books for the garden will be going on display starting tomorrow.

- Governing Board Members

- Bernie Hoenle shared that with Madicyn's resignation he wanted to point out that she helped to give him a different perspective on some things and he appreciated that about her. He attended the Youth Protection Coalition meeting by Reigning Grace Ranch. They shared they service on average 500 clients and half of them are from Fountain Hills. The garden project at MMES has a whole village helping and they have recently gotten things planted. He attended the homecoming parade and JC was their driver. He was the star with kids throwing candy at him and that was really neat. He also attended the October Fest and there were volunteers from the town and many student interns volunteering for community service hours as well. He has gotten input on the facilities committee and put together a draft for a meeting with Dr. Jagodzinski tomorrow. He is meeting with the developer and the town tomorrow for the land sale. Lastly he shared that the GEEF mentoring has gone through some changes this year but they seem to have it ironed out and they'll be starting mentoring really soon. Golden Eagle Education Foundation will also be making decisions soon on the Classroom Project grant they sponsor.
- Kim Duckworth shared that she signed up to be a mentor with Golden Eagle Education Foundation and attended the training. She also shared that she registered to attend a conference through the county superintendent's office for governing board members.
- Lillian Acker shared that she attended the homecoming parade and it was great. She also attended the Maricopa County meeting and they are working to plan for the annual conference in December. She shared that she got an award from ASBA for all the hours she has put in with the meetings she attends. She attended the coffee with Ms. Reichler yesterday and it was well attended. She attends the site council meetings to hear what's going on at each campus.
- Rich Rutkowski shared that Madicyn Reid resigned from her position effective October 11, 2025 and he wishes her well in her future endeavors. He attended the homecoming parade and agrees that JC was a celebrity. He presented Tar Wars to the 5th graders at MMES as he has done since 2006. It has morphed in the last few years to do drug and tobacco use prevention. He shared that he will be joining Mr. Hoenle at the meeting for the land sale meeting tomorrow.

b. Reports

- Site Council Minutes

- Mrs. Acker appreciate the schools are going through their by-laws.

- She also shared that she is grateful the district is working with MCSO on the issues with the e-bikes some students are riding to school.
- Current Enrollment
 - Current enrollment is 982, down 4 from September 3, 2025.
- FY25 Annual Financial Report
 - Mr. Chris Hartmann presented.
 - a. Mrs. Duckworth asked where community schools funds come from. Dr. Jagodzinski shared that it comes from preschool tuition and that it can be moved to cover other funding accounts if needed.
 - b. Mr. Hoenle asked about the use of the QR code with sporting events. Mr. Hartmann shared it is going well and it is saving a lot of time and allowing for more accuracy without having to count the cash.
 - c. Mrs. Duckworth cautions the district on going completely cashless as it can exclude some people.

VI. Public Comments

- a. None

VII. Action Items

- a. Personnel Action Report

Motion: Mrs. Acker

Second: Mrs. Duckworth

The board approved 4-0

- b. Payroll Vouchers

- September 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025

Motion: Mrs. Acker

Second: Mr. Hoenle

The board approved 4-0

- c. Accounts Payable Vouchers

- August 28, 2025 through September 25, 2025

Motion: Mr. Hoenle

Second: Mrs. Acker

The board approved 4-0

- d. Donations

○ Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks	\$2500	DO
○ Neil Family Trust	\$200	MMES
○ Arizona Elks	\$1000	FHMS
○ Rita Miller	\$300	FHMS
○ Chill Boutique	\$800	FHMS
○ Barry Hale	\$50	FHMS

Motion: Dr. Rutkowski
Second: Mrs. Acker
The board approved 4-0

e. FY25 Annual Financial Report

- The Annual Financial Report is due on October 15, 2025. Mr. Hartmann will explain the report and answer any questions from Board members.

Motion: Mrs. Acker
Second: Mr. Hoenle
The board approved 4-0

f. Updated Extracurricular Fee

- The 2025-2026 fee schedule has been updated to reflect the current fees at each school site. This list will be brought to the Board for approval as changes are deemed necessary throughout the school year.
- Mrs. Duckworth asked about the difference between the two different squads. Lavona Montgomery shared that one squad meets twice a week and one squad meets once a week. The squad that only meets once a week will pay half of what the squad that meets twice a week pays.

Motion: Mrs. Duckworth
Second: Mrs. Acker
The board approved 4-0

g. Professional Meet and Confer

- The agreement has redlined changes that were presented to the board on September 17, 2025.
- The board requested a few small changes which were made and included in the document presented in this board packet.
- Dr. Rutkowski would like the verbiage "Arizona State Revised Statute" to be changed to the correct verbiage of "Arizona Revised Statutes."

Motion: Dr. Rutkowski
Second: Mrs. Acker
The board approved 4-0

h. Support Meet and Confer

- The agreement has redlined changes that were presented to the board on September 17, 2025.
- The board requested no changes.

Motion: Dr. Rutkowski
Second: Mrs. Duckworth
The board approved 4-0

i. Administrative Meet and Confer

- The agreement has no changes from the previously approved 2024-2025 agreement.

- The staff on administration contracts include the executive assistant, finance manager, site principals, coordinators, directors and executive directors.
- The board requested no changes.

Motion: Dr. Rutkowski

Second: Mrs. Acker

The board approved 4-0

VIII. Information/Discussion Items

a. ASBA Bylaws

- Dr. Rutkowski shared that he believes that ASBA should not be creating separate caucuses as we should be working towards the general benefit of all students and having separate caucuses in his opinion is creating division. Mrs. Acker shared that this is not a change; the change is to for each caucus to share the same bylaws.
- Mrs. Duckworth shared that there is nothing wrong with manual voting and she doesn't feel electronic voting should be the sole way to vote.

b. Policy Advisories 917-958

- EBBB-R – Dr. Rutkowski would like to add legal guardian to the wording with parent pick up. The board concurs.
- EEA – Dr. Rutkowski would like to change “the board authorizes” to “the board may authorize.” The board concurs.
- EF – Dr. Rutkowski would like to list the statute to the section concerning ultra processed foods. It was shared that at the beginning of the paragraph it does reference the statute but only once.
- Mrs. Duckworth asked about the policy regarding staff conduct and how much of it was redlined. She wanted to know if the deleted items were combined with another policy. Both Dr. Rutkowski and Mrs. Acker shared that they believed it was and to look at the first page of the policy advisories for more detail.

IX. Future Action

a. Student Outcomes Such as Report Cards and Proficiency Data

X. Dates of Upcoming Meetings

October 22, 2025 and November 5, 2025 – Business Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. in the FHUSD Learning Center.

XI. Adjournment

Time: 6:59 p.m.

Motion: Dr. Rutkowski

Second: Mrs. Duckworth

The board approved 4-0

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2025



Rich Rutkowski



Bernie Hoenle



Lillian Acker



Kim Duckworth