

CAMP VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MINUTES
TAKEN DURING CVUSD GOVERNING BOARD JOINT WORK SESSION MEETING
WITH YAVAPAI APACHE NATION COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025
WORK SESSION
5:30 PM
MULTI-USE COMPLEX LIBRARY, 280 CAMP LINCOLN ROAD
CAMP VERDE, AZ 86322

5:30 PM

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER
Mrs. Petrie called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE
Native American Liaison Joshua Freeman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL BY INTRODUCTION OF YAVAPAI APACHE COUNCIL, CVUSD GOVERNING BOARD, AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE
*Those in attendance did roll call by way of introduction.
Board Members present were Sharon Petrie, Carol German, and Paul Hawk.
Members of the Yavapai Apache Tribal Council present were Buddy Rocha Jr., Charlie Baca, Thomas Beauty, Jason Fullmer, David Kwail, Genevieve Datsi, Frederick Sanchez, and Matilda Cassadore.
Others present were Superintendent Steve Hicks, Native American Liaison Joshua Freeman, Director of Federal Programs Colleen Kerr, Elementary Principal Jaclyn Campbell, Camp Verde Online/Accommodation Director Nicole Rowley, Karla Reimer Tribal Council Secretary, Leona Wathagoma Johnson O' Malley Director, MiKayla Mix Johnson O'Malley Tutor, Olivia Maillet Verde News Reporter, Cherie Anzar Johnson O' Malley Tutor, Desiree Huey Indian Parent Committee Secretary, Jon Huey Indian Parent Committee President, Micheal Penrod Indian Parent Committee District Representative, and Mary Hudson Board and Superintendent Administrative Assistant.*
4. DINNER HOSTED BY CAMP VERDE USD
The group socialized while they enjoyed dinner provided by Southwest Food Service Excellence.
5. CVUSD FEDERAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR COLLEEN KERR, AND NATIVE AMERICAN LIAISON JOSH FREEMAN, WILL REPORT ON THEIR MEETING AND PLANS FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER
*Ms. Kerr opened the discussion by thanking everyone for attending. She noted that she oversees compliance and monitoring, while Mr. Freeman is the Boots-on-the-Ground with students. Both are still new in their roles and learning the ropes together. Mr. Freeman explained that the district missed out on last year's Title VI funding because they couldn't gather enough parent participation. That \$40,000 usually supports the Native American Liaison position, which the district is covering this year without grant funds. He expressed appreciation to the Council for helping spread the word about the Indian Parent Committee and for offering the Tunli Community Center and Tribal Council Chambers as meeting spaces. He introduced parent committee members Desiree Huey, John Huey, and Micheal Penrod.
Their first parent meeting this year, brought in about a dozen parents, a major improvement. The next meeting will be held this Thursday in the council chambers, where they'll discuss school letter grades and the supports in place for students. Quarterly meetings will continue throughout the year.*

6. NATIVE AMERICAN LIAISON JOSHUA FREEMAN WILL REPORT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, PLANS, AND INITIATIVES

Mr. Freeman presented district data showing 1,654 students, with about 15% identified as Native American. Title VI funding depends on submitted 506 forms, and this year's online registration glitch prevented some forms from generating, an issue now being corrected.

Mr. Freeman outlined the academic support system for Native American students: weekly monitoring of grades and attendance at all four schools, regular student check-ins, and available tutoring provided by both himself and high school teachers. He finds that younger students tend to accept tutoring more readily than high schoolers. Mr. Freeman also assists students with class placement changes when needed and ensures access to online credit recovery. Motivation strategies vary, student to student. There was discussion on transportation as a barrier to after-school tutoring, and the group discussed the possibility of a tribal shuttle with parent consent. Attendance was also identified as a persistent challenge. Council members asked how they could better support students; aligning tribal and school resources.

Council requested success stories, and Mr. Freeman shared several, including a sophomore who completed high school credits in two years. He also highlighted Native American student participation in student council, choir, drama, JAG, and the Native American Club, along with cultural programming across campuses.

Other topics covered:

- Historical trauma and the potential value of a "life class"*
- Johnson O' Malley highlighted as a great resource*
- Student Native American Club participation: Cultural events (social dance, club trips, Heard Museum visit, Exodus Day run, service to elders, Boarding School Remembrance Day, Heritage Month activities, NA readings at CVES)*
- Increase in vape-related (especially THC) suspensions*
- Behavioral Health supports*
- Clothing allowances being tied to student attendance*
- Request for Mr. Freeman to return next semester with updated attendance data*

7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETINGS FROM COUNCIL AND GOVERNING BOARD

Council Chairman Rocha requested a meeting in the second semester to follow up on student attendance and supports.

Mrs. Wathagoma requested Johnson O' Malley receive grades and attendance data on qualifying students from the sites with parent permission forms.

8. CLOSING STATEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Campbell extended an invitation to Council Members to attend Mrs. Tucker's third-grade class to talk about Native American History and Culture with the students.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Hudson
CVUSD Board/Administrative Assistant