

# Nogales Unified School District No. 1



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## NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Regular Meeting held on November 24, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

### I. Attendance:

The following Board Members were present:

Robert Rojas, President, Manuel Ruiz, Clerk; Members, Patricia Muñozcano, and Cesar A. Lopez (telephonically)

Board Member not present: Mayra Quintero

a. Call to Order

Mr. Rojas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Ruiz led all in the pledge.

c. Adoption of Agenda

Superintendent Canto recommended approval as presented.

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Muñozcano for approval of the agenda as presented to the Board.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

Ruiz, Muñozcano, Lopez, and Rojas

### II. Approval of Governing Board Regular Minutes of October 27, 2025, and Special Minutes of October 31, 2025

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Lopez for approval of the minutes as presented to the Board.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

Ruiz, Lopez, Muñozcano, and Rojas

### III. Governing Board/Superintendent Information

a. Superintendent Report – Discussion, Celebration, Recognition, Announcements

1. Update

Superintendent Canto reported that all letter grades have been released and would be releasing the information at the December's meeting.

2. Reminder: ASBA-ASA Annual Conference, Dec. 17-19, 2025

Superintendent Canto reminded the Board of the upcoming events with the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA).

3. Recognition of Manuel Valle (Pierson High School) as an Arizona EL Student Success Story for 2025 OELAS Conference held in Phoenix, AZ

Superintendent Canto gave a brief overview and introduced Mr. Mehta to give brief information of the highlights of Manuel Valle Lopez, who would be honored at the OELAS Conference as an Arizona EL success story.

Mr. Mehta gave a brief history of Manuel Valle Lopez stating his motivation to learn and to go over and beyond.

Superintendent Canto added that Manuel had been recognized as one of the AZ19 most influential Youth last year. He was called along with his family to be provided with a certificate of appreciation by the Board.

Manuel mentioned it was an honor to be present at the Board meeting. He mentioned what he did in order to become fluent in English since his main language had only been Spanish since birth.

Mr. Rojas made a comment that Manuel's success was also due to his teachers and Mr. Mehta's support.

Superintendent Canto added that ADE had also acknowledge his success.

b. Governing Board Report, Celebration, Recognition, Announcements

Ms. Muñozcano thanked the teachers for all their hard work. She reported she had helped at the Trunk or Treat and it had been a lot of fun. She concluded by pointing out the importance of having perfect attendance to have great results.

Mr. Lopez congratulated Manuel and Mr. Mehta for the great accomplishment. He reported he had been able to watch through technology viewing, the Viva Nogales Program a presentation by Superintendent Horne and Arizona State Representative Gabaldon.

Mr. Ruiz stated that Manuel Valle's tenacity to learn had lead him to show that learning can be by and through commitment. He further mentioned that we have very good teachers, staff, and amazing students that continue to do what is needed to be successful in this community. He wished everyone a safe Thanksgiving.

Superintendent Canto thanked Ms. Burkett and Lincoln School Elementary teachers for their fabulous Veteran's Day Celebration ceremony. She added that the staff had done a

beautiful job.

Mr. Rojas mentioned the breakfast was well prepared and the event was a great success. He echoed Mr. Ruiz's comments and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving as well.

IV. Call to the Public

There were none.

V. Consent Agenda Items

Superintendent Canto gave a brief overview and requested approval as presented.

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Muñozcano for approval as presented to the Board.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

Ruiz, Muñozcano, Lopez, and Rojas

- a. Ratification of Expense/Payroll Vouchers
- b. Ratification of Student Activities/Auxiliary Operations Vouchers
- c. Student Activities/Auxiliary Operations Funds Extra Curricular Tax Credit
- d. Approval of Out of State Travel for the Nogales Highs Dance Team and Ms. Travers to Participate in the USA Spirit Nationals Competition at Anaheim, California (on 2/20/2026-2/24/2026)
- e. Approval of FY25-26 Districtwide Approval of All Student Council Approved Fundraising Events on/off Campus
- f. Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement Addenda Between the NUSD No. 1 and the City of Nogales (Use of Facilities)
- g. Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement Addenda Between the NUSD No. 1 and the City of Nogales (Fire and Medical Services)
- h. Approval of the FY2025-2026 Big Brothers, Big Sisters Letter of Agreement for Bin Placement
- i. Approval of Affiliation Agreement with Mariposa Community Health Center
- j. Approval of Personnel Agenda Summary
- k. Approval of Addendum

VI. Call for Executive Session

The Board may vote to call for Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(4) for the purpose of discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney(s) of the District and/or for discussion or consultation with its attorney(s) to consider its position and instruct its attorney(s) regarding current and possible future litigation pertaining to District monies deposited with or in the custody of Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz County Treasurer, a pending lawsuit filed by Santa Cruz County (Pima County Superior Court Matter No. C20244535), a third-party complaint filed by the Arizona Auditor General, Santa Cruz County claims against banks where Santa Cruz County funds were on deposit, legal causes of action relating to the disposition of District monies deposited with or in the custody of Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz County Treasurer, and other related matters.

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Muñozcano to exit the regular meeting

and go into executive session.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Ruiz, Muñozcano, Lopez, and Rojas

**The Board exited to go into executive session at 4:21 p.m.**

VII. Reconvene the Regular Meeting

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Lopez to reconvene into regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Ruiz, Lopez, Muñozcano, and Rojas

**The regular meeting resumed at 4:26 p.m.**

VIII. Action

Authorization for the NUSD Board President to Sign Letter to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Concerning the Recovery of Funds Embezzled by Elizabeth Gutfahr

Mr. Rojas made a motion to send a letter to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and County Attorney inquiring about efforts to recover the stolen funds by Elizabeth Gutfahr and questioning possible open meeting law violations, and was seconded by Mr. Ruiz.

Mr. Ruiz made comments of disappointment from the Santa Cruz County not doing anything about the situation.

Mr. Rojas agreed with Mr. Ruiz's concerns.

Ms. Muñozcano mentioned that she was frustrated for the lack of transparency. That the future of the students was at hand.

Mr. Rojas mentioned that these 11 million impacts the district and especially the students.

Mr. Lopez stated publicly that the County should comply with more transparency.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Ruiz, Muñozcano, Lopez, and Rojas

Mr. Rojas mentioned that Superintendent Canto has the green light to draft the letter for the board president to sign.

b. Action Item

Second Read and Approval of September and October 2025 Policy Advisories from Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) for Recommendation of Policy Changes to: Policy EA – Support Services Goals/Priority Objectives; Regulation EB-R – Environmental and Safety Program; (Deleted) Policy EBAA – Reporting Hazards/Warning Systems, (Deleted) Regulation – EBAA-R – Reporting Hazards/Warning Systems; (New) Policy EBAB – Hazardous Materials, (New) Regulation EBAB-R – Hazardous Materials; Policy

EBBB – Accident Reports, Regulation EBBB-R – Accident Reports; Policy EBC – Emergencies, (New) Regulation EBC-R – Emergencies: Response Plans and School Closings; (Deleted) Policy EBCD Weather-Related and Emergency Closings, (Deleted) Regulation EBCD-R Weather-Related and Emergency Closings; Policy ECA – Security, Regulation ECA-R – Security; Policy ECAC – Vandalism, Regulation ECAC-R – Vandalism; Policy ECB – Building and Grounds Maintenance; (Deleted) Policy ED – Materials and Equipment Management; Policy EDB – Maintenance and Control of Materials and Equipment, Regulation EDB-R – Maintenance and Control of Materials and Equipment, Regulation; (Deleted) Policy EDBA – Maintenance and Control of Instructional Materials; Policy EDC – Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials and Equipment; Policy EE – Transportation Services; (New) Policy EEA – Student Transportation, (New) Regulation EEA-R – Student Transportation; (Deleted) Policy EEAA – Walkers and Riders; Policy EEAE – Bus Safety Program, Regulation EEAE-R – Bus Safety Program, Exhibit EEAE-EA – Bus Safety Program, Exhibit EEAE-EB – Bus Safety Program; Policy EEAEA – Bus Driver Requirements, Training and Responsibilities; (New) Regulation EEAEA-R – Bus Driver Requirements, Training and Responsibilities; (Deleted) Policy EEAEAA – Drug and Alcohol Testing of Transportation Employees, (Deleted) Regulation EEAEAA-R – Drug and Alcohol Testing of Transportation Employees, (Deleted) Exhibit EEAEAA-E – Drug and Alcohol Testing of Transportation Employees; Policy EEAEAB – Bus Purchasing and Maintenance; (Deleted) Policy EEAEAC – Student Conduct on Buses; (Deleted) Policy EEAF – Special Use of Buses; (Deleted) Policy EEAG – Student Transportation in Private Vehicles, (Deleted) Regulation EEAG-R – Student Transportation in Private Vehicles; Policy EEB – Business and Personnel Transportation Services; (Deleted) Policy EEBD – Business Transportation Records and Reports; Policy EF – Food Services, Regulation EF-RA – Food Services, (New) Regulation EF-RB – Food Services, (Deleted) Policy EFC - Free and Reduced-Price Food Services, (Deleted) Regulation EFC-R - Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; (New) Policy EFD – Pricing of and Payment for Food Services; (Deleted) Policy EFDA – Collection of Money/Food Tickets; (Deleted) Policy EFE – Competitive Food Sales/Vending Machines; (Deleted) Policy EG – Office Services; Policy EGAD – Copyright Compliance; Policy EGAE – Mail and Delivery Services; Policy EGAEA – Electronic Mail, (New) Regulation EGAEA-R – Electronic Mail; Policy EGD – Use of Technology in Office Services; Policy EHB – Data/Records Retention, Regulation EHB-R – Data/Records Retention; Policy FA – Facilities Development Goals/Priority Objectives; Policy FCB – Retirement of Facilities; Policy FEA – Educational Specifications for Construction; Policy FF – Naming Facilities; Policy GBEB – Staff Conduct; and Policy DJE – Bidding/Purchasing Procedures

Superintendent Canto gave a brief overview

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Muñozcano for approval of the policies as presented to the board.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Ruiz, Muñozcano, Lopez, and Rojas

## IX. Information and Discussion

### a. Preliminary Pima JTED Bond Proposal

Superintendent Canto gave a brief overview and gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Muñozcano thanked her for the detailed presentation.

Mr. Lopez thanked her for a great presentation.

Mr. Ruiz mentioned his concerns and opposition on the proposed project.

Mr. Rojas concurred with Mr. Ruiz's comments.  
He added his concerns and objection as well.

Mr. Ruiz mentioned that the District needs to be present at the PIMA JTED meeting in order to make clear their objections.

Superintendent Canto agreed with the Board and stated some of her concerns.

Ms. Muñozcano stated her concerns in this program making the constituents responsible.

Mr. Rojas prompted Superintendent Canto to draft a concern letter on the Board's behalf.

X. Requests for Future Agenda Items

There were no requests.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Muñozcano for adjournment of the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by members:  
Ruiz, Muñozcano, Lopez, and Rojas

Session ended at 5:18 p.m.

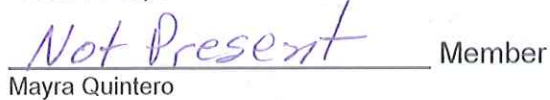
**APPROVED BY THE BOARD**

  
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Robert S. Rojas      President

  
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Manny Ruiz      Clerk

  
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Patricia Muñozcano      Member

  
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Cesar A. Lopez      Member

  
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Not Present      Member  
Mayra Quintero

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary T. Lopez, Secretary  
December 8, 2025

(For exact statements made during the Board Meeting, you may request a copy of the recording)