

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Arizona Western College  
District Governing Board Meeting  
Regular Meeting 11:30 am  
San Luis Learning Center Campus and Virtually  
February 18, 2026

**Board Members Present:** Board Chair Dennis Booth and Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda and Maria Chavoya

**Board Member present by phone, Zoom:** Brad Sale

**Board Member Absent:** Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

**Others Present within Meeting room: (44)**

Dr. Daniel P. Corr, President

Dr. Reetika Dhawan, CEO of Entrepreneurial College

Czarina Gallegos, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services

Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff

Alan Lopez, IT Services

Ana English, Dean of Enrollment Services

Andrea Camarena, Student Support Specialist

Bryan Chambers, Science Faculty

Bryan Doak, Executive Vice President for Learning and Student Services

Cindy Zavala, Director of Campus Life

Cinthia Reyes, Executive Director and Dean of CTE Coordinator

Cristina Gonzales, Dean of Advisement and Student Services

Daniel Herrera, English Faculty

Dr. Cris Gordon, Dean of Communications

Dr. Joann Chang, Dean of Innovation

Dr. Michelle Sims, Professor of Economics

Dr. Nikki Hage, Dean of Students

Dr. Sara Amani, English Faculty

Elaine Groggett, Executive Director of Centralized Schedule and Assessment

Jennifer Freedman, Executive Administrative Assistant

Jocelyn Balicevac, Centralized Scheduling and Assessment Coordinator

Johanna Megui, Workforce Specialist

Kathy Ocampo, Vice President and CHRO

Kimberly Trujillo, Director of Human Resources

Laura Fregoso, SYC Services

Mandy Heil, Dean of Communications and Marketing

Maria Guzman, Advising and Student Services

Mark Sims, AJS Faculty

Mercedes Galaviz, All-Arizona Award Recipient & Student of the Month

Michelle Keeling, Education Faculty

Miguel Alvarez, AJS Faculty

Miguel Rivas, Student of the Month

Miranda Reyna, All-Arizona Award Recipient & Student of the Month

Omar Heredia, Advising and Student Services

Onyeka Udodi, SGA President

Ken Grant, Associate Dean of Allied Health

Paul Huggins, English Faculty

Randy Hartless, Associate Dean of La Paz County Services

Renee Macaluso, Dean of Math, Science and Engineering

Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer

Stuart Gibson, Dean of Business & Education

Susie Zambrano, Dean of South Yuma County

Yaneli Pasillas-Miller, La Paz County Services

**Others Present virtually: (5)**

Julia Howe

Karen Davila

Michelle Struck

Nancy Ney

Dr. Emily Kerr, Faculty Senate Representative, Communications Faculty

**Community Members Present by Zoom:** (0) None

**Community Members Present in Room:** (7) Omar Duron, Luisa Arreola, Raul Rascon, Esteban Rosales, Jazmin Zamundo, John Hessinger, Francia Alonso

**Call to Order:** Board Chair Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 11:29 am.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The agenda for February 18, 2026, meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

**Approval of Minutes:** The Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2026, presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Call to the Audience:

2 respondents to the Call to the Public

1. Luisa Arreola, community member - announced an upcoming public Town Hall conversation with Senator Ruben Gallegos.
2. Omar Duron, Somerton School Superintendent – congratulated Dr. Corr on years of partnership, excited for the future, stating through partnership, “Together with rigor we thrive”.

### **College Reports**

Student Government Association, SGA President Onyeka Udodi shared updates on recent SGA activities, including student wellness initiatives, cultural awareness efforts, and increased interest in expanded programs and campus engagement. Appreciation was expressed to Dr. Cor for his mentorship, participation, and ongoing support, as well as to the entire District Governing Board for continued encouragement of student leadership efforts.

Faculty Senate Association, Dr. Emily Kerr, Faculty Senate Representative to the District Governing Board, presented the Faculty Senate update highlighting student academic recognition, faculty scholarship, and community engagement and service.

### **Action Items**

**Action Item #1** – Consideration to Accept Candidates for Exempt Positions, presented by Katheline Ocampo  
Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

*Summary –*

- Adam Freedman, Executive Director of Integrated Public Safety Education
- Hannah Whitson, Professor of Mathematics
- Lindsey Lee, Payroll Coordinator
- Osvaldo Villa, Workforce & Healthcare Grant Manager
- Sivasankar Kunapuli, Professor of Electronics
- Tanner DeHart, Welding Technology Instructor

**Action Item #2** – Consideration to Approve New Curriculum, presented by Dr. Reetika Dhawan  
Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth  
Nay: None  
Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

*Summary* –

New Curriculum proposed in:

1. AS.NTR Nutrition and Wellness (60 credits)
  - a. The Nutrition and Wellness Associate of Science degree is designed to address the growing demand for professionals who can support healthier communities through evidence-based knowledge in nutrition, preventative healthcare strategies, and lifestyle coaching.
2. CERT.STAP Supply Technician Apprenticeship Certificate (15 credits)
  - a. This Apprenticeship Certificate provides students with hands-on, work-based learning experience under the mentorship of industry experts combined with rigorous academic instruction in the field of integrated logistics and supply chain management.

**Action Item #3** – Consideration to Approve the Proposed 2026-2027 Budget Assumptions, presented by Czarina Gallegos  
Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Maria Chavoya  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth  
Nay: None  
Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

*Summary* – Budget projections reflect anticipated increases in State Aid and STEM funding driven by enrollment growth, while grant funding sources are expected to remain stable. Conservative enrollment assumptions and modest fee adjustments are guiding the budget planning process, with Dr. Corr noting benefits from a growing property tax base in La Paz County.

**Action Item #4** – Consideration to Approve the Proposed 2026-2027 Schedule of Tuition and Fees, presented by Czarina Gallegos  
Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth  
Nay: None  
Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

*Summary* –

The Proposed 2026-2027 Tuition and Fee schedule reflects modest adjustments intended to maintain affordability while better aligning rates with instructional and operational costs. Updates include small tuition increases, targeted fee adjustments across select programs and services, and clarification of existing charges,

with additional context provided by Czarina and Dr. Corr regarding overall rate considerations and student impact.

**Action Item #5** – Consideration to Approve Voucher (December 2025), presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

*Summary –*

Executive Summary

The District maintains robust financial health, with a monthly operating cash balance of \$10,799,229 as of December 31, 2025, down from \$12,460,171 the previous year. Revenues increased by 10.5% year-over-year, while expenditures decreased by 6.2%. Dual enrollment and total credit hour enrollments have also seen positive gains, positioning the District favorably for continued growth and impact.

Fiscal Overview

Metrics	2025-2026	2024-2025	% Change
Actual Revenues	\$41,842,273	\$37,873,472	+10.5%
Actual Expenditures	\$33,059,701	\$35,227,844	- 6.2%
Operating Cash Balance	\$10,799,229	\$12,460,171	-13.3%

Enrollment Trends

Enrollment Type	2025-2026	2024-2025	% Change
Total Credit Hours	90,661	78,623	+15.3%
Early College Credit Hours	18,175	14,842	+22.5%
Dual Enrollment Credit Hours	10,876	9,690	+12.2%

Closing Statement

The District’s financial foundation remains solid, driven by rising revenues, responsible expenditures, and increasing student engagement. Strategically investing in infrastructure and student support services to sustain positive growth and continued emphasis on dual enrollment, prudent budgeting, and strategic investments are key to ensure ongoing success in service of the community and student body.

**Information Item #1**– Informational Review – Purchases over \$50,000– Presented by Czarina Gallegos

*Summary –*

Since the Purchasing threshold increased from \$50,000 to \$250,000 per Procedure 337.1, the College presents purchases over \$50,000 to the next District Governing Board meeting for information.

Department	Vendor	Cost	Fund Source
Facilities Management	The Hiller Companies LLC	\$71,029.49	Operational
Entrepreneurial College	Sonsray Machinery LLC	\$184,831.44	Grants – PIM Grant

### **Spotlight on South Yuma County**

Susanna Zambrano introduced local community members in attendance.

Student of the Month for Learning Services:

- Miguel Rizo, nominated by Dr. Sara Amani. He is recognized for his leadership and kindness in and out of the classroom. He thanked Dr. Amani for her encouragement, stating that being here “feels like a dream” and “an enjoyable and challenging journey”.

All-Arizona Award Recipients:

- Mercedes Galaviz: First generation student, restarted her education after raising her family to finish her goal of transferring to NAU in August. She thanked all who supported her journey.
- Miranda Reyna: Spoke of AWC’s impact on her growth and plans to pursue a BSN, interested in pediatric oncology as a specialty. Miranda is also a first-generation student who has prioritized her education and thanked everyone for their support.

Updates highlighted strong outreach and recruitment efforts led by Ms. Zambrano and her outreach team, including marketing collaborations and in-person engagement with local high schools, contributing to sustained enrollment growth and anticipated future increases. Programmatic changes in Logistics have expanded offerings, increased enrollment, and introduced stackable certificates, apprenticeship development, and advisory board planning to support student transfer and employment outcomes.

Additional updates noted continued Adult Education services across La Paz and Yuma counties despite waitlists, expanded science lab capacity supporting healthcare and science instruction in South Yuma County, and recognition of AWC Key Employees Omar Heredia and Alan Sanchez for their contributions in advising, student services, and financial aid support.

### **President’s Reports**

*Strategic Planning Updates report for AWC2028*, Presented by Dr. Daniel P. Corr and Ashley Herrington

Dr. Corr and Ms. Herrington presented the President’s Report highlighting updates to the 3 pillars: Excelencia, Access, and Disruption. Updates provided in the areas of the Center for the Future/AI initiatives; Centralized Scheduling highlighting significant fall growth and increased student performance; continued growth in dual and concurrent enrollment; success of the December fall commencement with most credentials ever awarded; continued focus on Entrepreneurial College initiatives including Wellton Accelerator, apprenticeships, prison programming, and grants; and very positive student satisfaction data trends.

### **Closing Items:**

*Good of the Order by Dr. Daniel P. Corr*

Arizona Western College is proud to host the Ag Summit this week on the Yuma Campus, convening regional industry leaders, partners, and students in support of workforce alignment and economic vitality in our agricultural sector.

Earlier this month, College leadership and students participated in Community College Capitol Day at the Arizona State Capitol, engaging directly with legislators to advocate for community college priorities and the students we serve. Additionally, Ms. Chavoya, Ms. Zepeda, and Dr. Dhawan attended the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC, to participate in national-level discussions focused on advancing higher education policy and identifying strategic opportunities for institutional and student success.

The draft FY2026–2027 budget will be presented at the April Board meeting for review and discussion, with final consideration and approval scheduled for the June meeting. The proposed budget reflects continued fiscal discipline and alignment with institutional priorities.

Dr. Corr also invited the community to attend the March 3 “Decade of Transformation” event, recognizing ten years of measurable student and community impact and celebrating the collective work that has advanced the College during this period.

Finally, the College is actively exploring a potential site in Somerton to expand academic and workforce offerings in response to community need. Additional information will be shared as due diligence progresses.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting scheduled will be March 26, 2026, with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

**Adjourn:** The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Freedman, Recording Secretary