

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Regular Meeting 10:30 am
Parker Learning Center Campus and Virtually
September 17, 2025

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth, Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya and Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: None

Board Member Absent: None

Others Present within Frances Morris Boardroom: (14)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President	Dr. Cris Gordon, Dean of Liberal Arts
Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff	Yaneli Pasillas, Director of Outreach and Special Programs
Bryan Doak, Executive Vice President for Learning and Student Services	Randy Hartless, Associate Dean for La Paz County, Entrepreneurial College
Cinthia Reyes, Dean	Beatriz Gruwell, Student of the Month
Dr. Reetika Dhawan, CEO of Entrepreneurial College	Larry, Student of the Month supporter
Kathy Ocampo, Vice President and CHRO	Lorraine Stofft, VP of Advancement
Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer	Alan Lopez, IT Support

Others Present virtually: (18)

Czarina Gallegos, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services	Noemi Barraza
Karen Davila	Jennifer Ericson
Julia Howe	Jennifer Freedman
Cindy Zavala	Dr. Nikki Hage
Kimberly Trujillo	Stuart Gibson
Dr. Joann Chang	Adriana Perez
Renee Macaluso	Kari Wyatt
Susanna Zambrano	Onyeka Udodi, Student Government Association President
Adriana Perez	
Dr. Emily Kerr	
Miguel Alvarez	

Community Members Present by Zoom: (0) None

Community Members Present in room: (4) Sara Lingaro and Amber Kant-Wood: AZ@Work, Aubrey Cox and Cara Rueda: La Paz Regional Medical Center

Call to Order: Board Chair Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 10:32 am.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for September 17, 2025, meeting presented for approval.
Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Approval of Minutes: The Meeting Minutes for August 19, 2025, presented for approval.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Call to the Audience: No one approached the call to the audience.

Student Government Association,

President Onyeka Udodi welcomed the Board. The Student Government Association reported on two major student engagement events held in September. The Level Up Leadership Bootcamp, hosted September 5–6, brought together 71 student organization officers for training in motivation, connection, and personal growth. The Fall Club Fair was held September 10–11, and it featured participation from a broad range of student clubs and organizations and drew 167 students, fostering a strong start to student involvement for the semester.

Faculty Senate Association,

Dr. Emily Kerr, Faculty Senate Representative to the District Governing Board, provided the Faculty Senate update. The report highlighted new leadership for the 2025–2026 academic year and provided updates across teaching, learning, and faculty engagement. Notable achievements include the launch of federally funded Adult Education and ESOL classes in Parker, increased enrollment in Culinary Arts and Logistics programs, and accreditation for the EMS/EMT program, which began two new cohorts this fall. Additional growth was seen in the Fire Academy, Geospatial Technology, Agriculture, HVAC, Medical Assisting, and Phlebotomy programs. The Faculty report included congratulations to Dr. Reetika Dhawan on earning her Doctorate in Education. The report also noted the development of a new student volunteer initiative in partnership with Yuma County courts through the Administration of Justice program. Dr. Kerr concluded by expressing appreciation for faculty commitment to student success and community engagement.

Spotlight Report

Spotlight on La Paz County Services, Presented by Randy Hartless.

The La Paz County Spotlight highlighted the strong community partnerships at the Parker and Quartzsite campuses, including collaborations with local schools, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and economic development organizations. This year, 70 degrees and certificates were awarded in programs ranging from EMT, CNA, and Phlebotomy to Fiber Optic Broadband, Fire Academy, and IT certifications. Exciting new opportunities include the Parker Welding Lab, CDL training, Basic Electrical, and the Detention Officer Training Academy, which successfully launched its first cohort in May. Adult Education and ESOL programs continue to expand, with 134 students enrolled in La Paz County and La Paz students recognized with awards for success, attendance, and perseverance. Staffing enhancements in Parker, including the addition of a part-time evening clerk and a full-time administrative assistant, have strengthened student services, with continued advocacy for expanded support in Quartzsite.

The presentation also recognized Phlebotomy student Beatriz Gruwell as Student of the Month for her dedication and patient-centered approach; She shared her thanks and noted the Student of the Month is an accomplishment for Arizona Western College, as much as her, for the support and accomplishment to achieve the Phlebotomy Certificate.

In addition, special recognition was given to Arizona@Work and Sarah for their ongoing partnership, which strengthens community connection and resources despite significant federal funding cuts. Sarah expressed appreciation for the College's openness and commitment to shared approaches in service to the community.

Action Items

Action Item #1 – Consideration to Accept Candidates for Exempt Positions, presented by Katheline Ocampo

Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

- Jair Delgadillo, Videographer
- Jon Wente, Faculty Head Baseball Coach
- Joana Fenzel, Nursing Assistant Program Faculty

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Approve Intergovernmental Agreements, presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

For the benefit of all members of our district service area, including College students and employees, the College administration recommends that the District Governing Board authorize the College to enter into two Intergovernmental Agreements with Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System administration (“AHCCCS”) for October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026. The agreements for the Support and Administration of the Access to Professional Services Initiative. A payment of \$6,165,540.00 to Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System administration (“AHCCCS”) will directly benefit the Yuma Regional Medical Center and thus the community in the form of enhanced medical facilities and hospital programs.

Purchases exceeding \$250,000 require District Governing Board approval per the College’s Purchasing Procedure (Procedure 337.1).

Action Item #3 – Consideration to Approve Vouchers (August 2025) – Presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Dr. MacFarland

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

Fiscal Status Overview:

- Monthly Operating Cash Balance: \$12,665,180.33 August 31, 2025, compared to \$13,456,022.71 on August 31, 2024.
- Current Strength: For the month ended August 31, 2025, revenues increased by 12.8% compared to prior fiscal year.

- Revenues vs. Expenses: The District received 20% of anticipated revenues, with 18% of the budgeted expenditures spent.

Fiscal Revenue Analysis:

- Year-over-Year Comparison Revenues:
 - o FY25/26 Actual Revenues: \$11,848,444
 - o FY24/25 Actual Revenues: \$10,507,831
 - o Percentage Change: An increase of approximately 12.8% in actual revenues.
- Year-over-Year Comparison Expenditures:
 - o FY25/26 Actual Expenditures: \$11,645,045
 - o FY24/25 Actual Expenditures: \$9,964,109
 - o Percentage Change: A decrease of approximately 16.9% in actual expenditures.

Enrollment Status:

- Current Enrollment: 86,549 credit hours.
- Comparison with Previous Year: 82,751 credit hours

Early College Highlights:

- Current Enrollment: 15,096 total credit hours, 6,272 are dual enrollment.
- Comparison with Previous Year: 15,096 total credit hours, 9,728 are dual enrollment

Detailed Financial Data & Key Observations:

1. Fiscal Strength: The district continues to show strong financial health, supported by steady enrollment growth, responsible fiscal management, and thoughtful strategic planning. In August 2025, both revenues and expenditures increased compared to August 2024, reflecting the district's continued growth and investment in its operations.
2. Enrollment Expansion: Dual enrollment is ongoing. Current numbers are preliminary and will be updated in the September report.

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 of over \$50,000 to the next District Governing Board meeting.

Division	Vendor	Cost	Fund Source
Financial & Administrative Svcs	Jacobson Companies, Inc	\$187,440.00	Unexpended Plant
Learning Services	Educational Services Inc	\$105,263.60	General
Financial & Administrative Svcs	Mayas Construction LLC	\$54,955.00	Unexpended Plant
Entrepreneurial College	HDS Truck Driving Institute Inc	\$106,000.00	General
Financial & Administrative Svcs	Summa Mechanical Contractors Inc	\$142,140.66	Unexpended Plant
Financial & Administrative Svcs	Fruth Groups Inc	\$75,844.21	Unexpended Plant
Entrepreneurial College	Center for the Future of Arizona	\$65,913.90	DoED - Perkins

Closing Items:

Good of the Order by Dr. Daniel Corr

Dr. Corr recognized Randy Hartless and the La Paz team for their work in deepening partnerships that strengthen and support thriving communities across Yuma and La Paz Counties. He shared athletics updates, noting a strong start to the fall season with women's soccer remaining undefeated, men's soccer ranked #10, and volleyball ranked #20 and performing competitively in early season play.

He also extended congratulations to Dr. Reetika Dhawan on earning her Doctorate degree and highlighted her recent visit to Taiwan to meet with TSMC, reflecting growing statewide initiatives that connect the College with training and manufacturing opportunities.

Dr. Corr further referenced the recently completed Lightcast economic impact study, which affirms the College's significant role as an employer, its contribution to graduate success in the workforce, and the added value of a college degree in regional earnings. He reported a 7% increase in enrollment alongside an 8% reduction in sections, underscoring the success of the student-centered schedule and districtwide program growth, with a Strategic Planning Update and Enrollment report by Bryan Doak scheduled to share more details at the next meeting.

This academic year is on pace to reach record enrollment. Finally, Dr. Corr noted the unfortunate loss of federal funding for CAMP programs nationwide and affirmed that the College will continue to seek alternative funding sources for 2025–2026.

Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled will be October 16, 2025, 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: Dr. MacFarland, 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 11:32 am.

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,


Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary