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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: March 11, 2024

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshar   
County Administrator

Re: **Additional Information for the March 19, 2024 Board of Supervisors Meeting – Agenda No. 14 - Pima Vocational High School**

On March 19, 2024, the Board of Supervisors will consider the status and future of Pima Vocational High School (PVHS). PVHS is a charter high school serving youth ages 16-21, operated by Pima County Community & Workforce Development (CWD). Staff provided an [update on PVHS December 7, 2023](#). As that memorandum and the attached memorandum from CWD Director Dan Sullivan demonstrate, trends both at PVHS and in the overall educational landscape since the school's founding in 2000 justify a fresh review by the Board regarding Pima County's continued operation of a charter high school. This most recent memorandum provides options, along with a recommendation to surrender the charter and wind down the school in a way that prioritizes successful transition of students who have not yet graduated to other institutions.

Discussions surrounding the school's future are not easy, and the subject has understandably provoked strong feelings in some individuals with ties to the school. Pima County is proud of the opportunities PVHS has provided and of the many successful PVHS graduates who have gone on to be productive members of our community. Nothing in staff's recommendation should be construed to express anything other than the need to freshly evaluate Pima County's continued relevance as a charter holder.

I recommend that the Board approve the CWD recommendation to surrender the charter as detailed in the attached memorandum.

JKL/dym

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator  
Dan Sullivan, Director, Community & Workforce Development

Date: March 8, 2024

To: Jan Leshar  
County Administrator

From: Dan Sullivan   
Community & Workforce Development  
Director

Re: **Pima Vocational High School Update**

This memorandum provides an update to the [December 1, 2023, Community & Workforce Development \(CWD\) memorandum](#) regarding Pima Vocational High School (PVHS). We provide additional historical background, responds to inquiries and comments received from various sources, provides an update on school operations and on recent Governing Board actions, depicts student assessment scores as compared to County averages, addresses a correction to a graphic in the prior memorandum; and presents options and recommendations with respect to the charter.

#### **Additional PVHS Background**

In order to ensure fully informed decision making, and to help respond to some of the questions and critiques from Governing Board members, staff, and interested members of the public, it is appropriate to provide some additional historical background about PVHS. In January 2000, the Board of Supervisors considered a request to move forward with the development of PVHS, including the acceptance of a \$35,000 grant from the State of Arizona. The minutes of that meeting state: “The school would not affect the General Fund in any way. The Charter School would be funded by the state.” (**Attachment 1**, BOS minute excerpts, p. 2.)

Later in 2000, a complete package was brought to the Board, including formation of the PVHS Governing Board, appointment of members to that Governing Board, and delineations of authority between the Governing Board and County Administration. Under that delineation, the Governing Board would “assist in making policy decisions,” provide oversight, and approve hiring for the school, but all hiring and procurement would be done consistent with normal County policies, procedures, and processes. (**Attachment 1**, pp. 4-5.) The minutes again reflect that the Pima County General Fund would not support the school. The school’s first charter agreement with the State was executed in 2000.

Beginning with the FY2002-03 budget, PVHS began receiving General Fund support, which has increased since then. The amounts of that support for the last five fiscal years reported were included in the December 1 memorandum. As noted in the memo, as of FY2021-22, the General Fund support for PVHS includes \$295,262 in Information Technology charges. Although those charges had previously been part of CWD’s budget for PVHS, they were not charged to the PVHS General Fund unit before FY2021-22, and therefore not reflected in the rollup of General Fund support for PVHS. Accordingly, CWD budgets prior to FY2021-22 reflect an artificially lower amount of support, usually in the neighborhood of \$250,000 annually.

Historically, programmatic reporting on PVHS to the Board has been periodic rather than regular. The most recent comprehensive report was a 2014 memorandum in conjunction with the school’s application to

renew its charter. That memorandum identified the school's role in providing internships and emphasized its relationship at the time with Pima County Juvenile Court, from which at the time it accepted many referrals. It explained the benefits of Pima County having a charter as follows:

The charter with the Arizona State Board of Charter Schools . . . provides the dynamic pooling of resources and expertise for the success of a very vulnerable teen dropout population who have few alternative options to forge a job and career path. The charter enables the County to access state and federal funds, which provide an approximately 4 to 1 match of County General Funds to support an intensive two-year program that results in enrolling dropout youth in school and a pathway out of poverty. Students complete extensive employment training, a viable career plan, and requirements for a full high school diploma from a fully accredited secondary school.

The school's charter agreement was renewed in 2012 and again in 2017.

As noted in the December 1 memorandum, in recent years per-pupil spending has risen and exceeded peer and state averages. For broader context, **Attachment 2** is a table depicting total expenditures going back to Fiscal Year 2012-23, along with per-pupil spending for the years for which that number can be calculated.

### **School Operations**

The current school session began January 10, 2024. As noted in the December 1 memorandum, classes were consolidated at the Ina campus because of the low number of students. Transportation is provided daily to and from the Irvington campus so that Irvington students do not have to alter their transportation arrangements. CWD has a van to transport students and has also made available an additional CWD sport-utility vehicle for days in which the van is full. Two CWD employees who are authorized drivers are available to transport students.

The school remains under the interim leadership of CWD Deputy Director Rhonda Piña and Youth Community & Workforce Manager Daphanie Conner. On-site leadership has until recently been provided by a Community & Workforce Coordinator who has six years' experience in secondary education. Considering the recommendations provided in the December 1 memorandum, CWD has paused recruitment of a full-time school leader.

Since the January 10 session start, attendance has fluctuated between 16 and 26 students per day. Since the December 1 memorandum, three Instructors have resigned. There are currently seven staff (five Instructors and two contractors) providing instruction. CWD continues to not actively recruit students. Per the Arizona State Board of Charter Schools we are legally required to enroll any student who requests enrollment, but are permitted to discuss the status of the school with prospective enrollees before enrolling them. Currently, any student wishing to enroll is referred to Ms. Conner to have that discussion. CWD leadership and staff are also working with the Arizona Auditor General's Office to provide information as part of the Fiscal Year 2023 Legal Compliance Questionnaire process.

### **Governing Board Actions**

The PVHS Governing Board, whose members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, exists for the

purpose of “oversight, policy supervision, and as a legal advisory body.”<sup>1</sup> The PVHS Governing Board, which consists of seven seats, currently has three Members: President Mary Fellows and Members Dr. Michael Olguín and Dr. Jimmy Hart.

The Governing Board has met three times since the December 1 memorandum. On [December 21, 2023](#), among the items the Governing Board considered was whether to accept the staff’s recommendations articulated in the December 1 memorandum. The Governing Board voted 3-0 not to accept the staff recommendations. The Governing Board Members expressed a variety of concerns including the following: the Covid pandemic and school-leadership challenges have left staff “swimming uphill”; these students might not have been able to graduate from any other school; and the school has been something special but recently has not been “appreciated or nurtured.”

On [January 18](#), the Governing Board met to discuss several items of interest regarding school status and operations, but did not take any action other than approving the minutes of the December 21 meeting. On [February 15](#), the Governing Board again met and discussed current school status, received a financial report, and voted to recommend a new Governing Board member, Sydni Stout.

At President Fellows’ request, a survey was created to solicit feedback from students in response to eight questions:

- What do you think sets PVHS apart from other Charter schools?
- What is your history/experience with PVHS?
- How has PVHS made a difference in your life or someone that you know?
- Have you referred any family or friends to attend PVHS in the past? Why or Why not?
- What is one thing PVHS is missing right now?
- If you had a magic wand, what would you use it for regarding PVHS?
- Additional Comments
- Any testimony or personal experience?

The document received 31 responses, 26 of which were time-stamped Tuesday, January 16, during school hours. The responses are included in **Attachment 4**.

In addition, President Fellows and at least one PVHS employee have sent correspondence to Board Offices raising questions, criticisms, or concerns about the current status of PVHS. Because many of these communications raise similar themes, CWD has prepared a “Frequently Asked Questions” document with responses. It is attached as **Attachment 5**.

### **Historic Student Performance**

Students across Arizona are given standardized tests that provide one measure of student performance across schools. **Attachment 3** depicts data on AZMerit assessments for the five fiscal years preceding the Covid pandemic. The chart includes data for PVHS, as well as Pima County averages. The chart depicts overall pass rates. The proficiency levels are as follows: Level 1 – Minimally Proficient; Level 2 – Partially Proficient; Level 3 – Proficient; and Level 4 – Highly Proficient. A passing score indicates at least Level 3 proficiency.

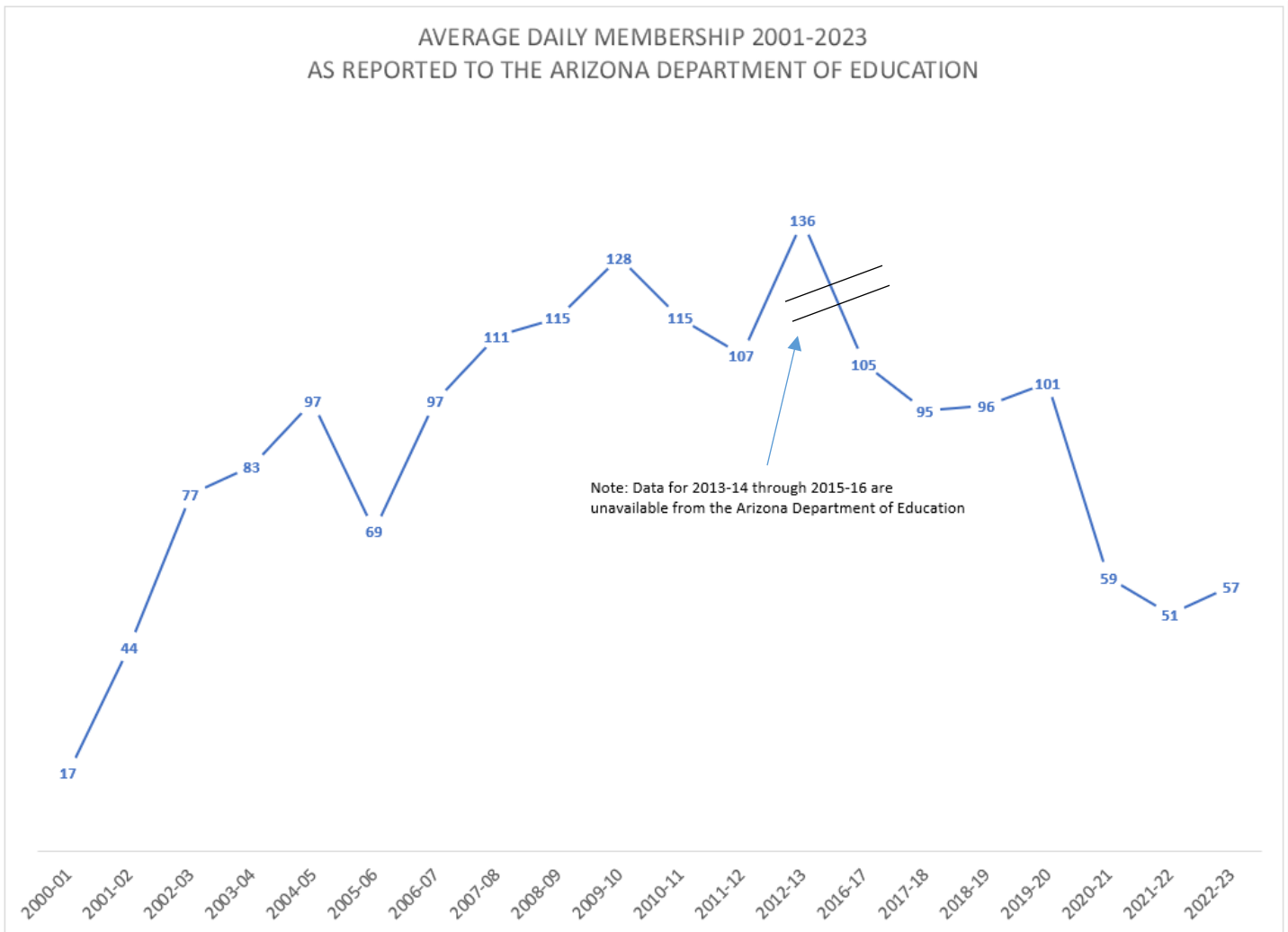
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<sup>1</sup>[PVHS Governing Board Bylaws](#), Operating Board, Section 1.

The Pima County averages include all grade levels and all schools, both district and charter schools. Scores can vary significantly from school to school. Nonetheless, the scores demonstrate passing rates substantially below Pima County averages.

### Correction to December 1 Memorandum

The December 1 memorandum includes a graphic depicting PVHS Average Daily Membership from 2001-2023. Five of the years in that graphic (2017 through 2021) included incorrect numbers. This is the result of an inadvertent staff error when pulling numbers from Arizona Department of Education reports. Below is a revised graphic depicting the corrected numbers.



### Charter Options

The PVHS charter is held by Pima County. The Board of Supervisors is the “legal and fiscal agent” of the school,<sup>2</sup> with authority to decide the future of the charter. CWD leadership continues to engage with staff

<sup>2</sup>[PVHS Governing Board Bylaws](#), Operating Board, Section 1.

from the Arizona Department of Education and Arizona State Board of Charter Schools (ASBCS) in order to be able to fully apprise the Board of Supervisors about its options with respect to the school and the charter. Based on this, we can present three options, which are outlined below. To minimize the impact on students, it is highly desirable that a decision be made as to which option to pursue in time to implement it before June 30, when the fiscal year ends.

**Option 1 (CWD recommended) – Surrender the Charter and Close PVHS**

The charter can be surrendered with approval by the Executive Director of the ASBCS. In order to effectuate that approval, Pima County would need to submit (1) evidence showing the Board of Supervisors' approval of charter surrender; (2) a reason for the surrender; and (3) signature of a Charter Representative. (Current Charter Representatives are Ms. Piña, Ms. Conner, and Deputy Director Andy Flagg.) To ensure the process would be complete by the end of the fiscal year, the Board of Supervisors should take up the matter at a meeting in March to allow for submission of the necessary paperwork to ASBCS by April 30, 2024. Under this option, all records would be transferred to the state, so the County would not have any responsibility for record retention.

Concurrently, CWD staff would continue to work with students and families to develop an individualized plan for transition to another school that can meet their needs. As described in the December 1 memorandum, there are a number of alternative schools—both district and charter schools—that serve similar student populations. In addition, CWD leadership would complete any necessary layoff planning for school staff, offering the services of the One-Stop Career Center to any interested employees.

**Option 2 – Transfer the Charter to Another Entity**

A charter can be transferred to another entity with approval of the ASBCS. The receiving entity must be willing to take on the history, obligations, and liabilities of the school in addition to taking over the operations and the education of any continuing students. The best candidate entity would be a current charter holder. At this time, no other entities have expressed interest in taking over the charter. In order to effectuate a transfer before the end of the fiscal year, a transferee would need to be found and placement on an ASBCS agenda would need to happen before the end of February. An audit is recommended as a condition of transfer to another entity.

**Option 3 – Continue to Operate PVHS**

The Board of Supervisors could, decline to accept staff's recommendations and vote to continue operating the school. In that event, staff would prioritize recruiting a new, dynamic school leader and reinstate student recruitment. If this option is selected, CWD recommends a third-party forensic audit of current school records to ensure current and future compliance for the benefit of the charter holder, the Board of Supervisors.

c: Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer

Attachments

# ATTACHMENT 1

## MINUTES, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

JANUARY 4, 2000

The Pima County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the regular meeting place of the Pima County Board of Supervisors on the First Floor of the Superior Courts Building of the Governmental Center, Tucson, Arizona, at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2000. Upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

Present: Sharon Bronson, Chair  
Raul Grijalva, Vice Chair  
Mike Boyd, Member  
Ray Carroll, Member  
Dan Eckstrom, Member  
Robin Brigode, Deputy Clerk

Absent: None

### ... EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

On consideration, it was moved by Supervisor Eckstrom, seconded by Supervisor Carroll, and unanimously carried by a five to zero vote, that the Board convene to Executive Session at 8:50 a.m. relating to:

- A. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (4), for legal advice and direction, to seek authority to file suit to correct erroneous determination by the State Board of Equalization of tax status for the year 2000 for two properties as follows:
1. Tax Parcel 303-21-061A, owners: John W. Lovill, and Charles B. and Maria E. Norris;
  2. Tax Parcel 303-21-054A, owner: Marybeth Pollina.
- B. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (4), for legal advice and direction to discuss possible settlements in the following matters:
1. University Medical Center v. Pima County, Superior Court Cause No. 320268;
  2. University Medical Center v. Pima County, Superior Court Cause No. 310846.
- C. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(2)(3) and (4), for legal advice and direction, for discussion of legal issues regarding Kino Community Hospital Management, patient care, and contract matters.

12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: PIMA VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OR PIMA CHARTER SCHOOL

The Board of Supervisors on December 14, 1999, continued the following to this date:

Discussion/Action on authorization to proceed on development of Pima Vocational High School, including acceptance of a Stimulation Grant in the amount of \$35,000.00 from the State of Arizona.

Herman Warrior, Consultant to Community Services, advised the Board that the Charter school focuses on individuals 17-21 years of age. These individuals require a special approach and are often recommended by the Pima County Juvenile Center and their Probation Officers. The school would not affect the General Fund in any way. The Charter School would be funded by the State.

On consideration, it was moved by Chair Bronson, seconded by Supervisor Eckstrom, and unanimously carried by a five to zero vote, to proceed with the development of Pima Vocational High School.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 2000 - 9, to adopt the declaration of loan terms for Pima County Loan from Pima County Wastewater Management Department System Development Fund, documenting the specific terms of the 1998/99 fiscal year-end loan.

Supervisor Eckstrom requested information be brought back regarding impacts to current as well as future Wastewater Management Projects.

Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator, explained that this document borrows from the funds set aside for capital development in Wastewater. Chuck Huckelberry will return with the information requested by Supervisor Eckstrom regarding any potential impacts this may have on the Wastewater Management Projects.

Supervisor Grijalva requested a list of priorities for retro fitting and reconstructing existing system lines.

On consideration, it was moved by Chair Bronson, seconded by Supervisor Carroll, and unanimously carried by a five to zero vote, to pass and adopt Resolution No. 2000-9.



MINUTES, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

AUGUST 1, 2000

The Pima County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the regular meeting place of the Pima County Board of Supervisors on the First Floor of the Superior Courts Building of the Governmental Center, Tucson, Arizona, at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 2000. Upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

Present: Sharon Bronson, Chair  
Raul Grijalva, Vice Chair  
Mike Boyd, Member  
Dan Eckstrom, Member  
Lori Godoshian, Clerk

Absent: Ray Carroll, Member

**ADDENDUM I**

**... EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

On consideration, it was moved by Supervisor Boyd, seconded by Supervisor Grijalva, and carried by a four to zero vote, Supervisor Carroll absent, that the Board convene to Executive Sessions at 9:03 a.m. relating to:

- A. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (4), for legal advice and direction regarding City of Tucson v. State of Arizona, et. al., Superior Court Case No. 320926. Approximate time: 10 minutes.
- B. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (4), for legal advice and direction regarding Robson Ranch v. Pima County Board of Adjustment No. 4, Superior Court Cause No. C2000-1074. Approximate time: 10 minutes.
- C. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (4), for legal advice and direction regarding settlement with the State of Arizona of the County's potential environmental liability under CERCLA, RCRA, and Arizona Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund Statutes for alleged releases from Broadway North Landfill. Approximate time: 10 minutes.

11. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: PROCUREMENT - CANCELLATION OF BID AND RE-SOLICIT

Automotive Services requests cancellation of Bid No. 886-00, Oils, Greases and Anti-Freeze, and rejection of all bids. Specifications will be revised and a request for proposals will be re-solicited.

On consideration, it was moved by Supervisor Boyd, seconded by Chair Bronson, and carried by a four to zero vote, Supervisor Carroll absent, to approve the Cancellation of Bid and Re-Solicit for proposals.

12. BOARD, COMMISSION AND/OR COMMITTEE

The Board of Supervisors on July 18, 2000, continued the following to this date:

PIMA VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Staff requests approval of the following:

- A. Formation of the Pima Vocational High School Board.
- B. Ratification of Pima Vocational High School Board Members:  
Hank Atha, Director of Community Services  
Maiola Coleman, Community Representative  
Linda Schloss, T.U.S.D.  
Kate O'Rielly, Director of Community Resources  
Celina Somoza, Director of One-Stop  
Charter School Parent (to be appointed)  
Charter School Former Student (to be appointed)  
Term Expirations: 7/31/2003  
  
Herman Warrior, Ex-Officio  
Gloria Proo, Ex-Officio
- C. Authority be given to the Pima Vocational High School Board to assist in making policy decisions related to curriculum, enrollment, discipline, and other school policies in accord with State and Federal guidelines.
- D. Authority be given to the Pima Vocational High School Board to approve the hiring of professional and other staff as needed to operate the vocational school programs and to provide oversight on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.
- E. Authority be given to the Pima Vocational High School Board to operate a Request for Proposals and competitive procurement process for educational and

curriculum equipment, materials and professional services and to recommend these contracts to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Supervisor Grijalva stated he requested a continuance of this item at the last meeting, however, he noted he was unable to consult with Mr. Huckelberry regarding these items before this meeting. He expressed concerns related to the authority that would be given to the Pima Vocational High School Board without Board of Supervisors approval, particularly as that authority relates to Item D for hiring and oversight policies. He asked the County Administrator what consequences would result if this item were continued in terms of the charter schools ability to receive state funding? In addition, he requested the Board of Supervisors have final approval on hiring so the hiring policies would be consistent with those of Pima County.

Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator, stated the school board, as noted on the agenda, is the first school board selected. Most of those individuals would be replaced by community members and representatives of various school districts who would then participate in the process and provide students who failed to achieve conformity with the alternative schools within those districts. He explained it was his intent to have the school board ultimately have governing control as much as possible to the extent allowed by law. That process would then become integrated into the County's present use services program serving a specific notch group of youth who are not currently receiving services. In addition, it was his intent the charter school follow and mirror those policies of the County with regard to procurement and hiring. He was uncertain what consequences would result if this item were continued again and he asked Ms. Proo to come forward to answer questions.

Gloria Proo, Ex-Officio, explained the school board is at the end point to submit rosters and things of that nature to the State Board in order to receive state funding. One of the deadlines recently passed and due to the innovative relationship of the charter school and the County, the State granted the charter school some leeway in terms of some of those deadlines. She advised the Board of Supervisors that a decision would need to be made by next week to meet those deadlines.

Supervisor Boyd inquired whether General Fund monies would be used to start the charter school, and if so, would that appropriation be recouped from State Funds?

Mr. Huckelberry responded there would be no General Fund monies allocated to the charter school to start up. The charter school would utilize charter school funding to begin the start up process.

Supervisor Boyd asked whether the current Board of Supervisors would make decisions for the school initially until the members and representatives for the school board were appointed?

Ms. Proo explained they would like to schedule a board meeting soon to approve school policies and at that time, the school board could formulate a plan with Mr. Huckelberry that would allow the Board of Supervisors to have input in the process. The initial school board appointees were only appointed to get the charter school process started.

On consideration, it was moved by Supervisor Grijalva, seconded by Chair Bronson, and carried by a four to zero vote, Supervisor Carroll absent, to approve Items A through E for the formation of the Pima Vocational High School; further, to include the remarks of the County Administrator regarding consistency in terms of procurement and personnel policies and Board approval. The Board of Supervisors would ratify the decisions of the school board within a 60 day period, if the composition of the school board changes, that matter would come before the Board.

13. **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES: ZONING CODE TEXT AMENDMENT**

**Co8-00-05 04, CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION**

An ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of Pima County; relating to zoning; amending the Pima County Code Chapter 18.09 (General Residential and Rural Zoning Provisions) to add Conservation Subdivision. On motion, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted 7 - 1, (Commissioner Membrilla voted NAY; Commissioner Prater absent) to recommend **APPROVAL**. Staff recommends **APPROVAL**. (All Districts)

If approved pass and adopt:

ORDINANCE NO. 2000 - 66

Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator, stated he had comments to offer prior to the discussion related to this item. Additional letters and requests for information were received which can be incorporated into the continuing review of this particular ordinance. Jim Mazzocco, Planning Official, met with individuals who expressed concerns regarding the ordinance. The ordinance is not intended to be perfect or the final ordinances that would ultimately be

## ATTACHMENT 2

<b>PIMA VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND PER PUPIL DETAIL - FISCAL YEAR 2013-2023</b>											
	<b>Jul 2012 - Jun 2013</b>	<b>Jul 2013 - Jun 2014</b>	<b>Jul 2014 - Jun 2015</b>	<b>Jul 2015 - Jun 2016</b>	<b>Jul 2016 - Jun 2017</b>	<b>Jul 2017 - Jun 2018</b>	<b>Jul 2018 - Jun 2019</b>	<b>Jul 2019 - Jun 2020</b>	<b>Jul 2020 - Jun 2021</b>	<b>Jul 2021 - Jun 2022</b>	<b>Jul 2022 - Jun 2023</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 1,233,441.36</b>	<b>\$ 1,268,934.12</b>	<b>\$ 1,070,982.79</b>	<b>\$ 1,126,572.04</b>	<b>\$ 1,126,962.88</b>	<b>\$ 1,177,446.96</b>	<b>\$ 1,238,304.02</b>	<b>\$ 1,173,941.18</b>	<b>\$ 1,077,051.60</b>	<b>\$ 1,554,529.95</b>	<b>\$ 1,730,338.71</b>
<b>Average Daily Membership</b>	135.6150	-	-	-	105.2880	94.5660	95.7070	100.7680	58.5030	51.1293	56.9193
<b>Per Pupil</b>	<b>\$ 9,095.17</b>	-	-	-	<b>\$ 10,703.62</b>	<b>\$ 12,451.06</b>	<b>\$ 12,938.49</b>	<b>\$ 11,649.94</b>	<b>\$ 18,410.19</b>	<b>\$ 30,403.90</b>	<b>\$ 30,399.86</b>
<b>Revised to delete IT costs (starting in FY22)</b>										<b>\$ 1,259,267.95</b>	<b>\$ 1,435,076.71</b>
<b>Revised Per Pupil without IT costs (starting in FY22)</b>										<b>\$ 24,629.09</b>	<b>\$ 25,212.48</b>

**ATTACHMENT 3**  
**AZMerit Data for PVHS and Pima County, 2015-2019**

AZMERIT DATA - FY 2015-2019											
		FY2015		FY2016		FY2017		FY2018		FY2019	
		English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics
<b>PIMA VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>Students Tested</b>	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	78	102	63	94	65	88
	<b>Percent Passing</b>	5	4	6	2	4	4	11	3	17*	
<b>PIMA COUNTY AVERAGE</b>	<b>Students Tested</b>	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	97986	95568	100768	99338	90371	90471
	<b>Percent Passing</b>	34	33	38	35	38	37	39	38	41	40

Note: An asterisk (\*) indicates fewer than 11 students fall within the cited cell, and the percentage is therefore not reported to ensure compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

**ATTACHMENT 4**  
**Responses to Google Form Questions**

Timestamp	What do you think sets PVHS apart from other Charter schools?	What is your history/experience with PVHS?	How has PVHS made a difference in your life or someone that you know?	Have you referred any family or friends to attend PVHS in the past? Why or Why not?	What is one thing PVHS is missing right now?	If you had a magic wand, what would you use it for regarding PVHS?	Additional Comments	Any testimony or personal experience?
2023/12/11 12:20:35 PM MST	I think what sets PVHS apart from other schools is the staff. They all work so hard to help all of the students to graduate... I would also say that the staff/students have great attitudes with everyone here at PVHS.	My experience with PVHS is great so far. From the time I first started till now, everyone has been so welcoming and kind to me. I appreciate everyone here, its like one big family.	PVHS has made a big difference in my life, I was so worried about not being able to graduate until I came here. I'm so thankful that this school has worked to encourage all and every student that has been here to graduate.	I have not referred anyone yet, I just recently moved here to Arizona, but when the time comes I would most definitely refer this school if in need of graduating.	One thing that PVHS is missing at the moment would be the shortened number of staff, but we will be getting a couple more teachers soon! other than that, its absolutely great!!!	If I had a magic wand, I would use it to get a better campus.... I'm grateful with the one we have now but if I had that magic wand.....	I think that this school is extremely helpful to kids that may have low credits, need more one on one learning, voc skills, and many other things.... I am beyond grateful for all the staff and students here at PVHS.	
2023/12/11 1:45:21 PM MST	Big high schools have a lot of students and can be distracting. Because of that, you really can't get the help you need, but because PVHS is small, you know everybody there and all the teachers, which is especially helpful.	I went to PVHS to get help and to graduate because I wasn't going to graduate in time, and since then, I feel really good about my grades and my credits.	PVHS made a difference in my life by changing the way I thought. I thought I couldn't do anything to graduate in time, and I was failing already, but now I can graduate before I'm 18.	I did refer some family members, even though they were under 16, and they said they wanted to enroll in PVHS when they turned 16. I did that because I think PVHS is a fun environment. The teachers are very fun and nice, and the teachers make the school and every student very comfortable.	In my opinion, I don't think anything is missing; I like it just the way it is.	If I had a magic wand, I would use it to make sweaters with PVHS logos so that we could wear them during the winter.	no comments	no

2023/12/12 12:24:20 PM MST	Theres more help	Great experience with our pvhs	Graduation	Yes cassie	Nothing	Idk	N/A	N/A
2023/12/12 12:26:39 PM MST	that there are teachers who care about your education and that there are less students so there not problems with each other	it was good people were nice and respect full the students from PVHS greeted and welcomed me and the teachers were very understanding and they help me understand everything on what class I had	I help me realized that asking help from someone is ok	no because they already had schools that they already in role	noting so far	I would wish that more students would in role to PVHS because it would help them a lot	thanks for everything PHVS	its ok to be nervous but its ok because its all worth it the friends and memory u make if u put your mind u can finish
2024/01/16 8:39:48 AM MST	its small and the teachers really care about their subject the students also really want to learn and graduate	brother went here	my brother got his diploma from PVHS	I told my friends but then enrollment was ended	principle head administrator	ensure they stay open for many years to come and are funded		absolutely love PVHS
2024/01/16 8:58:51 AM MST	They help you more individually and help you get where you need to faster	PVHS has helped me get my credits faster than a normal school would. I first has started with three credits and I've gotten up to thirteen.	PVHS has made a big difference in my life. I'm more focused on my work and I get things done a lot more than what i would in a normal high school.	I've told my sister to join PVHS because she wasn't doing well in school and I wanted to help her and help her get a chance to do better	I don't think its missing anything, I think this is the best school I've been to. Its help me in much more ways that other schools don't.	if i had a magic wand I wouldn't need it because this school does so much already		I don't think I have but I've heard a lot of good things from Joel and how much they've helped people in the past.
2024/01/16 9:06:03 AM MST	What i think sets PVHS apart from charter schools is that the teachers Help one on one and they are very nice and respectful of you	Ive been able to succeed	PVHS Made a difference in my life is that there small classes, one on one help, And its more successful	No i have not but my grandma passed it on to me and the reason why is that by the time my friends come i would be graduated	One think PVHS is missing right now is a P.E. class	I would want to change some of the classes	I like PVHS and recommend that you come to this school	No
2024/01/16 9:37:05 AM MST	I think the relationship's are better here but its the first charter school I've been too	I've been here for three session's and i found out about it by my friend an old student isaiah.	Well because of covid my school work and grades at FW dropped and I wasn't gonna pass on time but	No i dont know anyone old enough to go here.	Art class and a van	If i had a magic wand i honestly wouldn't be here id be a wizard or something.	hello there	no



			with pvhs i will.					
2024/01/16 9:38:52 AM MST	i enjoy that all the teachers and staff are more attentive to how we are doing and how we work better than regular schools or any charter schools and they are just very encouraging here.	my brother graduated from PVHS.	yes, it has made me realize if i really try i can get all my work done	my brother referred me.	bigger van for transportation because it is a lot of us.	change the carpet to floor and change the color of the paint inside the building and get more food for the break room	hello	nop
2024/01/16 9:41:20 AM MST	i love that i come to school in a good mood because i come to support system i wouldn't have at other schools . The work is at our pace as well so its easier for me not to feel stressed out i dont feel left out as well i just feel safe and very comfortable here so i wouldnt go anywhere else :).	i only been here a couple months but i like it so much better then the other schools i went too . My dad also graduated from PVHS as well so he recommended i come here n im glad i did	yes it has my dad he went here and me i feel less stressed out .	i told 2 of my friends to come here because how good PVHS works with us and helps us !.	Better transportation and more snack options	The location and transportation and to bring lockers	N/A	N/A
2024/01/16 9:45:59 AM MST	i think its quicker and more efficient then other charter schools	I've been here for 3 - 4 sessions	its helping me get my education and helping me graduate on time which is very helpful.	My friend recommended PVHS to me and my brother.	One thing PVHS needs is another van, we can use a second one so we actually get here on time.	If i had a magic wand to change anything about the school I would change the lunch schedule on Wednesday and i'd add an Physical Education class	how ya doin	no

2024/01/16 9:52:21 AM MST	That is more like a business school helping us learn about the real world and not to be afraid. Help us get jobs not like other schools where they school you and dont help you after with life and teach you.	my tia told and showed me the school and after i learned what they do and how much they help you I showed up for school and I enjoyed it.	PVHS changed the way I look at schools, I wish I found PVHS much sooner i would have gone all my high school years. It changed the way students and teachers talk to each other like grown adults. It makes us improve on talking to other adults in the real world.	I would like for my siblings	The only thing missing at PVHS is color in the school building.	if I had a magic I would have the location moved closer to everyone's convent. Another thing would be having lockers where we wouldn't have to carry everything from one school to another.		
2024/01/16 10:12:00 AM MST	well for me this school was a really good help in a lot and personally I don't like school i absolutely hate it but this school changed me, my perspective on a lot and I've met some really interesting and smart people here and that's just it I've met them, and just with those interactions I've changed and realized more about life, myself and people. I've been to other charter school i will say there all different of course they all have there own	I've been at PVHS for I think its two and a half years now and I'm a really quit person but I observe a lot and i just feel like the time I've had here has just shown me a lot	its opened me up to more people and to things id say id never have done before at any other schools, ive talked more these passed two years then i have at other schools for sure and i think that itself says a lot.	i myself was told to come here by a friend and ive told people to come here because i feel like this school could be really helpfull in finishing school and getting a diploma	a kitchen so i could make some food, make me a chef for the school, no I'm joking kind of, I'm not really sure what this school is missing I don't feel like it really is	if i had a magic wand, okay well i guess i would put a kitchen in it and a vegetable garden outside have a class about growing and cooking and eating what you grow		

	<p>set ways of helping people but they weren't like this school for sure, I've learned a lot more here and I've opened up more because of these people and I feel like this could be for everyone for people that are open to learning and understand that this is a school that will help and get us to that finish line but we also got to carry our own weight.</p>							
2024/01/16 10:26:30 AM MST	<p>The preparation for real world issues and how to rule them out with others is something I really enjoy and have been taught since coming to PVHS. Seeing the importance for things like communication are great to practice as a young adult.</p>	<p>My history with PVHS started with my brother enrolling a few years ago and</p>	<p>PVHS has made a difference in my life by having a welcoming community and being shown all the possibilities I have.</p>	<p>I have referred PVHS to a friend of mine to encourage her to still have a good high school experience and one of value.</p>	<p>Things PVHS are missing is transportation issues.</p>	<p>If I had a magic wand, I would change the location of the school to some other place.</p>	N/A	N/A
2024/01/16 10:32:21 AM MST	<p>We have more one on one learning, and we are all like a family.</p>	<p>My experience with PVHS so far has been good, I appreciate all of our students and teachers.</p>	<p>PVHS has made me have hope in getting my diploma</p>	<p>I have not because I just moved here</p>	<p>more computers</p>	<p>PVHS sweatshirts lol</p>		

2024/01/16 10:32:40 AM MST	that they really 1on1 with you really care what you do	i been here i coupe years i like it here	joe help me a lot with alot thing even out of school	yeah because they need to passed to do there goals in there lives	lunch food	nothing		no
2024/01/16 10:34:39 AM MST	It is smaller, the school work is faster, and the students are more similar to each other	It is a good school	It has given me a second chance to get my diploma	Not really because I do not know anyone that is in high school or needs to go to this school	I don't think there is much missing from PVHS	To clean it up and make it nicer and make the sewage plant go away		I am upset with the Irvington campus being shut down because it has made it more difficult for a lot of students to get to school and home easily
2024/01/16 10:34:47 AM MST	They help you find your interest and skills in which you are good and comfortable enough to make a living.	the coding experience was very different from most schools have been real nice the counselors have helped me so much with work advice and personal advice	they helped me make more of a plan for my life after graduation and the sources and programs that the school offers have helped my personal life more then any other.	yes I have because how resourceful and how helpful the school is and they understand how to help their students	teachers and space for more students	gift them more money so they can suply the students more	no	no
2024/01/16 10:35:22 AM MST	The peers and teachers along with the admin are the most respectful people I've had from any school	I joined PVHS mid 2023 and so far my experience has been great	PVHS has given me motivation and drive to get my diploma	I had referred my friend who now goes to this school because PVHS provides many benefits that other schools don't have	I cant think of anything PVHS is missing	If I had a magic wand, I would use it to make cookies	All the teachers rock!	I'm truly happy to be apart of PVHS
2024/01/16 10:36:12 AM MST	1 on 1 time and being understanding	I love PVHS I have gone so far at PVHS I never though I could be so close to graduation	It's helping us get to graduation quick self based they help you through life	Yes I have because I really like this school and I like the people	The Irvington locations:( other than that I love everything about PVHS	I would wish for it to be downtown because it might just help everyone to have the school in the	No	No

			PVHS helped me when I was homeless			central area and for Chula to come back		
2024/01/16 10:37:52 AM MST	Iâ€™d say PVHS has a very comfortable and desirable environment.	My sister graduated from PVHS in 2019 and currently Iâ€™m having a great time with my enrollment here	PVHS gave my sister the ability to acquire a high school diploma.	Personally, I have not done that.	I wouldnâ€™t say PVHS is missing anything right now in my personal opinion	I would use it for more county-issued laptops	No comments.	
2024/01/16 10:39:20 AM MST	PVHS is a small building	I have been here 4 sessions	Since I joined PVHS, school is fun and enjoying.	No because none of them have the right age	PVHS sweaters	I would use it to make the building at PVHS bigger		
2024/01/16 10:39:49 AM MST		nothing i didn't know it was here i saw it and talked to my mom and liked about it ow that im here i love the smaller classes.	it made mine better and the classes are amazing and now that i have smaller classes i can work and get it done and focuses	yes i have i have frinds that are like me and cant get stuff done without being messed up.	nothing its amazing the way it is right now	no i wouldn't use it for anything here	this school it just like my home town school the classes there were amazing there to and the teachers were amazing to.	

2024/01/16 10:40:30 AM MST	The welcoming and caring staff, They are so understanding when it comes to you having a bad day or just not being there all the way and they truly care and wanna help you feel better they dont push to far if youre having a bad day which is way diffiernt then the other school i was at. and it being in actual classes instead of sitting at a laptop for 5 hours, like my other school i sat at a laptop for 6 hours with one break and it didnt matter if i was having hard day if i wasnt doing work or was resting my head a teacher would tell me to just work. At the end of the day i was so tired from the amount of reading and masking that i went home and slept for hours to recharge. Ive also done more work here then my other school in the less amount of time i was at MRA.	Ive been here less then a year and i love it i heard about it from my friends and wanted to try it out and it was the best descion i made.	I feel like i can actually graduate and get work done in a really postive envorioment. At MRA it felt like they all were there just to work and make some money, at pima it feels like they take pride in the work they teach and they care about each person at pima its like a family.	No, but i was referred it.	Better laptops	Transportation and laptops	Pima vocational is an amazing school, please let it keep showing that to future kids.	Just all like i said before
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2024/01/16 10:48:21 AM MST	What sets PVHS apart from other charter schools is the ability to gain my credits at a fast rate and having teachers who help me when I need it.	My history so far with PVHS is from the start of September and I enjoyed it. I had teachers who helped whenever I needed it. They had my back making sure I was doing the right classes.	PVHS has a made a difference in my life thanks to the school. I was low on credits thinking I might have to get a GED but they said I can graduate this coming June.	I haven't referred my family as they referred me to this school and Im the youngest going to high school still.	One thing missing from PVHS is an additional van to pick us up and to take us back sometimes one van isn't enough.	If I had a magic wand what'll I use it on regarding PVHS would be wishing it wouldn't be so far Im aware of the transportation but sometimes I don't make on the dot. The Ina campus is bigger but Im a hermit and someone who prefers isolation so having a small classroom didn't affect me.	I hope I can make the June graduation requirements. I want to go in to the medical field and go off to college.	
2024/01/16 10:50:48 AM MST	you can be your true self , not feeling trapped with thousands of students or having to worry about whats gonna happen next , at PVHS we actually get a chance that so many other teachers told us we couldnt or to give up any hope , here we have a chance to start our lifes and to people who cant have it like some people do or have that chance we dont have	i started last year during the 1 session , and is all good no bad , here ive been able to do things i thought i couldt and what i was told i couldt do it but i am doing it and with the help with all the teachers here at PVHS im able to get the help and education i need to begin on with my life and career	ive gotten more work then anywhere i have been no complaints or chaos or any errors here at PVHS has not only made a difference in my life but it has changed so much to where i feel i have the support nd help ive needed for long	i have , he also had problems with his other school , the chaos the people and the teachers and whatnot	being more open about mental health , more conversing about it or just in genral its not talked more about	a volleyball		
2024/01/16 10:56:26 AM MST	there understandable , nice, great at there job(s) & just overall a	my experiance with this school is excellent , I wasn't really happy w any schools until now	The diffrence it made was it made me feel free to speak	no the reason i wont is because i dont want distractions	food	food	food	no

	good experience this is the first school i actually been able to stay in .							
2024/01/16 1:04:22 PM MST	They're very attentive and understanding. They really want you to graduate and push through.	It's a very good experience, all the staff and teachers are very nice and helpful. Everyone is very interconnective and looks out for each other.	It has made a huge difference on my life. I went into this school thinking I wasn't going to do well in a highschool setting, but teachers and staff made it very easy for me to adapt and get on track.	I have not, all my siblings are already in school and I don't have any friends who would be interested in going to PVHS.	More activities. I feel like since for some people this is their first highschool setting, so I think stuff like clubs and other stuff would make it a bit better.	Clubs, Sports Team.	Nope.	Nope.
2024/01/16 1:09:10 PM MST	The one on one help and good teachers and staff	My experience with PVHS is a good one and I would definitely recommend the school to others	PVHS has given me the chance to graduate high school when I was previously on track to fail	I haven't because I don't have many friends and any family that I have is too old to attend	Not sure	I'd make more snacks appear in the kitchen		
2024/01/16 1:13:03 PM MST	everyone here is so connected, it's such a safe and beautiful space for students to succeed and knowing we have teachers and counselors that want us to do good and shows it is such a different environment than any other school I've been in.	my experience with PVHS has been great, I've flourished into a student I want to be. I feel deeply supported by everyone around me and I know I'm safe to be myself, to ask questions. PVHS has showed me that when in the right environment you can succeed and do good.	PVHS has made a great difference in my life. I used to be a straight F student with little to no motivation, when I moved here that all changed, I became a happier person, more confident in myself and determined to do my best. I feel more	I keep telling my best friend to move here because I feel as though she'd do a lot better here than the school she's at now. I think PVHS will help her and be more comfortable here.	Personally I don't think it's missing anything, everything here is so organized and well managed. although I think a second van will help out.	I'd giving myself perfect grades and attendance:p		



			encouraged to come to school because I know it will be a great experience. without PVHS I don't think I'd be doing as good or be as happy as I am.					
2024/01/17 8:47:47 AM MST	I personally think that it is much better than other schools, because it teaches on a more personal level, and helps you with what you really need.	I have been here for a couple years.	PVHS is making a difference in my life because I'm going to be able to graduate now.	No, because i am the only one i know who needs schooling.	I'm not sure.	Maybe a bigger building?		This school is perfect for me.

**ATTACHMENT 5**  
**Pima Vocational High School – Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Why is Community & Workforce Development recommending that Pima County surrender the Pima Vocational High School charter and close the school?**

Pima Vocational High School (PVHS) was founded in 2000 as a public, charter high school designed to provide vocational opportunities for high-school students, particularly those who had not succeeded in traditional school environments. PVHS is unusual in that its charter holder is Pima County. The original rationale for this was that Pima County could provide direct internship opportunities within Pima County to provide work experience to students.

In the years since PVHS's founding, vocational programs such as the Joint Technical Education District, as well as other alternative district and charter schools, have been established or grown. PVHS no longer occupies the niche it once did. More background on this recommendation can be found [here](#).

**2. Where else will students go?**

Both school districts and charter schools operate alternative schools and career/technical education programs. Community & Workforce Development (CWD) staff is working with students and parents or guardians individually to explore alternative options.

**3. Hasn't PVHS graduated hundreds of students successfully?**

CWD is proud of the PVHS graduates who have gone on to be successful and productive community members. Alternative options for these students have grown substantially in the years since PVHS was founded.

**4. Why did the school's Governing Board vote not to accept CWD's recommendation?**

Individual Governing Board members did not formally offer reasons at the time of voting at the December 21, 2023 meeting. But among the sentiments expressed were: the Covid pandemic and school-leadership challenges have left staff "swimming uphill"; these students might not have been able to graduate from any other school; and the school has been something special but recently has not been "appreciated or nurtured."

**5. Why are staff not recommending closure of Las Artes Arts & Education?**

Las Artes is not a school, but rather a GED program serving youth ages 17-22 that includes arts-based education. The program has recently introduced a building-trades pre-apprenticeship program that is unique to this community. Just in 2023-24, the pre-apprenticeship program has graduated 23 participants, each of whom has an opportunity to enter into an apprenticeship program that pays a living wage and provides a path to a career in a good-paying job. CWD is not aware of a program similar to Las Artes being offered by another institution.

**6. Is this really a move to balance the CWD budget?**

As [explained in more detail in a prior memorandum](#), PVHS operates with a substantial subsidy from the Pima County General Fund. If the school is closed, CWD has no control over what happens with that savings. Moreover, CWD's existing budget for its remaining programs and operations is balanced and does not need to be shored up with additional funding.

## **7. Isn't the problem that CWD leadership aren't educators?**

Since its founding, PVHS has been housed within CWD or its predecessor department, Community Services Employment & Training (CSET). The department has *never* been led by educators. PVHS has always relied on having experienced educators in the Program Manager position running the school. Until June 2023, PVHS was led by a series of experienced educators.

## **8. If Pima County paid more, could it attract a new, dynamic school leader?**

If the Board of Supervisors votes to continue operating the school, CWD will work with the County's Human Resources department to ensure that the advertised salary for all PVHS positions is consistent with market. Given staff's recommendation to close the school, it is appropriate to continue pausing recruitment.

## **9. Were PVHS's enrollment numbers impacted by the pandemic and, earlier, Senate Bill 1070?**

All schools were impacted by the pandemic, and it may be true that SB1070 impacted enrollments over a decade ago. In the years leading up to the pandemic, enrollments hovered around 100, below prior highs. Additionally, numbers have not rebounded since the most pandemic-impacted year, 2020-21.

## **10. Is the program being properly run?**

As noted above, until June 2023, PVHS had successive leaders who were experienced educators. After the resignation of the prior Program Manager, CWD opened the position from August 18 through October 10, but received only three applications. Simultaneously, CWD leadership began developing its recommendations regarding PVHS's future, and until a decision is made on those recommendations, recruitment of a new school leader or new students is inappropriate. In the meantime, CWD has utilized interim staff with educational experience to continue operating the school successfully. CWD's role with respect to the future is to make recommendations, and we will abide by whatever final decision is made.

## **11. Why consolidate campuses?**

When the prior Program Manager left in June 2023, interim staff immediately felt that due to enrollment and staffing numbers, as well as safety and public-health concerns at the Irvington campus, consolidation at Ina made sense. Staff proceeded with consolidation for the time being beginning January 10, 2024. Irvington campus students are transported to and from Irvington, and despite some hiccups the first day, the consolidation has generally gone well.

## **12. Are we in compliance with Arizona State Board of Charter School requirements?**

Deputy Directors Rhonda Piña and Andy Flagg are designated Charter Representatives for the school. Along with Director Dan Sullivan, they met with Arizona State Board of Charter Schools (ASBCS) staff to discuss current operations and charter options. Staff expressed no significant concerns about current operations, and we believe we are in compliance with ASBCS requirements.

## **13. Can new students enroll in PVHS?**

We are not actively recruiting students. State law requires that the school enroll any student who wishes to do so. Any student wishing to enroll is referred to Youth Manager Daphanie Conner, who provides updated information about the school's status. If the student wishes to enroll, they are enrolled.

**14. Can you explain the differences between the funding numbers in the December 1 memo and those provided by President Fellows?**

State Equalization and General Fund dollars depicted in the December 1 memo were obtained directly from the County's consultant and were accurately conveyed. The differences between President Fellows' numbers and ours for State funding result because President Fellows included State sources other than State Equalization. The purpose of our graphic, as explained in the memo, was to break out State Equalization, since that is enrollment dependent, and to depict it alongside General Fund support. Regarding the General Fund numbers, again, they are accurate. We did not include other State sources or Federal sources because the purpose of the graphic was just to show State Equalization and General Fund.

We adjusted FY19 through FY21 to include Information Technology charges because otherwise the chart would have misleadingly suggested a large jump in General Fund expenditures between FY21 and FY22. Moreover, as noted in the December 1 memorandum, there are numerous County costs associated with operating PVHS—including Human Resources costs, Finance costs, etc.—that are not charged to PVHS. In the end, the history and trend is undeniable: the County provides substantial General Fund support to PVHS, and FY23 was the highest of the last five FYs.

With respect to per-pupil expenditures, again, the numbers in the memorandum are accurate, and this can be verified by visiting [schoolsending.az.gov](https://schoolsending.az.gov). The rise in per-pupil costs is attributable to decreased enrollments while costs have remained static. A substantial boost in enrollment would reverse this trend. However, we have not seen anything in recent years that would suggest a substantial boost is likely. In any case, per-pupil costs were higher than peer group and state averages in FY20 and FY21 (before the Information Technology costs were attributed to PVHS), and while Covid likely impacted that it would have similarly impacted peer-group schools as well.

**15. Did CWD keep the Governing Board apprised of leadership challenges at the school?**

CWD staff communicated regularly to President Fellows that a Human Resources investigation was ongoing and that we were not privy to the details of that investigation. The investigation took months to complete. When the report was made available to CWD leadership in October 2023, we had to go read a hard copy at the Human Resources office and could not retain copies for ourselves. We were also told its contents were confidential. This has been communicated to President Fellows.