

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Frank Antenori, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, Interim County Administrator
Joe Casey, Interim Deputy County Administrator
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Jacqui Clay, School Superintendent
Kimberlee Madden, Chief Deputy School Superintendent
Stacy Fenhaus, Budget Manager

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of the County Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, specifically: County School Superintendent.

Dr. Jacqui Clay, School Superintendent, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Clay outlined topics to be covered, including the requested annual update on the Accommodation School. Dr. Clay stated that all projects align with ARS Title 15 and explained the funding sources shown in the organizational chart. She highlighted that the jail education program is currently funded in part by the County, but next year may pose challenges as the Sheriff's Office might not be able to cover their share and, presently, the jail education program is serving seven students.

Ms. Madden shared a summary of the revenue brought in by managing grants for local school districts over the past three years, noting those funds go into the general budget. She showed a comparison of the office's budget versus expenditures, mentioning that while currently under budget, things should align by year-end. She requested to be included in any salary increases the Board may offer.

The Board and staff discussed goals for the next fiscal year, highlighting how each aligns with statutory requirements and that Douglas and Yavapai counties were noted as the only ones in Arizona with advisory councils involving local businesses.

Dr. Clay discussed the importance of providing accredited instruction through the Accommodation School, especially for incarcerated youth so credits transfer seamlessly if students reenter traditional schools. She stated that instruction is delivered through an online platform managed by Grad Solutions, which provides

certified teachers and mentors while the district retains oversight and support. She stated the focus remains on opportunity for youth aged 16–22, particularly juniors and seniors with low credit counts, offering not only diplomas but also pathways to college and career programs like welding and CNA training through Cochise College.

In response to the Board, Dr. Clay emphasized that the student population in Cochise County is relatively small at 54 students, which makes the feasibility of transportation challenging.

Dr. Clay shared that since opening, the school has graduated 189 students, with most who stay in the program successfully earning their diploma. She stated the biggest challenge comes from students aging out at 22 or dealing with difficult life circumstances, including homelessness. She stated to better support students, the school plans to hire a mentor next year and continue expanding outreach, including virtual open houses and tutoring services. Dr. Clay stated the school utilizes two vehicles for student support, one of which was a donated ambulance repurposed for educational use.

The Board and staff discussed how most software licenses are shared across departments to save costs. Any software not shared is specific to a department's unique needs. The superintendent's office mainly leverages existing tools like Microsoft Office and uses a cloud-based system called Infinite Visions.

In response to Supervisor Gomez, Dr. Clay explained that schools are required to accept documentation provided by families and are not allowed to investigate addresses beyond what's submitted.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board