Pecos Independent School District

North Hwy 63, P.O. Box 368 Pecos, NM 87552 Phone: 505-757-4700 Fax: 505-602-2961

BOARD MEETING AGENDA
PECOS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 24, 2026
PECOS SCHOOLS BOARD ROOM
PECOS, NM
6:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

4. **GOLDEN PANTHER RECOGNITION**

5. **VISITOR POLICY DISCUSSION**

6. **FY25 AUDIT PRESENTATION**

7. **UNIT/DIRECTOR REPORTS**

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

9. **BUSINESS REPORT**

   A. Financial Status

10. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   B. Check Register for Month of February 2026
   C. Cash Transfer(s), BAR's (if any) and Journal Entries
   D. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-December 16, 2025

11. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

12. **POLICY**

   None

13. **ACTION ITEM(S)**

   E. Approval/Disapproval of Banking Resolution
   F. Approval/Disapproval of Bilingual Multicultural Education Programs Application
   G. Approval of IDEA Application
   H. Approval/Disapproval of Title III Application

I. Approval/Disapproval to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a limited legal services engagement agreement with the law firm of Walsh Gallegos, P.C., to provide services in connection with special education

14. OTHER

15. ADVANCE PLANNING

- Work Session-April 7, 2026, 5:30 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting-April 21, 2026, 6:00 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- NMSBA 2026 School Law Conference-June 4-6, 2026, Albuquerque, NM

ADJOURNMENT

INDEX

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
PECOS BOARD OF EDUCATION
PECOS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PECOS SCHOOLS BOARD ROOM
PECOS, NEW MEXICO
MARCH 24, 2026
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Pecos Board of Education
Pecos Independent School District
Pecos, New Mexico
Pecos Schools Board Room
Pecos, NM
March 24, 2026
6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The President, Mr. Grady Barrens called the meeting to order @ 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Grady Barrens, President
Ms. Claudette Roybal, Vice President
Mr. James Tanuz, Board Secretary
Ms. Edna Herrera, Board Member
Mr. Robert Romero, Board Member
Ms. Debra Sena-Holton, Superintendent

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Mary Daves	Rachel Patty	Daniel Patty	Robert Lashway
Serenity Patty	Keaton Patty	Audriana Mondragon	Adrian Mondragon
Juliette Mondragon	Mariah Varela	Celestina Varela	David Varela Jr.
Martina Varela	Stephanie Vigil	Chris Moore	Danielle Seaboy
Monica Montoya	Cathy Gallegos	Angel Montoya	Nathaniel Montoya
Melissa T. Valencia-Flores			

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Secretary Tanuz motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Member Herrera. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

GOLDEN PANTHER RECOGNITION

Principals announced March award recipients, highlighted the notable aspects of the award-deserving individual and presented the recipients in attendance with a certificate of recognition. The Golden Panthers recognized were Celestina Varela-1st grader (January recipient), Adrian Mondragon-3rd grader, Daniel Patty-6th grader, Maria Crisostomo-Staff and Angel Montoya-Senior.

VISITOR POLICY DISCUSSION

Superintendent Sena-Holton reported that during the recent work session, Member Romero noted that our current visitor policy is missing some pertinent details, conveyed that as a result she researched the Santa Fe Public Schools policy and emailed our current policy (page 1) alongside the SFPS (page 2) policy for review/comparison, indicated that moving forward the item will be added to a future Work Session agenda to develop a combined, comprehensive policy and mentioned the SFPS policy includes a provision to check the sex offender database for registered individuals.

FY25 AUDIT PRESENTATION

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, President Barrens moved to table the FY25 Audit Presentation, seconded by Secretary Tanuz. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

UNIT/DIRECTOR REPORTS

High School

Ms. Seaboy discussed Junior Parent Night; shared the turnout, academic progress and credit checks were provided, discussed prom-expectations, budget shortage, unpaid dues, outlined behavior and expectations, emphasized the need for parent support, touched upon the upcoming SAT and other Junior assessments, invited parents to assist with the Easter Egg Hunt and Teacher Appreciation Week. She pointed out that Juniors complete a pathway every year, so they are already building their plans, revealed that students of the current class have shown a strong preference for trade work and touched on initiatives for students to explore career pathways, targeted interests and new avenues for development. She provided an explanation/plan for receiving a weekly email on student's progress. Ms. Seaboy presented an overview of the 90 Day Plan data provided, to align with the active graduation & attendance goals and acknowledged overall attendance has improved, however we still have a cohort of students experiencing severe absenteeism who are not coming to school at all. Superintendent Sena-Holton elaborated on what constitutes an unexcused absence(s). Ms Seaboy remarked on tracking unexcused absences, the likelihood of teacher error-data entry error and system corrections. She and Superintendent Sena-Holton provided an update on the Santa Fe Community College Culinary Arts Program on site initiative. Ms. Seaboy identified the persistently low-performing cohort of IXL students, noting that while they receive support, accelerating their growth remains a stubborn challenge. She explained that current instructional timelines may restrict their cognitive pacing and academic growth. She also clarified that students who show no academic progress are granted a testing exemption and are not required to participate in assessments. Superintendent Sena-Holton highlighted the assessment process and the methods for monitoring progress in students with IEPs. Ms. Seaboy summarized the non-graduating student's academic standing and provided a briefing on specific situations. She noted that members of The Semilla Project stopped by the office today to express interest in potential collaborations and requested to present their organization's initiatives at a future Work Session.

Middle School

Ms. Montoya acknowledged the school's achievement in maintaining the top rank for attendance. She reported the Building Better Readers workshop was a success, highlighting students' excitement over their free books, mentioning positive feedback was received from students and teachers and shared how the opportunity came to be. She elaborated on her 90 Day Plan goals; indicating it achieves a 10% target proficiency rate per grade level, pointing out the percentage aligns with the compliance directives mandated by the New Mexico Public Education Department, mid-year performance reporting confirms growth, expressed confidence the end of year IMSSA will show growth/highly favorable results, mentioned her intent to increase the performance targets-aim to exceed the mandated minimum 10% for the upcoming academic year and provided an approximate count of how many students that would be. Ms. Montoya identified the acronym NAEP as the National Assessment of Education Progress and noted the media outlets use the results/report card as a primary talking point, they routinely fail to communicate that the assessment utilizes only a random, representative sampling of New Mexico students and touched on student participation. She briefly noted the factors contributing to the 6th grade regression, touching on assessment alignment with student's chronological grade level, progressive rigor, advanced benchmarks and adjusting trajectory. She provided enrollment updates; clarified that enrollment is down by only two students, factoring in August no-shows and one 6th grade withdrawal, the current enrollment hovers right around 100. Ms. Montoya noted the student assessment data provided is the short cycle assessment and presented her evaluation regarding the iMSSA performance projections. She noted that she and the counselor have administered the Science Readiness assessment and outlined the make-up plan for students who were absent. She announced that our district has been invited to participate in an Earth Day forestry outreach event, pointed out the event's key features and mentioned her recruitment efforts for a science teacher and other needed teachers.

Support Services/Student Nutrition

Ms. Daves provided an update on a contentious case; the advocate is no longer on the case, she had a history of similar issues at other schools and has been relieved of her duties, a meeting with the new advocate has been postponed to April, stated her intent to address the pushback on previous concessions and practices, based on legal guidance received, noted the Walsh Gallegos agreement in place, which may need to be activated with a signature, informed parent(s) have been provided with all the proposals to prepare for the upcoming meeting, acknowledged the parents' adversarial stance, while affirming that the high school principal, the administrative team and ancillary staff are performing at an exceptional level and implementing all mandates seamlessly.

Ms. Daves reported that food service operations are improving and on the right track, stated that secondary feedback is received through student conversations, whereas elementary school feedback is provided by the principal and teaching staff. She provided the current adult meal rates, though she gave notice of an impending price adjustment. Superintendent Sena-Holton provided an overview of next year's state reimbursement rates and average meal cost, noted the rate adjustment is state recommended, mentioned a mandatory certification, clarified the misconception of 50% made from scratch daily, indicated that the new federal administration's guidance is facing strong backlash, mentioned the penalty if we fail to receive certification and briefed on the mandates. Ms. Daves confirmed our operations are not at risk, noted that the team began implementation of applicable adjustments early this year-putting the district ahead of the original timeline for the upcoming school year. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported that the food service contract will be formally opened to a competitive bidding process for the upcoming school year and announced that a quote has been secured to finish out the current school year. Ms. Daves noted that staff made all meal purchases and pointed out instances where outside meals were purchased. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported that fuel expenditures have increased and remarked on projected expenses.

Mr. Chris Moore, K 12 Business Manager noted that the meal service program is currently self-sustaining through revenue and cash carryovers and conveyed that general operating funds may be required to supplement the program in the future if needed.

Elementary

Ms. Gallegos apologized for the short report, explaining she started drafting it on Monday before an unexpected illness kept her out of the office until Friday. She announced that 5th graders will take a practice science test this week, with the official assessment scheduled for next week and noted we are heading into testing season. She noted subsequently that the regular state testing will continue into the second week of April and mentioned the assessment schedule. Ms. Gallegos pointed out the plan to administer the i-Ready EOY in May, noted progress monitoring was completed this week and stated she will share the data and current standing in the next Board Report, just ahead of state testing. She reported on the Math and Reading contest; conveyed it's highly competitive-especially among 2nd and 3rd graders, met with teachers to distribute progress trackers, will be administering frequent math quizzes until April 10th and stated students who complete the math requirements will earn a spot on the incentive movie trip. She mentioned advising second graders to begin selecting chapter books since standard early readers no longer challenge them, noted that she shared the strategy with their teacher and the librarian and conveyed that students were enthusiastic about the recommendation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BUSINESS REPORT

FINANCIAL STATUS

Mr. Chris Moore, K 12 Accounting Business Manager explained the Budget Adjustment Request'(s)-BAR's recommended for approval, mentioned the Disbursement Detail Report-pointed out the only transaction of significant notice, touched on the Purchase Order Report, highlighted the Cash Balances, briefed on the Activity Accounts Report, gave an overview of the Revenue Report, summarized the Expenditure Budget Balance Report, referenced the Bank Reconciliation Report, summarized the Outstanding Check Listing, Outstanding Other Disbursements Listing, Bank Statement Edit Listing and provided a brief description of the Journal Entries.

CONSENT AGENDA

Check Register for Month of February 2026
Cash Transfer(s), BAR's (if any) and Journal Entries
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-December 16, 2025

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Member Herrera moved to approve the Check Register for the Month of February 2026, seconded by President Barrens. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Secretary Tanuz moved to approve BAR'(s) #12-#21, #24-#30, #32-#34, seconded by Vice President Roybal. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Secretary Tanuz moved to approve Journal Entries #955, #999, #1,040-#1,042, seconded by Vice President Roybal. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, President Barrens moved to disapprove BAR #31, seconded by Secretary Tanuz. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Vice President Roybal moved to approve the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting-December 16, 2025, seconded by Secretary Tanuz. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Sena-Holton reported the electric bus is back in the shop due to a manufacturer recall. She shared a congratulatory email commending the district for achieving the gold standard in mental health, noting the district was one of the first to receive the honor and identified the top five parent participation topics. She and Mr. Moore touched on the distance learning restrictions imposed in HB 253. Superintendent Sena-Holton reported on the development of the academic calendar, touching on instructional days & hours. She briefed on the random drug testing that occurred January 31st.

POLICY

None

ACTION ITEM(S)

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF BANKING RESOLUTION

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Vice President Roybal moved to approve the Southwest Banking Resolution, seconded by Member Herrera. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS APPLICATION

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, President Barrens moved to approve the Bilingual Multicultural Education Programs Application, seconded by Vice President Roybal. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF IDEA APPLICATION

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Vice President Roybal moved to table the IDEA Application, seconded by President Barrens. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF TITLE III APPLICATION

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, President Barrens moved to approve the Title III Application, seconded by Vice President Roybal. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A LIMITED LEGAL SERVICES ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF WALSH GALLEGOS, P.C., TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION

Based on Superintendent Sena-Holton's recommendation, Member Herrera moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a limited legal services engagement agreement with the law firm of Walsh Gallegos, P.C., to provide services in connection with special education, seconded by Secretary Tanuz. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

OTHER

Secretary Tanuz suggested the Board send a sympathy card to former Board Member Harold Garcia.

ADVANCE PLANNING

- Work Session-April 7, 2026, 5:30 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting-April 21, 2026, 6:00 pm, Pecos Schools Board Room
- NMSBA 2026 School Law Conference-June 4-6, 2026, Albuquerque, NM

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:19 p.m., Vice President Roybal moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by President Barrens. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0. Minutes approved and signed on this 14th day of July 2026.

GRADY BARRENS, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

JAMES TANUZ, SECRETARY

(Mtvf)