



# Mesa City Council and Mesa Public Schools Governing Board Collaborative Meeting

September 17, 2025



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# City of Mesa

## Mayor and Council

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**Mayor** Mark Freeman

**Vice Mayor** Scott Somers: District 6

**Councilmember** Rich Adams: District 1

**Councilmember** Julie Spilsbury: District 2

**Councilmember** Francisco Heredia: District 3

**Councilmember** Jenn Duff: District 4

**Councilmember** Alicia Goforth: District 5



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# Mesa Public Schools Governing Board

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**President** Courtney Davis

**Clerk** Lacy Chaffee

**Member** Sharon Benson

**Member** Marcie Hutchinson

**Member** Rachel Walden



# Facility Use and Capital Planning

## **Mesa Public Schools**

Chief of Staff, Justin Wing

Chief Financial Officer, Tyler Moore

# Enrollment

Grade	School Year				
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
KG	3782	3622	3547	3394	3248
1	4121	3858	3720	3598	3443
2	4071	4080	3887	3655	3535
3	4129	4055	4012	3834	3604
4	4225	4080	4051	3979	3802
5	4290	4211	4110	4028	3956
6	4194	4275	4203	4063	3982
7	4431	4138	4212	4186	4047
8	4568	4331	4051	4140	4115
9	5014	4820	4411	4509	4608
10	4820	4870	4650	3887	3973
11	4453	4525	4642	4198	3509
12	4598	4411	4512	4757	4301
<b>District Total</b>	<b>56696</b>	<b>55276</b>	<b>54008</b>	<b>52227</b>	<b>50123</b>

\* Based on October 1 numbers\*

# Capital Planning



## Expired Bond Funds

Mesa Public Schools last passed a bond in 2018. Voter approved initiative made large investments in security and building renovations.



## Assessing Current Assets

The average age of Mesa Public Schools buildings is 40 years old. Facilities are aging, building condition scores are dropping, and we have a backlog of deferred maintenance.



## Prioritizing & Projecting Future Needs

Mesa Public Schools is aware of the demographic shifts and enrollment trends. However, we still provide educational opportunities to over 50,000 students.



## Funding Strategies

The success of Mesa Public Schools capital planning efforts depends on a diverse set of funding sources including bonds, overrides, and various partnerships. We recognize that these resources are made possible through the trust, support, and shared commitment of our community.

# MPS Current Strategies

- Reducing square footage via portables
- Maximize campuses & reboundary
- Consolidating Administrative Buildings
- Three (3) Prongs of Partnership

# Reducing Building Square Footage

Mesa Public Schools has **8,321,886** square feet of building space.

- Approximately 640,152 building square feet was occupied by portables (prior to 2025)
- MPS created a plan to reduce portable square footage in three (3) cohorts over three (3) fiscal years (2025, 2026, 2027)



Lehi Elementary Portables

# Portable Removal Summary

## End Goal by 2027

Number of Portables Removed	104
Square Footage Removed	197,268
Equivalent Number of Classrooms Removed	208
Estimated Savings Per Year	\$1,484,600
Equivalent Number of Elementary Schools Closed	6.5



# Future Initiatives

Mesa Public Schools is committed to continue to evaluate facility usage to do everything possible to create efficiencies and continue to prioritize classroom instruction. Pictured is a few administrative buildings including Student Service Center (SSC), Administrative Services Center (ASC), Curriculum Service Center (CSC), and Transportation.



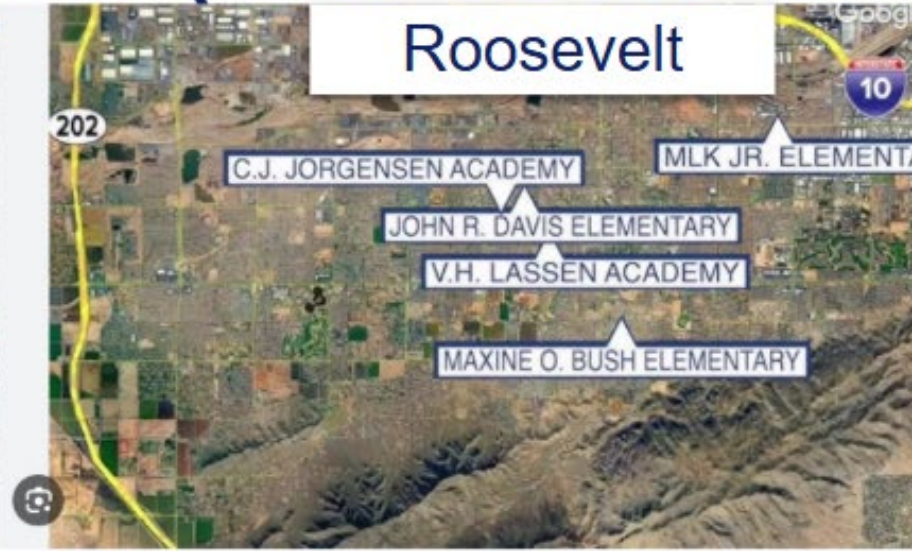
# Capital Plan Funding Strategies

- **Voter Approved Bond** - Long-term financing tool for major facility projects and new construction
- **Capital Override** - Provides up to 10% of the revenue control limit for capital purposes with voter approval. No interest on funding.
- **Land Sale & Lease Revenue** - Generating revenue through strategic disposition or leasing of district owned property.
- **Public Private Partnerships** - Leveraging collaboration to maximize resources and community benefit.
- **State Funds** - Targeted grants from school facilities division to support **failing** infrastructure. District Additional Assistance (DAA) lawsuit.

# School Closures (across the valley)



Kyrene



Roosevelt



Kyrene school district examining whether to close multiple campuses |



Phoenix Elementary

Roosevelt School Board approves closure of five schools in south Phoenix



Cave Creek

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE

PHOENIX ELEM. DISTRICT VOTES TO CLOSE TWO SCHOOLS  
HEARD & DUNBAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO CLOSE

NEW AT 5 NEWS AT 5PM  
ED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MORE SCHOOLS COULD CLOSE BECAUSE OF LOW ENROLLMENT  
CAVE CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT COULD CLOSE 2 SCHOOLS



# Three Prongs of Partnership

- Partnering with Ourselves
  - Research & Evaluation Department @ Dobson HS
  - Pathways Department @ Taylor JH
- Partnering with Educational Agencies
  - Bezos, Polaris
- Partnering with Nonprofits
  - Arizona Brainfood



# Co-Location Exploration

**City of Mesa**

Development Services Department

Deputy Director, John Sheffer





**Objective:** Determine if co-location is feasible for future partnerships

- **Benefits:** Identify advantages of a shared facility
- **Site Exploration:** Evaluate availability of space that could meet needs for City functions/operations
- **Cost Consideration:** Co-location vs. new facility
- **Primary Focus:** District facilities with opportunities for space repurposing

# Criteria for Future Site Evaluation

- Underserved area for services/function
- Space consideration (size and layout)
- Independent access
- Adequate parking
- Arterial street for visibility and access



# Benefits

- Shared infrastructure
- Increased community access in underserved areas
- Enhanced school resources
- Less expensive than new construction
- More cost-effective than leasing commercial property
- Infrastructure resource for future project consideration

# Questions & Discussion

