

Minutes of the Arizona School Bus Advisory Council

Meeting held on January 14, 2026

Arizona Peace Officer Standards Training, Board Room

2643 E. University, Phoenix, Arizona 85034-6914

1. **Welcome and Call to Order** – Chairperson Franklin called the meeting to order at 10:00am MST. and welcomed the other Council members, the public in attendance and virtually.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance was performed**
3. **Roll Call** – The following Council members were present Nicholas Franklin (Chairman), Trace Tolby (Co-Chair), Denice Hall, Kela Powers and Jason Nelson. Council members appearing virtually were Captain Vern Havens, Ashley Berg, Nicholas Lloyd.
4. **Members of the public-** One in attendance
5. **Attendees Virtually-** Aaric Wells, Ariana Lopez, Ashley Berg, Bryan Slaughter, Carol Badoni, Dale Wyman, Darrin, Dave Dillman, David Jacobson, DAVID THIELE, Doug Holland, DUSTIN HASTINGS, E G, Erik Cooper, Fireflies.ai Notetaker Dave, Glenna Campbell, Jason Kyle, Jason Secakuku, Kip Laven, Leticia Valenzuela, Margaret Snider, Maria Rocha, Mashayla Kleinman, Meagan Scott, Norma Frye-George, Patricia Rivas, POST AV Service, Ronald Schepers, Ronald Snow Jr., Sabrina Larimer, Salvador Rincon, Sam Gonzales, Sergio Pulido, Shawn Tow, Susanna Navarro, Tammi Harris, Tommy McCabe, Warren Berdahl, Weston White, William Bailey, William Olivas
6. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes dated November 19, 2025** – Co-Chair Trace Tolby made the motion, and Denice Hall seconded the motion to approve. All members were in favor and the motion passed.
7. **Members of the Public requested to speak-** None
8. **Update on 15-925 Implementation-** Chairman Nicholas Franklin advised that Mr. Paul Swietek will provide information regarding the 15-925 implementation. Mr. Swietek provided two options to the Council on how the Department may proceed with the 15-925 rule implementation. Option one the Department could wait the normal effective day which would be 60 days after filing the final 15-925 rules with

the Secretary of State, or the agency can decide that due to circumstances, it can request an immediate implementation of the rules upon filing with the Secretary of State. All present council members were in favor of immediate implementation of the 15-925 rules.

9. A motion was requested by Tom Hartman for Immediate Implementation of the 15-925 rules and was seconded by Captain Vern Havens. The motion carried unanimously.
10. Chairman Nicholas Franklin discussed the Working Group rules and documentation process. He announced which council member will oversee which working group. Denice Hall – Special Needs, Trace Tolby-Driver Requirements, Tom Hartman-School Bus Chassis / Alt Fuel/Electric Bus, Jason Nelson-Training and Instructors and 15-925, Nick Franklin-Emerging Technologies and School Bus Operations / Hours of Service.
11. Chairman Nicholas Franklin advised all Working Group documents will be distributed by himself via. Google Documents. A new Google Document must be used each time a working group meets. Applications for working groups are still being accepted and can be submitted to STAC@azdps.gov
12. Assistant Attorney General Erik Cooper provided legal opinion on how many council members can attend one working group. He also advised executive session can not be used as a form of communication this should be done during open public comment at STAC meetings.
13. Chairman Nicholas Franklin provided a recommendation to the council that all working groups should have at least two meetings prior to the next STAC meeting.
14. **Schedule future meeting-** Chairman Nicholas Franklin stated we have future meetings scheduled to ensure availability. The next scheduled meeting is set for February 11, 2026, at 10:00am.
15. Chairman Nicholas Franklin asked if there were any additional questions before the meeting is adjourned. Co-Chair Trace Tolby requested a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Denice Hall.
16. **Meeting was adjourned at 10:51am MST.**

By:
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