

**Minutes of the Arizona School Bus Advisory Council**  
**Meeting held on April 8, 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), Jason Nelson, Tom Hartman, Denice Hall, Captain Vern Havens, and Kela Powers.
4. Members of the public- Two in attendance
5. Attendees appearing virtually- Allan Stephens, Ardell Nachie, Ariana Lopez, Bert Herzog, Brissa Quevedo, Bryan Slaughter, Carol Lewis, Carol Todecheene, Christina Allen, Cori Radford, Dale Wyman, Dan Massa, Danny James, David Jacobson, David Sharma, David Suder, Debbie Hurt, Doug Holland, Eddie Wheeler, Elina Gaona, Eric Kissel, Hilma Gustafson, Ilene Willie, James Barbee, Jeff Kingsley, Jesica Garcia, Jordan Tower, Karma Valenti, Katherine Martin, Kimberly Beron, Leticia Valenzuela, Maria Rocha, Marvin Anderson, Matthew Hacker, Meagan Scott, Michael Peaty, Moray Rodriguez, Norma Frye, Patricia Frasure, Patricia Yazzie, Patti Huggins, Ramiro Alvarez, Ronald Schepers, Sadina Osegueda, Samuel Cruz, Shelley Allen, Shirley Begay, Thomas Sims, William Bailey
6. Approval of the Meeting Minutes dated March 11, 2026 – Co-Chair, Trace Tolby made the motion, and Captain Vern Havens seconded the motion to approve. All members were in favor and the motion passed.
7. Updates from the Department on 15-925 – Paul Swietek from the Department stated the on April 7, 2026, the Governor’s Regulatory Review Council (GRRC) passed the rule making and agreed to implement the new rule with an immediate effective date. The department received the certification from the GRRC and filed it with the Secretary of State. The new Article 3 regarding ARS 15-925 for drivers and vehicles is now in effect and is being enforced by the Department.
8. Update from the Department regarding 5-panel drug screens for 925 drivers- Sergeant Will Lunt stated the Department will continue having 15-925 bus drivers complete a 5-panel drug screens. The Department is working on a form that will be provided to the lab providing a list of reasons a 5-panel is required.

9. Jason Nelson received an opinion back from the Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Hughes regarding adding bus monitors to the current Arizona Minimum Standards. DPS legal council is reviewing this opinion to determine if legislation is required to move forward with this new section.
10. Jason Nelson requested that Paul Swietek sit through some of the working groups to assist them in finalizing their sections and to ensure the changes are legally justified. Paul Swietek answered a few additional questions on the rule making process to include the rule making waiver the department must reapply for.
11. Updates from Each Study Group- All working groups which include special needs, driver's requirements, school bus chassis, training and instructors, school bus operations and hours of service, 15-925 and emerging technologies are at the final stages of review. They should have a proposal for the STAC in the upcoming meetings.
12. Chair Nick Franklin discussed future virtual meetings that will be every two weeks in between the hybrid meetings. Virtual meetings will be scheduled through Microsoft Teams and will be virtual only; there will be no in-person option available. This will allow the council and the public to ask questions or clarification on agenda topics without having to wait for the monthly meeting.
13. Request for public comment- No one requested to speak.
14. Schedule future meeting- Chairman Nicholas Franklin stated we have future meetings scheduled to ensure availability. The next virtual meeting is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am and the next hybrid meeting is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am
15. Meeting was adjourned at 10:39 MST.

By:

Kimberly Thomas, Administrative Supervisor, DPS Student Transportation