

Minutes of the Arizona School Bus Advisory Council
Meeting held on August 12, 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, Captain Weston White and Nicholas Lloyd. (Appearing Virtually) Kela Powers, Sean Ross, Ashley Berg and Denice Hall.
4. **Members of the public-** Three in attendance
5. **Attendees appearing virtually-** Fifty-Nine (59), Adam Evans, Amanda Patrie, Andrew Miller, Ariana Lopez, Ashley Berg, Brissa Quevedo, Christian Miranda, Christina Allen, CLINTON LARD, Cori Radford, Dale Wyman, Danny James, Debbie Hurt, Denice Hall, Doug Holland, Erica Delgado, Fireflies.ai Notetaker Chuck Essigs, Glenna Campbell, Guillermo Olivares, Harold Janes, James Barbee, Jeff Kingsley, Jennifer Walton, Joey Begay, Jordan Tower, Justin Glover, Katherine Martin, Kela Powers, Kris Kiracofe, Lacey Elefant, Leticia Valenzuela, Lisa Pauli-Lake, Maria Rocha, Meagan Scott, Michael Blevins, Michael Fiesler, Moray Rodriguez, Norma Frye, POST AV Service, Richard Garmon, Sabrina Larimer, Sadina Osegueda, Sean Ross, Sgt Will Lunt AZ DPS, Shannon Hernandez, Soila Hacker, Sonia, Valarie Wood, Virginia Lopez, Wendy Hartjen-Fleming, William Bailey, William Olivas
6. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes dated July 27, 2026** – Co-Chair, Trace Tolby made the motion, and Jason Nelson seconded the motion to approve. All members were in favor and the motion passed.
7. **Proposals from Special Needs** - Hilma Gustafson presented on behalf of council member Denice Hall. Six (6) proposals were presented to the public and council, three (3) were approved by the council and three (3) were tabled for additional information.
 - Proposal 1- (*Wheelchair Definition Rule 101*): Update to a functional definition covering manual or powered devices designed for occupied transport. A motion was made by Jason Nelson and Trace Tolby seconded; all were in favor, motion passed.

- *Proposal 2- (Wheelchair Lift Requirements Rule 104D):* Shift from an isolated 600 lb. load capacity statement to requiring compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) 403 and 404 a motion was made to approve Sean Ross (first) and Nicholas Lloyd (Second), all were in favor, motion carried.
- *Proposal 3 (Section Title Rule 105):* Rename "Special Needs Standards" to "Transportation of Students with Disabilities and Special Healthcare Needs" a motion was made by Jason Nelson and a second by Nicholas Lloyd, all were in favor, motion carried.
- *Proposal 4 (Wheelchair Brakes & Securement Rule 103E):* Establish rules on using locks and preventing transport of broken chairs. Council expressed concern over the legal ramifications of denying transport to students. This proposal will require additional information.
- *Proposal 5 (Lap Boards & Accessories Rule 103):* Require removal of lap boards during transport. Council noted exceptions are needed for life-sustaining medical equipment. This proposal will require additional information.
- *Proposal 6 (Emergency Medication Rule 105):* Formally permits the transport of emergency medication in a student's safety plan. Extensive debate took place regarding student care, physical control of baggage, and conflicting rules (Rule 16 and 17). This proposal will require additional information.

8. **Proposal from Training Requirements** - Jason Nelson proposed eleven (11) proposals to the public and council.

- *Proposal 1 & 2- Curriculum Framework:* Proposed replacing current itemized topics with a flexible "Department Approved Training Curriculum". The Council voiced concerns over granting DPS full authority without public comments or direct Council approval. This was tabled for future discussion.
- *Proposal 3-* was approved with a minor verbiage change to state 2 business days instead of 48 hours. A motion was made by Trace Tolby and a second by Nick Franklin.
- *Proposal 4-Oral Testing English Waiver:* Proposed striking the option for oral exams in alternative languages. Members and rural representatives strongly pushed back, noting it would disqualify highly capable drivers in border and tribal communities. This was tabled for further research.
- *Proposals 5 and 6* were tabled for future discussion

- Proposal 7- *Behind-The-Wheel (BTW) Capacity*: Proposed striking the strict 1:1 student-to-instructor training vehicle restriction. This proposal was tabled for future discussion.
 - Proposal 8- *CPR/First Aid Training Cadence*: Proposed allowing hybrid models for classroom portions, provided physical chest compression practice is handled in person. A motion was made to approve by Jason Nelson and Nicholas Lloyd seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.
 - Proposal 9 & 10 were tabled until the “Department approved training curriculum” could be clarified.
 - Proposal 11- *BTW Evaluations*: Proposed mandatory 2-year physical driving evaluations for recertification. Council noted potential strain on rural districts lacking certified instructors. This proposal was tabled until we could clarify a definition and requirements for behind-the-wheel evaluation.
9. **Proposal for Instructor Training** - Jason Nelson proposed one (1) amendment but had several others to discuss but will hold these for the next meeting.
- Proposal 1 to define “School Bus Driver Instructor” was proposed and a motion was made by Nicholas Lloyd and a second by Trace Tolby. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.
 - All additional proposals in this section have been tabled until the council is informed who will be creating this training curriculum mentioned.
10. **Questions on how the council can consult with the Arizona Department of Public Safety**- Assistant Attorney General Jordan Towers said she would get back to the council and department with how to proceed.
11. A letter from the **Arizona Rural Schools Association** was read by Chair Nick Franklin, warning that counting midday split-shift gaps as "on-duty" time would force the cancellation of rural routes and Friday sports events due to a lack of reserve drivers. This letter was addressed to the Council and the Department of Public Safety by Gregory Wyman, Executive Director.
12. **Proposal for Hours of Service**- Chair Nick Franklin (**Rule 13-13-104.C**): The council reviewed options to adjust Hours of Service.
1. Proposal 1- An employer shall not allow or require a school bus driver to drive a school bus, nor shall a school bus driver drive a bus for:
 2. For more than 10 hours after having been off duty for a minimum of eight consecutive hours.
 3. For any period after having been on duty for 15 hours after having been off duty for a minimum of eight consecutive hours

4. After having been on duty for 60 hours in any seven consecutive days if the employer does not operate school buses
 5. After having been on duty for 70 hours in any eight consecutive days if the employer operates school buses every day
 6. **Add-** If the driver has any continuous 34 hours off duty in rolling hours of service clock with be re set to zero.
- Proposal 2- Adoption of California Hours of Service for School Bus 13 CCR 1212.5
 - Proposal 3- Current definition of Off Duty- To add clarity to definition of Off Duty with definition highlighted below if approved.
 - Off Duty means the time a school bus driver is not on duty,
 - 1. Time spent resting in a parked vehicle
 - 2. Time spent resting in a hotel
 - 3. When relieved of all duty and responsibility for the care and custody of the vehicle or passengers it is carrying.
 - 4. Any rest break of at least 30 minutes as off-duty time provided.
 - A. The driver is relieved of all duty and responsibility for the care and custody of the vehicle, its accessories, and any cargo or passengers it may be carrying and
 - B. During the stop, and for the duration of the stop, the driver must be at liberty to pursue activities of his/her own choosing.
13. A vote was taken by each council member on which option they choose, to eliminate one option. No one selected option 2.
- Jason Nelson, Captain Weston White, Nicholas Lloyd, Denice Hall, and Nick Franklin voted for proposal number 1. Trace Tolby and Kela Powers voted for proposal number 3. Sean Ross and Ashley Berg were unavailable at the time this vote took place.
14. **Schedule future meeting-** Chairman Nicholas Franklin stated the next virtual meeting is scheduled for August 24th, at 10:00am. The next hybrid meeting is scheduled for September 2, at 10:00am.
15. **Meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm MST.**

By:

Kimberly Thomas, Administrative Supervisor, DPS Student Transportation