



**MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
HARDSHIP APPEALS – FALL – Round 1  
August 25, 2026**

In accordance with Article 6, Section 3, Paragraph 1 of the Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc. (AIA) Constitution, a special meeting of the Executive Board was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Corey Newland called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.

**Members in Attendance:**

William Duarte, 1A Conference (Superior Jr./Sr. High School)  
Tim Bridges, 2A Conference (American Leadership Academy Anthem South)  
Greg Haagsma, 3A Conference (Valley Christian High School)  
William Wright, 4A Conference (Estrella Foothills High School)  
Corey Newland, 5A Conference (Paradise Valley School District)  
Jennifer Burks, 6A Conference (Perry High School)  
Tim Carter, Cognia (Yavapai County School Superintendent, Retired)  
Steve Johnson, Arizona School Boards Association (CAVIT)  
Missy Townsend, Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (Prescott High School)  
Jim Dean, Ed.D, AIA Executive Director

**Members Absent:**

David Verdugo, Arizona School Administrators (Santa Cruz Valley School District – Rio Rico)

**AIA Staff Present:**

Nathan Slater, Associate Executive Director  
Tayler Coady, Executive Administrative Assistant  
Rosa Leon, Legal Counsel

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA – AUGUST 25, 2026**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the adoption of the August 25, 2026 agenda.

**LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT**

On a motion made, seconded and carried, President Townsend, in accordance with Article 6, Section 3, Paragraph 3, Subparagraph 2 of the AIA Constitution, called for the following Executive Session(s) to receive report from legal counsel:

✓ 8:34am – 8:56am

**ACTION ITEMS:****HARDSHIP APPEALS**

*The following representatives entered the meeting for a student eligibility appeal and left upon completion of their presentations:*

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Maricopa</u></b>        | <b>Matt Smith</b> - Athletic Director, Parent, Student<br><b><u>Mountain Pointe</u></b> – Max Picus – Athletic Director                                                                                          |
| <b><u>Desert Mountain</u></b> | <b>Cher Fesenmair</b> - Athletic Director, Stephen Cervantez – District AD, Parents, Student<br><b><u>Pinnacle</u></b> – Pat Hurley – Athletic Director                                                          |
| <b><u>Chandler</u></b>        | <b>Jim Culver</b> - Athletic Director, Parent, Coach<br><b><u>Vista Grande</u></b> – Jeff Lavender – Superintended, Ruthann Miller – Athletic Director                                                           |
| <b><u>Chandler</u></b>        | <b>Jim Culver</b> - Athletic Director, Parent                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b><u>Cactus Shadows</u></b>  | <b>Rob Gilmore</b> - Athletic Director, Parents, Student<br><b><u>Notre Dame Prep</u></b> – Dennis Coyle – Athletic Director, Brie Dragonetti – Principal,<br>Dennis Naughton – Diocese of Phoenix Legal Counsel |

Following review and discussion of the written and oral information presented, the Executive Board, in accordance with Article 15, Section 14 of the AIA Bylaws, **granted / denied** the following hardship eligibility requests:

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b><u>School/Appeal</u></b> | <b><u>Granted/Denied</u></b> |
| Maricopa                    | Denied                       |
| Desert Mountain             | Denied                       |
| Chandler                    | Denied                       |
| Chandler                    | Granted                      |
| Cactus Shadows              | Denied                       |

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Dean Ed., D.