

**Minutes of the Special Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, January 26, 2021**

A Special public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held Tuesday, January 26, 2021, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ in the Leadership and Professional Development Center. The meeting was held under COVID-19 pandemic related conditions.

Governing Board Members Present

Ms. Susan Zibrat, President
Ms. Deanna M. Day, M.Ed., Vice President
Dr. Scott K. Baker, Member
Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, Member
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member

Superintendent's Cabinet Members Present

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent
Dr. Roseanne Lopez, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education
Mr. Michael Bejarano, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education
Ms. Michelle H. Tong, J.D., Associate to the Superintendent and Legal Counsel
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Director of Student Services
Ms. Tassi Call, Director of 21st Century Education
Dr. Shannon McKinney, Director of Curriculum and Assessment
Mr. James Burns, Executive Manager of Operational Support
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SIGNING OF THE VISITOR'S REGISTER

President Zibrat called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and invited members of the audience to sign the visitors' register.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

President Zibrat announced the next Regular Governing Board meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Jaeger noted that the Pledge of Allegiance was inadvertently omitted from the agenda and given that state law does permit the recitation of the pledge, he recommended that the Board should still do so.

President Zibrat thanked Superintendent Jaeger for bringing that to her attention and asked him to lead the pledge.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT¹

President Zibrat reminded Ms. Millerd of the Call to the Audience Procedures.

Lisa Millerd, a teacher at Amphitheater High School and Amphi Education Association (AEA) President said regular communications from Superintendent Jaeger have been reassuring to staff and she hoped they would continue. She felt that since teachers communicate with students and families, their expertise should be part of the decision-making process. She commented that to build trust, defining and solving problems needs to be done together.

4. INFORMATION

A. Superintendent's Report: Update on Pandemic Conditions

See Exhibit 1 for Superintendent Jaeger's Power Point Presentation.

Superintendent Jaeger noted that Board Members have requested regular updates and reports on community data and how that relates to the pandemic and school operations. He first gave an update on activities throughout the District.

In a recent Zoom class, teachers at Innovation Academy used pizza pies as a creative way to teach students about fractions.

The Wilson K-8 library team provided curbside library book pick-up service to support the love of reading during remote learning.

Eighth-grade science students at Cross Middle School have been learning about atoms and built some atom models at home.

The 100th day of school was January 25, 2021. Students throughout the District celebrated with lots of fun activities. At Innovation Academy, students were challenged to build the tallest structure possible out of 100 index cards and hold a stuffed animal. Kindergarten students at Harelson Elementary marked the 100th day with computer generated pictures of how they might look when they are 100 years old.

For another 100 day celebration, elementary school principals created a video counting to 100! Superintendent Jaeger ended the video with the revelation that 5th grade students have attended school for 1000 school days over their lives thus far. He then read the poem "The 100 Days of School" written by Principal Carol Tracy and Principal Michael McConnell. The video can be viewed on the Amphi website at www.amphi.com and on Amphi's Facebook page.

Superintendent Jaeger showed a stunning picture, sent in from our Transportation Department, depicting a rare winter storm that brought snow to the valley. With our bright yellow buses in the foreground, the Catalina Mountains just above looked majestic all blanketed by snow.

Upcoming events included the District Spelling Bee which will be held remotely on January 27, 2021. Painted Sky Elementary School will host the virtual event that will include 24 students (and 3 alternates) from 12 schools.

Also upcoming on January 27, 2021, is a "Family Room" event. Led by District social workers, this ongoing program will focus on Strategies for Self-regulation. This virtual presentation is an opportunity to learn how stress and trauma impacts our children's (and our own) ability to self-regulate.

Superintendent Jaeger invited Dr. Lopez to give a report on the elementary school status and Mr. Bejarano to give a report on secondary education.

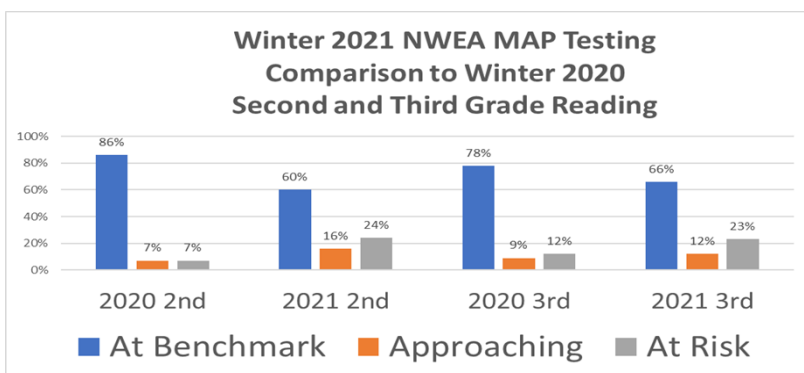
Dr. Lopez said that she asked the principals to give her an update on the positive and the challenging issues they are working through as school has returned to remote learning.

The principals reported some of the challenges they were experiencing included getting supplemental materials to students and having students return completed work. Principals noted that contacting absent students or parents is also challenging.

They said work quality has declined due to the inability to give immediate in-person feedback, and parents and students are frustrated with online learning. She noted that another challenge was that online learning environments can be distracting and internet quality issues in homes and daycares are not always adequate. Another statement of concern was the growing gap in proficiency levels. Teachers are frustrated with the inability to plan for long term, and administering required testing remotely is challenging. They miss their students, and the students miss each other and their teachers.

Dr. Lopez said some positive comments noted were that remote offers a consistent routine each day and the daily contact with students allows them to personalize instruction. Because relationships between students were built during hybrid, there is more student engagement in remote by necessity this time, rather than when school first started. This has motivated students to attend online regularly. Overall, there is less stress for staff, students, and parents regarding the possibility of having to quarantine. She also reported approximately 300 students use the onsite supervision services daily.

Dr. Lopez shared information concerning Benchmark testing. The data compared Winter 2021 NWEA MAP Testing to Winter 2020 testing of second and third grade reading scores. She was concerned about the scores until she received the results and then was encouraged with the outcome. She acknowledged some students scored lower and will need additional assistance, but she attributed the relative success to the hard work of classroom teachers, special education teachers, and interventionists, many times working in small groups or one on one with students.



Dr. Lopez reported in order to receive the Move on When Reading funding, Benchmark testing data must be provided to the Arizona Department of Education three times a year. With these testing results she was able to complete the required submission this week.

Mr. Bejarano spoke about secondary education remote learning. He said it has been an ongoing challenge to improve attendance. To address that, the implementation of a regular school bell schedule and requiring students to be present and visible online has made a difference with most students attending class. For students that must quarantine, this schedule allows them to continue to participate through online classes. Student participation is up, especially for students that tend to be more reserved in the traditional classroom setting, and teachers continue to give lessons that are engaging. Attendance clerks are calling home immediately if a student has not logged on. When students are absent, school administration will call or make a home visit.

Mr. Bejarano said staff and students are struggling with the continuing isolated environment and the amount of screen time is still a concern. Also, the lack of substitutes has become a concern for teachers. Principals have concerns regarding students in their transition years since activities and events are not able to be held (that they might normally mark and celebrate like 5th to 6th grade and 8th to 9th grade). They are also concerned with how to hold large celebrations, such as prom and graduation, in a safe way.

He commented that there are some advantages to remote teaching. It is easier, for example, for teachers to navigate than hybrid. It is harder for teachers to plan class with students in the different hybrid cohorts. There has also been tremendous growth in teachers' instructional practices, especially in using and utilizing learning platforms.

Mr. Bejarano gave an update on Amphi Academy Online. He noted that elementary enrollment is at 664 students with 37 students on a wait list. Middle school enrollment is at 292 students with no students on a wait list. High school enrollment is at 550 students with no students on a wait list. He explained that all secondary students are registered as they apply for enrollment, there is no wait list for secondary enrollment.

Dr. Lopez compared aggregate attendance in hybrid learning against remote learning models. In the first quarter, which was only remote learning, the percent of students attending class was 87.64%. The second quarter was hybrid learning, and the percent of students attending class was 78.20%. The first three weeks of the third quarter showed 82.66% percent of students attended class. Typically, in the traditional learning model, attendance would be over 90%.

Vice President Day requested attendance data that is specific to each grade level. Mr. Bejarano responded that this information is available, however he did not have it with him. Superintendent Jaeger said he would provide the information to the Board at a later date.

Superintendent Jaeger shared data from the Pima County Health Department (PCHD). Pima County cases per 100,000 on December 27, 2020 were at 732; percent positivity was at 23.5%; hospital visits for COVID-19 like symptoms were at 14.7%. On January 3, 2021, there were 835 cases per 100,000; percent positivity declined to 21.7%; hospital visits were at 14.8%.

He reviewed the following indicators relating to schools re-opening.

Disease Data Indicators: Cases over two consecutive weeks; percent positivity; and COVID-19 like illnesses are all in the red zone.

Healthcare System Availability: Lab testing availability and utilization is in the green; adequate hospital bed capacity to care for two times the current COVID-19 cases (+surge) - statewide are in the red; sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for emergency responders is in the yellow.

Public Health Tracking and Prevention: Timely case investigation is in the red; testing of symptomatic contacts within 48 hours is yellow; facilities/support for patients who cannot be discharged home – statewide is yellow.

Superintendent Jaeger said PCHD is now providing COVID-19 data about school age children. He shared the total reported infections (ages 5 – 18) per month. In October 2020, there were 459 reported cases; November 2020 had 1,559 reported cases; December 2020 had 3,660 reported cases. As of January 21, 2021, there were 2,133 reported cases. These numbers are broken out by age group on the Power Point slides.

Statewide school guidance is still that all districts remain in remote learning mode for all counties.

Superintendent Jaeger said he was hopeful that the current target for re-opening on February 15, 2021 will be able to occur due to progress shown by the PCHD data and the increase in vaccinations.

Superintendent Jaeger reported information he received from Dr. Francisco Garcia, Pima County's Health Director and Chief Medical Officer and the Pima County deputy administrator. He noted that Dr. Garcia felt the first dose of vaccinations for all Pima County school district staff should be completed in three weeks.

President Zibrat thanked Superintendent Jaeger for his update and his leadership. She asked if Board members had any questions.

Mr. Kopek thanked Superintendent Jaeger for his leadership and commented that he agreed that hybrid learning should be postponed until February 15, 2021. He acknowledged the feedback regarding that decision and the vaccine available to staff soon. He appreciates the care and caution being taken with our staff and students. He also stated his disappointment in our Governor saying in the State of the State Address that closed schools will not be state-funded. At the same time, the recommendation of the Director of the state public health agency states schools should be held virtually. He felt these conflicts have created a massive amount of problems for districts to deal with.

Dr. Baker asked for information concerning the procedures in place to vaccinate District employees.

Superintendent Jaeger responded that PCHD acknowledged there have been many challenges in the vaccine rollout. Various vaccine efforts by counties, universities, and hospital systems impacted how far the vaccines would go. Vaccines are being replenished, and PCHD understands the ramification of vaccinating school personnel. Currently, more vaccine is on order and Tucson Medical Center (TMC) is taking over the registration process for the "I.B." groups.

Ms. Cox Golder asked how many employees have been vaccinated at this time. Superintendent Jaeger noted that according to Dr. Garcia approximately 10% county wide have been vaccinated. The District will be conducting an employee survey next week regarding the vaccination. He will update the Board when that information becomes available. Superintendent Jaeger encouraged employees to seek out whatever avenue they can to sign up and get vaccinated.

5. CONSENT AGENDA³

Details of agenda items, supporting documents, and presentations are available in the electronic BoardBook by clicking on the hyperlink below.

<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2065>

President Zibrat asked if there were any Items that should be pulled for further discussion. There were none. Vice President Day moved for Consent Agenda Items A. – N. be approved as presented. Ms. Cox Golder seconded the motion. Roll call vote in favor - 5: President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Dr. Baker, Ms. Cox Golder, and Mr. Kopec. Roll call vote opposed - 0. Consent Agenda Items A. – N. passed.

A. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel

Non-administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 2.

B. Approval of Personnel Changes

Certified and classified personnel changes were approved as listed in Exhibit 3.

C. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence

Leave(s) of absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 4.

D. Approval of Separation(s) and Termination(s)

Separation(s) and termination(s) were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.

E. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

Approval of stipend for coaching volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.

F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Minutes of the January 12, 2021 Governing Board meeting was approved as submitted in Exhibit 7.

G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$2,458,319.09

A copy of vouchers for goods and services received by the Amphitheater Public Schools and recommended for payment has been provided to the Governing Board. The following vouchers were approved as presented and payment authorized as listed in Exhibit 8.

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1168	\$157,772.60	1169	\$14,742.96	1170	\$756,032.23
1171	\$228,483.84	1172	\$92,291.15	1174	\$ 37,167.95
1175	\$ 89,667.98	1176	\$96,703.46	1177	\$ 10,303.63
1178	\$863,673.11	1179	\$85,244.86	1180	\$ 26,235.32

H. Acceptance of Gifts

Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as listed in Exhibit 9.

I. Award of Contract for Education and Career Action Plan Platform Request for Proposals (RFP) 11-19-2020

The Governing Board approved the award of contract for Education and Career Action Plan Platform to Major Clarity.

J. Award of Contract for Access Points, Network Switches with Components and Associated Licensing Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP) 01-12-2021

The Governing Board approved the award of contract for access points, network switches with components and associated licensing to Global Market Innovators, Inc.

K. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Amphi High School 300 Wing Structural Repairs Design

The Governing Board approved the SFB Grant for Amphi High School 300 wing structural repairs design as presented in Exhibit 10.

L. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Amphi High School Main Gym Roof Replacement

The Governing Board approved the SFB Grant for Amphi High School main gym roof replacement as presented in Exhibit 11.

M. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Amphitheater High School Central Plant 1 Hot Water Line Leak Assessment

The Governing Board approved the SFB Grant for Amphitheater High School central plant 1 hot water line leak assessment as presented in Exhibit 12.

N. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Ironwood Ridge High School Weatherization Design Bldgs 1005 & 1006

The Governing Board approved the SFB Grant for Ironwood Ridge High School weatherization design for buildings 1005 and 1006 as presented in Exhibit 13.

STUDY

A. Study of Governing Board Policy DJE (Bidding/Purchasing Procedures)

The Governing Board studied Policy DJE (Bidding/Purchasing Procedures) as presented in Exhibit 14.

Superintendent Jaeger explained to the Board that this policy requires the Board’s attention in regards to updating the policy. He invited Ms. Tong to explain further.

Ms. Tong noted that Amphitheater School District is a member of the Arizona School Board Association (ASBA). When laws change, ASBA reviews the changes and then recommends policy changes to school district members. The following recommended changes are from the ASBA. Ms. Tong noted the changes as presented in Exhibit 14.

She said that when quotes are requested from vendors, the policy states that “verbal” quotes were required for transactions of at least ten thousand dollars and less than one hundred thousand dollars. The recommendation is to change from “verbal” to “written” quotes.

Ms. Tong recommended adding “aggregate” to the policy to clarify district spending and not individual site spending. For example, “*Written price quotations will be requested from at least three vendors for transactions of at least ten thousand dollars and less than one hundred thousand dollars in the “aggregate” amount of purchase.*”

President Zibrat asked the Board if they had any questions or comments. Dr. Baker said that he agreed with Ms. Tong that adding in “aggregate” makes sense and clarifies the policy.

There were no other comments. Ms. Tong noted that this policy will be brought back to the next meeting for Board approval, and she will add in “aggregate” as discussed.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

3. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vice President Day asked for an update on grading changes.

Dr. Baker requested an update to the reality on funding with online and hybrid learning.

As additional content for his Superintendent’s Report, Superintendent Jaeger noted that he went to the Capitol in Phoenix on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 to meet with Senator Leach regarding budgetary needs in the K-12 sector. He was joined by a member of the district’s education finance reform lobbyist and a representative from Vail School District. Superintendent Jaeger said they advocated for the legislature to change the funding formulas specific to online learning, which normally reduces the funding for students who are in online learning by 5%. He thanked Senator Leach for his efforts and noted that the Senate proposed a budget which reflected online learners be funded at 100%.

Ms. Cox Golder thanked Superintendent for his efforts in lobbying for this change.

4. ADJOURNMENT

President Zibrat asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Day so moved. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call vote in favor - 5: President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Dr. Baker, Ms. Cox Golder, and Mr. Kopec. Roll call vote opposed - 0. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.


Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval
Karin Smith, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board
Gretchen Hahn, Secretary III, Governing Board Office

February 3, 2021

Date

February 9, 2021

Susan Zibrat, Governing Board President