

August 9, 2022

Superintendent's Report





Around the Schools





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A Strong Start

- Some of our most diverse, comprehensive and targeted professional development summer programs ever
- Start of Year Enrollment: 12,500; far fewer families choosing online
- Several schools experiencing significant enrollment increases
- Expansion of Imagine Preschools throughout our entire community
 - 8 brand new sites opened in just 90 days
 - Thanks to Pima County, Town of Oro Valley, and Tiffany Fay (new Director) and her team
 - 300 students in our community are now receiving low-cost or free preschool instruction from highly qualified teachers
 - Increasing opportunities for special needs services and inclusion



A Strong Start

- New Food Service Programming – including cooked-from-scratch items, expanded menu choices, salad/fruit bars, and improved quality
- Better than 1:1 computer to student ratio
 - More than 12,000 laptops/Chromebooks acquired
 - New desk top computers
- Nearly 400 new Smartboard devices being installed over next few months
- Expanding programs for students: Gifted Education (REACH), CTE, AVID, Dual Enrollment for College Credit; Acceleration; Personalized Learning



A Strong Start

- Improved facilities everywhere – (more from Mr. LaNasa)
- Student and staff engagement obvious from first moments of the year
- Expressions of relief for return to “normalcy”
- Increasing retention of our “master” teachers by normalized pay levels for return-to-work staff
- Rewarding all our employees’ loyalty and longevity – retention stipends for returning staff to be paid in September



Challenges

- Staff shortages
 - Teacher vacancies lower in Amphi than elsewhere, but still affecting us
 - P.E., Gifted, ASL
 - Core Course Coverage very good
 - National teacher shortage is reaching extraordinary levels – 3,000+ vacancies in Arizona; 9,500 current vacancies in Florida
 - Average teacher pay: \$50,782 in Arizona; \$49,102 in Florida (per NEA)
 - Support staff market remains highly volatile – impact of minimum wage changes and competitive market
 - Impacts in certain functions – student services, nursing, custodial, grounds
 - Staff turnover training impacts



Challenges – Arizona Staffing Shortages

Current vacancies as of June 15, 2022:

2,272.13 general education teacher vacancies	If 25 students per 1.0 teacher, <i>over 56,000 students would be impacted</i> if not filled
807.9 special education teacher vacancies	If 15 students per 1.0 teacher, <i>over 12,000 impacted students</i>
126.45 counselor vacancies	250:1 ratio equals <i>over 24,000 impacted students</i>
83.13 social worker vacancies	250:1 ratio equals <i>over 24,000 impacted students</i>
81.0 psychologist vacancies	250:1 ratio equals <i>over 24,000 impacted students</i>
127.75 speech pathologist vacancies	250:1 ratio equals <i>over 38,000 impacted students</i>



Challenges

- Supply chain impacts
 - Impacts on capital improvement projects (more from Mr. LaNasa)
 - Basic supplies affected: paper, books, food
 - Budget carryforward impacts – if you can't find what you need, you can't purchase it
 - Installation and service shortages



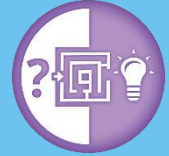
Clarity as We Begin

- “Critical Race Theory”
 - It is not in our state standards; we follow state standards
 - It is not in our district curricula – available for public review in our District for decades
 - It is not in our district culture, which reflects that of our community through the guidance of our Governing Board
- Pandemic conditions are substantially mitigated and resolved
 - Prior public health orders directing school actions are gone
 - There will be no mask requirements – public health orders/guidance no longer effective; new state law; district policy
 - Normalcy must prevail
 - Common sense from all of us



Clarity as We Begin

- School Safety
 - Our top priority
 - New Emergency Response Plans for every school (following two-year review/revision process)
 - Safety Audits of every campus by independent safety expert; implementation of recommendations
 - Increased communication structures with local law enforcement agencies
 - Retraining of staff
 - Continuation of safety drills
 - Reinforcement of existing protocols
 - Presence of SROs at most District schools



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First-Day Video

