

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

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A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

**Governing Board Members Present**

Ms. Susan Zibrat, President  
Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, Member  
Ms. Patricia Harris, Member  
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member

**Governing Board Member Absent**

Ms. Deanna M. Day, M.Ed., Vice President

**Superintendent's Cabinet Members**

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent  
Ms. Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education  
Mr. Matthew Munger, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education  
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. John Hastings, Director of Human Resources  
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Director of Student Services  
Mr. Richard C. La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support  
Ms. Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21st Century Education  
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 6:00 p.m. and invited members of the audience to sign the guest register.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. David Humphreys, Principal at La Cima Middle School, to come forward. Mr. Humphreys shared that the students leading the ledge are members of Student Government and the Visual Arts Program. He asked Visual Arts teacher, Ms. Victoria Loving to introduce the students. Ms. Loving introduced Jazlynn, Gilberto, Nhi, and Thomas. The students led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Kopec presented the students with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Humphreys, and the students from La Cima.

**3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART**

Mr. Humphreys asked Ms. Loving to come forward again to speak about the student art on display. Ms. Loving shared what a privilege it is to work at La Cima with such talented students. She spoke about the various art projects on display including the students' parodies of "American Gothic", art that was previously displayed at one of the public library branches for an art show, and samples from La Cima's annual Peace Poster contest for which the theme was "Peace Without Limits". Ms. Loving also spoke about the 3-D art on display which were ceramic pieces made to look like desserts.

Mr. Kopec presented Ms. Loving with a certificate of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Humphreys, and Ms. Loving to mark the occasion.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT SPECIAL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

President Zibrat announced that the next Special Governing Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ, 85705, in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

5. **RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Recognition of Amphitheater School District Spelling Bee Winners**

Superintendent Jaeger stated that the annual district spelling bee is always a great and thrilling event. He asked Ms. Bethany Papajohn, Principal at Painted Sky Elementary and Spelling Bee Coordinator, to come forward and introduce this year's winners. Ms. Papajohn expressed her appreciation to the members of the administrative team who participate in running the spelling bee each year. She went on to introduce the first-place winner Miles Hale, who is a fifth grader at Harelson Elementary, second place winner Kendall Mason, who is a fifth grader at Copper Creek Elementary, and fifth place winner Norah Bennett, a seventh grader at Wilson K-8 school. Third place finisher Lucie Hibbert, a fifth grader at Harelson Elementary and fourth place finisher, Arko Rahim, a seventh grader from Wilson K-8 were not able to attend the meeting this evening. Ms. Papajohn explained that the top four spellers are moving on to the regional spelling bee on February 15<sup>th</sup> with the fifth-place speller acting as an alternate.

Ms. Harris shared she had the privilege of attending the spelling bee and remarked on how intense it was. She noted that it took over three hours for the winners to be selected. Ms. Harris presented the students with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Papajohn, and the students.

Superintendent Jaeger expressed gratitude to Ms. Papajohn for running such a successful bee.

**B. Recognition of Amphitheater High School Superintendent's Student Advisory Council**

Superintendent Jaeger explained that at each of the three high schools, he has an advisory group made up of students from each grade. He spoke about what a service this group provides for their school and their feeder pattern as well as he often solicits them for ideas, concerns, and questions that affect the entire student body. Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. A.J. Malis to come forward to introduce the students present. He noted that the students on the advisory are also very involved in other activities which may have precluded them from attending the meeting this evening.

Mr. Malis introduced Madison Morales and Luis Parra. He spoke about their interests, favorite things about Amphi High, and plans for the future

Mr. Kopec congratulated the students and stated that the work they do goes a long way to serve their student body. He presented them with certificates of recognition and a picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Malis, Madison, and Luis to mark the occasion.

**C. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards**

Superintendent Jaeger stated that each month during the school year, a certificated and a support staff member are recognized with a Distinguished Service Award. He shared that it was a pleasure to recognize employees who mean so much to the Amphi community.

Ms. Darlene Mansouri, Director of State and Federal Programs, was asked to come forward to introduce the Support Staff Distinguished Service Award Recipient, Ms. Erin Van Riper, Program Coordinator. Ms. Mansouri spoke about Ms. Van Riper's wealth of knowledge and skills and her excellent service to our schools' staff. She went on to say that Ms. Van Riper was an essential

resource to the community and her professional behavior, friendly demeanor, and supportive attitude made her very deserving of this recognition. A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Van Riper for the work she has done in the District.

President Zibrat asked Ms. Van Riper if she would like to recognize anyone. Ms. Van Riper thanked her family for attending the meeting and Ms. Mansouri for all of her support. President Zibrat presented her with a certificate of recognition, a Distinguished Service Award, and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Nash School Principal, Ms. Jessica Jarrett, to come forward to present the certificated recipient. Ms. Jarrett introduced School Improvement Specialist, Ms. Kristen Alvarez. Ms. Jarrett shared that Ms. Alvarez has worked in Amphitheater for nine years and has served in several different roles. Currently, she supports each grade level team at Nash, conducts professional development, serves on the AVID Team and is the site ACHIEVE Coordinator. Ms. Jarrett spoke about all of the ways Ms. Alvarez works to improve learning at Nash. A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Alvarez for the work she has done in the District.

President Zibrat asked Ms. Alvarez if she would like to speak. She thanked her family in the audience and Ms. Jarrett. She also introduced her fellow staff who came to support her and thanked them for making Nash such a wonderful place to work. President Zibrat presented her with a certificate of recognition, a Distinguished Service Award, and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

A picture was taken of the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Van Riper, Ms. Alvarez, Ms. Mansouri, and Ms. Jarrett to mark the occasion.

#### **D. Recognition of LEAP AHEAD for AMPHI Committee**

Superintendent Jaeger explained that the LEAP AHEAD for AMPHI Committee has been the political action committee for Amphitheater made of concerned citizens for over twenty-years. He said their sole function is to help advocate for ballot measures since the District is precluded from doing that itself and they do this through fundraising, advocacy, sign hanging, and other measures to educate the voting public about the ballot measures.

He asked Ms. Beth Lake, who co-chaired the LEAP AHEAD Committee, to come forward along with the other members present. He also noted that Board Member Harris was co-chair of the organization this year. Ms. Lake noted she was first recruited to this group in 2009 by President Zibrat who was part of the first committee. She introduced Elizabeth Slater who ran all of the social media for the committee, Sarah Branski and Marlene Dancil Register who are members of the Innovation Academy PTO, Ms. Harris, and Ms. Papajohn who helped display signs.

President Zibrat thanked the committee for all of their work and expressed her gratitude that both ballot measures passed. She presented them with certificates of recognition. A photo was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, and committee members to mark the occasion.

## **6. INFORMATION**

### **A. Superintendent's Report**

*For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint see Exhibit 1.*

Superintendent Jaeger shared photos highlighting some recent District events

- 8<sup>th</sup> graders from all over the District had the opportunity to visit their feeder high schools to explore the exciting and unique programs offered at each campus. They will begin registering for next year's classes in the coming weeks

- Mesa Verde held a Science Night on January 24<sup>th</sup> with hands on activities and a visit from the Pima County Sheriff's Department
- Prince Elementary held their January Spirit Assembly recognizing excellence in several categories including reading, music, and athletics
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School which is highly celebrated around the District. Walker Elementary held an awards ceremony and Painted Sky students dressed up as 100 year olds
- February 7<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Oro Valley Cup Golf Tournament benefiting Project Grad at each of our three high schools. Project Grad offers a safe, fun-filled night for our graduates
- The Amphitheater Career Fair is happening Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Registrants can interview for open positions on the spot. A special thanks to the Human Resources Department for all their work organizing this event
- Mark your calendar for upcoming Board meetings and holiday breaks

President Zibrat thanked Superintendent Jaeger for his report.

## **B. Status of Construction Projects**

*For the Status of Construction Project attachments see Exhibit 2.*

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. LaNasa to provide an update on District-wide construction projects since December's last report.

Mr. LaNasa showed photos which highlighted completed projects and some currently under construction:

- Amphitheater High School Hot Water Heater Replacements using Bond funds
- Amphitheater High School Back Up Generators using Bond funds
- Amphitheater High School Welding/Auto Classroom HVAC Conversion using BRG funds
- Canyon del Oro High School Exterior Painting using Bond funds
- Harelson Fire Lane and Student Drop Off Paving using Adjacent Ways and Bond funds
- Innovation Academy Chiller Replacement using BRG and Bond funds
- La Cima Middle School Roof Replacement using BRG funds

Mr. LaNasa reported that the District received \$6,408 in grant funding in December 2024 and January 2025 bringing the 2024-2025 school year total to \$6,163,156 with a SY 24-25 Grant Project Funding Requests Pending Award amount of \$15.4 million.

He offered to answer any questions. There were none.

President Zibrat thanked him for his report.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

[Amphitheater Public Schools Public View - BoardBook Premier](#)

*President Zibrat asked if any items needed to be removed for further discussion or comment. There were none.*

*Ms. Cox Golder moved for Consent Agenda Items 8. A.-H be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items 8. A.-H. passed.*

**A. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel**

*Non-administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 3.*

**B. Approval of Personnel Changes**

*Certified and classified personnel changes were approved as listed in Exhibit 4.*

**C. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence**

*Leave(s) of Absences were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.*

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

*Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.*

**E. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers**

*Stipend for Coaching Volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.*

**F. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$855,609.41**

*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 submitted in Exhibit 8.*

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1206	\$343,599.96	1207	\$41,819.24	1208	\$25,088.15
1209	\$99,956.54	1210	\$275,304.72	1211	\$34,831.11
1212	\$3,142.65	1213	\$31,867.04		

**G. Approval to Provide Post-Retirement Employment Opportunities during the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year**

*The Governing Board approved Post-Retirement Employment Opportunities during the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.*

**H. Approval of Out of State Travel**

*The Governing Board approved requests for Out of State Travel as listed in Exhibit 9.*

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**10. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

*Ms. Cox Golder moved to adjourn. Mr. Kopec seconded. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-4. President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Harris and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.*

*Jen Anderson*

Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval  
*Jen Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board*

February 7, 2025  
Date

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*Susan Zibrat, Governing Board President*

February 25, 2025  
Date