

Minutes of the Special Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, March 26, 2024

A Special public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

Governing Board Members Present

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

Governing Board Member Absent

Ms. Deanna M. Day, M. Ed., Member

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. John Hasting, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Richard C. La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum and Assessment
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Director of Student Services
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 Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and invited members of the audience to sign the guest register.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Motion to Recess Open Meeting and Hold an Executive Session for:

A. Consideration and Decision Upon Long-term Suspension/Expulsion Hearing Officer's Recommendations, Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-843(F)(2) Regarding, Student # 30039169

President Baker moved that the Board go into an Executive Session to address the matters identified in Item 2. of the Board's agenda and pursuant to the legal authorities listed on the agenda under Item 2. Vice President Zibrat seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor- 4. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed-0.

President Baker proclaimed they were in Executive Session at 5:30 p.m.

3. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

President Baker reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Baker asked Vice President Zibrat to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

President Baker announced that the next Regular Governing Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ 85705 in the Leadership & Professional Development Center.

6. INFORMATION

A. Auditor General's School District Spending Analysis—Fiscal Year 2023

For the Auditor General's School District Spending Analysis—Fiscal Year 2023 report see Exhibit 1.

President Baker asked Superintendent Jaeger to introduce the item. He explained that the Auditor General of Arizona ("AG") does an annual analysis of school district spending. He introduced Mr. Little to present the information as it pertains to the District.

Mr. Little stated that the AG report focuses on how schools spend their funds, and each spending category is broken down by percentage amounts. He said it is hard to have accurate comparisons, because the spending for food service and transportation differ greatly within districts. He stated that the recent influx of ESSER funds has also skewed the comparisons. Mr. Little shared the definitions used by the AG: administration, plant, food services transportation, student support and instructional support.

Mr. Little compared neighboring Pima County School districts in several categories. Most districts showed a decrease in enrollment; Amphi showed the largest decrease. He shared teacher data, which included average teacher salaries, experience in years and students per teacher ratio. Mr. Little noted that the 301 payout date was changed and the data reflects two payouts for 2023, therefore the average salary is a little higher. In addition, the average student per teacher data is lower in part because the K-3 override, which reduces class sizes in grades kindergarten through third.

Mr. Little talked about the data that compared all Pima County school districts spending. He commented that each district is unique and their spending is reflected in some of the categories. He spoke about the plant operations costs. The data showed that Amphi has more square footage per student, and the spending per student was lower.

He reviewed the peer districts transportation costs. Amphi was the highest per spending per mile and per rider.

Ms. Cox Golder asked about reimbursement of transportation costs.

Mr. Little explained that there is a formula, but it does not cover the actual costs. The formula actually favors rural districts versus more urban districts like Amphi. In addition, the high cost of fuel and using contract drivers add to the costs.

Mr. Little was pleased that Amphi is well below the state and peer level for food service operations costs.

Mr. Little commented that until the ESSER funding is depleted, comparisons are difficult because each district received a different amount of funding. He noted that the Auditor General's interactive web site was very informative for specific information and comparisons.

He offered to answer any questions.

President Baker asked for clarification of the student to teacher ratio. He said the numbers seemed very low to him.

Mr. Little responded that there are a couple of factors; including fewer students in the lower grades, the SPED staffing is lower compared to other districts, and ESI teachers are not counted in the calculation. He explained that contract employees are also not included in the report.

There were no more questions.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

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

Superintendent Jaeger recommended the Consent Agenda Items be approved as submitted.

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

A. Approval of Appointment of Administrative Personnel

Administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 2.

B. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel

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

C. Approval of Personnel Changes

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

D. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence

Approval of Leave(s) of Absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.

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

Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.

F. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

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

G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$1,496,608.95

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
1230	\$62,445.29	1231	\$26,087.14	1232	\$230,044.97
1233	\$91,858.40	1234	\$23,438.14	1235	\$155,966.97
1238	\$18,040.30	1239	\$67,635.75	1240	\$356,405.39
1241	\$79,639.71	1242	\$115,254.86	1243	\$37,052.06
1244	\$123,563.04	1245	\$102,427.42	1246	\$6,749.51

H. Acceptance of Gifts

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

I. Receipt of February 2024 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances

The Governing Board approved Receipt of February 2024 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances as submitted in Exhibit 10.

J. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) - 2023-2024

The Governing Board approved CDO Beach Volleyball and Amphitheater Parent Organization (Amphi High) for the 2023-2024 school year as submitted in Exhibit 11.

K. Approval of Arizona Department of Administration School Facilities Division Building Renewal Grants

The Governing Board approved the Arizona Department of Administration School Facilities Division Building Renewal Grants as submitted in Exhibit 12.

L. Approval of Noncompetitive Contract Teacher Dual Enrollment Fund with Arizona Department of Education

The Governing Board approved Noncompetitive Contract Teacher Dual Enrollment Fund with Arizona Department of Education as submitted in Exhibit 13.

M. Approval of Out of State Travel

The Governing Board approved requests for out of state travel as listed in Exhibit 14.

9. STUDY

A. Presentation on State and Federal Programs

For the PowerPoint Presentation on State and Federal Programs see Exhibit 15.

Superintendent Jaeger invited Darlene Mansouri, Director of State and Federal Programs to talk about the programs in greater detail.

Ms. Mansouri said her department has been referred to as “Title I” for many years, however, the program is much broader than that. She explained that she oversees Grants, Language Acquisition, McKinney-Vento, Foster Care and the Native American Education Program.

She highlighted each of the areas.

McKinney-Vento

The department determines eligibility and coordinates resources to support identified students and families. At this time, 128 students meet the definition of homeless. The purpose is to remove educational barriers and create educational stability.

Foster Care

The department participates in Best Interest Determination (BID) meetings for foster students. There have been 159 students served this year. Since the students have different transportation needs, they help coordinate that also.

English Learners (EL)

The programs focus is supporting the students as they gain proficiency in English. Currently, there are 870 students in the program.

Native American Education Program

The program is committed to meeting the culturally related educational needs of Native American/Alaskan Native students. 401 students have registered for the program, however only 81 meet the requirements of the Johnson O’Malley Program, which requires students have at least ¼ degree Indian blood descendant of a member of an Indian Tribe. The eligible students represent 22 tribal nations. A parent committee meets monthly, where they are provided resources, advocacy, cultural activities and presentations, tutoring, and gather for celebrations.

Ms. Mansouri stated all of the programs require supplemental funding and provided information about the Grants Department. She explained that student and census counts drive eligibility, but unfortunately they are outdated and do not reflect the actual numbers and needs.

She spoke about the grants needed for the all the programs. Ms. Mansouri explained that each grant is maintained by the department for compliance. Even though each grant is unique, there are commonalities: rules and regulations, deadlines, and a continuous cycle of writing and revisions. Currently, they are revising the 2024 grants and also completing the 2025 grant applications.

Ms. Mansouri reviewed the purpose and goals of the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA) programs.

ESSA TITLE I – A

Improving Academic Achievement

This program provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. The focus is on academic interventions.

ESSA TITLE II - A

Professional Development

This program provides the tools and training for educators and administrators at all sites. The trainings must be collaborative and have a classroom focus aligned with the District needs assessment.

ESSA TITLE IV - A

Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE)

This program ensures all students have access to a well-rounded education. It provides the opportunity to improve students’ academic achievement by increasing the capacity of States, educational agencies, schools, and local communities. Other components are improving school conditions for student learning, and the use of technology for the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.

Ms. Mansouri reported that if students live in the boundaries of an Amphi Title I school, the District is responsible to provide services and funding to those students who choose to attend a non-profit private school. She reported that she meets annually with 66 private non-profit school principals to determine if the District needs to provide funding to eligible students that attend their school. If there are eligible students, then funding must be allocated to provide services. The District only acts as the financial manager and funds are not paid directly to the schools.

She offered to answer any questions. There were none.

President Baker thanked her for the report.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

11. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Cox Golder moved to adjourn. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.


Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval

Jennifer Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board
Gretchen Hahn, Governing Board Office Secretary

April 8, 2024
Date

Susan Zibrat, Governing Board Vice President

April 9, 2024
Date