

**Minutes of the Special Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

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A Special public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held Tuesday, February 23, 2021, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 West 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education  
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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Zibrat asked Ms. Cox Golder to lead the Pledge.

**3. 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, March 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.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT<sup>1</sup>**

President Zibrat reminded the speakers of the Call to the Audience procedures.

Ms. Lisa Millerd, a teacher at Amphitheater High School (AHS) and Amphi Education Association (AEA) President, said relationships are built on trust and communication is an important component. She requested that staff be included in conversations that will impact them, particularly relating to their jobs. She said employees should be allowed to participate in problem solving, since they are the experts. Ms. Millerd also asked the District to communicate weekly to share relevant information to build trust.

Ms. Rebecca Green, a teacher at Coronado K-8 School, AEA Vice President, and Amphi parent, shared many examples of positive experiences she has seen as a teacher and a parent. She said with all the challenges that have occurred throughout the school year, every day certified, classified, and administrative staff have banded together to give the students the best experience possible. Ms. Green said she is glad to be a part of Amphi as a teacher and a parent.

## **5. INFORMATION**

### **A. Superintendent's Report: Update on Pandemic Conditions**

*See Exhibit 1 for Superintendent Jaeger's PowerPoint Presentation.*

Superintendent Jaeger began his report with the many great things that are happening in the District.

Most recently was the 2020-2021 District Spelling Bee. This was the first time the spelling bee was held virtually. He congratulated and announced the top five finishers: first place, Athena McElvaine from Amphi Academy Online; second place, Ethan Arvizu from Harelson Elementary School; third place, Svea Neilson from Copper Creek Elementary School; fourth place, Leslie Moreno from Donaldson Elementary School; and fifth place, Alexander Owens from Wilson K-8 School. These students will go on to compete in the Pima County Regional Spelling Bee.

He also congratulated Amphitheater High School's Partner Stunt Cheer Team; Hector, Vanessa, and Gissel, for winning their competition and qualifying for AIA State Championship in March.

Superintendent Jaeger announced that Love of Reading Week is in full swing with staff from school libraries across the District sharing their favorite books with students.

Canyon del Oro High School Symphony Orchestra students enjoyed a guest performance from world-famous violinist, Rachel Barton Pines. She shared her story of how she started the Music by Black Composers Project. She performed Deep River and Louisiana Blues by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, an Afro-British composer.

Mr. Luke Howell's Journalism class at Ironwood Ridge High School teamed up with KGUN-9 to publish a story for National News Literacy Week in late January. The story focused on misinformation on social media, a most important topic in these times.

Superintendent Jaeger expressed his gratitude to the volunteers from Casas Adobes Congregational Church and the Tucson Food Bank for their generous donations to our community.

Rodeo Week was celebrated in many of the schools. A slide was shown of a Kindergarten Hoedown at Innovation Academy.

A picture of a purple sunrise over Painted Sky Elementary was submitted to the school that confirmed the fitting name for the school.

Superintendent Jaeger then gave the following update on pandemic conditions and February 15, 2021 hybrid reopening.

Superintendent Jaeger reviewed current data from the Pima County Health Department (PCHD) regarding COVID-19 cases in Pima County. He noted that the epidemiologists and the public health officials glean this information, as well as information of details that is not represented in the numbers, from this data. As other science data becomes available, interpretations of what is safe in a school setting changes.

Superintendent Jaeger shared the following data from the Pima County Health Department and reminded the Board that there is a two week lag in reporting. He noted that the PCHD expects the numbers to continue dropping.

Cases per 100,000 individuals of Pima County Population:

•January 3: 835	Nov 22: 361
•January 10: 679	Nov 29: 622
•January 17: 506	Dec 6: 720
•January 24: 361	Dec 13: 796
•January 31: 237	Dec 20: 570

Percent Positivity

•January 3: 21.7%	Nov 22: 14.3%
•January 10: 18.6%	Nov 29: 18.5%
•January 17: 15.5%	Dec 6: 18.2%
•January 24: 13.8%	Dec 13: 19.2%
•January 31: 11.3%	Dec 20: 19.4%

Hospital Visits for COVID-19 Symptoms is in the yellow for two weeks in a row now.

•January 3: 14.8%	Nov 22: 11.4%
•January 10: 13.0%	Nov 29: 12.9%
•January 17: 10.6%	Dec 6: 14.7%
•January 24: 9.0%	Dec 13: 14.6%
•January 31: 6.6%	Dec 20: 16.7%

He reviewed the following PCHD indicators relating to schools reopening.

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 yellow; sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for emergency responders is yellow.

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

Superintendent Jaeger noted that the District has worked very closely with the PCHD with weekly and biweekly meetings. While county and state dashboards currently indicate that districts should remain in a remote setting, PCHD supports our move back to hybrid because of our continuing work and consultation with them; our mitigation strategies and efforts; the low transmission rates within our schools and, generally, within all schools in Pima County; lower transmission rates within our general populations (zip codes); and the effectiveness of our case investigations and responses.

He said the metrics alone only tell part of the story. With constant evolution we know so much more, and research is now supporting reopening our schools. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports regarding reopening across the country are all showing that spread in schools is rare, and is to be distinguished from community widespread cases. The majority of school spread, nationally, is attributable to social gatherings, events outside of school settings, and school athletics.

Superintendent Jaeger read information from an Ohio study by several Ohio universities and medical research organizations asking if spread occurs in known exposure situations when masking is implemented with fidelity in schools. Research with nine Ohio schools throughout the state took place and found that masks were effective in all cases.

Children who were close contacts and appropriately masked had rates of COVID-19 positivity that were similar to children with no known COVID-19 exposure in school. The COVID-19 rate in the comparison group suggests exposure came from community transmission outside the school setting. The rate was consistent with the findings in the parent survey, which identified considerable exposure

of children outside the home. The permitted alternative to quarantining could be done safely because of the mask and distancing protocols in the schools, combined with the testing program for close contact children.

Below is the data showing Amphitheater COVID-19 cases when the District was open in hybrid mode for the second quarter and the data thus far in the third quarter. None of the cases originated in our classrooms.

- 2nd quarter total cases were 235; student cases were 172; sports related cases were 25, and staff cases were 63.
- 3rd quarter total cases were 18, student cases were 15, sports related cases were 13, and staff cases were 3.

Superintendent Jaeger said that Amphitheater School District obtained a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) Waiver to become an independent COVID-19 testing site. Also, Amphitheater School District is one of a few Arizona school districts provided with the opportunity to implement Binax testing of staff and students on site when the need arises. Designated personnel will be trained, and test results take just 10-15 minutes. He said the District will be exploring this option as an additional strategy to keeping students and staff safe while also expanding our current learning models.

He reiterated that the District would remain committed to be guided by scientific and medical guidance, while also being guided by our school metrics. Also, the District is committed in providing greater educational access and outcomes for all students to every extent possible. The common goal should be to reopen in full in-person learning mode as soon as possible, with a target date of March 22, 2021.

Superintendent Jaeger then talked about two approaches to reopen our schools. One would be a phased in approach, the other is to have all students returning to school full time in-person. Phased in could be by grade level, by school, and by parent choice. He said the District would give choices and then see if the different choices could be implemented in our schools. Families will be receiving a survey in the next week. Once the parent chooses a model for their child, they will need to remain committed to that choice. Staff will also receive a survey next week. There will also be opportunities for staff to give their input from employee representative groups through focused and consultative processes.

Superintendent Jaeger said that full reopening will be contingent on continued mitigation efforts, through consideration of relevant and crucial data with continued low rates of transmission in our schools and declines in community wide metrics. The District will continue to rely on the support from the Pima County Health Department of our mitigation plan and its implementation. He said that he was pleased to hear that Amphitheater School District was ahead of other school districts as far as the progress of vaccinating staff members.

He stressed the importance of compliance from our families, staff, and students with our mitigation protocols at home with family and social gatherings; compliance from staff when sick to stay home; and students when sick, to stay home from school, sports, and community activities.

## 6. CONSENT AGENDA<sup>3</sup>

*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. Ms. Cox Golder moved for Consent Agenda Items A. – Q. be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec 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. – Q. 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 Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$766,597.68**

*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 7.*

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1195	\$57,125.22	1196	\$42,796.63	1197	\$184,267.91
1198	\$40,508.14	1199	\$20,282.07	1200	\$118,062.98
1202	\$8,848.44	1203	\$54,608.57	1204	\$62,128.75
1205	\$27,822.59	1206	\$72,711.92	1207	\$77,434.46

**G. Acceptance of Gifts**

*Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as listed in Exhibit 8.*

**H. Receipt of January 2021 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances**

*Receipt of January 2021 report on school auxiliary and club balances were accepted by the Governing Board as listed in Exhibit 9.*

**I. Approval of Revisions to Governing Board Policies Developed through the Meet and Confer Process: Policy GCQA (Professional Staff Reduction in Force); Regulation GCQA-R (Professional Staff Reduction in Force) Exhibit GCQA-E (Reduction in Force Staff Profile Form)**

*The Governing Board approved the Revisions to Governing Board Policies Developed through the Meet and Confer Process: Policy GCQA (Professional Staff Reduction in Force); Regulation GCQA-R (Professional Staff Reduction in Force) Exhibit GCQA-E (Reduction in Force Staff Profile Form) as presented in Exhibit 10.*

**J. Approval of District Calendar for School Year 2022-2023**

*The Governing Board approved the 2022-2023 District Calendar as presented in Exhibit 11.*

**K. Approval of Textbooks for Display**

*The Governing Board approved the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Into Reading, K-5, Copyright 2020 and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Into Literature, 6-12, Copyright 2020 textbooks for display as presented in Exhibit 12.*

**L. R.I.S.E. Program Addendum**

*The Governing Board approved the R.I.S.E. program addendum as presented in Exhibit 13.*

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

*The Governing Board approved the SFB Grant for Amphitheater High School central plant 1 hot water leak repair as presented in Exhibit 14.*

**N. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Amphitheater High School Central Plant 2 Hot Water Leak Repair**

*The Governing Board approved the SFB Grant for Amphitheater High school central plant 2 hot water leak repair as presented in Exhibit 15.*

**O. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Canyon del Oro High School Main Plant Cooling Tower Pump Rebuild**

*The Governing Board approved the SFB Grant for Canyon del Oro High School main plant cooling tower pump rebuild as presented in Exhibit 16.*

**P. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Winifred Harelson Elementary School Funhouse Weatherization Design**

*The Governing Board approved the SFB Grant for Winifred Harelson Elementary School Funhouse weatherization design as presented in Exhibit 17.*

**Q. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Frances Owen Holaway Elementary School HVAC Controls Repair**

*The Governing Board approved the SFB Grant for Frances Owen Holaway Elementary School HVAC controls repair as presented in Exhibit 18.*

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Executive Session for:**

1. Discussion of Employment and Evaluation of the Superintendent, Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1); and
2. In Discussion and Consultation with Representatives of the Governing Board In Order to Consider its Position and Instruct Its Representatives in the Meet and Confer Process Pertaining to Policy, Compensation and Benefits for Certificated, Professional Non-Teaching, Support and Administrative Staff for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(5).

*President Zibrat asked for a motion to hold Executive Session. Vice President Day moved to recess the Open Meeting to hold an Executive Session for Discussion of Items 7. A., 1. & 2. Ms. Cox Golder seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor 5: President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Dr. Baker, Ms. Cox Golder, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed - 0. President Zibrat proclaimed they were in Executive Session at 6:20 p.m.*

**8. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING**

*President Zibrat reconvened the public meeting at 7:41 p.m.*

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were none.

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

There were none.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

*President Zibrat asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Day so moved. Ms. Cox Golder 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 7:42 p.m.*

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

March 16, 2021  
Date

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Susan Zibrat, Governing Board President

March 23, 2021  
Date