



Governmental Relations

TO: GOVERNING BOARD PRESIDENTS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

FROM: Paul Kulpinski, Legislative Committee Chair

DATE: June 30, 2016

SUBJECT: PROPOSED 2017 POLITICAL AGENDA AND DELEGATE ASSEMBLY PROCESS

Enclosed are the proposed Delegate Assembly agenda; ASBA's Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs; and the proposed 2017 Political Agenda as recommended by the Legislative Committee to be considered by the Delegate Assembly on September 10, 2016. **The meeting will be at The Camelback Inn located at 5402 E. Lincoln Drive in Scottsdale and will begin at 8:00 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast.**

Please copy and distribute this ENTIRE packet to all board members and place the proposed 2017 Political Agenda recommended by the Legislative Committee for consideration on your next board agenda. Following your board's discussion, the board should instruct your district's official delegate as to the board's direction in voting. **If your board has not appointed its official delegate and alternate yet, please do so immediately and notify ASBA of your selection.** While all board members and superintendents are welcome to attend the Delegate Assembly, each member district has only one official delegate.

The Delegate Assembly determines the positions of the Arizona School Boards Association for any future Special Sessions of the current legislature and for the First Regular Session of the Fifty-Third Legislature. Your board has the opportunity to participate in crafting ASBA's advocacy stances and share your districts views and concerns. ASBA cannot be truly representative of all school district governing boards if your board is not part of this deliberative process.

As ASBA continues to create a more focused document, we do so keeping firmly in place the integral aspect of all members providing input on issues of importance. In total 96 governing boards proposed items for consideration this year, an increase from the 71 districts that submitted last year. We truly appreciate and applaud this robust interest and involvement.

The Legislative Committee received every proposal and discussed these items for more than 7 hours. In that time, the Committee thoroughly vetted each item and created the proposed 2017 Political Agenda for your consideration and ratification. It is our hope that this year after the Political Agenda is voted on, it can then be prioritized to better direct staff on the issues of most importance. As always, any and all items on the agenda can, and are, worked on at all times.

It is imperative that your board's voice is heard on behalf of your students and your community at the Delegate Assembly. Don't miss your opportunity to engage in this important discussion, as critical political issues are debated and positions are formulated. If you haven't registered your board's delegate, there is still time to do so [here](#). **We look forward to seeing you at the Delegate Assembly on September 10th.**



**MEETING OF THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016
 THE CAMELBACK INN, SCOTTSDALE**

DRAFT AGENDA

8:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	
8:30 a.m.	CERTIFICATION AND SEATING OF DELEGATES	
9:00 a.m.	OPENING OF DELEGATE ASSEMBLY	
	Presiding, ASBA President	<i>Kathy Knecht</i>
		<i>Peoria Unified</i>
	Chair, Legislative Committee	<i>Paul Kulpinski</i>
		<i>Flagstaff Unified</i>
	Parliamentarian	<i>TBD</i>
		<i>Professional Registered Parliamentarian</i>
	Call to Order	<i>Kathy Knecht</i>
	Moment of Silence	
	Pledge of Allegiance	<i>Kathy Knecht</i>
	Introductions	<i>Kathy Knecht</i>
	Report of Credentials Committee	<i>Luis Marquez</i>
	Rules	<i>Chris Thomas</i>
	Adoption of Rules of Procedures	<i>Kathy Knecht</i>
	Adoption of Agenda	<i>Kathy Knecht</i>
	Report of the Legislative Committee	<i>Paul Kulpinski</i>
	Proposed Political Agenda Consideration	<i>Delegate Assembly</i>
	ADJOURNMENT	<i>Paul Kulpinski</i>

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ASBA

Arizona School Boards Association



Learn more at www.azsba.org

VISION

Quality leadership and advocacy for children in public schools.

MISSION

Promoting elected local governance of public education and continuous improvement of student success by providing leadership and assistance to public school governing boards.

GOALS

GOAL ONE

Provide model training and leadership emphasizing best practices in public school governance.

GOAL TWO

Represent and advocate for the diverse interests of public school governing boards.

GOAL THREE

Advocate the core beliefs and political agenda as adopted by the membership.

OUR CORE BELIEFS

- The basic life needs of children must be met for them to succeed.
- Meeting the unique educational needs of all students must be the foundation of our school systems.
- The governance of public schools must lie with locally elected and accountable school district governing boards.
- The accountability for student success is a shared responsibility of the students, parents, governing board, district staff and the community.
- Public education funding must be broad-based, stable and at a level that assures all students receive an education that enables them to be successful.
- Providing high quality public education is the best investment to grow Arizona's economy.
- State and federal mandates must be funded.
- Knowledgeable and professionally trained governing board members are fundamental for ensuring student success.

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Governmental Relations

The following items have been thoroughly vetted by the Legislative Committee to create the proposed 2017 Political Agenda for your consideration and ratification. Please note that items in black are currently addressed in the 2016 Political Agenda and all new items are in red.

1. **Strengthen the School Finance formula to equitably and adequately fund public schools:**
 - a. **Fund the implementation and ongoing costs of AZ standards, assessments and technology;**
 - b. **Protect desegregation funding from any cuts or modifications;**
 - c. **Allow districts the option to operate individual schools for 200-day school years and increase; accompanying funding to 8% and from 5% to improve student achievement;**
 - d. **Provide greater equity in funding and access for ~~special education students~~ exceptional student services within the public school system;**
 - e. **Provide adequate funding to cover the cost of student transportation;**
 - f. **Establish statewide poverty weights within the school funding formula.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends the above subheadings, as they are all crucial components that fall under the topic of overall funding. Item (a.) was modified to include the ongoing costs, beyond implementation, associated with maintaining assessments and technology. The committee voted to modify the wording on item (d.) from special education to exceptional student services, to capture the larger population of special needs, gifted and ELL students. The committee recommends one overarching statement to address the transportation needs of both rural and urban districts.

The following districts proposed one or more of the above items:

Ajo USD, Altar Valley ESD, Amphitheater Public Schools, Apache Junction USD, Ash Creek USD, Benson USD, Cartwright SD, Catalina Foothills USD, Chandler USD, Chino Valley USD, Crane ESD, Deer Valley USD, Flagstaff USD, Fredonia-Moccasin USD, Glendale ESD, Glendale HSD, Globe USD, Holbrook USD, Kyrene SD, Litchfield SD, Madison ESD, Mesa USD, Nadaburg USD, Osborne SD, Page USD, Palominas ESD, Paradise Valley USD, Parker USD, Payson USD, Phoenix Union HSD, Pinon USD, Ray USD, Saddle Mountain USD, Sanders USD, Seligman USD, Show Low USD, Sierra Vista USD, Skull Valley SD, Somerton SD, Superior USD, Superior USD, Tanque Verde USD, Tempe USD, Tolleson Elementary SD, Valley Union HS, Wenden ESD, Whiteriver USD, Window Rock and Yarnell Elementary SD.

2. **Advocate to ~~lessen~~ eliminate unfunded mandates and administrative burdens.**

Rationale: While this item is covered within the core beliefs and the 2016 Political Agenda, the committee recommends reiterating this in the 2017 Political Agenda as it is important that administrative burdens be eliminated, rather than lessened, to ensure that districts aren't forced to use already scarce resources to comply with mandates.

The following districts proposed the above item: Altar Valley ESD, Ash Creek ESD, Creighton SD, Deer Valley USD, Duncan USD, Dysart USD, Glendale Union HSD, Holbrook USD, Humboldt USD, Kyrene SD, Madison USD, Oracle ESD, Osborne SD and Queen Creek USD.

3. **Assure a more stable and reliable revenue structure to support education.**

Rationale: The committee recommends a comprehensive statement to encompass the overall need for funding and support local control in establishing alternative sources.

This item came out of committee discussion to consolidate items. Humboldt USD submitted a recommendation for leveraging alternative funds for education.

4. **Advocate to renew, expand and improve Prop 301.**

Rationale: The committee recommends the renewal and expansion, ideally to a full cent, be at the forefront of discussions as this is crucial revenue source for districts.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Littleton ESD and Tanque Verde USD.

5. **Uphold, preserve, and strengthen local control to reinforce the connection between the community and its elected governing board members.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends keeping this item from the 2016 Political Agenda as local control is a foundation of the organization and should be actively preserved and built upon.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Apache Junction USD, Avondale ESD, Balsz ESD, Chino Valley USD, Clarkdale – Jerome SD, Crane ESD, Deer Valley USD, Dysart USD, Holbrook USD, Kyrene SD, Madison ESD, Page USD, Phoenix Union HSD, Saddle Mountain USD and St. David USD.

6. **Allow school districts greater flexibility in the divestiture of property to address population and course needs.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends keeping this item from the 2016 Political Agenda as it is still of importance and has not been addressed.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Marana USD and Whiteriver USD.

7. **Maximize local control and flexibility in managing funds and programs.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends including programs alongside funding to maximize flexibility for school districts.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Apache Junction USD, Chandler USD, and Somerton ESD.

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8. **Fully restore 9th grade CTE/JTED eligibility and funding so students have the opportunity to explore career fields and or/certification completion.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends keeping this within the priorities, beginning these programs in the first year of high school is crucial for completing certification and internship programs.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Amphitheater Public Schools, Antelope Union SD, Catalina Foothills USD, Chino Valley USD, Duncan USD, Dysart USD, Fredonia Moccasin USD, GIFT JTED, Marana USD, Northeast AZ Technological Institute of Vocational Education JTED, Payson USD, Queen Creek USD, Ray USD, Sanders USD, Santa Cruz USD, Seligman USD, St. David USD, Sunnyside USD, Western AZ Vocational Education.

9. **Allow all JTEDs to service students through the age of 21.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends this change so that JTED age requirements can align with district policies.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Coconino Association for Vocations, Industry and Technology, GIFT JTED, Northeast AZ Technological Institute of Vocational Education JTED, Pima County JTED, Western AZ Vocational Education.

10. **Ensure 100% funding for all JTEDs.**

Rationale: While JTED funding cuts were partially restored during the 2016 Legislative Session, the Committee recommends continuing to advocate for 100% funding for larger JTEDs as this has not been achieved.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Coconino Association for Vocations, Industry and Technology, GIFT JTED, NAVIT, Northeast AZ Technological Institute of Vocational Education JTED, Pima County JTED, Western AZ Vocational Education and Western Maricopa Education Center.

11. **Fully fund full-day kindergarten and include kindergarten students in the override calculations.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends keeping this item from the 2016 Political Agenda as early education is a vital foundation to a student's success and is still not fully funded.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Ajo USD, Amphitheater Public Schools, Apache Junction USD, Ash Creek ESD, Avondale ESD, Balsz Elementary SD, Benson USD, Bullhead City ESD, Cartwright SD, Catalina Foothills USD, Chandler USD, Chino Valley USD, Colorado River USD, Crane ESD, Creighton SD, Duncan USD, Flowing Wells SD, GIFT JTED, Globe USD, Grand Canyon USD, Holbrook USD, Humboldt USD,

Litchfield ESD, Littlefield USD, Littleton ESD, Madison ESD, Nadaburg USD, Oracle ESD, Osborn SD, Page USD, Palominas ESD, Paradise Valley USD, Parker USD, Patagonia ESD, Payson USD, Queen Creek USD, Saddle Mountain USD, Salome Consolidated ESD, Sanders USD, Santa Cruz Valley USD, Scottsdale USD, Skull Valley SD, Sunnyside USD, Superior USD, Tanque Verde USD, Tempe ESD, Tolleson ESD, Washington ESD, Whiteriver USD and Winslow USD.

12. Provide funding for preschool programs

Rationale: The Committee recommends advocating for pre-school funding, alongside full day kindergarten, as they are both critical to a student's success. This was previously a sub section under full-day kindergarten funding, however staff recommends this be a standalone item.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Ash Creek ESD, Flowing Wells SD, Palominas ESD, Scottsdale USD, Tanque Verde USD and Tolleson ESD.

13. Reinstate and fund formulas to comply with at least state school building minimum standards and restore building renewal funding to ensure school district facilities are adequately maintained.

Rationale: The Committee recommends consolidating the two items from the 2016 Political Agenda, to create a more comprehensive statement regarding school facilities.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Ajo USD, Amphitheater Public Schools, Cartwright SD, Catalina Foothills USD, Chandler USD, Chino Valley USD, Clarkdale-Jerome SD, Crane ESD, Creighton SD, Fredonia-Moccasin USD, Glendale Union HSD, Grand Canyon USD, Kyrene SD, Madison ESD, Nadaburg USD, Oracle ESD, Osborn SD, Page USD, Palominas ESD, Parker USD, Paradise Valley USD, Payson USD, Ray USD, Saddle Mountain USD, Sahuarita USD, Sunnyside USD, Superior USD, Tanque Verde USD, Tolleson ESD, Washington ESD, Whiteriver USD, Winslow USD, Yarnell ESD.

14. Provide additional state funding for nationally competitive salaries to attract, recruit and retain talented teachers. ~~Maximize income opportunities for teachers' salaries and student support~~

Rationale: The Committee recommends expanding the scope of "opportunities for teachers' salaries" to specifically state nationally competitive salaries, to address the current crisis surrounding the retention of current teachers and the recruitment of future teachers.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Balsz ESD, Casa Grande ESD, Crane ESD, Fredonia-Moccasin USD, Grand Canyon USD, Litchfield ESD, Osborne ESD, Page USD, Paradise Valley USD, Parker USD, Salome Consolidated ESD, Santa Cruz Valley USD, Sierra Vista USD, Somerton SD, St. David USD, Superior USD, Washington ESD, Winslow USD.

15. **Eliminate the change to current year funding accuracy and transparency in ADM calculations and continue to hold declining districts harmless for loss of funding.**
Rationale: The Committee recommends modifying the statement to address the issues of accuracy and funding surrounding the move to current year funding, rather than seeking to eliminate the policy, as those are more realistic goals with the current Legislature.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Antelope Union SD, Apache Junction USD, Balsz ESD, Benson USD, Cartwright SD, Catalina Foothills USD, Creighton SD, Glendale Union HSD, Humboldt USD, Litchfield ESD, Marana USD, Nadaburg USD, Oracle ESD, Palominas ESD, Paradise Valley USD, Queen Creek USD, Ray USD, Sanders USD, Santa Cruz Valley USD, Skull Valley SD, Sunnyside USD, Superior USD, Tempe ESD, Tolleson Union HSD, Whiteriver USD and Yarnell ESD.

16. **Establish financial accountability and academic transparency for all institutions schools and individuals that accept public funds.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends keeping this item from the 2016 Political Agenda with the inclusion of academic transparency to ensure that all institutions (charter schools, ESA's and STO's) are held to the same standards, both academically and financially, as district schools.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Antelope Union HSD, Apache Junction USD, Ash Creek ESD, Benson USD, Chandler USD, Deer Valley USD, Dysart USD, Oracle ESD and Somerton ESD.

17. **Repeal any program that gives public funds for private schools, ESA's & STO's or prevent any future expansion.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends this addition to clearly capture the intent to stop further expansions of ESA's and STO's, while at the same time working for their ultimate repeal.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Antelope Union HSD, Catalina Foothills USD, Glendale Union HSD, Holbrook USD, Somerton SD and Humboldt USD.

18. **Require comparative auditor general reports for district and charter schools.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends keeping this item from the 2016 Political Agenda to ensure consistent accountability for all public schools.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Crane ESD, Globe USD, Oracle ESD, Scottsdale USD and Washington ESD.

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19. **Change "override/budget increase" language to "locally controlled funding" to better reflect what voters are being asked to support.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends keeping this item from the 2016 Political Agenda as it is still a hurdle districts face and yet to be accomplished.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Apache Junction USD, Avondale ESD, Benson USD, Dysart USD, Flagstaff USD, Flowing Wells, Humboldt USD, J.O. Combs USD, Ray USD and Tolleson ESD.

20. **Require charter holders and applicants to use their local entity's most recent demographic study and enrollment demand data to justify the need for a new school.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends keeping this item from the 2016 Political Agenda, school districts are required to produce this data and charter schools should adhere to the same standards.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Deer Valley USD, Dysart USD, Humboldt USD and Tucson USD.

21. **Increase the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 years.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends keeping this item from the 2016 Political Agenda, as it is still important that students be required to attend school, especially amongst increased pressure for higher standards.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Deer Valley USD, Page USD, Tolleson ESD and Wenden ESD.

22. **Advocate for research based reform of the ELL model of instruction to improve student achievement.**

Rationale: The Committee recommends reforming the ELL instruction model as a top priority as the current model is ineffective and prevents using educational strategies that may be more effective with certain students.

The following districts proposed the above item:

Phoenix Union HSD and Sahuarita USD.