



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

DATE OF MEETING: **August 13, 2024**

TITLE: **Adoption of New Policy System:**
 Chapter 1 – Governance;
 Chapter 2 – Administration; and
 Chapter 3 – Business

BACKGROUND:

Amphitheater Public Schools, like most school districts across the state has subscribed to a policy system for the development, maintenance and recording of Governing Board policies and administrative regulations. For the past three decades, the District subscribed to the service provided by the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) and the National School Boards Association.

In the early spring of this year, the Governing Board provided direction that the District move to a new policy system provided by the Arizona School Risk Retention Trust (the Trust), which is the entity providing liability and other insurance coverages to school districts throughout the state, including Amphitheater. The new policy system is developed by attorneys with expertise in Arizona school law and offers many significant benefits, including a much lower cost to the District and a more timely receipt of newly required policies and procedures.

For many weeks, the administration has been pursuing the conversion process, whereby existing policies under the ASBA system are correlated with those available under the new Trust system. Because many of the ASBA policies are copyrighted, the conversion cannot be as simple as a “cut and paste” of all content from one system into the other. Instead, the transfer process has been painstaking, given the sheer number of policies and regulations.

Several weeks ago, the Governing Board was provided with Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of the resulting product from the conversion work. Those chapters are attached and presented for adoption as one body of policy related documents. Those attached documents contain both policy and regulation documents. Only the former require Governing Board approval, but the entire system (to include regulation and exhibit documents) is presented so that the Board has a complete picture of the system.

Certain policy documents under the former ASBA system are original to Amphitheater and therefore were not copyrighted by ASBA. Some of those original Amphitheater documents have been incorporated into the current Trust system draft which is attached. Those documents are clearly denoted by the previous alphabetic coding (e.g., “AC”), whereas the Trust documents are coded by numbers (e.g., “3-103”).

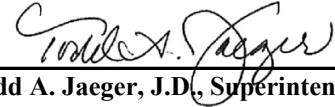
Following the Governing Board’s adoption, the District Administration will work with the Trust’s policy services personnel to conduct further reconciliation of the combined Trust system documents with the incorporated and original Amphitheater policy documents. Following that process, further action by the Board to finalize policy language may be necessary.

The timeline necessitated by wholesale replacement of the District’s policy system does not lend itself to a more exacting, policy-by-policy review and adoption process. The termination of the contractual policy relationship with ASBA creates an urgency for conversion due to copyright issues, as well as our current inability to publish our policies online for easy access by the public and staff.

Therefore, the Administration is proposing adoption of these first three chapters in one meeting, with adoption of the next two chapters to follow at our next Governing Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends adoption of the presented policy chapters of the Trust's policy system, as modified and refined by the Administration for Amphitheater purposes.

INITIATED BY:**Date: August 7, 2024**

Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent