



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

DATE OF MEETING: **February 11, 2014**

TITLE: **Review of Draft District Calendar for School Year 2015-2016**

BACKGROUND:

The District's school year calendar must meet specific requirements under Arizona law for the number of instructional days; state law mandates that public schools must have a minimum of "180 instructional days". Since the 180 day requirement went into effect, however, Arizona law has also provided permission for districts to meet the 180 day standard through an equivalent number of instructional minutes over fewer days. For several years, the Amphitheater District has utilized the equivalent instructional minutes option, resulting in slightly shorter school years of 178 school days. The attached draft calendar for the fiscal year after next (2015-2016) again reflects a calendar of 178 days.

Because the District's calendar does not have "extra" school days built into it, any emergency closure of schools due to weather or other factors must be addressed by ensuring the requisite instructional minute requirements are still met. The District and the Amphitheater Education Association (on behalf of District employees) have agreed that if any schools are closed as a result of any emergency, certificated staff at those schools will have an equivalent number of student reporting days added to their work calendar without additional compensation -- generally by turning the planning days at the end of each semester into student reporting days. As long as the state permits the district to use equivalent instructional minutes rather than 180 days, the district's school calendars will be constructed in this same manner.

The proposed calendar for the 2015-2016 school year does currently propose an end date for the school year which is several days earlier in May than usual due to the unique timing of the year. Consideration was given therefore to shifting the start of the school year several days later in August. That approach, however, exacerbates the already existing disparity in number of school days in each semester.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for the Board's review and discussion at this time; no action is required. The proposed calendar will be presented for approval at the second Governing Board meeting in February.

INITIATED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd A. Jaeger".

Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: March 12, 2013

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Nelson".

Patrick Nelson, Superintendent