

**Minutes of the Special Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, January 31, 2023**

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A Special public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 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**

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

**Superintendent's Cabinet Members Present**

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent  
Ms. Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education  
Mr. Matthew Munger, 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. Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum and Assessment  
Mr. Richard C. La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support  
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 Day called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 Consideration and Decision Upon Long-term Suspension/Expulsion Hearing Officer's Recommendations, Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-843(F)(2) Regarding, Student # 30065007**

*President Day asked for a motion to hold Executive Session. Vice President Cox Golder 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. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5: President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed–0.*

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

**3. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING**

President Day reconvened the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Day asked Dr. Baker to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

President Day announced that the next Regular Governing Board Meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments.

## **7. 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 Day asked if any items needed to be removed for further discussion.*

*Superintendent Jaeger requested Item A. be held for separate consideration.*

*President Day asked for a motion. Vice President Cox Golder moved for Consent Agenda Items 7. B.-M. be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items 7. B.-M. passed.*

Superintendent Jaeger recommended Andrew Szczepaniak for the position of Donaldson Elementary School Principal for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. He explained that Mr. Szczepaniak has been serving as interim Principal of Donaldson Elementary School and is also serving as Principal of Amphi Academy Online. He spoke about his educational background, teaching and work experience.

In addition, he recommended Timothy Ripp for the position of Principal of Mesa Verde Elementary School for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. He said Mr. Ripp has been the interim Principal at Mesa Verde Elementary School this year. Superintendent Jaeger talked about his educational background, and prior teaching and administrative positions with the Amphitheater School District.

*Vice President Cox Golder moved for Item 7. A. be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Item 7. A. passed.*

A picture of Mr. Szczepaniak, Mr. Ripp, the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger was taken to mark the occasion.

*President Day called for a fifteen-minute break for a reception and the opportunity to congratulate the newly appointed Principals and their families.*

### **A. Approval of Appointment of Administrative Personnel**

*Administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 1.*

### **B. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel**

*Non-administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 2.*

### **C. Approval of Personnel Changes**

*Certified and classified personnel changes were approved as listed in Exhibit 3.*

### **D. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence**

*Leave(s) of absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 4.*

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

*Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.*

### **F. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers**

*Stipend for Coaching Volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.*

### **G. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

*The Governing Board approved the January 10, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted in Exhibit 7.*

**H. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$3,744,488.31**

*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
1231	\$20,227.95	1232	\$770,713.22	1233	\$103,459.63
1234	\$130,588.13	1235	\$134,892.77	1236	\$430,118.88
1237	\$990.70	1238	\$63,208.14	1240	\$135,309.36
1241	\$100,840.04	1242	\$207,982.47	1243	\$158,987.58
1244	\$279,280.67	1245	\$4,534.48	1246	\$3,048.51
1247	\$53,938.46	1248	\$236,604.52	1249	\$37,416.23
1250	\$611,151.34	1251	\$131,176.79	1252	\$127,813.89
1253	\$2,204.55				

**I. Acceptance of Gifts**

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

**J. Receipt of December 2022 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances**

*The Governing Board approved the Receipt of December 2022 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances as submitted in Exhibit 10.*

**K. Approval of Disposal of Surplus Property via PublicSurplus.com**

*The Governing Board approved Disposal of Surplus Property via PublicSurplus.com.*

**L. Approval of School Facilities Oversight Board (SFOB) Grant for Wilson K-8 School Underground Heating Water Pipe Repair**

*The Governing Board approved School Facilities Oversight Board (SFOB) Grant for Wilson K-8 School Underground Heating Water Pipe Repair as submitted in Exhibit 11.*

**M. Approval of Out of State Travel**

*The Governing Board approved requests for Out of State Travel as submitted in Exhibit 12.*

*President Day reconvened the meeting at 6:20 p.m.*

**8. STUDY**

**A. Presentation on the District Data as it relates to the School A-F Grades**

*For the PowerPoint Presentation of District Data as it relates to the School A-F Grades see Exhibit 13.*

Superintendent Jaeger explained the District is fortunate to have Jason Weaver, Program Evaluation and Data Analyst, to interpret the data for the School A-F Grades. He stated that the Governing Board was promised additional information on the school grade labels that were issued by the state in the Fall of 2022, and Mr. Weaver, Ms. Call and Mr. Munger will be presenting this information.

Ms. Call explained that she and Mr. Munger determined last year that their department was “data rich and structurally weak”. Mr. Weaver was hired to interpret the data and provide specific information to the schools to help accelerate student achievement.

Mr. Munger spoke about the scope of work done by Mr. Weaver. This included an analysis of the 2021-2022 assessment data that was provided to the principals and the supports needed for student learning and mastery.

Mr. Weaver thanked the Governing Board for the opportunity to talk about how the grading system is structured, the supports that are in place to advance student achievement, and ultimately the school grade levels. He shared the rules and adoption timeline for the A-F Letter Grades by the Arizona State Board of Education (SBE). He explained the student assessments are administered in the spring, and after testing the school districts are required to submit additional data. In the fall, the A-F Letter Grades are released.

Mr. Weaver gave an overview of the categories used to measure Kindergarten through 8th grade and high school proficiency and growth, and the points structure used based on student overall achievement. He noted that the high school point structure also includes graduation rates and college and career readiness.

He explained another factor included in the A-F Letter Grades is the “Academic Growth Structure”. The student growth percentiles (SGP) describe the “actual” growth a student made in a school year by comparing a student’s current-year test score with the current-year test scores of his/her academic peers. The Student Growth Targets (SGT) are the “expected” growth a student should exhibit in the year to achieve ‘Proficient’ and ‘Highly Proficient’ within the next three years beyond the current year or by high school graduation, whichever comes first. Mr. Weaver noted the SGT were not included in school year 2022 letter grades, but will be in the school year 2023 letter grades.

Mr. Weaver highlighted additional components of the A-F Letter Grades. These include acceleration and readiness, graduation rates, college and career readiness. He stated that bonus points are received for special education enrollment, and science proficiency in 5th and 8th grades. Additionally, at the high school level, college and career readiness and the percentage of students that take the ACT Aspire in 9th grade are included.

Mr. Weaver spoke about overlapping areas of importance in A-F Letter Grades; proficiency and growth. He noted that student achievement and growth are only a part of the equation. As important for student success, are the continued readiness measures the District has addressed including chronic absenteeism (due to the pandemic), and subgroup performance and improvement plans.

He shared a slide showing the Amphi schools that did not receive an “A” letter grade. He explained that in the fall the state determines the “cut” scores after all the assessments are completed. The chart showed how many points were needed for the schools to move up to the next letter grade.

Mr. Weaver talked about areas for potential improvement at the high school level. These included proficiency (largest area), college and career readiness and growth. He stated that the K-8 schools have a similar potential to improve in the areas of proficiency and growth.

Mr. Weaver said the assessments are important information and that in order to align instructional strategies within a common instructional framework, they are used to strengthen foundational first instruction, Core, and Tier 1 teaching. In addition, the K-12 principals are working together to analyze the data and work on a system to support the feeder pattern schools.

President Day thanked Mr. Weaver for the presentation, and asked if any Governing Board members had questions. There were none.

Mr. Munger said a critical part of having the data is using it to support instruction. He reported that the department heads have been working to create scope and sequence guides to align grading and ongoing curriculum adoption across the District.

Ms. Call spoke about the intervention strategies that are now in place as a result of the assessment data. She explained that Mr. Weaver provides the NWEA Map data to the principals. To facilitate improvement, he helps the principals by providing training, support and protocols in order to review the data with their leadership teams. In various course areas, the data also

assists the scope and sequence guidelines. She gave some examples of strategies in place that support student learning, to maximize student achievement.

President Day asked if a specific plan was in place to help the schools move up a letter grade.

Mr. Weaver responded there is an existing plan. They are already using a “backwards planning” strategy in some schools. He explained the plan starts with the assessment scores and then uses curriculum to raise the score in specific areas.

Ms. Call noted that in one of the schools, an area needing improvement was science. To address this, all teachers are now using inquiry based instruction to enable growth.

## **9. STUDY/ACTION**

### **A. Study and Approval of the Governing Board's Legislative Priorities for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year**

Superintendent Jaeger stated this is the time of year to determine the Board’s legislative priorities. He noted that the recent elections have resulted in a different political dynamic than in past years, and that may impact the legislative session. Superintendent Jaeger said it is important the Governing Boards’ message is carried to the Capitol. He asked Ms. Tong to review the priorities with the Governing Board in order to get direction from them.

Ms. Tong explained that this years’ priorities are an expansion of the priorities from last year, and shared some proposed changes.

- **Fix the Aggregate Expenditure Limit (AEL) Restriction for Public School Districts**

Examples were given of the many challenges the District faces due to the restrictions

- **Provide Adequate Funding for K-12 Education**

The changes include adding funding that addresses inflation and raising teacher salaries, funds for additional school security, including hiring school resource officers, social workers and counselors

- **Establish a School Funding Program that Meets Post-Pandemic Needs of Arizona Families**

During the pandemic, student enrollment and attendance has changed as students became involved in online instruction. A new funding model is necessary to assist students to continue learning even when they are not physically at school.

No changes were proposed for the following priorities:

- **Maintain Desegregation Funding**

- **Protect and Support Educator Due Process Rights**

- **Provide User-friendly and Practical Reporting Requirements and Provide Funding Support for the Same**

She concluded by offering to answer any questions, or make any changes.

Referring to priority concerning the Aggregate Expenditure Limit (AEL) restriction, Mr. Kopec commented that it was his understanding that the “permanent fix” for the AEL would be for the voters to remove it. Ms. Tong stated that is correct. Mr. Kopec said he would like for the priority to include verbiage to specifically put the elimination of the AEL restriction on the ballot. President Day agreed.

*President Day asked for a motion. Mr. Kopec moved to approve the Governing Board's Legislative Priorities for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year with the aforementioned changes. Vice President Cox Golder seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0.*

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments.

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

President Day requested an update on E-Sports and a clarification on the buy-out for the teachers sick pay.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

*President Day asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice President Cox Golder moved to adjourn. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.*



Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval  
Jennifer Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board  
Gretchen Hahn, Secretary III, Governing Board Office

February 8, 2023

Date

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Deanna M. Day M. Ed, Governing Board President

February 14, 2023

Date