

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting

The Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools

A Regular Public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held Tuesday, March 12, 2019, beginning at 5:15 p.m. in the Wetmore Center, 701 West Wetmore Road, Leadership & Professional Development Center.

Governing Board Members Present

Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, President
Ms. Susan Zibrat, Vice President
Dr. Scott K. Baker, Member
Ms. Deanna M. Day, M.Ed., 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, Executive Director of Student Services
Ms. Tassi Call, Director of 21st Century Education
Mr. James Burns, Executive Manager of Operational Support
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications

CALL TO ORDER AND SIGNING OF THE VISITOR'S REGISTER

President Cox Golder called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and invited members of the audience to sign the visitors' register.

1 . EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to Recess Open Meeting and Hold an Executive Session for:
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 Compensation and Benefits for Certificated, Professional Non-Teaching, Support and Administrative Staff for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(5).

President Cox Golder asked for a motion to recess Open Meeting and hold an Executive Session; Vice President Zibrat moved to recess the Open Meeting and to hold Executive Session. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor - 5: President Cox Golder, Vice President Zibrat, Dr. Baker, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed - 0. President Cox Golder proclaimed they were in Executive Session at 5:17 p.m.

2. **CONTINUATION OF OPEN MEETING – 6:10 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER AND SIGNING OF VISITORS' REGISTER

President Cox Golder reconvened the Open Meeting at 6:10 p.m. and invited members of the audience to sign the visitors' register.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Jaeger welcomed the students from Painted Sky Elementary School and asked Principal Wendy Biallas Odell to introduce them and to lead the Pledge. Principal Biallas Odell introduced the Painted Sky Student Council Members along with the Painted Sky Sign Language Club. Fourth grade students present from the Student Council included: Claire Coleman, Kailee Gentry, Phoebe Larson, Alex Gutierrez, Nora Wilson, Nathan Upton, and President Emma Iverson. Third grade students present from the Sign Language Club included: Madison Arigoni, Audrey Hesse, Kaydence Montes, Adalynn Talbot, Zoey Watkins, Caitlyn Carr, and Meghann Tucker. Third grade students present who participate in both clubs included: Avery Golder, Bianca LaJoy, and Kaiden Shuman. The students then led the Pledge.

On behalf of the Board, President Cox Golder thanked the students and presented each with a certificate of commendation.

4. **RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART**

Ms. Biallas Odell invited Painted Sky Art Specialist, Sara Wilson to talk about the student art on display in the room. Ms. Wilson said her student's art contained elements of color, line, and pattern, all of which are principles of design.

President Cox Golder thanked Ms. Wilson for the art provided by her students, and gave her a certificate for her contributions.

A group photograph of the Painted Sky Student Pledge Leaders and their art teacher, Sara Wilson was taken with the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

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

Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road - Leadership & Professional Development Center.

6. **RECOGNITION**

A. **Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards**

Superintendent Jaeger explained that the Distinguished Service Awards are given monthly throughout the school year to recognize employees' initiative,

collaboration, loyalty, and contribution to the Amphitheater School District. He invited Mr. Bejarano to introduce this award.

Mr. Bejarano announced that the Distinguished Service Award recipient for the month of March for support staff is Sue Sledge, Administrative Assistant, Canyon del Oro High School. A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Sledge for the work she has done in the District.

On behalf of the Board, Ms. Day congratulated Ms. Sledge and presented her with an award and a certificate. Ms. Sledge thanked the Board and the District for this recognition.

Mr. Bejarano then announced the Distinguished Service Award recipient for the month of March for certificated staff is Stephanie Hayes, a teacher at Donaldson Elementary School. A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Hayes for the work she has done in the District.

On behalf of the Board, Ms. Day thanked Ms. Hayes and presented her with an award and a certificate. Ms. Hayes thanked the Board and the District for this recognition.

A group photograph of the Distinguished Service Award recipients, the Governing Board and the Superintendent was taken.

B. Recognition of Canyon del Oro High School Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

Superintendent Jaeger introduced this item by thanking all the students who participate on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council for their valuable input and perspective. He asked Tara Bulleigh, Principal of Canyon del Oro High School (CDO), to introduce the students on this year's Council. Ms. Bulleigh thanked the Board and introduced those students present, asking them what they love about CDO, and asking the Seniors about their plans after high school. There are a total of sixteen students on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, of those, eight were able to attend tonight's meeting. In attendance were: Abigail Broyles, Joseph Weichsel, Aaron Enright, Kelci Hodgkinson, Alena Islas, Kaylynn Calvin, Micaela Hernandez, and Gehrig Hust.

On behalf of the Board, Vice President Zibrat thanked the students and presented each with a certificate of commendation. She also invited the students to introduce family members they had brought with them.

A group photograph of the students, the Governing Board, and the Superintendent was taken.

C. Recognition of Canyon del Oro High School Division II Champion Wrestlers

Superintendent Jaeger invited Canyon del Oro High School Principal, Tara Bulleigh to introduce this item. Ms. Bulleigh introduced the student wrestlers and State Champions, Trey Trejo, a Junior, and State Champion in the 126 lb. weight class, and Zane McKissick, a Senior, and State Champion in the 160 lb. weight class. She then asked Head Coach David Sholes if he would like to

speak. Mr. Sholes thanked the Governing Board, and Ms. Patsy Harris, Assistant Principal at CDO, as well as his Assistant Coaches, Cody Comer and Angel Trejo.

On behalf of the Board, Dr. Baker thanked the students and presented each with a certificate of commendation. He also invited the students to introduce whom they had brought with them.

A group photograph of the students, their Coaches, the Governing Board, and the Superintendent was taken.

D. Recognition of Ironwood Ridge High School Division II Wrestlers

Superintendent Jaeger invited Ironwood Ridge High School (IRHS) Principal, Matt Munger to introduce this item. Mr. Munger introduced the student wrestlers and State Runners-up, Tyler Rokop, Payton Billings, Jose Beltran, and Chance Sasser. He then asked Head Coach Joe Kline if he would like to speak. Mr. Kline thanked the Governing Board, IRHS Athletic Director Tony Jacobsen, and his Assistant Coaches, Dan Rokop and Lance Scott. He said what a pleasure it had been to work with these student athletes. He was proud of their hard work, their perseverance, and the fact they had always put academics first. He said he felt like these young men weren't just becoming great athletes, but great human beings.

On behalf of the Board, Dr. Baker thanked the students and presented each with a certificate of commendation. He also invited the students to introduce whom they had brought with them.

A group photograph of the students, their Coaches, the Governing Board, and the Superintendent was taken.

E. Recognition of Amphitheater High School Unified Basketball State Champions

Superintendent Jaeger invited Amphitheater High School Principal, Jon Lansa to introduce this item. Mr. Lansa asked Head Coach Kim Dickinson to introduce the student athletes and the Amphitheater High School Unified Basketball State Champions.

The team consists of Anthony Nunez Elenes, Damion Sanchez, Jorge Garcia Mendez, Kevin Siegalkoff, Gage Gonzales, Darnell Moore, Agustin Willem, and Miguel Lopez. The team manager is Joseph Bailey. Student Partners or Peer Mentors are Danielle Becher, Danielle Hitchings, and Alonso Erives. Assistant Coaches are Paul Crosby and Marian Johnson. The team volunteer is Stephanie Acevedo. Team members wore their Championship medals.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Kopec thanked the students and presented each with a certificate of commendation.

A group photograph of the students, their Coaches, the Governing Board, and the Superintendent was taken.

F. Recognition of Amphitheater High School Spiritline Partners Stunt Coed Team Division II Champions

Superintendent Jaeger invited Amphitheater High School Principal, Jon Lansa to introduce this item. Mr. Lansa introduced the students and Spiritline Partners Stunt Coed Team State Champions, Clover Anderson, Julio Chavira, and Jacob Anich. He then asked Head Coach Kayla Kipley if she would like to speak. Ms. Kline thanked the Governing Board, and her Assistant Coach, Pablo Cedeno.

On behalf of the Board, Ms. Zibrat thanked the students and presented each with a certificate of commendation. He also invited the students to introduce whom they had brought with them.

A group photograph of the students, their Coaches, the Governing Board, and the Superintendent was taken.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT¹

There was no comment.

8. INFORMATION¹

A. Oro Valley Town Update

Superintendent Jaeger introduced Ms. Joyce Jones-Ivey, Oro Valley Councilmember and Council Liaison to Amphitheater Public Schools. Ms. Jones-Ivey began by saying she is pro-public schools and by thanking the Board for their commitment and for making Oro Valley a quality place to work and live. She went on to say how proud they are that the Amphitheater schools in their community are some of the best in the region, and even the state. Ms. Jones-Ivey talked about the long-standing partnership between the town of Oro Valley and Amphitheater Public Schools and assured that as a liaison to the District, The Town of Oro Valley is committed to building upon that strong relationship. In fact, our partnership is one of the objectives stated in the new Oro Valley Town Strategic Plan, which will go before Town Council for adoption. The plan states that the Town of Oro Valley will explore opportunities to partner with Amphitheater Public Schools and for ways to expand our intergovernmental agreement when appropriate. She said that the sharing of resources and facilities helps us better serve the community of Oro Valley. We see this in the Oro Valley Police Department's School Resource Officers Program, which places an officer at each school. We see this in the Youth Advisory Council, which includes high school students from Amphi schools who advise Council and represent the best interests of youth in the community. In conclusion, Ms. Jones-Ivey said that it is her pleasure to serve as our Council Liaison, building on our partnership for the continued success of the entire community.

B. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jaeger provided a brief review of recent and upcoming activities in the District and community. In February he attended the Choice

Neighborhoods “Thrive in 05” Event, the 14th Annual Business Leaders for Early Education Breakfast, and the Superintendent’s Collaborative. He also held a Listening Tour at Mesa Verde Elementary School. On March 1st he attended the District Elementary Track Meet hosted by Canyon del Oro High School. On March 2, he attended and was a judge at the Odyssey of the Mind Southern Regional Tournament held at Canyon del Oro High School. That same weekend the Tucson Festival of Books took place on the University of Arizona Mall. Amphitheater had a table at the Festival to share information about the District. The AdvancED Accreditation Engagement Review occurred March 4 – 6 at the Wetmore District Offices. Upcoming events include the Superintendent’s Listening Tour at Prince Elementary School, the National School Board Association Conference on Education in Philadelphia, PA, and the Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament hosted at Canyon del Oro High School.

President Cox Golder requested a brief recess from 7:30 p.m. to 7:37p.m. Upon reconvening the meeting, she asked that the Agenda Item regarding the Status of the International Baccalaureate Program be moved ahead to be heard at this time.

C. Status of Bond Projects

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. Burns to update the Board on our districtwide Bond projects. Mr. Burns provided the Governing Board with current information on the status of all Bond projects throughout the District.

Amphitheater High School:

The purchase order has been issued for the replacement of three (3) Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Units (HVAC) in the locker rooms, and coaches’ office. Installation is scheduled for Spring Break.

Canyon del Oro High School:

The condensing unit and coils replacement is scheduled to begin in the Library on March 11, 2019. The track is scheduled to be replaced over summer break. The HVAC replacement in the trainer room, and the HVAC repairs in the south gym air handler are complete.

Ironwood Ridge High School:

Construction of the security and wrought iron fencing is in progress. Post installation is complete, and panels are being installed. C & L Painting is scheduled to begin painting the new security fence “IRHS Blue” over Spring Break.

Coronado K-8 School:

Roofing Southwest is scheduled to restore the roof on Building C during Spring Break. Phase 2 of the replacement of five (5) package units is scheduled during Spring Break. Reliant Well & Drilling has completed repairs to the well.

Cross Middle School:

The pre-construction process has begun for the renovations to the roof and HVAC in the wrestling gym.

Harelson Elementary School:

The Public Address (P.A.) System and underground cabling upgrades are an anticipated Spring Break project.

La Cima Middle School:

Modifications to the piping, and three (3) chillers in the central plant began February 11.

Painted Sky Elementary School:

Upgrades to the P.A. and Security Systems to District standards, including underground wiring and the replacement of all clocks are 95% complete.

Prince Elementary School:

The replacement of HVAC in the CN and CE buildings is scheduled for Summer Break. The replacement of the boiler in the central plant is complete.

Rio Vista Elementary School:

The lighting upgrades in the classrooms are complete. Lighting in the library was replaced over Rodeo Break. Repairs to the outdoor basketball court are in progress and should be completed during Spring Break.

Walker Elementary School:

The single point entry for the front office is scheduled for Summer Break. Posts have been installed for the security fencing upgrade. Painting of the new fencing is scheduled for Spring Break.

Wilson Elementary School:

The roofing overlay, a School Board Facilities project, is complete. Upgrades to the fan coil units control valve are complete. Lighting has been replaced in thirteen (13) walkways and fifty (50) canopies.

Mr. Burns concluded by offering to answer questions from the Board. There were no questions.

D. Auditor General's Classroom Dollars Report 2018 –

Superintendent Jaeger introduced the item and asked Mr. Little to present it to the Board. Mr. Little presented the Arizona Auditor General's Classroom Dollars Report for the 2018 school year. The report was put in place due to Proposition 301 as the national trend was to focus on money spent in the classroom. Mr. Little provided an overview of District spending in several categories and how it compares with other districts.

Mr. Little said the most notable item in this year's report is an error regarding teacher salaries, and that a correction is being sought. Teachers earn \$44,320, not the \$38,596 reported. Mr. Little said he didn't think Food Service and Transportation costs should be included in the report, as school districts have no control over those costs. He also pointed out that Amphitheater administrative costs are well below the state and national averages. He

reported that Amphitheater spends \$8,289.00 per student, with 53.7% of dollars going into the classroom.

There were no further questions.

E. Periodic Legislative Update

Superintendent Jaeger introduced this item and asked Ms. Tong to present it to the Board. Ms. Tong began by saying that the purpose of this item is to inform the Board of the status of K-12 education-related legislation proposed in the first regular session of the Fifty-Fourth Arizona Legislature this year. Since her last update, Ms. Tong explained that the deadlines to propose a new bill, or to review an in-house bill has expired. March 29, 2019 is the deadline for the House to consider Senate bills and for the Senate to consider House bills. April 23, 2019 marks the 100th day of the session. The following bills are still in their original house:

SB1238 – Schools; Graduation Requirements; Adjustment

SB1414 – Repeal; Results-based Funding; Schools; Appropriation

HB2742 – Schools; Current Year Funding; Elimination

HB2310 – School Procurement; Lowest Bidder; Repeal

Bills that are moving forward include:

SB1020 – School Employees; Investigations; Information Sharing

SB1065 – CTEDs, Fourth-Year Funding

SB1101 – Schools; Calculated Opportunity Index (with slight amendment)

HB2176 – College Credit by Exam; Payments

HB2187 – Appropriation; K-12 Rollover

HB2655 – Schools; Unfunded Mandates; Prohibition has been filed.

SB1456 – Vision Screening; Schools; Appropriation has been amended, passed in the Senate, and transmitted to the house on March 5.

SB1318 – Schools; Dyslexia; Screening; Training has been amended and passed to the Senate on March 4, 2019. It was transmitted to the House and assigned to House Committees on Education, and Rules.

HB2428 – No-Water Urinals Required; Public Buildings has been assigned to House Committees on Natural Resources, Energy & Water.

HB2699 – School Buildings; Vulnerability Assessment was introduced February 13, 2019 and assigned to House Committees on Public Safety, and Rules.

HB2693 – Misconduct Involving Weapons; School Grounds has passed the House on March 4, 2019 and has been transmitted to the Senate and assigned to Senate Committees on Judiciary, and Rules.

HB2670 – Study Committee; Special Education; Gifted has passed in the House and transmitted to the Senate on March 1, 2019, where it was assigned to Senate Committees on Education, and Rules.

Ms. Tong concluded by saying her next Legislative Update would be at the April 9, 2019 Governing Board meeting, where she would update the Board on

bills moving through the legislative process, and would hopefully have information to report on the Budget Bill.

There were no questions.

F. Status of International Baccalaureate Program

Superintendent Jaeger introduced the item and asked Mr. Bejarano to present an update to the Board regarding the status of the International Baccalaureate Program and Canyon del Oro High School (CDO). Mr. Bejarano began by saying the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program encourages a positive attitude toward learning by encouraging students to ask challenging questions, to reflect critically, to develop research skills, to learn how to learn, reflecting on their own culture and identities, and then on those of others. The IB Program focuses on ways students can connect learning beyond the classroom into real world action through global engagement and meaningful service within our local community. The IB Learner Profile is the mission statement in the form of learning outcomes. Learner profile traits are developed throughout the curriculum and support Amphitheater's Portrait of a Graduate.

IB offers four programs for students aged three (3) to nineteen (19). The IB program is offered worldwide, across 4,964 schools in 153 countries. The largest region of schools offering IB is in the Americas with 2,932 schools. Canyon del Oro High School offers the Diploma Program beginning in Grade 11. CDO was authorized to provide the IB Program in February 2012. CDO's first Diploma Program graduating class was in May of 2014. CDO is now in its 6th year as an IB World School, offering the full Diploma Program and the Certificate Pathway. Students can take individual IB classes in the Certificate Pathway or may take the full Diploma Program. The Full Diploma Program requires students to take six subjects. Students take IB Core components that includes a theory of knowledge class, extended research paper, and a service learning component. The Certificate Pathway enables students to take one to three IB subjects, in conjunction with other programs offered at CDO such as Advanced Placement (AP), Career Technical Education (CTE), and JTED.

IB groups subjects. Full Diploma Program students must take one subject from each group. This is designed to ensure students make connections between subjects and are well rounded for challenges in the real world. Full Diploma students must take a second language other than English in addition to the IB Core. The IB Program offers preparation for College-Level Examination Program) CLEP exams, and is aligned with honors level college programs. With a passing score on one CLEP exam, a student could earn three or more college credits at more than 2,900 U.S. colleges and universities. The IB Program promotes experiential learning and real world leadership development.

The full Diploma is acknowledged worldwide as a rigorous college preparatory program. Students complete six honors level classes, and the IB Core. The IB Core consists of an Extended Essay, the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) class, and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) hours.

In 2018, 16 out of 17, or 94% of students taking the Full Diploma Program at CDO attained the IB Diploma. In 2018, twenty-one IB students from both the full Diploma and Certificate pathway earned a four-year total of \$2,300,858 in scholarships. Additionally, IB student scholarships included two National Merit Finalists, five National Merit commended students, two National Hispanic Scholars, three QuestBridge Scholar Finalists, one United States Naval Academy Appointment, six athletic scholarships, and three Dorothy Finley Outstanding Teen Citizen Award recipients.

The University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University began offering a \$5,000 annual tuition scholarship beginning the 2017-2018 school year to students completing the Full Diplomas program. Potential IB Tuition scholarships represent \$300,000 for the past two graduating cohorts.

96% (123 of 128 total students) of all CDO IB Diploma Program and Certificate Pathways graduates have gone on to college to continue their studies. 94% of those went on to a 4-year university. Eight students chose to begin at Pima Community College. 75% chose to attend one of Arizona's in-state public universities, and the remaining 25% chose to attend an out-of-state and/or private university. Of the five students who did not immediately go on to college, two returned to Singapore to fulfill their military duty, one AmeriCorps for one year prior to attending an out-of-state university, and two took gap years before continuing their education at a university.

In 2018-2019, 52 students attended CDO via Open Enrollment expressly for the International Baccalaureate Program. Open Enrollment families indicate a strong interest in the IB Program. Students have even transferred from out-of-state and out-of-country expressly for the IB Program.

The District's annual fee to provide the IB Program is approximately \$12,000. The allocation for annual professional development and training is \$10,000. Program staff consists of seventeen IB teachers and one full time IB Coordinator.

All IB schools are required to conduct an extensive self-study and submit 5-year reviews for continued authorization. The review process takes in excess of one year and was last completed in February of 2019. CDO maintains an IB Action Plan based on IB Program standards and practices. The IB Action Plan is updated annually after the self-study is completed.

Mr. Bejarano concluded his presentation by showing a YouTube video of Travis Dobbin, CDO's class of 2018 Valedictorian, full IB Diploma student, and IB Diploma recipient who now attends his dream college, Notre Dame.

Ms. Day asked how many families, and how many open enrolled students currently participate in the IB program. She asked what the District's annual financial obligation is to run the IB program. Mr. Bejarano said there are 53 families participating in the IB program, and that it costs approximately \$250,000 annually to fund the program. He said he would research the number of open enrollment students participating in IB.

There were no other questions.

9. **CONSENT AGENDA**³

Details of agenda items, supporting documents, and presentations are available for review in the electronic BoardBook by clicking on the hyperlinks below

<https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicHome.aspx?ak=1000433>

President Cox Golder asked if there were any Items that should be pulled for further discussion, there were none. Ms. Day moved that Agenda Items A.- N. be approved as presented. Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor - 5: President Cox Golder, Vice President Zibrat, Dr. Baker, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed - 0. The items passed.

A. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The Minutes from the December 11, 2018 Governing Board meeting were approved as presented in Exhibit 7.

B. Approval of Appointment of Administrative Personnel

Administrative personnel were appointed as listed in Exhibit 1.

C. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel

Non-Administrative personnel were appointed as listed in Exhibit 2.

D. Approval of Personnel Changes

Certified and classified personnel were appointed as listed in Exhibit 3.

E. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence

Leaves of Absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 4.

F. Approval of Separation(s) and Termination(s)

Separation(s) and Termination(s) were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.

G. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

Stipends for Coaching Volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.

H. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately

\$1,811,129.38

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 8:

Voucher #252 \$779,799.05	Voucher #253 \$103,277.93
Voucher #254 \$119,526.32	Voucher #255 \$34,313.20
Voucher #256 \$467,821.14	Voucher #257 \$115,534.49
Voucher #258 \$46,095.46	Voucher #259 \$43,952.81
Voucher #260 \$29,411.54	Voucher #261 \$71,397.44

I. Acceptance of Gifts

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

J. Approval of Grant(s)

The Governing Board approved a Grant that was received from the Arizona Commission on the Arts for the Lead Guitar Program at Holaway Elementary School as listed in Exhibit 10.

K. Approval of Out of State Travel

Out of State Travel was approved as listed in Exhibit 11.

L. Summer Institute 2019 Teacher Stipends

The Governing Board approved Teacher Stipends for the 2019 Summer Institute as listed in Exhibit 12.

M. Award of Contract for Amphitheater High School Central Plant #3 Boiler Replacement Based Upon Responses to Request for Bid (RFB) 02-26-19

The Governing Board approved the Award of Contract for Amphitheater High School Central Plant #3 Boiler Replacement Based Upon Responses to Request for Bid (RFB) 02-26-19.

N. Approval of Sub-Grant Agreement with the Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest for the Funding of Services to District Resident Refugee Students.

The Governing Board approved the Sub-Grant Agreement with the Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest for the Funding of Services to District Resident Refugee Students.

10. STUDY

A. Study of Potential Election for Maintenance and Operations Budget Override Renewal and K-3 Override

Superintendent introduced this item and asked Ms. Tong to present it to the Governing Board. Ms. Tong explained that the purpose of this item is to provide the Governing Board with an opportunity to review District budgetary information pertinent to the existing Maintenance and Operations (“M&O”) Budget Override to determine if it is in the best interest of the District to present the override for the November 2019 election. The current override will begin phasing out in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, therefore the November election is the last opportunity to renew the override before the “phase out” begins.

This item also presents the Governing Board an opportunity to consider the possibility of presenting the public with a K-3 Override during the November 2019 election. The District has not had a K-3 Override previously, and students in the District would benefit immensely from the interventions that it could provide.

Arizona state law permits the District to pursue these override opportunities under three (3) different options during the November 2019 election:

1. A single ballot initiative to renew the current general M&O Budget Override for ten percent (10%) of the Revenue Control Limit;
2. A single ballot initiative for a K-3 Override for five percent (5%) of the Revenue Control Limit; or
3. A ballot initiative that jointly renews and increases the general M&O Budget Override while adding a K-3 override for a total override of fifteen percent (15%) of the Revenue Control Limit.

While much of the information presented here is familiar to the Governing Board, a general explanation about Budget Overrides is included since Amphitheater Unified School District has not sought an override for five (5) years. The last time that Amphitheater presented voters with a request for a general M&O Budget Override was 2014.

I. General Explanation of a Budget Override

Overrides are an important benefit for school districts in Arizona where educational spending ranks among the lowest in the nation. The local voters of school districts within Arizona are able to authorize their school district to override the strict state budget limits normally imposed on school district services. In this way, local communities can choose whether they wish their school district to have greater resources than those generally provided for all school districts through the Arizona Legislature.

Where overrides are approved by voters, they are funded by local property tax assessments. Because this results in a tax levy increase in most cases, it is important to understand that budget overrides do not provide carte blanche spending authority for the school district. Arizona state law places specific limitations on the amount and length of spending authorized through a budget override.

For example, Arizona state law limits the duration of the budget override. Voters can approve an override to last for one, two, or five years. A five-year override actually lasts longer than five years because it includes a two-year “phase out” period in years 6 and 7. In year 6, the amount reduces to two-thirds of the initial budget increase approved by the voters. In year 7, it reduces to one-third the amount of the initial override.

Budget overrides are also limited in their amount. As identified above, M&O budget overrides can be granted up to fifteen percent (15%) of the Revenue Control Limit. K-3 budget overrides can be granted up to five percent (5%) of the Revenue Control Limit associated with grades Kindergarten through eighth grade. School districts also have the option to seek a combined maintenance and operations budget override with a K-3 override for up to fifteen percent (15%) when the school district uses a budget override fully funded by a tax levy like Amphi does.

II. History of Amphitheater’s Current General M&O Override

Amphitheater Public Schools has relied heavily on its community members to support a budgetary override to support the children of its district. The

Governing Board first studied the override election process on April 29, 2001. In the months and years that followed that first study, the Board continued to study relevant issues on several occasions, including legal requirements, procedural issues, and the purposes for overrides. Community members were surveyed and support given in favor of the overrides since they provide such benefit for the greatest focus of our District – our students. The Amphitheater community ultimately approved a general maintenance and operations budget override in 2005, renewed it again in 2009, and most recently renewed the override in 2014 for the 2014-2015 school year.

Amphitheater’s current general M&O override was approved as a five-year override. This means that the override has been in place since 2015 to permit a budget override of 10% above the Revenue Control Limit through 2019. If the current override is not renewed this November 2019, it will begin to phase out during this school year and fully expire in the 2021-2022 school year. Below is what the “phase out” for Amphi’s current general M&O override model will look like unless it is renewed by voters in November 2019:

- * 2015-2020: Full amount of override.
- * 2021: 2/3 of override.
- * 2022: 1/3 of override.
- * 2023: Override is over; no budget increase remains; back to regular state budget

III. Importance Role the Override Plays in District Funding

Arizona school districts generally derive their funding from the school district’s property tax base, state and federal allocations (from various state and federal taxes), grants, gifts, and donations.

These various sources of funds allocate to two basic school budgets within each district. The first basic budget is *Maintenance and Operations* aka M&O consisting of finances specifically allocated to school districts under strict state formulas to pay for the day-to-day operations and functions, such as employee payroll, utilities, fuel, supplies, services, and certain equipment. M&O expenses are mainly fixed costs of which employee salaries make up the largest single expense given that its obvious purpose is to educate students using teachers and other school personnel.

The second basic budget is *Capital*, which consists of allocations to school districts (again, under strict and limited state formulas) to be used to fund such things as building construction, durable assets and equipment, textbooks, and vehicles. Funds maintained in a capital account are restricted solely to capital purchases.

Arizona school districts are limited in the amount of funds that can be expended in both M&O and capital. Regardless of how valuable an individual school district’s tax base or its level of need might be, each school district is limited by state formulas to certain amounts which can be spent in each of

these basic funds. In general, these limitations are set by some variable of the number of students served.

There are, of course, exceptions to these ordinary spending limits. These exceptions include the funding required to comply with desegregation court orders or U.S. Office of Civil Rights orders. They also include budget overrides approved by the voters who reside in the school district.

Many people do not realize how substantially public school budgets have been cut over recent years. In the Amphitheater District alone, state budgetary cuts since 2008, when the Great Recession began, have exceeded \$107 million dollars.

IV. The Current General 10% M&O Override Provides Significant Benefits for Amphitheater

The current general 10% M&O override has helped Amphitheater significantly as it has dealt with the approximately \$107 million dollar budget cuts since the Great Recession. Through the voter-approved Budget Override, Amphitheater has been able to benefit District students despite significant budget cuts.

The current override provides the following benefits for students:

- Prior to the override, class sizes at the elementary level were routinely at or over 30 students. The current general M&O override permits the District to add additional staff in schools where grade level sizes are larger and reduce the number of students in a class at that grade level. It also permits the District to provide additional specialized teachers in areas that further benefit students, such as physical education, art, and music.
 - In middle school, English and Writing classes ranged up to 35 students; averages in Language Arts in 7th grade were 29.3; in Science 32.3; and both math and science classes were as high as 38 students.
 - In high school, English, Math & Science classes ranged up to 35 or 36 students.
 - Unfortunately, budget cuts made since the Great Recession added to class size, so this particular funding is having less impact than it used to provide.
- Prior to 2005, some elementary grade levels only received as little as 20 minutes a week in Art, Music and Physical Education instruction. That has changed, thanks to the override:
 - This has been enhanced to benefit all students at our elementary schools.
 - Now, at least 50 minutes per week per grade level in Art, Music, and Physical Education is provided in all District elementary schools.

- Math and Writing Labs have been added at each middle school, along with Technology, Science, and Fine Arts electives, and new courses have been added at the high school level:
 - Middle school enhancements include Marine Biology, MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement), Drama, and Dance.
 - At the high school level, course additions include the following: Studio Art, Computer Science, Engineering, French III and IV, Music Theory, AP Psychology, AP Environmental Science, Academic Challenges, and Teen Court.
- Tutoring and other intervention programs have been implemented which now serve students throughout the school year, as well as into the summer. Nearly 1600 students, for example, were able to attend the 2008 summer school program and receive valuable instruction to improve their performance in school and on such measures as the AIMS test.

The current general 10% M & O override also provided benefits to District employees:

- Compensation Enhancement
 - Several school districts in the Tucson area have long benefitted from overrides, making not just their programs and services more competitive, but also to their staff compensation.
 - Therefore, the override included a specific component to adjust employee compensation – to make the District more competitive in the recruitment and retention of staff.
 - Certificated staff receive between \$1,275 to \$1,841 in their annual salary from the override.
 - Classified staff receive between \$325 and \$1,400 in their annual salary as a direct result of the override.
- Support Staff
 - The override made possible the hiring of several new positions in our Facilities and Technology Departments, to better enable the District to maintain facilities and our growing technology demands.
 - Still today, those positions continue to be supported and made possible through the override.

Unfortunately, the current 10% general M&O override expires at the end of the 2019-2020 school year and will thereafter begin phasing out (as described above) unless it is renewed by November 2019. If the current override expires and begins to phase out, the programs and services supported by the override, as well as the employees whose salaries are benefitted by it, will be affected.

V. State Law Permits Voters to Increase the Override and/or Include a K-3 Override

When voters in the Amphitheater District initially approved the override in 2004, Arizona state law limited school districts to an override amount of 10% of the Revenue Control Limit. Arizona later changed the override laws to permit school districts to request an M&O override in amounts up to 15% of the Revenue Control Limit. Although Amphitheater had that option when the current override was renewed in 2014, it did not ask voters to increase the override amount to 15% then because doing so would have increased taxes at a time when everyone was still feeling the effects of the Great Recession.

Since the last renewal in 2014, there have been significant changes in public education. Numerous charter schools have moved into the District. Those charter schools now receive portions of Amphitheater's funding from the state for special education students who live in the District even though the students attend Amphitheater schools and not the charter schools.

Additionally, charter schools do not have the same spending restrictions as District schools. Therefore, they have the ability to compete with District schools by offering free kindergarten -- something that the District is currently only able to do in its Title 1 schools given the ability to use Title 1 funds for this purpose.

VI. Benefits that would be Provided by a K-3 Override

Our students and parents would benefit substantially from a K-3 override. Schools that do not qualify for Title 1 offer half-day kindergarten which requires parents to subsidize the second half of the kindergarten day. Studies show that students who attend all-day kindergarten have improved literacy and math skills by third grade, are able to reach appropriate reading levels to be able to move forward to fourth grade, and have better attendance throughout their school careers.

A K-3 override would also provide the District an opportunity to further lower class sizes for students in kindergarten through third grade. Studies have shown that students in early grades benefit substantially from lower class sizes as they learn essential skills necessary to assist them to become life-long learners.

Finally, a K-3 override would also enable the District to provide professional development and teacher mentors to K-3 grade teachers to better assist advancement of the District's youngest students. As the District is developing the Portrait of a Graduate for Amphitheater students, special focus will be on efforts to provide interventions and trainings that develop those "Portrait" skills in the youngest students so that they become inherent in the learning process as students grow up in Amphi schools.

VII. Surrounding School Districts Who Have Approved Overrides

The majority of surrounding school districts operate on a budget override like Amphitheater. Catalina Foothills, Flowing Wells, Marana, Sahuarita, Vail, and Alter Valley all currently have a voter-approved general M&O override in place. Catalina Foothills and Sahuarita also benefit from a voter-approved capital override, and the voters in the Catalina Foothills school district have approved a K-3 override to benefit the district's youngest students.

VIII. Costs of Pursuing the Override

In evaluating the District's needs, with consideration being given to the state-wide recent efforts of teachers and other District personnel to increase state funding to schools, it is apparent that state funding shortfalls will likely not be completely remedied in the foreseeable future. The monies received last year following the statewide teacher walkout were used for much overdue salary increases for teachers and other District staff. Teachers received the benefit of all of the funds provided through the Governor's proposal for teachers. The District used half of the money that the Governor provided in District Additional Assistance ("DAA") to restore the lost capital funding to provide salary increases for non-teaching District staff. The remaining 50% of the DAA was used to restore the District's capital account that had been so depleted as a result of the substantial state funding cuts that the available funds were insufficient to replace more than a single broken air conditioner at one of the District's schools.

As a result, the Administration recommends studying the possibility of renewing the existing M&O override early and also pursuing a K-3 override this year to enable the District to continue to provide excellent education focused on individual student growth and success. This is the last chance that Amphitheater has to renew the existing M&O override before it begins to phase out. It will enable the District to increase its funding capacity to a maximum level to be able to provide much needed services to its youngest students while also maintaining the standard of care currently provided to all students and staff here in Amphi.

M&O Override: Currently, the M&O override is \$7,677,952. If the override is increased to fifteen (15%), which is the maximum capacity allowed by Arizona state law, the additional capacity to the District would be \$11,516,928.

This would mean a tax rate increase of \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed valuation. In other words, the additional cost to the average homeowner in the District, assuming a value of \$236,370, would be \$57.04 annually.

K-3 Override: If the District pursues a separate K-3 override for five percent (5%) to the already existing override of 10%, the additional capacity that would be provided by that override is \$2,352,910. This would mean a tax rate increase of \$0.1479 per \$100 of assessed valuation. In other words, the estimated additional cost to the average homeowner, assuming a value of \$236,370, \$34.96 annually.

All Day Kindergarten Override: If the District were to pursue an override solely to fund all-day Kindergarten, it would provide the additional capacity of \$1,100,000. This would mean a tax rate increase of \$0.0691 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The estimated additional cost to the average homeowner, assuming a value of \$236,370, would be \$16.33 annually.

Conclusion:

The current level of programs and services now being provided to our students, and the current level of compensation now being provided to our employees, cannot be maintained unless the voters renew the District's M&O budget override. The M&O override is presently approximately \$7.3 million. It must be renewed no later than November 2019 to avoid expiration. Therefore, the questions before the Governing Board are:

1. Whether it is in the District's best interest to pursue a renewal of the override in the November 2019 election, and
2. If so, what override options should be presented to the voters in that election:
 - a. Renew the current M&O override at ten percent (10%) of the Revenue Control Limit;
 - b. Renew the current M&O override and increase it to fifteen percent (15%) of the Revenue Control Limit;
 - c. Renew the current M&O override at ten percent (10%) of the Revenue Control Limit and add a separate K-3 override in an amount up to five percent (5%).

Ms. Tong concluded by saying that this item is presented for Board study at this time. Having considered the expenses associated with an override renewal election, as well as the negative impact that would be caused by a failure to renew the override, it is recommended that the District study the possibility of pursuing an override election in November 2019. She then offered to answer any questions the Board had.

President Cox Golder asked if a committee should be formed to examine the issue. Superintendent Jaeger said a committee had been formed years ago when the override was first sought. Mr. Kopec asked for further clarification, which Ms. Tong provided about the three proposed options. Dr. Baker said that he was for a renewal of 10% M&O override and a separate K-3 override.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Day asked for a report on Academic and Athletic Addendums in the District.

ADJOURNMENT

President Cox Golder moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Voice vote in favor - 5: President Cox Golder, Vice President Zibrat, Dr. Baker, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed - 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.



*Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Andrea Arens
Governing Board Secretary*

Vicki Cox Golder, Governing Board President

August 27, 2019
Date

Minutes Submitted for Governing Board Approval: August 27, 2019