

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting**  
**Amphitheater Public Schools**  
**Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

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A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

**Governing Board Members**

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

**Superintendent's Cabinet Members**

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent  
Ms. Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education  
Mr. Matthew Munger, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education  
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. John Hastings, Director of Human Resources  
Ms. Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum and Assessment  
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Director of Student Services  
Mr. Richard C. La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support  
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 Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and invited members of the audience to sign the guest register.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Jaeger introduced Trechel Valentin, Principal of Holaway Elementary School. Ms. Valentin introduced her students who represent Holaway's Student Council and Coyote Community. She spoke about the students' leadership on campus by demonstrating the 4 R's of the Coyote Code: Responsibility, Respect, Resilience, and Readiness. Ms. Valentin introduced the Student Council sponsor, Ms. Christine Horetski, and the student council officers: Heidi, Ares, Mia, Arantza, and Arianna. The students led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Kopec thanked the students for coming and presented them with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the students, Ms. Valentin, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger.

**3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART**

Superintendent Jaeger introduced Holaway Art Teacher, Ms. Amy Rudd. Ms. Rudd shared that she has taught at Holaway for fourteen years and that this year students are exploring lines and shapes. She noted that the art display in the boardroom is part of a glow art show that will be displayed at Holaway's STEAM night in January. Students used neon pastels and fluorescent paint to create the space themed art display. Ms. Rudd turned black lights onto the artwork to display the glow effect. She went on to speak about the 3D art on display in the hallway which includes rainbow-colored birds to help kindergarten students learn rainbow color order and "Larry Loudmouths" inspired by muralist Greg Mike.

Mr. Kopec thanked Ms. Rudd for her work with students and for sharing this evening. He presented her with a certificate of recognition and a picture was taken with Ms. Rudd, Ms. Valentin, the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger.

#### **4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND TIME OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

President Baker announced that the Organizational Governing Board Meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

#### **5. RECOGNITIONS**

##### **A. Recognition of the CDO 200-Meter Freestyle Relay Team State Runner-Up**

Superintendent Jaeger noted that this has been a strong athletic season for the district and asked Armando Soto, Director of Interscholastics, to come forward to provide background on this item. Mr. Soto shared that on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, the CDO Swim Team participated in the state swim meet. He introduced Coaches JB Yewell and Jen Inboden. Coach Yewell spoke about how well the four students on the freestyle relay team represented their school and program. Coach Yewell went on to talk about the long-held traditions of the team which includes placing at the state meet. Coach Yewell noted that three of the swimmers, Luke, Jake, and Cooper were unable to attend the meeting because they are multi-sport athletes representing CDO at a basketball game, but team captain Gavin Yewell was present to accept the recognition.

President Baker presented certificates to the student and coaches. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Gavin, Coach Yewell, Coach Inboden, Ms. Bulleigh, and Mr. Dominguez to mark the occasion.

##### **B. Presentation of the Distinguished Service Awards**

President Baker asked Superintendent Jaeger to introduce the awards. Superintendent Jaeger explained that each month during the school year, a certificated and a support staff member are recognized with a Distinguished Service Award.

Superintendent Jaeger asked David Humphreys, Principal of La Cima Middle School to introduce the Support Staff Distinguished Service Award recipient, Patty Coronado, Attendance Clerk. Mr. Humphreys spoke about Ms. Coronado's unwavering dedication, determination, adaptability, and willingness to help others. He went on to describe her as a team player who goes above and beyond and someone who has developed strong relationships within the school community.

A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Coronado for the work she has done for the District.

On behalf of the Governing Board Vice President Zibrat asked Ms. Coronado if she would like to share anything. Ms. Coronado thanked Mr. Humphreys, her coworkers, Ms. Julie Valenzuela, and her family for their support of her.

Vice President Zibrat presented Ms. Coronado with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board, a Distinguished Service Award and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

Superintendent Jaeger then invited Ms. Annette Orelup, Principal of Keeling Elementary, to present the certificated recipient. Ms. Orelup introduced Ms. Laurel Young, second grade teacher at Keeling. Ms. Orelup spoke about Ms. Young's unwavering commitment to student success, her elevated standard of teaching, and use of collaboration to bring people together. She went on to describe Ms. Young's kindness, loyalty, passion for teaching, integrity, and demonstration of leadership in the district.

A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Young for the work she has done in the District.

Vice President Zibrat asked Ms. Young if she would like to share anything. She thanked the

Governing Board for the recognition along with her coworkers and administration for their support.

Vice President Zibrat presented Ms. Young with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board, a Distinguished Service Award, and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Coronado, Ms. Young, Ms. Orelup, and Mr. Humphreys to mark the occasion.

### **C. Recognition of 2024 District Legendary Teacher Award Recipient**

Superintendent Jaeger explained that the District and Governing Board were delighted to recognize one of our teachers for her long-standing commitment to the students of Amphitheater and noted that the Legendary Teacher is determined each year by a third party. He introduced Ms. Mamie Spillane, Principal of Rio Vista Elementary and Ms. Dori Bowman-Plank who wrote the Legendary Teacher nomination.

Ms. Spillane introduced Ms. Margaret Hervert, who has been named the 2024 Legendary Teacher for Amphitheater and stated it was her honor to celebrate such a remarkable individual. She went on to describe Ms. Hervert as the heart and soul of Rio Vista and a cornerstone of the school community. Ms. Spillane shared that students thrive in Ms. Hervert's classroom and how her enthusiasm is inspiring. Ms. Spillane concluded by sharing that the Rio Vista community is lucky to have her and offered her congratulations to Ms. Hervert.

Ms. Bowman-Plank read her nomination. Ms. Spillane introduced Ms. Janet Sandler, who has been a substitute teacher at Rio Vista and has known Ms. Hervert 28 years. She shared that she has learned so much from Ms. Hervert and presented her with a plaque.

Ms. Day noted that what everyone shared about Ms. Hervert is true and wished her the best in retirement at the end of the school year. She presented Ms. Hervert with a certificate of recognition.

Ms. Hervert stated she was truly honored and delighted. She thanked her husband, dear friends, and amazing colleagues. Ms. Hervert also thanked the Governing Board and said that she was proud to be an Amphi teacher.

A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Hervert, Ms. Spillane, Ms. Bowman-Plank, Ms. Sandler, and Ms. Hervert's guests.

### **D. Recognition of Finalist for 2024 Arizona Athletics Amazing High School Teacher of the Year Award**

Superintendent Jaeger stated he was proud of the fact that many Amphitheater teachers are considered and chosen for prestigious awards each year. He asked Ms. Tara Bulleigh, Principal of Canyon del Oro High School, to introduce the recognition. Ms. Bulleigh introduced Mr. Josh Ronstadt, Architecture and Construction teacher from CDO. She noted that she has had the pleasure of watching Mr. Ronstadt blossom over the last nine years into the teacher and mentor he is today, teaching 8 courses to 150 students each day. Ms. Bulleigh went on to speak about Mr. Ronstadt's use of cross-curricular projects with students, his professionalism, caring attitude, and his status as a highly effective teacher. She also shared about his use of community engagement, student choice, competitions, community service and career exploration in his programs.

Mr. Ronstadt stated he was grateful and honored by this award. He thanked Ms. Valenzuela, Ms. Bulleigh and the Governing Board for their continued support.

Vice President Zibrat presented Mr. Ronstadt with a certificate of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Ronstadt, Ms. Bulleigh, and

Ms. Valenzuela to mark the occasion.

#### **E. Recognition of Raytheon Leaders in Education Winner**

Superintendent Jaeger noted that this was also a particularly prestigious award in our community, and he asked Mr. Chris Gutierrez, Principal of Cross Middle School to introduce the recipient.

Mr. Gutierrez introduced 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science Teacher, Ms. Ethnee Taylor. He spoke about her commitment to students and putting their best interests at the forefront of all she does. Mr. Gutierrez also talked about Ms. Taylor's role as the leader of the W.E.B. (Where Everyone Belongs) program which trains 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to mentor 6<sup>th</sup> graders through events and community service. He spoke about her compassion for students and her ability to connect with them. He stated he was proud of her accomplishments and fortunate to have her as a teacher at Cross Middle School.

Ms. Taylor thanked her colleagues for inspiring her and her husband for his support.

President Baker presented Ms. Taylor with a certificate of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Gutierrez, and Ms. Call.

#### **F. Recognition of National Association for Gifted Children Gifted Coordinator of the Year Recipient**

Superintendent Jaeger noted that awards at the national level are obviously very prestigious and that he was privileged to nominate Ms. Vanessa Hill, the District's REACH (Gifted Services) Coordinator for this award. He asked Ms. Call, who oversees Gifted Education, to introduce this item.

Ms. Call introduced Ms. Hill and spoke about her being a fierce advocate for students, her collaboration with the Special Education department to serve twice-exceptional students, training the schools' dyslexia designees, and work with other gifted programs in Southern Arizona. She also spoke about Ms. Hill's work in the community, presenting at various gifted conferences.

Ms. Day congratulated Ms. Hill on receiving this award as she, Mr. Kopec, and Superintendent Jaeger were able to attend the National Conference where she received it. She also went on to note that Ms. Hill is an excellent Odyssey of the Mind Coach and supporter. Ms. Day presented Ms. Hill with a certificate of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Hill, and Ms. Call.

#### **G. Acknowledgement of Contributions Made by Governing Board President- Dr. Scott K. Baker**

Superintendent Jaeger stated that this was an opportunity to honor a dedicated leader and champion of public education in Dr. Scott Baker as he is retiring from his role on the Governing Board, at the conclusion of his term of office in December. He noted Dr. Baker's departure is bittersweet and he acknowledged the presence of former Governing Board member, Mr. Scott Leska and incoming Governing Board Member, Ms. Patricia Harris. Superintendent Jaeger spoke about President Baker's deep connections in the district as Dr. Baker is a former district student whose children also attended Amphitheater schools. He remarked on Dr. Baker's desire to channel his passion for education into serving the community as a Governing Board member. As well as being a lifelong educator in the Catalina Foothills School District, President Baker assumed multiple roles as he shared his vision of excellence and advocated for students and teachers alike. Superintendent Jaeger

shared his deepest gratitude and noted that President Baker would always be a part of the Amphi family.

Ms. Day spoke about meeting President Baker and working together on past campaigns. Ms. Cox Golder stated she enjoyed her years of serving on the Board with President Baker and thanked him for his service. Mr. Kopec spoke about President Baker's steadfastness, calmness under pressure, dedication, and willingness to share his time with the District.

Vice President Zibrat presented President Baker with a plaque on behalf of the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, and the Administrative Cabinet to commemorate his years of service. A picture was taken with the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

*The meeting broke at 7:14p.m. for a reception honoring President Baker. The meeting reconvened at 7:37p.m.*

## **6. INFORMATION**

### **A. Superintendent's Report**

*For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint see Exhibit 1.*

Superintendent Jaeger shared photo highlights of events around the District:

- Painted Sky celebrated their outstanding academic performance with field games
- Canyon del Oro hosted "This is High School" event for feeder pattern 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Amphi the Elf is back taking S'Elfies at all Amphitheater schools this holiday season
- Mark Your Calendar with dates for the holiday season and January important dates

President Baker thanked him for his report.

### **B. Status of Construction Projects**

*For the Status of Construction Projects report see Exhibit 2.*

Superintendent Jaeger invited Mr. La Nasa to give an update on the construction projects in the District.

Mr. La Nasa showed photos which highlighted completed projects and some currently in process:

- La Cima Middle School roof repairs using BRG Funds
- Nash Elementary School well site improvements using Bond Funds
- Wilson K-8 School hot water heater replacement using BRG funds
- Wilson K-8 School State HVAC replacement using BRG funds.

Mr. La Nasa reported that the District received \$65,257 in grant funding in November 2024 bringing the 2024-2025 school year total to \$6,156,748. He also noted the 2024-2025 Grant Project Funding Requests pending award is just over \$13 million.

Mr. La Nasa then offered to answer any questions. There were none.

President Baker thanked him for his report.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*President Baker read the Call to the Audience procedures.*

Bill Ford shared that he is a family member of Type I diabetics and the need for constant vigilance for their care. He spoke about the number of diabetic students increasing and the role technology plays in ensuring diabetic students can function the same as non-diabetics. Mr. Ford went on to speak about subsidies that support technology, particularly Wi-Fi and cellular services, which he described as a "pair of crutches" needed by diabetic students while attending school. He also talked about the possibility of fundraising to support technology upgrades if they are cost

prohibitive. Mr. Ford stated that those with diabetes and their loved ones never rest and will continue to advocate for improvements. He urged the incoming Governing Board to familiarize themselves with this issue and work with the parents of diabetic students to find resolution to the cellular and Wi-Fi issues.

Jen Houser is the parent of diabetic students at Painted Sky and Coronado K-8 Schools. She stated she wanted to give an update on the pursuit of gaining Wi-Fi access for her students to support their medical needs. She spoke about a recent incident at school where she was unable to send Omni Pod insulin pump controller logs because it required wi-fi access which was also needed to reset the insulin pump controller. Ms. Houser stated her son had to leave school because his blood sugar was so high during this incident. She spoke about the communication received from the district after the last meeting and the removal of Wi-Fi access from the student's 504 accommodation plan with the added accommodation option the district has previously offered. Ms. Houser claims the District mishandled communication with parents and did not do the necessary legwork to see how Wi-Fi is possible, which she believes is a systemic problem. She concluded that the District should have used communication and caring to deal with this issue and she would continue to fight for change.

Yogi Patel is a community member who wanted to share information about his weekly podcast, "Yogg Nation and the Spirit of Gratitude" with the theme of overcoming adversity. He gave an overview of special guests who have appeared on the podcast including athletes, authors, and other public figures. Mr. Patel went on to speak about his daughter who has published books on the topic of bullying and overcoming adversity. He shared that the goal of the podcast is to spread inspiration, reflection, education and entertainment from the storytelling of his guests. Mr. Patel concluded with stating the podcast is available on multiple platforms and he would be open to partnering with the school district.

## **8. 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 Baker asked for a motion. Vice President Cox Golder moved for Consent Agenda Items 8. A.-S be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0.*

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

*Non-administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 3.*

### **B. Approval of Personnel Changes**

*Certified and classified personnel changes were approved as listed in Exhibit 4.*

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

*Leave(s) of absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.*

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

*Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.*

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

*Stipend for Coaching Volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.*

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

*The Governing Board approved minutes from the November 12, 2024 meeting as submitted in Exhibit 8.*

### **G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$3,693,233.53**

*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 9.*

| Voucher # | Amount       | Voucher # | Amount       | Voucher # | Amount       |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1126      | \$150,310.89 | 1127      | \$56,884.09  | 1128      | \$159,407.05 |
| 1129      | \$116,425.16 | 1130      | \$5,864.51   | 1131      | \$49,879.11  |
| 1132      | \$124,276.05 | 1134      | \$446,631.46 | 1135      | \$77,049.43  |
| 1136      | \$3,583.89   | 1137      | \$209,666.97 | 1138      | \$174,022.16 |
| 1139      | \$35,337.98  | 1140      | \$254,216.21 | 1141      | \$89,480.09  |
| 1142      | \$24,425.13  | 1143      | \$130,770.10 | 1144      | \$414,954.11 |
| 1145      | \$84,314.15  | 1146      | \$2,774.05   | 1148      | \$8,565.95   |
| 1149      | \$78,847.89  | 1150      | \$36,950.19  | 1151      | \$20,617.54  |
| 1152      | \$232,968.45 | 1153      | \$173,977.21 | 1154      | \$137,756.93 |
| 1155      | \$91,201.23  | 1156      | \$181,983.89 | 1157      | \$67,178.00  |
| 1158      | \$2,240.39   | 1159      | \$50,673.27  |           |              |

#### **H. Acceptance of Gifts**

*Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as submitted in Exhibit 10.*

#### **I. Receipt of October 2024 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances**

*The Governing Board approved Receipt of October 2024 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances as submitted in Exhibit 11.*

#### **J. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) - 2024-2025**

*The Governing Board approved Amphitheater Middle School PTO, JOM Indian Education Committee, and CDO Swimming Booster for the 2024-2025 school year as submitted in Exhibit 12.*

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

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

#### **L. Award of Contract for Recycle/Disposal of Surplus Electronic Equipment-Based Upon Responses to Request for Quote (RFQ) 242500**

*The Governing Board approved the Award of Contract for Recycle/Disposal of Surplus Electronic Equipment-Based Upon Responses to Request for Quote (RFQ) 242500.*

#### **M. Award of Contract for Recycle/Disposal of Surplus Phone System Equipment-Based Upon Responses to Request for Quote (RFQ) 2524001**

*The Governing Board approved the Award of Contract for Recycle/Disposal of Surplus Phone System Equipment-Based Upon Responses to Request for Quote (RFQ) 2524001*

#### **N. Approval of the 2024-2025 District 301 Plan**

*The Governing Board approved the 2024-2025 District 301 Plan as submitted in Exhibit 13.*

#### **O. Approval of Arizona Department of Administration School Facilities Division Building Renewal Grants**

*The Governing Board approved the Arizona Department of Administration School Facilities Division Building Renewal Grants as submitted in Exhibit 14.*

#### **P. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with Pima County for Coronado K-8 Sports Field Lighting Utility Assistance**

*The Governing Board approved the Intergovernmental Agreement with Pima County for Coronado*

*K-8 Sports Field Lighting Utility Assistance as presented in Exhibit 15.*

**Q. Approval of Revised District Calendar for School Year 2025-2026**

*The Governing Board approved the Revised District Calendar for School Year 2025-2026 as presented in Exhibit 16.*

**R. Approval of 2025-2026 Governing Board Meeting Schedule**

*The Governing Board approved the Governing Board Meeting Schedule for the 2025-2026 School Year as presented in Exhibit 17.*

**S. Approval of Out of State Travel**

*The Governing Board approved requests for Out of State travel as presented in Exhibit 18.*

**9. STUDY**

**A. Study of Proposed Recommendations Developed through the Meet and Confer Process for:**

**1. Revisions to Governing Board Policy GCK-R (Professional Staff Assignments and Transfers)**

**2. Revisions to Governing Board Policy GCQA (Professional Staff Reduction in Force)**

**3. Revisions to Governing Board Policy GCQA-E (Professional Staff Reduction in Force Profile Form)**

**4. Revisions to Governing Board Policy GCQA-R (Professional Staff Reduction in Force)**

*For the Proposed Policy Recommendations Developed through the Meet and Confer Process see Exhibit 19. For the Accompanying PowerPoint presentation see Exhibit 20.*

Superintendent Jaeger asked the lead facilitator for the Meet and Confer process, Ms. Tassi Call to present this item. Ms. Call began with talking about the strong, collaborative team assembled that worked on the Meet and Confer committees and complimented the team leads, Matt Munger, Rebecca Green, Vanessa Harding, and Rich La Nasa for making the process so streamlined.

Ms. Call gave a timeline of the Meet and Confer process beginning with an employee survey in October, development of committee work, review of the IBB process, and policy work concluding on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Ms. Call went on to explain the revisions that are being proposed which focus on the GCK series particularly the policy of involuntary transfers. She stated this policy was written a long time ago when there was an overabundance of teachers, and the team felt the policy should include all teachers in the event of involuntary transfers and not exclude new teachers. Ms. Call stated the revision to Policy GCK-R is to remove the first ineligibility for involuntary transfer if a teacher has been employed by the District less than two years.

Ms. Call explained the revision to Policy GCQA which modifies the Reduction in Force (RIF) criteria in evaluating teachers to remove professional development and leadership. She went on to explain the revisions to the RIF form were made to align with the Danielson Model on which teachers are now evaluated, changes to the Student Achievement portion of the form, as well as the addition of consideration of advanced and specialty degrees, and the exclusion of sick leave buyback in the sick leave portion of the form.

Lastly, Ms. Call stated the committee recommends the omission of professional growth activities and employee's acceptance of leadership roles in policy GCQA-R.

Ms. Call shared survey results from employees regarding the committee's recommendations. There were 242 responses and 90% of those respondents agreed with the recommendations. She shared an overview of the 31 comments received on the survey and offered to answer any



questions.

Superintendent Jaeger expressed his gratitude to the Meet and Confer teams for the time they invested in the process and how quickly they accomplished their goals. He noted the changes would not be adopted this evening but will return for approval at a later meeting.

## **B. Study of Proposed Recommendations Harelson Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

*For the Proposed Recommendations Harelson Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> Grade PowerPoint see Exhibit 21.*

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Call to review this item. He shared when he came to the District in 1997, there were two elementary schools that offered 6<sup>th</sup> grade, which were Rio Vista and Harelson. He stated Rio Vista's program became no longer viable with more students seeking 6<sup>th</sup> grade at the middle school and the same is becoming apparent at Harelson. Superintendent Jaeger noted his own children attended 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Harelson and he appreciated the esteem in which parents held that opportunity for many years, but things have changed.

Ms. Call spoke about the history of Harelson Elementary and noted this is the last school in the District that offers 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She gave an overview of 6<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment, and it's decline since 2014 noting that there are currently only two 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who are in a 5<sup>th</sup> grade/6<sup>th</sup> grade combo class at Harelson.

Ms. Call spoke about the trend of seeing more students wanting to transition with their peer group to Cross Middle School for 6<sup>th</sup> grade as opposed to doing so in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She spoke about how Cross supports 6<sup>th</sup> graders through Spring Orientation, the W.E.B. program, and RAMS 101 class for all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Ms. Call went on to detail the other advantages of 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Cross including after-school sports, extra-curricular activities, as well as Fine Arts, PE, and REACH classes daily.

She concluded that the administration's recommendation is that 2024-2025 be the last year 6<sup>th</sup> grade be offered at Harelson. She offered to answer any questions.

Ms. Day asked about the sports offered to 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Ms. Call stated tennis, soccer, basketball, wrestling, track, and cross-country are all available to 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Cross Middle School.

Superintendent Jaeger noted that this item was just presented for the Board's study and would be brought back for approval at a later meeting.

## **10. STUDY/ACTION**

### **A. Study and Approval of REACH Scope and Sequence**

*For the proposed REACH Scope and Sequence see Exhibit 22 and for the PowerPoint presentation see Exhibit 23.*

Superintendent Jaeger stated Ms. Call would be presenting the item and recommendations for this item. It will then be up to Board members to decide to approve the recommendations or if more information is needed before doing so.

Ms. Call shared the REACH Gifted Services Vision, Mission, and Values and noted that every five years the state requires the District to re-evaluate the Scope and Sequence components of:

- Program Design
- Identification
- Curriculum and Instruction, Social and Emotional Development
- Professional Development
- Parent and Community Involvement

- Program Assessment

She stated that students and parents are surveyed to ensure gifted students are receiving the services they need. Ms. Call invited Ms. Vanessa Hill to outline the changes being recommended.

Ms. Hill spoke about the addition of REACH Honors English for grades 9, 10, and 11 as well as the continuing shift in Humanities in middle school, universal identification in second grade, online testing, and the use of local norms at five marginalized schools which helps to identify more students. She went on to speak about the implementation of Think Law, Thrively, Honors English curriculum for nonverbally gifted and twice-exceptional learners, and Depth and Complexity prompts for K-12. Ms. Hill shared pictures of students in the classroom and gave an overview of the extensive gifted professional development offered for educators and families and the ways the District promotes parent and community involvement. She offered to answer any questions.

*Ms. Day moved to approve the REACH Scope and Sequence. Ms. Cox Golder seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-5. President Baker, Vice-President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Day and Mr. Kopec. Opposed- 0.*

## **11. ACTION**

### **A. Adoption of New Policy System:**

#### **Chapter 4-Employment and Human Resources**

*For the proposed Policy System, Ch. 4-Employment and Human Resources see Exhibit 23.*

Superintendent Jaeger explained that the District has shifted the policy platform from the ASBA platform to one from the Trust who is the District insurer. He reminded the Governing Board that chapters 1 through 3 have already been adopted, however Chapter 4 is one of the largest sequences of policy as it has to do with employment and human resources. Superintendent Jaeger explained the urgency in approving this series as it is important for employees to have online access to these policies. He went on to explain that many of these policies were crafted through the Meet and Confer process and recommended the approval of Chapter 4.

*Ms. Day moved to approve Chapter 4-Employment and Human Resources of the policy manual. Ms. Cox Golder seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor- 5. President Baker, Vice-President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed-0.*

## **12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **13. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS**

There were none.

*Dr. Baker shared remarks expressing his pride in being voted into his position on the Governing Board twice. He spoke about the amazing work done by the people who work in the District and expressed his gratitude for the support of his fellow Governing Board members.*

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

*President Day moved to adjourn. Vice President Cox Golder seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Day and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.*

*Jen Anderson*

Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval  
*Jen Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board*

January 6, 2025

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Susan Zibrat, Governing Board Vice-President*

January 28, 2025

Date