

**Minutes of the Special Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

A Special public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held Tuesday, February 22, 2022, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center. This meeting was held under COVID-19 pandemic related conditions.

Governing Board Members Present

Dr. Scott K. Baker, Member
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member
Ms. Susan Zibrat, Member

Governing Board Members Absent

Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, President
Ms. Deanna M. Day, M.Ed., Vice President

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. Kristin McGraw, Director of Student Services
Mr. Richard C. La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications
Ms. Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21st Century Education

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SIGNING OF THE VISITOR'S REGISTER

Mr. Kopec called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and explained that President Cox Golder and Vice President Day were unable to attend the meeting and President Cox Golder asked him to preside as acting chair in accordance with the permissions of Governing Board Policy BED. Mr. Kopec stated there was a quorum of Governing Board members in attendance and they would proceed with the agenda. He invited members of the audience to sign the guest register.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Kopec asked Ms. Tassi Call to lead the Pledge of Allegiance

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Mr. Kopec announced that the next Regular Governing Board meeting would be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ 85705 in the Leadership & Professional Development Center.

4. INFORMATION

A. Superintendent's Report; Update on Pandemic Conditions and Operations

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

Mr. Kopec asked Superintendent Jaeger to present his report.

Superintendent Jaeger began his report by showing some photo highlights from around the District.

He stated that February is “Love of Reading” month. All employees from around the District were encouraged to volunteer to visit schools and read to the students. He reported that he and other staff from district departments have been reading at various schools. The program has been a positive experience – especially for staff members who don’t often get a chance to visit schools.

He said Donaldson Elementary School held a “wedding” of the letters Q and U for Valentine’s Day. The kindergarteners performed for the student body and then for their parents, and all “letters of the alphabet” were able to participate. The instructional component teaches students that Q and U are always together in a word.

Across the District, “2’s Day” (2-22-2022) was celebrated with tuxedos, ties, tiaras and tutus. Photos showed participants dressed up, Kindergarteners at Coronado K-8 School doing 22 push-ups, and students from Wilson K-8 burying a time capsule to be opened on 3-3-33 – during what will be their senior year of high school.

Superintendent Jaeger congratulated Amphitheater High School’s Unified Basketball team. They won the state championship and will be recognized at an upcoming Governing Board meeting for their accomplishment.

Cross Middle School eighth-grader Kian Huff finished second in the Pima County Spelling Bee held at Canyon del Oro High School on February 19, 2022. He will go on to compete in the Arizona State Spelling Bee on March 19, 2022 in Phoenix AZ.

He thanked the Amphi Foundation for a recent Shoes to Smiles event. Volunteers shopped with La Cima Middle School and Rillito Center students and supplied them with shoes and socks. He expressed his appreciation to the Foundation and all the volunteers and donors who make this ongoing service possible.

Superintendent Jaeger reported that last week, the Arizona House of Representatives voted to approve a waiver of the Aggregate Expenditure Limit (AEL), and yesterday the State Senate voted to do the same. He reiterated that the action did not increase education funding, but simply allows the school districts to spend the funds which the legislature had previously budgeted for this year.

Superintendent Jaeger spoke about Pima County COVID-19 health data. He said the two key indicators, which are cases per 100,000 individuals and the percent positivity in tests, have continued to drop. Additionally, the long term data continues to decline as daily cases and deaths are also decreasing.

He compared the Pima County metrics for today and for the last two meetings. The charts reflected continued progress in all areas. Also, a chart of District cases from the last board meeting and currently, showed a substantial decrease in staff and student cases.

Superintendent Jaeger talked about the mask mitigation measures. He said the current District mandate for masks (indoors) will be lifted next Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The change coincides with the county-wide mandate set by the Pima County Board of Supervisors for all indoor public places, which will expire on February 28, 2022. He stated people choosing to wear masks indoors will be encouraged and supported. Furthermore, the choice made (either way) must be respected by everyone.

He offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Kopec thanked him for his report, and stated he supported his decision regarding the mask mandate.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kopec read the Call to Audience Procedures

Mona Gibson made comments about the letter from Superintendent Jaeger regarding the end of the mask mandate and her thoughts about how damaging the mandate was to students over the course of the pandemic. She went on to speak about learning loss experienced over the last two years and the challenges that remain for teachers and students despite masks being optional. Ms. Gibson called for a full accounting of ESSER funds. She stated that funds should be moved from administrative costs to the classroom to address learning loss.

Timothy Hoyt is an Amphi parent and acknowledged that although the past two years have been challenging for Administration, he was troubled by the defect in the relationship between the parents and District leadership. Mr. Hoyt stated that the relationship broke down once parents' freedom to choose regarding masks was eliminated. He went on to say he didn't think it was the school district's job to restrict freedoms or to make decisions regarding students' physical health. Mr. Hoyt spoke about the need for the District to partner with parents and create trust in that relationship again.

Joni Kaminski is an Amphi parent and shared that she has been speaking out about the mask mandate for months and feels like no one had been listening. She shared her frustration over the lack of feedback and back and forth discussion about the mask mandate. She stated she is glad it is coming to an end but felt like it shouldn't have gone on for as long as it did. Ms. Kaminski went on to discuss the long term effects the mandate will have on children. She also spoke about the remaining quarantine guidelines and the differentiation in the protocols between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

Cami Reinhardt is an Amphi employee and shared that some of her colleagues have expressed their unhappiness with the Board in terms of transparency, use of ESSER funds, and the sick leave policy for those required to quarantine due to a COVID exposure. She spoke about unvaccinated employees having to use their own sick leave after a COVID exposure. Ms. Reinhardt stated that it has been proven that vaccinated individuals can also catch and spread COVID, but they are allowed to stay at work despite an exposure. She concluded by stating the District should re-visit the policy of separate COVID sick leave for employees.

Lorella Ritzel is an Amphi parent and employee. She stated that she felt disillusioned and not represented during the past months of the mask mandate. Ms. Ritzell said that the people she voted for on the Governing Board disheartened her. She spoke about an online petition she started a week ago that had received 206 electronic signatures. Ms. Ritzell also commented about how the quarantine policy differs between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

Stephanie Kirkland is an Amphi parent and stated that although she was glad the mask mandate is ending, she is very unhappy with the quarantine policy that remains in place. She mentioned her son was named as a close contact of a positive case and even though he is not sick, he has to stay home because he is unvaccinated. She will not test him for COVID. Ms. Kirkland stated that there needs to be more communication, and questioned how the federal ESSER money was being spent. She concluded by calling for the District administration and parents to partner to solve the problems that exist.

6. 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](#)

Mr. Kopec said he would like to remove Consent Agenda Item 1. A.

Mr. Kopec asked for a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items B. – Q. as presented. Ms. Zibrat moved for Consent Agenda Items B.-Q be approved as presented. Dr. Baker seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 3. Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items B.- Q. passed.

Superintendent Jaeger introduced Ms. Julie Valenzuela and recommended her for the position of Director of 21st Century Education for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Superintendent Jaeger spoke about Ms. Valenzuela's long history with the District, initially as a student. He talked about her work experience with the District, as a teacher, Instructional Support Leader, and Principal at La Cima Middle School. Currently, she is serving as the interim Director of 21st Century Education.

Superintendent Jaeger recommended Ms. Elizabeth Jacome for the position of Director of Curriculum and Assessments for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. He spoke about Ms. Jacome's work experience in the District and said she is currently the Principal at Coronado K-8 School. Before coming to Amphi her prior experience is with school districts in Texas and New Mexico.

Superintendent Jaeger said he was excited to have both of these positions filled with such qualified individuals.

Mr. Kopec moved for Consent Agenda Item A. be approved as presented. Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 3. Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Item A. passed.

To mark the occasion, a picture with Ms. Valenzuela, Ms. Jacome, the Governing Board members and Superintendent Jaeger was taken.

A. Approval of Appointment of Administrative Personnel

Administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 2.

B. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel

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

C. Approval of Personnel Changes

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

D. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence

Leaves of absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.

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

Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.

F. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

Stipend for coaching volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.

G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$1,341,527.10

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 |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1177 | \$19,605.24 | 1195 | \$40,568.23 | 1196 | \$40,536.43 |
| 1197 | \$39,040.32 | 1198 | \$65,147.72 | 1201 | \$180,892.25 |
| 1202 | \$7,810.08 | 1203 | \$14,080.39 | 1204 | \$563.93 |
| 1205 | \$47,526.18 | 1206 | \$128,402.24 | 1207 | \$185,113.15 |
| 1208 | \$112,435.01 | 1209 | \$37,949.44 | 1210 | \$168,008.54 |
| 1211 | \$253,847.95 | | | | |

H. Acceptance of Gifts

Gifts were accepted as presented in Exhibit 9.

I. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) - 2021-2022

The Governing Board approved Donaldson PTO, CDO Softball Booster and Amphi Baseball Booster Club for the 2021-2022 school year as submitted in Exhibit 10.

J. Approval of Disposal of Surplus Property via PublicSurplus.com

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

K. Award of Contract for Professional Groundskeeping Service - Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP) 2-10-2022

The Governing Board approved Award of Contract for Professional Groundskeeping Service - Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP) 2-10-2022 to Santa Rita Landscaping.

L. Award of Contract for CDO Central Plant Renovation - Based Upon Responses to Request for Bids (RFB) 2-10-2022

The Governing Board approved Award of Contract for CDO Central Plant Renovation - Based Upon Responses to Request for Bids (RFB) 2-10-2022 to Veregy.

M. Award of Contract for CDO East Parking Lot Improvement - Based Upon Responses to Request for Bids (RFB) 1-27-2022

The Governing Board approved Award of Contract for CDO East Parking Lot Improvement - Based Upon Responses to Request for Bids (RFB) 1-27-2022 to Pima Paving.

N. Award of Contract for Copper Creek Elementary MRP Roofing - Based Upon Responses to Invitation for Bids (IFB) 2-8-2022

The Governing Board approved Award of Contract for Copper Creek Elementary MRP Roofing - Based Upon Responses to Invitation for Bids (IFB) 2-8-2022 to Progressive Roofing.

O. Revisions to Governing Board Policy HD (Meet and Confer Procedures)

The Governing Board approved the Revisions to Governing Board Policy HD (Meet and Confer Procedures) as submitted in Exhibit 11.

P. Approval of Revised District Calendar for School Year 2022-2023 and Calendar for School Year 2023-2024

The Governing Board approved the Revised District Calendar for School Year 2022-2023 and Calendar for School Year 2023-2024 as submitted in Exhibit 12-14.

Q. Approval of Out of State Travel

The Governing Board approved out of state travel requests as presented in Exhibit 15.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

8. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kopec made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor- 3. Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed - 0. The meeting adjourned at 6:06p.m.



March 7, 2022

Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval

Date

Jennifer Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board

Gretchen Hahn, Secretary III, Governing Board Office

March 8, 2022

Vicki Cox Golder, Governing Board President

Date