



GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

DATE OF MEETING: February 23, 2016

TITLE: Implementation of Governing Board Program and Operational Appraisal Cycles

BACKGROUND:

The Governing Board is an elected body established by the Constitution and statutes of the State of Arizona to serve as the general agent of the state in carrying out the will of the people of this District with regard to the public education of children. The Board is authorized under the laws of the state to adopt policy for the organization, evaluation, and governance in the District. The Board also performs basic legislative, executive, and appraisal functions necessary to discharge its responsibilities:

- “The legislative function is the policy-making aspect of the District. It is the policy of the Board to retain and exercise full legislative authority and control over the schools by adopting general policies or by acting directly in matters not covered by its policies.
- The executive function of the Board is concerned with placing in operation existing Board policy. Most of this function is delegated by the Board to its executive and administrative officer, the Superintendent.
- The appraisal function involves the determination of the efficiency of the school operation and an evaluation of the educational program of the District based on the policies as outlined in the policy manual.”

Governing Board Policy BBA. Each of these basic functions of the Governing Board is vital to the District, ensuring the representative will and interests of the public in all aspects of District operations.

The legislative function of the Governing Board is currently facilitated through mechanisms that assure regular review of Governing Board Policy. Generally, studies of recommended policy revisions are presented at least every 60 days or so – often more frequently following factors like the close of the legislative session. In addition, the District has a full policy review cycle, whereby all Governing Board policies and regulations are studied every five years.

The executive functions of the Board, in turn, are generally delegated to the chief executive officer of the District, the Superintendent, who implements the Governing Board’s policy and other direction for the district through regulation and other means of oversight. Systems put in place by the Superintendent assure the regular and ongoing administrative review of executive functions, as do occasional Board reviews of administrative regulations and other actions by the Board.

Obviously, there are several mechanisms through which the Governing Board currently conducts its appraisal functions. One of these would be the occasional review of educational programs presented to the Board through informational, study or action Board Agenda Items. One specific example of such reviews would be the Monthly Principal Reports newly implemented by the Superintendent this fiscal year. Another would be the Governing Board’s direction to participate in the AdvancED® accreditation process and the study of the results therefrom. Yet another would be the annual review by the Board of staffing allocations.

To further facilitate the appraisal function of the Board, it is the recommendation of the Superintendent that a regular and ongoing system of evaluation of various educational programs and other operations of the District

be implemented. More specifically, the Superintendent proposes that the Governing Board conduct appraisals of key program and operation components on a revolving 5-year cycle. Components reviewed in this manner would first be presented to the Board as a discussion item at a Regular Governing Board Meeting in one month, to be followed by Study/Action items at the next Regular Governing Board Meeting the following month, to allow the Board Members sufficient time to study the issues and provide any appropriate feedback or direction.


The programmatic and operational components of the District which might be studied through this process would be diverse and important. They might include, but would not be limited to, such matters as specific curricula, budgetary matters, capital planning, facility conditions and needs, school schedules, employee benefit utilization, extracurricular programs, or special needs programs. For example, the Governing Board President recently requested an evaluation of the REACH Gifted Education Program.

The Superintendent would also recommend that the next item to be addressed through such a process be high school academic and extracurricular schedules, including school start times, instructional minutes, etc., which have recently been touched upon in other respects through other recent Board Agenda Items.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the Governing Board direct him to implement a 5-year cycle for key district programs and operations to provide enhanced mechanisms for Governing Board appraisal and evaluation of the same.

INITIATED BY:



Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: February 22, 2016



Patrick Nelson, Superintendent