



GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

DATE OF MEETING: April 14, 2020

TITLE: Periodic Legislative Update

BACKGROUND:

This item permits the Governing Board to review and discuss the status of K-12 education-related legislation proposed in the second regular session of the Fifty-fourth Arizona Legislature this year. The attachment provided with this item identifies the currently proposed legislation grouped together by the general topic. Information updated/added since the Board's March 10 review is noted in **BLUE**.

In addition, it is important to note that the Arizona Legislature recessed indefinitely on March 23, 2020, to slow the spread of COVID-19. When it did so, the legislature announced plans to reconvene in April to finish the session. Today, the legislature announced that it is in recess through the end of the month. At this point, it is unknown whether the legislature will reconvene before May 11, 2020, which will be the 120th day of this legislative session.

As noted on the attached list, only seven (7) bills related to K-12 education had passed through both houses when the recess occurred. All seven (7) of those bills were sent to the Governor and have since been signed into law. For the benefit of the Governing Board, a summary of those seven (7) new laws is included in this agenda item for easy reference. If the legislature reconvenes this year and new laws added, a summary will be provided of those new laws at the June Board meeting.

Summary of 2020 Education Bills Signed by Governor to Date

A. House Bills

- HB2109 (*Unification; Consolidation; Notice; Ballot Language*), signed by Governor on March 23, 2020, addresses procedures for a special election for unification of school districts.
- HB2625 (*Civics Celebration Day; Civics Education*), signed by Governor on March 24, 2020, recognizes September 25 of each year as Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Celebration Day, not as a legal holiday, but as a day during which each public school is required to dedicate the majority of the school day to civics education.
- HB2684 (*Crisis Management Team; Underperforming Districts*), signed by Governor on March 24, 2020, requires Arizona Department of Education to establish a crisis management team to recommend necessary changes for any persistently underperforming school district.
- HB2902 (*K-12 Education; Budget Reconciliation*) signed by Governor on March 28, 2020, provides a bare-bones emergency budget for K-12 education for FY 21.
- HB2910 (*Public School Closures; Coronavirus Disease*), signed by Governor on March 27, 2020, addresses the effect of school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic on the remainder of the school year, including, but not limited to providing a waiver on instructional minutes, permitting remote learning, maintaining school letter grades, waiving state-mandated assessments, and requiring reassignment of employees unable to work remotely for wage protection.

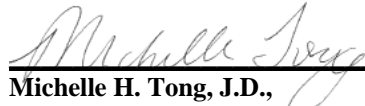
B. SENATE BILLS

- SB1036 (*Empowerment Scholarships; Third-Party Administrator; Repeal*), signed by Governor on March 20, 2020, repeals statute requiring Arizona Department of Education to contract with a third-party administrator to assist in the financial administration of empowerment scholarship accounts.
- SB1224 (*Empowerment Scholarships; Qualified Schools; Reservations Empowerment Scholarships; Qualifications; Administration; Appropriations*), signed by Governor on March 20, 2020, expands definition of “qualified school” for the purpose of Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts, to include a nongovernmental primary or secondary school or a preschool for students with disabilities that is located in an adjacent state and that is within two miles of the boundary of that Indian reservation.

RECOMMENDATION:

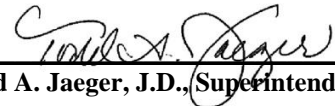
This item is presented for the Board’s information only at this time. No action is required.

INITIATED BY:



Michelle H. Tong, J.D.,
Associate to the Superintendent and General Counsel

Date: April 13, 2020



Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent