



GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

DATE OF MEETING: June 18, 2013

TITLE: Study of Proposed Revisions to Governing Board Policies EBC (Emergencies) and JK (Student Discipline).

BACKGROUND:

Two Governing Board policies are recommended for revision, as described below.

EBC - Emergencies. A.R.S. 15-341 provides that “the Governing Board shall, in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies and local medical facilities, develop an emergency response plan for each school in the school district in accordance with minimum standards developed jointly by the department of education and the division of emergency management within the department of emergency and military affairs.” The District has previously developed emergency plans for each site in the District in accordance with the law. Beginning, last summer, the District administration began the process of studying existing site plans for necessary revision. This process included participation in statewide training offered by the Arizona Department of Education. This summer, General Counsel will be attending further training in anticipation of the revision and district staff training that is planned for the 2013-2014 school year.

In the attached draft of revisions to the District’s existing policy on emergency plans, language is augmented to require training of staff and to mandate compliance with the state’s minimum standards. While the District would comply with such minimum standards in any event (they are “minimum”), it is advisable for the Board’s policy to reflect compulsion of the same. Other changes proposed would simplify and clarify responsible parties.

JK - Student Discipline. As described in previous legislative updates, the Fifty-first Arizona Legislature recently passed House Bill 2476 which amended A.R.S. §15-843 relating to student discipline. The bill is applicable to all students and mandates that, beginning in school year 2013-2014, disciplinary policies for the confinement of students left alone in an enclosed space shall include specific requirements that include:

- A process for prior written parental notification that confinement may be used for disciplinary purposes that is included in the student’s enrollment packet for admission form.
- A process for written parental consent before confinement is allowed for any student in the school district.
- An exemption to prior written parental consent if a school principal or teacher determines that the student poses imminent physical harm to self or others.
- The school principal or teacher shall make reasonable attempts to notify the student’s parent/guardian in writing by the end of the same day that confinement was used.

The revisions included in the attachment will ensure compliance with these new mandates. In an upcoming Board item, the administration will also be presenting proposed revisions to the Governing Board's separate policy on restraint and seclusion which will further define and implement the general provisions of Policy JCK.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is presented for the Board's study at this time. The policy revisions will be presented again for the Board's action at a subsequent meeting.

INITIATED BY:



Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: June 12, 2013



Patrick Nelson, Superintendent