



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

DATE OF MEETING: **May 7, 2019**

TITLE: **Determination of Proposed Issues for Consideration for the Arizona School Boards Association 2020 Political Agenda**

BACKGROUND:

The Arizona School Boards Association, of which the District is a member, is holding its annual ASBA Delegate Assembly on September 7, 2019. The Delegate Assembly determines ASBA's positions for any future Special Sessions of the current legislature and for the First Regular Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislature (and any special meetings).

In advance of the September Delegate Assembly, ASBA is requesting that individual Governing Boards review its 2019 Political Agenda, attached, as compiled at its 2018 annual meeting. From the Agenda, ASBA asks the Board to affirm its top five (5) priorities and then select two (2) additional priorities for consideration by the ASBA Legislative Committee. The deadline for submission of the priorities is May 24, 2019.

At its June 14, 2019 meeting, the ASBA Legislative Committee will create a draft document to be circulated, during the week of June 17, 2019, to all governing boards and superintendents. That document will be the basis for discussion at the official Delegate Assembly on September 7, 2019. The Item for appointment of a Delegate and Alternate to the ASBA Delegate Assembly will be submitted to the Board in August.

On November 13, 2018, the Governing Board's determined its own 2019 legislative priorities:

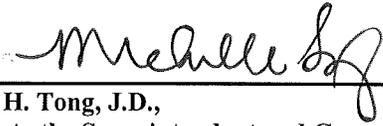
1. Provide Adequate Funding for K-12 Education.
2. Maintain Desegregation Funding.
3. Provide Adequate Funding to Serve English Language Learners.
4. Establish a Reliable and Adequate Source of Funding for the School Facilities Board.
5. Provide User-friendly and Practical Reporting Requirements and Provide Funding Support for the Same.
6. Protect and Support Educator Due Process Rights.
7. Provide Adequate Funding to Serve Special Education Student.

The Governing Board may want to use these legislative priorities as a starting point as it considers the attached ASBA 2019 Political Agenda. After the Board votes to approve its top five (5) priorities as well as the two (2) additional priorities to put forward to the ASBA, the District administration will submit the information to the ASBA on behalf of the Governing Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

This Item is presented for the Board's consideration and discussion of proposed Action Agenda Items for submission to the ASBA Legislation Committee. By motion, the Board will need to state their recommended top five legislative priorities (and two alternative recommendations) for submission to ASBA.

INITIATED BY:



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

Date: April 29, 2019



Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS



Adequately and Equitably Fund District Schools to at Least the National Median per Pupil Funding.

- Provide additional state funding for nationally competitive salaries to attract, recruit, and retain talented teachers and staff.
- Revise the School Finance formula to:
 - Provide a stable, dedicated revenue source less reliant on the general fund or annual legislative appropriation.
 - Ensure the formula addresses the unique financial needs of schools serving students in poverty and in rural schools.
- Fully fund full-day kindergarten and include kindergarten students in the override calculations.
- Advocate to preserve and protect the voters' original intent of Prop 301.
- Provide adequate ongoing resources to ensure district equipment and facilities are maintained and comply with at least minimum school facility standards.
- Accelerate full restoration of district additional assistance (DAA) funding.
- Provide new school construction funding for site acquisition, design, and construction before existing schools exceed their maximum capacity and become overcrowded.

- Eliminate unfunded mandates and administrative burdens.
- Return desegregation funding to a primary tax levy.
- Conduct an exceptional student services cost study to provide greater equity in funding and access for exceptional student services within the public-school system.
- Adequately fund the cost of student transportation.
- Provide funding for preschool programs.
- Reform current year funding to a system that provides districts with appropriate stable annual budgeting ability and technical reliability.
- Prorate funding over the entire school year among all schools that a student has attended during the year for any student that changes enrollment during the year but has not moved.
- Provide funding to individual districts to implement locally directed school safety initiatives.

Preserve and Strengthen Local Control

- Maximize local control and flexibility in managing funds and programs.
- Maintain board control of all secondary property tax levies for district schools.
- Change "override/budget increase" language to better reflect what voters are being asked to support.
- Allow school districts greater flexibility in the divestiture or use of taxpayer-funded assets.

- Preserve elected governing boards as the final authority in selecting qualified vendors to provide products or services to school districts.
- Allow districts the option to operate individual schools for 200-day years and increase accompanying funding.
- Oppose legislative intrusion on school site budgeting decisions.
- Maintain exclusive local authority over any measure that would propose to consolidate and/or unify any number of school districts into a larger school district.

Improve Outcomes for All Students

- Increase the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 years.
- Enact research-based reform of the English Language Learner model of instruction to improve student achievement that does not segregate English Language Learners from English speaking peers; integrates reading, writing and oral language instruction; and incorporates multiple assessment measures to demonstrate English proficiency.
- Fully restore 9th grade CTE/JTED eligibility and funding to allow students to explore career fields and/or certification completion.
- Allow JTEDs to serve students through age 21 regardless of graduation status.

- Support policy that recognizes and respects teaching as a profession.
- State standardized testing shall not be used for any purpose other than a year over year measurement of student growth in the tested subject.
- Support policy that protects school district employees and students from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Require Public Accountability for Taxpayer Dollars Spent on Education

- Establish financial and academic transparency for all institutions that accept public funds.
- Repeal any program that gives public funds for private schools, vouchers (Empowerment Scholarship Accounts) and private school subsidies (Student Tuition Organizations) and prevent any future expansion.
- Require comparative classroom spending audits for school districts and all other institutions that accept public funds and define "classroom spending" as both instructional spending and student support spending.
- Require consistency in the recusal of a board member from a decision in which the member or the member's employer stands to benefit financially.
- Enforce financial requirements and seek recovery of improperly received and/or expended public funds by charter and private schools and organizations.

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ISSUES FOR LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION –
2020 POLITICAL AGENDA

The Governing Board of _____ School District presents the following issue(s) to the ASBA Legislative Committee as adopted by the Governing Board on _____

Top Five Priorities

Rationale

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Additional items for consideration

Rationale

1. _____
2. _____

Please include the rationale for each proposed item. This will help provide context during the Legislative Committee discussion.

PLEASE RETURN BY: MAY 24, 2019

ASBA FAX #: 602.254.1177 OR EMAIL: gross@azsba.org

Prefer to complete this form online? [Click here.](#)

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