



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

DATE OF MEETING: March 8, 2011

TITLE: Review of Draft District Calendar for School Year 2012-2013

BACKGROUND: The District's school year calendar must meet specific requirements under Arizona law for the number of instructional days; state law mandates that public schools must have a minimum of "180 instructional days". Since the 180 day requirement went into effect, however, Arizona law has also provided permission for districts to meet the 180 day standard through an equivalent number of instructional minutes over fewer days. For several years, the Amphitheater District has utilized the equivalent instructional minutes option, resulting in slightly shorter school years of 178 school days.

The attached draft calendar for the fiscal year after next (2012-2013) again reflects a calendar of 178 days. Current budget discussions at the state capitol suggest the number of school days could vary, however. One of the budget reduction options under consideration by the legislature is a five-day reduction in mandatory school days (180 to 175). This could, of course, impact the calendar for next school year (2011-2012) as well as the calendar currently under study (2012-2013). Thus, future revision of these calendars may be required.

Because the District's calendar does not have "extra" school days built into it, any emergency closure of schools due to weather or other factors must be addressed by ensuring the requisite instructional minute requirements are still met. The District and the Amphitheater Education Association (on behalf of District employees) have agreed that if any schools are closed as a result of any emergency, certificated staff at those schools will have an equivalent number of student reporting days added to their work calendar without additional compensation -- generally by turning the planning days at the end of each semester into student reporting days. As long as the state permits the district to use equivalent instructional minutes rather than 180 days, the district's school calendars will be constructed in this same manner.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for the Board's approval, which is recommended.

INITIATED BY:

Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: March 2, 2011

Vicki Balentine, Ph.D., Superintendent