



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

DATE OF MEETING: April 10, 2018

TITLE: School Social Work Association of Arizona Public Educator of the Year -
Chris Gutierrez

BACKGROUND:

The School Social Work Association of Arizona, based in Tucson, Arizona is a nonprofit, professional association founded in 1991. Formed to promote communication, collaboration, and cooperation among school social workers in the state of Arizona, the Association sponsors an annual conference that provides continuing education opportunities, provides mini-grants to fund projects undertaken by members, and publishes a bi-monthly newsletter. Each year at their conference, they honor three individuals: one category is the Public Educator of the Year, which is defined as:

...an educator who has made an exemplary contribution to the academic and social success of children by focusing on prevention and or intervention with children to enhance their academic, emotional, and social functioning.

Capella Hauer, the Social Worker at Holaway, nominated Principal Chris Gutierrez, for this award.

Here is part of what she wrote in her nomination:

“Every year on the first day of school at Holaway Elementary, Principal Gutierrez can be heard reminding his staff, “Your only job today is to make your students feel loved.”

“Mr. Gutierrez recognizes that in order to really learn, a child must first feel safe and supported. Most importantly, he finds a way to make his Elementary school a sanctuary that children and families love to come to. Aside from school wide programs such as PBIS, Mr. Gutierrez has also helped create a Summer Home Visit Program as well as “Project Starfish”, a program providing support to truant students. He recognizes the need for academic growth as well as emotional and social stability for his students, and consistently collaborates with the school social worker to ensure these areas are addressed.”

Mr. Gutierrez was honored at the SSWAAZ Annual Conference Award Breakfast on February 9, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is presented for the Board’s recognition.

INITIATED BY:

Monica Nelson, Associate Superintendent

Date: March 29, 2018

Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent
