



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

---

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

**TITLE:**            **Recognition of Student's Exemplary Leadership During School Emergency**

---

**BACKGROUND:**

On April 11, 2019, just after the school day ended, Canyon del Oro High School went on lockdown due to social media posting that posed a potential school threat. The CDO administration immediately notified police, who responded quickly to secure the campus. That process took more than two hours.

After the incident, several people, including parents and Oro Valley Police Officers, contacted us to tell us about Emalyn Brown, a CDO senior who showed exemplary leadership during the crisis. Here is the account of what happened:

Emalyn was in the P.E. office when the last bell rang, and about 30 students who have P.E. that hour were changing in the locker room. The P.E. teacher, Ms. Gerard, was on the track working with students.

When Emalyn heard the principal's lockdown announcement, she jumped into action, instructing one student to watch the gym door and another to watch Ms. Gerard's door. Emalyn closed the steel doors in locker room and told her fellow students they could text but could not make phone calls. She told them to tell their parents not to come to campus.

She then had the girls gather in the teacher's office because it was a smaller room with only two doors for access. She went to the teacher's computer to monitor email updates from the principal. She and the other girls stacked filing cabinets to block the doors. They stacked drawers to cover the window and turned off the lights.

Emalyn gathered the girls and created an action plan in case something happened: Emalyn would be the one to go first and would carry the fire extinguisher to use if an intruder came in. Half the girls would fight a potential intruder, and half would unblock the other door so everyone could run. The freshmen went into Ms. Gerard's bathroom and locked the door. Eighteen girls were in the bathroom.

They decided that even if they heard an announcement, they wouldn't open doors until someone came with a key. Below is how Emalyn described what happened next:

*When the police came to the door, they knocked, and we didn't say anything. They kept knocking. They noticed the door was locked. They said, "Let us in," and I said "No."*

*They said "You have to," and I said, "Not unless you have a key."*

*They said, "We don't have keys," and I said "Then you're not getting in."*

*They asked how many girls I had with me. I started crying and told them it was none of their business. I heard Vossler's voice and they got a key and opened the door. I was holding the fire extinguisher, ready to pull it.*

*I'm living my life to the fullest now.*

We commend Emalyn's courage and leadership during this difficult situation. She exhibited extraordinary problem-solving skills, quick-thinking and resourcefulness in a frightening and stressful situation.

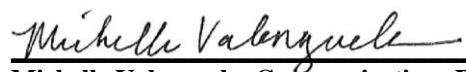
---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is presented for the Board's information and recognition.

---

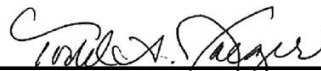
**INITIATED BY:**



---

Michelle Valenzuela, Communications Director

Date: May 1, 2019



---

Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent