

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

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A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held Tuesday, December 8, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 West Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ in the Leadership & Professional Development Center. The meeting was held under COVID-19 pandemic related conditions.

**Governing Board Members Present**

Ms. Deanna M. Day, M.Ed., President  
Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, Vice President  
Dr. Scott K. Baker, Member  
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member  
Ms. Susan Zibrat, Member

**Superintendent's Cabinet Members Present**

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent  
Dr. Roseanne Lopez, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education  
Mr. Michael Bejarano, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education  
Ms. Michelle H. Tong, J.D., Associate to the Superintendent and Legal Counsel  
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Director of Student Services  
Ms. Tassi Call, Director of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education  
Dr. Shannon McKinney, Director of Curriculum and Assessment  
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND SIGNING OF THE VISITOR'S REGISTER**

President Day called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and invited members of the audience to sign the visitors' register.

*President Day noted that this meeting was being streamed live for compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for public gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Amphi will be following CDC recommendations for public gatherings. She requested that all persons present exercise safe social distancing for this Board meeting.*

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Jaeger announced the Pledge of Allegiance would be led virtually by students from Donaldson Elementary School and he invited Principal J. J. Letts to introduce the students. She said the students were proud to be able to show their patriotism this month. She introduced the following third grade students who led the virtual Pledge of Allegiance, Dylan, Jeniyah, Kash, Jordan, Czarina, Hudson, Lizzy, Warren, Jeslyn, Romeo, Reese, Isaias.

**3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART**

President Day invited Ms. Letts to talk about the art displayed in the Governing Board room that was done by students from Donaldson Elementary School. She said the school has a new art teacher this year, Ms. Scarlett Chang. She explained even though the students have not spent much time in the classroom, they have experimented with different techniques, including line, splatter, working from memory, value added pieces, and art theory. Ms. Letts said is very proud of the wonderful and imaginative work they have created.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

President Day announced the next Board meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ, 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

**5. RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards**

Superintendent Jaeger invited Mr. Bejarano to introduce this award and the recipients.

Mr. Bejarano explained that the Distinguished Service Award is presented monthly to employees to recognize them for their initiative, collaboration, loyalty, and contribution to the Amphitheater School District. These employees represent a high level of dedication and commitment to the Amphi family, and the values and mission of the District.

Mr. Bejarano announced the Distinguished Service Award recipient for classified staff for the month of December 2020 was Ms. Jody Shipton, Health Aide at Painted Sky Elementary School. A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Shipton for the work she has done in the District.

Mr. Bejarano announced the Distinguished Service Award recipient for certified staff for the month of December 2020 was Ms. Peggy Marner, teacher at Holaway Elementary School. A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Marner for the work she has done in the District.

On behalf of the Board, the District presented Ms. Shipton and Ms. Marner with a certificate, a DSA award, and a gift card from the Amphi Foundation. A group picture of Ms. Shipton, Ms. Marner, the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger was taken to mark the occasion.

**B. 2020 Arizona School Public Relations Communications Awards**

Superintendent Jaeger announced the Amphitheater School District's Communications Department received multiple awards this year from the Arizona School Public Relations Association (ASPRA). The awards recognize standards of excellence in school public relations through its annual ASPRA\*itions Awards. The winning entries are from the prior year and demonstrate public relations principles, creativity and a commitment to improving communications. A certificate was presented to Ms. Valenzuela, who acknowledged Cynthia Washington as being part of the team that created these projects that promote the District in such a positive way.

On behalf of the Board, the District presented Ms. Valenzuela with a certificate of congratulations. A group picture of Ms. Valenzuela, Ms. Washington, the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger was taken to mark the occasion.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*President Day asked if there were any public comments. Ms. Smith said there were comments sent in earlier to be read at tonight's meeting and noted that there were people in attendance to speak to the Board as well. President Day reminded the speakers of the Call to the Audience Procedures.*

Chris Ackerly, teacher at Amphitheater High School (AHS) said the Amphi Education Association (Amphi EA) sent out a survey over Thanksgiving break. He shared the results of approximately 345 responses from members and non-members. The first survey question was, "Is what we are doing now sustainable?" 52% responded no, and responses varied between sites and grade levels. The second question asked "What should be done differently?" The options offered were: remote, hybrid, full in-person, or make significant changes to the hybrid model. 57% preferred all remote, 17% hybrid as it is now, 8% requested full in-person. The last question asked was, "What would you do to change it?" He said responses were varied for each learning option. Mr. Ackerly commented that in his classes, 120 students were registered in the fall, 20% never attended and 20% have withdrawn. Of the remaining students, 50% attend on in-person days and less on remote days. He is concerned about the lack of

student attendance at AHS and suggested something different needs to be done, so more students are not lost.

Darlene Rowe, teacher at Coronado K-8 School, had a few questions for the Board. She asked, what did the Board think of the contents of a letter that was sent from Coronado, since no acknowledgement was received? Does the District plan another survey for parents before winter break? What is the plan for the students on Amphi Academy Online (AAO) waitlist? Is the Board aware of how many students throughout the District, do not attend school on their assigned hybrid days? Have the teachers been asked how many students are not attending on their off campus days, and what is being done to engage them? Why is there inconsistency among sites with COVID-19 protocols concerning cleaning and quarantining? Is there a plan to return to remote learning by necessity, and will teachers be informed about it?

Daniel Roper said he spoke three weeks ago concerning the increase in COVID-19 cases in the county. He felt the data on the county dashboard is out of date and the cases are already trending upward. He hoped the District would not wait until the next Board meeting on January 12, 2021 to discuss a school closure.

Ms. Tong read an email from Allison Towell. She said she is an aunt to two students who live with her and her family. She feels the children would benefit from classes designed for students with learning disabilities. She proposed that all students be tested with standardized tests and be placed in classes based on their test scores to get the type of instruction they need. For example, if the student has a learning disability they need to be in a class where the teacher can simplify the material so the student can understand it better. Ms. Towell felt fundraisers could be used to raise money to support the additional expenses.

Ms. Tong read an email from Liz Yeager, World and IB History Teacher at Canyon del Oro High School. She said students are struggling, some are not attending classes, and their grades reflect that. She said staff are overwhelmed and cannot continue teaching with the hybrid format. She asked students to complete a grade reflection to help her understand why students' grades and performances are lower than the first quarter. Some comments were; the student did not feel safe in school with COVID numbers high, so they do not attend at all. Another student commented it was easier with remote, because they had the teacher support and now the teacher is busy teaching the other class. One student said it is hard to keep up with assignments for six classes, going back and forth with in-person, and online is overwhelming. Ms. Yeager said she has observed the following trends in her classes: double the number of D's and F's than last quarter, declining engagement, and it is challenging to collaborate or do group work because of increased absences. She requested the Board consider returning to remote learning at the secondary level.

## **7. INFORMATION<sup>1</sup>**

### **A. Superintendent's Report**

*For Superintendent Jaeger's Power Point Presentation see Exhibit 1.*

Superintendent Jaeger shared some events and activities that happened in the District. He showed some pictures from Donaldson Elementary School where students had been learning about the creatures that live in nests. They collected materials outside and built a nest for their hedgehog called Pinecone Hazel Hedgie.

Another picture showed Amphi High School students learning about color, iridescence, and the wave property of light by creating giant bubbles.

At Wilson K-8, a picture showed the goodbye parade that was held for retiring groundskeeper, Wayne MacGowan. Mr. MacGowan joined the Amphi Family in 1986, and has worked at Wilson K-8 since 2001. Superintendent Jaeger expressed his thanks and gratitude for the many years Mr. MacGowan has supported the District.

A picture from Prince Elementary School, showed second and third graders in music class. They are learning about the Nutcracker ballet, and the four elements of ballet: dance, acting, music and costumes.

At Mesa Verde Elementary School, a picture showed the Motor Lab, featuring different activities, including reindeer hula-hooping, carpet skating, and drawing a figure-eight snowman.

Amphie the Elf has returned! Pictures showed him visiting schools in the District for a photo shoot. The students enjoyed knowing Amphi was at their school.

Superintendent Jaeger thanked the Amphi Foundation for their Shoes to Smiles program, which is being done a little differently this year. Recently, six children at Lulu Walker Elementary School were given new shoes. The Amphi Foundation also donated 250 reusable water bottles to schools to hand out as needed for students to use at the bottle filler, since the drinking fountains have been shut off. To express their appreciation to District employees, the Amphi Foundation provided lunch to all employees in the District. 200 pizzas and 80 trays of salad from Mama's Pizza was distributed by Foundation board members to every school and department in the District.

He also thanked School Resource Officer Lucero, from Prince Elementary School, and Officer Figueroa, from Amphitheater Middle School. At Thanksgiving, they each sponsored five families.

Superintendent Jaeger then reviewed data from the Pima County Health Department (PCHD) relating to schools re-opening.

Disease Data Indicators: Cases over two consecutive weeks; Percent positivity; are red and COVID-19 like illnesses are yellow.

Health Care System Availability: Lab testing availability and utilization; Adequate hospital bed capacity to care for two-times the current COVID-19 cases (+ surge) – statewide; Sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for emergency responders – they are green, red, and yellow respectively.

PCHD Public Health Tracking and Prevention: Timely case investigation; Testing of symptomatic contacts within 48 hours; and Facilities/support for patients who can't be discharged home statewide are red, green, and yellow respectively.

He reported that the indicators in the red category have increased from two to four and that until all indicators are green the county health metrics recommend hybrid learning only.

Superintendent Jaeger presented information from the Pima County Health Department (PCHD) showing a county-wide transmission rate of about 2.8% inside schools. Community-based spread is a great concern. Although cases in schools are increasing, the majority of school cases are being contracted outside of schools. Masks, social-distancing and contact tracing are working and keeping COVID-19 outbreaks out of schools. Of the county-wide school campus transmission cases, over two-thirds were related to athletic activities including football and cheerleading.

He reported, data from the state is recommending hybrid learning at this time.

Superintendent Jaeger said School Operations Associate Superintendents will be presenting information on hybrid learning and invited Mr. Bejarano to give an update.

Mr. Bejarano explained that culture and the climate of each school is very important and he wanted to showcase some creative solutions that schools did to continue their traditions and keep a sense of normalcy. He showed some pictures of innovative ideas schools used; including spirit week, a DNA lab, engineering collaboration when one student was home and the other was in the lab, a socially distanced choir practice, club meetings, and selfies for student ID's. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities showed puppet making, building a weight bearing structure with marshmallows and spaghetti, and constructing houses with graham crackers.

Dr. Lopez said many teachers are reporting that on the in-person days, student engagement is high, and they are learning a lot. She showed some pictures of the activities the students are participating in including, STEM Can grant boxes students used at home, students at Mesa Verde Elementary School

studying rocks and minerals, then creating their own fossils, and other students combining literature and STEM projects. Additional pictures showed students at Innovation Academy using 3D design pens to make an item to use on the Oregon Trail, and a drive through band concert for parents at Painted Sky Elementary School. She commented the daily Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum is making a difference and students are becoming more confident.

Mr. Bejarano reported that a continuing challenge is the increasing number of students who do not log on during their assigned at home learning days. They are discussing ideas to encourage students to log on and work on assignments during their remote learning days. Another challenge is providing coverage for both certified and classified employees who are either sick or need to be quarantined.

Dr. Lopez gave an update on Amphi Academy Online (AAO). She said there are 83 elementary students and 177 secondary students on the waitlist. A simple survey was sent to AAO elementary families. The survey asked if they intended on continuing with AAO for the second semester. Only a few families were not returning, but not enough to effect all the students on the waitlist. She commented that this school year they have found that surveys are not always a true reflection of what people actually do.

Superintendent Jaeger said that people are split on the type of learning model they prefer. Full in-person is preferred by about 40%, and 40% also prefer hybrid learning. Remote learning only is preferred by 15-20% of people. He acknowledged that no one model meets the needs of all students, families and staff. He said given all the challenges, the teachers are doing their best to effectively teach all students. He acknowledged that student attendance continues to be a problem. Superintendent Jaeger said he appreciates the input he receives, but will continue to rely on the guidance of public health officials.

Superintendent Jaeger asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Baker stated that he is concerned about the number of students that are not attending and realizes staffing and substitute issues are a problem. He was glad to hear the District has identified those challenges and has a plan in place.

## 8. **CONSENT AGENDA**<sup>3</sup>

*Details of agenda items, supporting documents, and presentations are available in the electronic BoardBook by clicking on the hyperlink below.*

<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2065>

*President Day asked if there were any Items that should be pulled for further discussion. There were none. President Day moved for Consent Agenda Items A. – N. be approved as presented. Vice President Cox Golder seconded the motion. Roll call vote in favor – 5: President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Roll call vote opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items A. - N. passed.*

### **A. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel**

*Non-administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 2.*

### **B. Approval of Personnel Change**

*Certified and classified personnel changes were approved as listed in Exhibit 3.*

### **C. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence**

*Leave(s) of absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 4.*

### **D. Approval of Separation(s) and Termination(s)**

*Separation(s) and termination(s) were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.*

### **E. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers**

*Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.*

### **F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

*Minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting was approved as submitted in Exhibit 7.*

**G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$2,191,679.57**

*A copy of vouchers for goods and services received by the Amphitheater Public Schools and recommended for payment has been provided to the Governing Board. The following vouchers were approved as presented and payment authorized as listed in Exhibit 8.*

| Voucher # | Amount      | Voucher # | Amount       | Voucher # | Amount       |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1123      | \$92,337.18 | 1124      | \$390,552.38 | 1126      | \$227,561.40 |
| 1127      | \$63,753.95 | 1128      | \$105,210.76 | 1129      | \$752,105.67 |
| 1130      | \$9,704.50  | 1131      | \$32,536.94  | 1132      | \$60,861.00  |
| 1133      | \$67,949.94 | 1134      | \$37,902.72  | 1136      | \$246,430.35 |
| 1137      | \$161.60    | 1138      | \$51,085.61  | 1139      | \$53,525.57  |

**H. Acceptance of Gifts**

*Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as listed in Exhibit 9.*

**I. Receipt of October 2020 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances**

*The Governing Board approved the October 2020 report on school auxiliary and club balances as listed in Exhibit 10.*

**J. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) - 2020-2021**

*The Governing Board approved Painted Sky PTO, Project Graduation – CDO, CDO Orchestra Booster Club, Ironwood Ridge Cross Country and Track, and CDO Woman Soccer Booster Club for the 2020-2021 school year as submitted in Exhibit 11.*

**K. Approval of the 2021-2022 District 301 Plan**

*The Governing Board approved the 2021-2022 District 301 Plan as submitted in Exhibit 12.*

**L. Summer Institute 2020 Teacher Stipends**

*The Governing Board approved the Summer Institute 2020 teacher stipends as submitted in Exhibit 13.*

**M. Approval of 2021-2022 Governing Board Meeting Schedule**

*The Governing Board approved the 2021-2022 Governing Board meeting schedule as submitted in Exhibit 14.*

**N. Approval of Supplemental Texts and Materials**

*The Governing Board approved the supplemental texts and materials as submitted in Exhibit 15.*

**9. STUDY/ACTION**

**A. Study and Approval of the Governing Board's Legislative Priorities for the 2021 Fiscal Year**

Superintendent Jaeger said this is the time of year for the Board to approve the legislative priorities for the District in advance of the state legislative session. He recommended the Board approve the priorities unless they wanted to make some changes. Mr. Kopek voiced his concerns about the fairness of traditional assessments and testing components this year. After discussion, the Board requested a provision be added to pursue some relief on testing.

*President Day moved to adopt the Governing Board's Legislative Priorities for the 2021 Fiscal Year as presented with a provision added to pursue some relief on testing. Mr. Kopek seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote in favor - 5: President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopek and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed - 0. The item passed.*

**B. Study and Approval of the Revised Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Superintendent Jaeger explained that districts are required to update their budgets throughout the year and asked Mr. Little to present this item to the Board.

Mr. Little commented that this is the strangest budget revision he has ever made. He said by law school districts must revise their budgets in December to accurately reflect their student enrollment. A change for this budget is a reduction in funding of approximately \$7,450,00.00. The District will

receive an allocation of \$5,614,000.00 from the Enrollment Stability Grant. He explained in detail many factors affecting the budget in the future.

Mr. Little asked if there were any questions.

Vice President Cox Golder commented that in the past the student attendance calculation was based on the 100<sup>th</sup> day. She asked why is the 40<sup>th</sup> day being used now. Mr. Little said using the 40<sup>th</sup> day for attendance allows the state to align with the new calculation guideline of December 31, 2020. She asked when is the 100<sup>th</sup> day. Mr. Little responded approximately January 20, 2021.

*President Day moved to approve the Revised Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 as presented. Vice President Cox Golder seconded the motion. Roll call vote in favor - 5: President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Roll call vote opposed - 0. The item passed.*

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

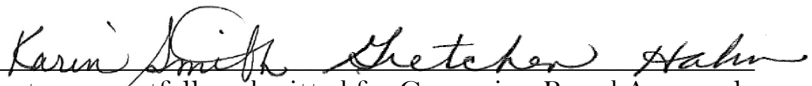
*There were none.*

**11. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

President Day requested information on the District's grading practices and the standards utilized, including the weighted grading system. She also requested a report on the impact of COVID-19 on student internships and work experience programs.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

*President Day made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Cox Golder seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call vote in favor - 5: President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Roll call vote opposed - 0. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.*

  
Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval  
*Karin Smith, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board*  
*Gretchen Hahn, Secretary III, Governing Board Office*

January 11, 2021  
Date

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Deanna M. Day, M.Ed., Governing Board President

January 12, 2021  
Date