



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

DATE OF MEETING: **April 7, 2015**

TITLE: **Study and/or Action Regarding New STEM Elementary School Construction**

BACKGROUND:

At its March 24 meeting, the Governing board reviewed the current bond program – its genesis, its elements and progress, and the remaining body of work yet to be completed under the voter approved program, with a focus on the new STEM elementary school.

Work on the new school has been underway in some form since before the bond election occurred, but has particularly intensified of course during the last several months, as the project has gotten underway.

As we reviewed during the March 24 discussion, planning for the new school required capital budget set asides over the last few years to ensure the district could meet budget demands for costs not covered by the bonds at the time the school was set to open in FY16-17.

However, the recent actions of the Legislature and Governor to again cut school district capital budgets – now to the proverbial bare bones – creates an unimagined reality that necessitates consideration of the immediate future of the new school project. Indeed, who could imagine that our legislature would cut several million dollars in capital funding from our District, leaving it with little more than a handful of change next year, in relative terms. The limited capital funds remaining in next year’s budget offer little ability for a school district of Amphitheater’s size to operate and maintain its existing schools, let alone open an entirely new one within a year.

The school was originally time tabled for opening in the fall of 2016, requiring that construction begin in the next few months. Proceeding with construction to maintain that original time line would require commitment of not only the capital accrued for the new school to date but also the lion’s share of the small amount of capital funding for next year.

One possible action for the near future would be to delay the timeline for construction of the school for one year. Such action would allow the District some now very necessary time to absorb the realities of the additional capital budget reductions for next fiscal year and allow additional time to further build capacity to meet the budgetary demands (particularly with respect to capital needs) for the opening of a new school.

In the meantime, however, the design phase of the school could proceed through to the completion of construction documents, as that work does not require the expenditure of maintenance and operations funds or capital funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Administration recommends the Governing Board approve a one-year delay on the construction schedule of the new STEM elementary school, with continuation of the design phase without delay.

INITIATED BY:

Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: April 3, 2015

Patrick Nelson, Superintendent
