



GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

DATE OF MEETING: **March 8, 2016**

TITLE: **Study of District Calendar for School Year 2017-2018**

BACKGROUND:

The District's school year calendar must meet specific requirements under Arizona law, including a "minimum" number of instructional days; state law mandates that public schools meet 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 (2017-2018) again reflects a calendar of 178 days.

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. Consequently, the District and the Amphitheater Education Association (on behalf of District employees) previously 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 review and discussion; no action needs to be taken at this time. The item will be presented for approval at a future meeting.

INITIATED BY:

Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: February 24, 2016

Patrick Nelson, Superintendent