

Minutes of the Special Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, September 15, 2020

A Special public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held Tuesday, September 15, 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
Dr. Scott K. Baker, Member
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member
Ms. Susan Zibrat, Member

Governing Board Members Absent

Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, Vice President

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 21st Century Education
Mr. James Burns, Executive Manager of Operational Support
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications
Dr. Shannon McKinney, Director of Curriculum and Assessment

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. In addition, she requested that all persons present exercise safe social distancing for this Board meeting. There was a quorum at this meeting.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Day asked Ms. Valenzuela to lead the Pledge.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SPECIAL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

President Day announced that the date and time of the next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 in the Leadership & Professional Development Center.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Day asked if there were any public comments. Ms. Smith said that there were comments sent in before the Board meeting to be read at tonight's meeting regarding returning to sports and comments in regard to returning to school. Ms. Tong noted all public comments pertained to the Study Item. President Day said that they will hear the comments after the Study Item.

5. CONSENT AGENDA³

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. – E. be approved as presented. Dr. Baker seconded the motion. Roll call vote in favor - 4: President Day, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Roll call vote opposed - 0. Consent Agenda Items A.-E. passed.

A. Approval of Administrative Personnel

Administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 1.

B. Approval of Non-Administrative Personnel

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

C. Approval of FY 2020-2021 Contract Forms for ASRS Retired Professional and Administrative Staff Who Elect to Return to Direct Hire with the District

The Governing Board approved the contract forms for ASRS retired professional and administrative staff who elect to return to direct hire with the District for the 2020-2021 school year as submitted in Exhibits 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

D. Approval of Board Member Mr. Matthew Kopec to Vote at Arizona School Board Association (ASBA) Pima County Board Meeting

The Governing Board approved the appointment of Mr. Kopec to vote and represent the Amphi Governing Board at the ASBA Pima County Board meeting on October 1, 2020.

E. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Ironwood Ridge High School Buildings E & F Weatherization Assessment - BRG-ASMNT-00010

The Governing Board approved the School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Ironwood Ridge High school buildings E & F weatherization assessment as submitted in Exhibit 9.

6. STUDY/ACTION

A. Review and Approval of Plan for Reopening Schools for In-Person Instruction

For Superintendent Jaeger's Power Point Presentation see Exhibit 10.

Superintendent Jaeger presented the District plan for reopening schools and talked about how just a few months ago schools opened with an online format for remote learning. This was due to the pandemic and current health conditions through the guidance from Arizona's health officials. He said at some point, we knew that students would return to their classrooms, and would resume traditional school instruction. And, in turn, all staff would also return to their regular places of employment. Originally, we had proposed that traditional school would resume in September, however the health care metrics would not permit it. He reminded the Board that when it was

possible to return to in-person learning the District would give families and staff a two-week notice.

Superintendent Jaeger shared a Power Point Presentation for the reopening. He noted a few obvious and complicated challenges everyone is facing due the COVID-19 pandemic: a once in a century event; unknowns and uncertainties; divergent, even competing opinions and data; parents, staff and students needs for reopening in-person learning; business and community needs; digital inequities; food insecurities; social-emotional impacts of closures and the pandemic on students, staff, and our community; traumatic experiences for our students; district funding at risk; staff losses; staffing shortages.

Superintendent Jaeger shared a review of the timeline of events beginning on March 13, 2020 when the District left for Spring Break expecting to return on March 23. Then on March 15, the Governor closed all schools until March 27. From March 23 to 27, Amphi began educational enrichment efforts which was followed by full remote learning. Then on March 30, our Governor extended the school closures for the rest of the school year, and full-time online education began. In the ensuing weeks, the fluidity of the situation grew. On May 4, Amphi formed the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Reopening in the 2020-2021 school year. The week of May 18 the school year ends and planning for the 2020-2021 school year began with a start date of August 6, 2020.

On June 29, 2020, the Governor ordered the continuation of school closures with a reopen date of August 17. On July 23, the Governor directed school districts to consider guidance from state and local health departments to locally determine how and when to reopen schools.

Amphitheater School District opened schools on August 10, 2020 in the “Remote Learning by Necessity” model. Parents were given the option to enroll their student(s) in this model and return to the school once it was safe to do so, or parents could enroll their student(s) in an “Online by Request” model. Student(s) whose family chose this option would remain in online school even after in-person school began.

Superintendent Jaeger noted that through this all, everyone needed to stay flexible and prepared to make changes to the plan as necessary, depending on the situation in our community, state, and nation. Amphitheater remains committed to follow applicable orders and guidance issued by national, state, and local leaders as they apply to the District and reopening schools. Amphitheater’s reopening plan is guided by the Arizona Department of Education’s Roadmap for Reopening and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), and Pima County Health Department (PCHD) public health guidelines for reopening. For example, Pima County has ordered everyone over five years old to wear a mask except when they can keep six feet of physical distancing (with some exceptions). District policy now echoes these same requirements.

Surveys of both parents and staff, highlighted several themes: the health and safety of students, families, and staff; student needs for consistency and support; wearing of facemasks and social distancing; and class sizes. He noted that finding solutions that work for everyone with so many divergent views on these themes is impossible.

Superintendent Jaeger said the county benchmarks that are most relevant for reopening our schools. Pima County’s reopening benchmarks require all yellow and green indicators for a partial (hybrid) opening; all green indicators are required for full in-person opening. At this time, Pima County Health Department (PCHD) indicators currently show one red, seven yellow and one green. Therefore, current metrics guide against in-person reopening. Metrics are expected to improve and support potential hybrid openings very soon. When all indicators are green, full reopening is possible.

Superintendent Jaeger mentioned that a trajectory for reopening schools for full-time in-person learning on October 12, 2020 was originally thought possible, however we know that is not advised given current and likely trends. Just yesterday, he and other area superintendents received information from the PCHD that all metrics “going to green will not happen for several weeks or more. However, PCHD advises current and likely health conditions will support hybrid instruction beginning in October.

Surveys were sent out again last week concerning cleaning and sanitation, personal protective equipment (PPE), health and safety, contact limitations, communication, transportation, food and nutrition, and individualized feedback on learning model(s). He invited Ms. Valenzuela to give her report on this survey.

Ms. Valenzuela shared with the Board that three surveys were sent out, one to elementary families (1,780 responded), one to secondary families (2,483 responded), and one to all employees (1,198 responded). Each survey contained information about mitigation measures the District plans to implement in several categories. She noted that these surveys were not anonymous, and the answers were non-binding for families and employees.

When asked about cleaning and sanitizing measures at their site, 80% of elementary and secondary families were satisfied, 10% had no opinion, and 8% of elementary and 10% of secondary families were not satisfied.

When employees were asked the same question, 63% were satisfied, 19% had no opinion, and 18% were not satisfied.

When asked about PPE/health and safety, 74% of elementary families and 76% of secondary families were satisfied, 12% of both elementary and secondary families had no opinion, and 14% of elementary and 11% of secondary families were not satisfied.

When employees were asked the same question, 58% were satisfied, 19% had no opinion, and 23% were not satisfied.

When asked about contact limiting, 74% of elementary and 71% of secondary families were satisfied, 15% of elementary and 16% of secondary families had no opinion, and 12% of elementary and 13% of secondary families were dissatisfied.

When employees were asked the same question, 52% were satisfied, 19% had no opinion, and 29% were dissatisfied.

When asked about communication, 83% of elementary and secondary families were satisfied, 11% of elementary and 12% of secondary families had no opinion, 6% of elementary and 5% of secondary families were not satisfied.

When employees were asked the same question, 71% were satisfied, 19% had no opinion, 10% were dissatisfied.

When asked about transportation, 67% of elementary and of secondary families were satisfied, 22% of elementary and secondary families had no opinion, 10% of elementary and 11% of secondary families were dissatisfied.

When employees were asked the same question, 53% were satisfied, 25% had no opinion, and 22% were dissatisfied.

When asked about food and nutrition, 78% of elementary and 76% of secondary families were satisfied, 13% of elementary and 15% of secondary families had no opinion, 9% of elementary and secondary families were dissatisfied.

When employees were asked the same question, 67% were satisfied, 22% had no opinion, 11% were dissatisfied.

When asked about educational services, 82% of elementary and 82% of secondary families were satisfied, 10% of elementary and 11% of secondary families had no opinion, and 8% of elementary and 7% of secondary families were dissatisfied.

When employees were asked the same question, 69% were satisfied, 19% had no opinion, 12% were dissatisfied.

Secondary families were given the following information regarding extracurricular activities and asked to review the following information regarding high school extracurricular activities.

- The Arizona Interscholastics Association (AIA) guidelines suggest that certain extracurricular activities can proceed (e.g., conditioning and preparation, band), while others are still not yet safe (i.e., football competitions).
- Pima County Health guidance is more conservative in permission for athletics, particularly with respect to close-contact sports.
- For our student athletes to safely engage in competitions following the reopening of schools, they must be permitted to train and prepare in advance of those competitions.
- The District intends to recommend to the Governing Board that formal conditioning, training, and practices be permitted to resume as of September 21, 2020.
- This would allow for three weeks (including Fall Break) of student athlete preparation before health and safety sensitive competitions resume.

They were then asked if they were comfortable with extracurricular activities resuming on September 21, 2020 while following health and safety protocols.

68% of secondary families and 48% of employees said they were comfortable; 17% of secondary families and 31% of employees had no opinion; 16% of secondary families and 21% of employees were not comfortable.

Elementary families were asked to describe their plans for their children:

64% said their children are enrolled in Remote Learning by Necessity model and plan on returning to in-person learning on October 12, 2020. 6% said their children are enrolled in Amphi Academy Online (AAO) and they plan to stay in AAO. 5% said their children are enrolled in Amphi Academy Online and would like to move to in-person learning. 4% said their children are enrolled in the Remote Learning by Necessity and wish to change to the Amphi Academy Online. 1% said they will move their children out of District. 20% of families were not sure.

Secondary families were asked to describe their plans for their children:

66% said their children are enrolled in Remote Learning by Necessity model and plan on returning to in-person learning on October 12, 2020. 5% said their children are enrolled in Amphi Academy Online (AAO) and they plan to stay. 4% said their children are enrolled in Amphi Academy Online and would like to move to in-person learning. 4% said their children are enrolled in the Remote Learning by Necessity and wish to change to the Amphi Academy Online. 20% were not sure. 0% said they will move their children out of District.

Employees were asked to describe their plans for their job:

75.96% said they plan to work in their normal work assignment, 0.58% said they plan to resign, 1.42% said they plan to apply for a position with AAO if one becomes available, 0.33% said they plan to request an extension on their current leave of absence for as long as possible, 1.0% said they plan to use their available paid leave balances to be away from work as long as possible, and 20.70% said they were unsure.

Superintendent Jaeger continued by saying that reopening schools is a priority, however it must be done safely and in accordance with guidance from our public health systems. As the survey

showed, most of our families and staff want to return to school as soon as possible. However, at this time, full in-person reopening after Amphi's Fall Break (October 12, 2020) will not be possible.

The revised recommendation therefore is for a hybrid learning model. The hybrid learning model was previously considered for the start of school, but was discounted at the time because of health conditions and other factors which did not support its implementation. Superintendent Jaeger reiterated that the learning needs of our children must be the primary consideration so long as the safety of all can be assured. A hybrid learning model, while not perfect, can strike the balance.

In July, parents and employees were surveyed as to which of the three models described by the Arizona Department of Education they would prefer. 43.38% of families wanted full-time in-person instruction, 41.89% wanted hybrid instruction, and only 14.73% desired remote instruction exclusively.

He shared with the Board what other Tucson and surrounding area school districts are doing. As of September 14, 2020, Pima Accommodation District reopened schools in a hybrid model on August 31 and Continental Elementary on September 10. The following school districts reported they will begin with the hybrid learning model within the next few weeks – Sahuarita Unified on September 17; Vail Unified on September 21; Flowing Wells on October 5; Ajo Unified on October 7; Sunnyside Unified on October 15; and Alter Valley Elementary, Marana Unified, Tanque Verde Unified, and Tucson Unified, all on October 19. San Fernando Elementary will begin in-person learning on October 12. Baboquivari Unified and Catalina Foothills School Districts decisions are pending Board action.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Dr. Lopez and Mr. Bejarano to explain to the Board what the hybrid learning model will look like if the Board chooses to approve the reopening plan for hybrid learning on October 12, 2020.

Dr. Lopez explained to the Board the elementary hybrid learning model. In this model, students would be assigned to a Cohort. Students whose last name begins with the letters A-L, roughly speaking, would be assigned to Cohort 1. Students whose last name begins with the letters M-Z would be assigned to Cohort 2. Siblings will be able to stay in the same Cohorts. Specialist classes will be modified and when necessary, minor adjustments to schedules will be addressed.

Cohort 1 (half of the students) would attend in-person learning at school on Monday and Thursday, and on Tuesday and Friday they would be at home – learning online and working on assignments given to them when they were at school.

Cohort 2 (half of the students) would attend in-person learning at school on Tuesday and Friday, and on Monday and Thursday they would be at home – learning online and working on assignments given to them when they were at school.

When students are attending classes in-person at school, the learning day and schedule would be that of a traditional school day.

On Wednesday, all students would be learning online at home. Teachers would do one Zoom lesson and schedule small group instruction on Wednesdays as needed for acceleration and intervention. Wednesdays would be a half day for all students, while staff would work their regular work schedule.

With this model, classes will be half their current size, students will be seated as far apart as possible, and wearing facemasks. Lunch tables and seating will be at least six feet apart and students will eat with their grade level cohort. Students will have their own supplies and will wash or sanitize their hands regularly during the day, especially when transitioning to a different location as a cohort. Students will go straight to class in the morning in order to stay with their

grade level cohort, they will go to recess as a cohort, and students will be led to bus lines and the lunchroom in lines six feet apart. Cohorts will not interact with children in other grade levels to the extent possible. Parents and non-program volunteers will not be allowed on campus.

Dr. Lopez noted some of the pros of a hybrid learning model. The model would reduce class sizes by half, increase the ability to social distance, reduce the number of students in hallways, cafeterias and buses, and they would be in school in-person for part of the week. Students would get to see some of their friends, teachers, and other staff members in-person. They would receive more direct instruction from their teacher than under the current model. Teachers and staff would be able to help students with issues related to isolation and receive in-person assistance to get the support they need.

She then mentioned some of the struggles with the hybrid learning model, such as teachers must teach in person and online in some form throughout the week resulting in a heavier workload (e.g., lesson planning for remote learning and lesson/activity planning for in-person learning). The hybrid learning model may require more teaching staff. Specialists and extracurricular activities will need to alter their schedules. Students would work 2-3 days per week with online software and packet work without teacher Zoom lessons. Maintaining continuity of instruction will be challenging. There would be a reduction in content taught compared to full time in-person instruction. Working parents may find it difficult to find childcare with a hybrid schedule. If students are in childcare on “off days”, they could potentially bring the virus to school from the daycare. Also, logistical challenges for families with students spread across multiple grade levels, and schools, require additional parent or caregiver involvement.

Mr. Bejarano explained that the secondary hybrid learning model is similar to the elementary model. For secondary students, they also would be assigned Cohorts by the first letter of the student’s last name. Siblings with different last names could attend school, in-person, based on the older sibling’s last name and siblings would be able to stay in the same Cohort. Specialist classes would be modified, and minor adjustments would be addressed as needed. Students in Student Services programs would attend school in-person daily to ensure compliance with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

Mr. Bejarano noted some of the pros with the hybrid learning model such as time for smaller groups of students to acclimate to new procedures, reduction of the number of physical interactions by limiting the number of students on campus and buses. There would be increased opportunity to provide proper social distancing, and it would reduce overcrowded classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, multi-purpose rooms (MPRs), and common areas. Management of students in these shared spaces would be more effective with increased opportunities for teachers to provide one-on-one support to students as they transition back to campus. Students would continue to use Zoom and Google Classroom, which would allow for smoother transition back to Remote Learning by Necessity if needed. Attendance would be taken using the same practices currently used in Remote Learning by Necessity. Transition would be easier for students as they are currently utilizing synchronous and asynchronous learning. The hybrid learning model allows teachers to provide consistent Tier I and Tier II interventions. Students can benefit from technology on campus and the model is another option for parents, as online learning has proven to be difficult.

He shared possible difficulties with the hybrid learning model such as; the additional commitment by staff to prepare lessons and provide meaningful instruction to two groups of students on a daily basis. Possible loss of instructional minutes and Average Daily Membership (ADM), and requiring teachers to take attendance for online and in-person students. Also, providing support and instruction for students without technology and families with multiple age children who rely on older children to care for younger siblings will be difficult if schedules are different. Students who have trouble with time management may struggle with keeping track of synchronous and

asynchronous learning. Chromebooks that are assigned to students away from campus are not available to students on campus. Transportation for students participating in extra-curricular activities could prove challenging.

Superintendent Jaeger reminded the Board that according to a survey that was taken in July, more than 80% of our parents wanted their children back in school. Approximately half of that 80% wanted their children to return to in-person, full-time traditional school with safety measures in place and half wanted a hybrid learning model with safety measures in place. Only 20% of the parents surveyed wanted their children to be in a full-time online learning model at the start of the school year. Employees echoed these same general findings.

Shortly thereafter, infections, and hospitalizations, and death rates increased, and staff became increasingly worried about their health or for those they live with and care for. A large number of people sent in public comments and attended the board meetings pleading for us not to open schools because of the health concerns. They wanted to delay in-person learning until after Fall Break.

Then circumstances of the situation overrode everyone's preferences and compelled a decision to start school on August 10, 2020 in Remote Learning by Necessity mode. Local public health metrics were mostly in the red at that time and fully online remote learning was the only possible choice. Thus, 80% of all our families started school fully online, which they did not prefer, but the health conditions did not support hybrid learning at that time. The ADE, ADHS and PCHD all agreed on that point.

Superintendent Jaeger noted that although he is not a fan of the hybrid learning model as it presents certain challenges for parents and staff, but it does provide benefits for our students. It gets us closer to in-person learning, which is what families and employees originally wanted.

He stressed that the safety of our students, staff and community has to be a primary consideration in these decisions. He remains committed to continue to follow the guidance of our public health officials and provide everyone with a two-week notice before a change in learning modalities. When he learned that the health metrics would not allow schools to reopen in full-time in-person learning anytime in October, a change in recommendation had to follow. Facts and circumstances have changed throughout this pandemic, and no matter what decision is made tonight, facts and circumstances outside of our control can change again.

Superintendent Jaeger said our public health officials are now advising that returning to full-time in-person learning cannot safely occur in October. However, a hybrid learning model would be safe. Absent a threat to public safety, our students and their needs are the primary consideration. We have heard from student and parents over the past months, their struggles, their feelings of isolation and loneliness, and the concerns which parents have about the mental health toll this is taking on their children and on them. He said we owe it to our families to bring this to a close as soon as we possibly can.

The hybrid learning model will bring us some of what families and staff asked for while allowing for adjustment and attention to safety issues. There will be some (two days a week) in-person learning and some (but less of) online learning. In addition, if families wish to remain in full online learning, they have the option to shift to that learning model.

Superintendent Jaeger concluded saying that teachers and staff will need sufficient time to transition and plan and asked that this be given to them. He said that if it is the Board's desire to reopen our schools through the hybrid learning model, they should allow the District Administration to work with principals and school staff to further refine the model to meet as many needs as they possibly can.

Dr. Baker asked why the PCHD felt it was safe to open in a hybrid learning model. Superintendent Jaeger said that the issue of safety includes the ability to control and contain an outbreak should one happen. It doesn't mean that when schools reopen, there will be no cases of COVID-19, there is no guarantee of that. It is limiting the spread as much as possible. In a hybrid learning model, you can control situations such as transportation, cleanliness and sanitation, the number of students in a classroom, etc.

There were no other questions or discussion.

President Day called for a seven-minute break.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Day noted that there were public comments sent in prior to the meeting to be read and there were people at the meeting in-person that wished to speak. To ensure equity to those who provided their statements in advance, comments will be alternated between the written statements emailed to us and the in-person public comments. President Day read the Item Specific Call to the Audience procedures.

Ms. Tong noted that there were multiple email comments for the Board to hear. Of those, 30 comments suggest that the District is opening too soon, 16 want the Board to open schools, 15 discussed the hybrid model, four addressed sports, and four have suggestions they would like changed in the plan.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in by Emily Wilson, a parent with a student at Canyon del Oro High School (CDO). She expressed her gratitude to teachers, administration and staff for their outstanding efforts to make this school year as "normal" as possible. She commented that the plan for the return to in-person learning was vague. She had some specific questions concerning the plan before she could make a decision to return her child to school.

Lisa Millerd, a teacher at Amphitheater High School (AHS) and Amphitheater Education Association (AEA/AmphiEA) president, commented that since COVID-19 has interrupted traditional learning methods, the challenge now is how to provide a safe environment for students and educators while keeping learning as the main focus. She said AmphiEA has some concerns, which are including employees in decision making, accommodations for some staff members when in-person learning begins, and clarification of the plan if there is a COVID-19 situation. She requested that a decision to open schools be made using knowledge, data, and to consider what is reasonable, and doable for everyone.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in by Kathy Shepard, a grandparent of two Amphi students and a retired teacher. She acknowledged the importance of in-person learning but was concerned about returning to school too soon. She urged the Board to allow parents to make the choice of continuing online learning or going back to class.

Michael Meridieth, a classified Amphi employee and an AHS Executive Board member, said that site plans need to be put together before schools open. He felt that employees need to be a part of the planning. His concerns for the Board were about the reopening plan; the cohort groups schedule, allowing two students per seat on the bus, and he wanted to know who would be doing contract tracing.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in by Koo Chick, a parent and a foster mom. She said children and parents are struggling with online learning. She quit her job in order to stay home with her children. Their internet is not reliable, and sometimes they miss out on Zoom class instructions. As a foster parent, she believes children need social interaction and community. They are struggling with a different home and a new way of school. She said it is heart breaking. She concluded by saying schools need to reopen and stay open.

Peggy Greenway, a Cross Category teacher at Cross Middle School, said that teachers are working long and exhausting days and felt that teaching in a hybrid setting would be very difficult. She shared some success stories of her students. She commented that after the Blue Ribbon Task Force recommendations, the Hybrid Model was not considered an option for Amphi. She and others were frustrated to hear about the current Hybrid Model and have many questions. She hoped that individual sites will be allowed to be flexible as this model goes forward.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in by Christina Berndt, she requested the Board consider the Hybrid Model as an option for the reopening of schools. Noting that students have been out of school for six months, she felt it would reduce exposure and allow for a smoother transition. Her family was not comfortable returning to fully in-person learning and would consider other districts that are doing a hybrid program or a different online school.

Darlene Rowe is an Amphi teacher, AmphiEA member, Coronado K-8 site representative and Executive Board K-8 representative. She said she read the employee handbook, and had some questions concerning a potential outbreak at a site, and how it would be handled. She wanted to know how information about an outbreak would be communicated to staff and families.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in by Kelly Pelletier, a parent of a senior football player at Ironwood Ridge High School. She is concerned about the mental health of all students because they spend the day behind a computer screen, lacking in exercise, socialization, and physical contact. She stated the players have to self-motivate for athletics and need the emotional support from counselors, teachers, administration, friends, and teammates. She felt the data is showing a decreasing number of cases. Utilizing proper protocols, other schools and Districts have begun practices and requested the Board allow all sports to begin.

Chris Ackerly, a teacher at Amphitheater High School, a parent and member of the AmphiEA Task Force, felt that the recent survey was missing some information, and his primary concern is how an outbreak will be handled. He said the Hybrid Model limits the contact that students have with others but does not limit teachers contact.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in by Stephanie Boe, a parent with three students at IRHS. She stated they are satisfied overall with online learning. Their kids are engaged because the teachers are doing a great job. As a family, they have been away from crowds for more than six months and returning to in-person learning seems scary and overwhelming. If a hybrid learning model is offered, that option would be a better transition for social distancing in classrooms and hallways. They like their current teachers and understand their expectations, therefore making a switch to Amphi Academy Online now is not an option. She asked the Board to consider a Hybrid Model or to initially return students to the schools in phases.

Hannah Tarpley and Chloe Cramer, students at IRHS, members of the Student Government and Executive Board said they are representing their student body. They asked the District to allow each school to decide what model would work the best for their campus. They were concerned for their teachers and felt that hybrid teaching would be hard for them. They will be advocates for facemask wearing and social distancing when school begins. They expressed their appreciation to the Board for all they do to keep everyone safe and look forward to the time when school can fully resume in-person learning.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in by Lisa Da Silva, an Amphi parent with a student in elementary and high school. She said the remote learning by necessity option is working well, her children have a routine, and their family is appreciative of the hard work by all the teachers and school personnel. When in-person learning begins, she felt that some mitigation strategies outlined were insufficient, and returning after people have traveled during Fall Break was problematic. She requested the

decision to reopen schools continues to be based on recommendations of the Pima County Health Department metrics and not outside pressures.

Cheryl Wojdyla is a physical education teacher and coach at Wilson K-8 and Ironwood Ridge High School. She said it is challenging to teach students online. She has many questions concerning what school will look like when in-person learning resumes.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in by Gillian Martiny, an Amphi parent of two students. She said they recently moved to Tucson and the isolation is very hard on them. She felt they need to be in school doing hands-on learning and interacting with teachers and students. She continued by saying Arizona Governor Ducey and Dr. Garcia, Pima County Medical Officer, said individual school boards make the decision to open, not the health department. State data metrics have been met to open schools. She asked the Board to not require facemasks and to reopen for in-person learning.

Shawn Aptiz, an Amphi parent, had many questions about the data that Pima County Health Department (PCHD) uses to determine the metrics to open. He felt the District should not be using only the PCHD metrics to make the decision to begin in-person learning. He said his daughter has not seen her friends for months and misses them.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in by Elizabeth Paulette, a CDO parent. She appreciated the survey, but due to the survey format she was unable to input a Hybrid Model option. She said the teachers at CDO are doing a good job with the online format, are organized and successfully involve the students. They appreciate the Amphi Academy Online option and if schools open for fully in-person learning, they will be changing to that format.

Eric Larsen an Amphi parent, said he was appreciative of the survey sent out on September 10, 2020, but was concerned that the Hybrid Model was not mentioned. He thanked the District for their thoughtful consideration with the reopening plan. He offered the following suggestions: keep the cohort groups together for two continuous days of instruction, deep clean between each cohort; allow Wednesday to be a planning day for teachers, since they already have so much to do. Another request he had, was when schools open, stay with the same plan and do not return to online learning.

Ms. Tong advised President Day the remainder of the emails were repetitive in nature and have been representative of the same topics we have already heard. Ms. Tong said there were additional speakers here wishing to make a public comment. President Day stated she would like to hear one more email and then comments from the speakers that are here.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in by David Newell, an Amphi parent. He said in order to attempt to qualify for the State Golf Championship, golf teams need to begin training now. He requested the Board allow the District to resume sports training and conditioning. He felt that golf is a socially distanced sport and based on Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) guidelines, which currently allows for some sports to begin conditioning and preparation, golf should begin prior to the reopening of schools on October 12, 2020, as previously approved by the Board.

Maddy Martiny, a sophomore at CDO, said online learning has many challenges and time is wasted waiting for technical issues to be resolved and other students to log in. He is new to the area and making friends is hard, and he feels he learns best in a collaborative classroom environment. He understands the health concerns involved in opening and thinks that the Hybrid Model is going to be more confusing. He is disappointed that full in-person opening is not an option at this time.

Caleb Martiny read the comments his son Hank Martiny, a 6th grader at Cross Middle School prepared for the Board. Hank does not like online learning, is frustrated with the technical issues, and does not like to be at the computer so much. It is complicated to do math and teachers have to teach too much information in a short time. He moved here in July and has no friends and would like to be

in the classroom. Mr. Martiny was disappointed that the Board is following the Pima County metrics and urged the Board to make a decision to open the schools to fully in-person learning.

David Payton, a parent of students at IRHS, said he understands there is a difference of opinions concerning the best method to open schools. He felt the Board needs to make the decision to open, not by following other schools plans and the Pima County guidelines. Based on the results of the Districts' return to school survey, he urged the Board to open schools for fully in-person learning.

Caden McGee, a third grader in Amphi Schools, said online learning is hard. His mom works from home, so she is not available to help him if he does not understand and sometimes, he is not able talk to the class if she is on a phone call for work. He said he was frustrated today, because the internet did not work, and he could not get back into the Zoom meeting and finish his work. He concluded by asking to return to in-person learning.

Sadie McGee, an Amphi student, said it was important to return to school. She felt students need to have social interaction and see their friends. She said she is academically motivated by being able to work in-person with other students. She talked about the exercise students get as they move from class to class. She also said, many of her teachers say they miss the students and want to see in them in-person.

Elise McGee, a parent, said two of her four children made a comment before her. She talked about the struggles that all of her children have with online learning, and she is not available to help them because she works full time. She questioned the conflicting data Pima County is using for the benchmarks to open schools, since retail business are allowed to open.

Kristen Mitchell, a parent of four students in the Amphi District, said she was blindsided by the decision to open schools with the Hybrid Model. Her children have always enjoyed school, but now they are very unhappy. She wanted to have the choice of in-person learning every day.

Mr. Kopec asked Superintendent Jaeger to explain the Pima County's Back to School Committee that worked with the PCHD to come up with the metrics that were referenced this evening.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that Pima County formed a Back to School Committee which is composed of PCHD officials, Pima County public school superintendents, and charter school heads, whether that be their director, administrator, etc. The metrics have existed for some time now and are advised by the Governor's orders and ADHS to consider those recommendations and guidance issued by Pima County Health officials. School districts understand that the metrics are important locally and that it is imperative that we get the students back to school safely. He said that we are not experts and therefore need to rely on the PCHD and health officials.

President Day made a motion to approve the plan to resume in-person learning under the Hybrid Learning Model as presented with additional refinements determined by the Superintendent through deliberation and consultation with District leadership, site principals, District staff, and the guidance by the PCHD. Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. President Day asked if there was any further discussion.

Mr. Kopec spoke saying that his guiding principle in all this is that we are an educational institution, and beyond that we are charged with the safety of the kids in this District. He said he knows that it is a frustrating process of reacting to the pandemic. He is happy to take into consideration the metrics from the PCHD because in this position he is not going to vote to send kids back to school when those metrics are unsafe. He is not prepared to tell a parent, friend or relative of a student who goes back to school before we've met the metrics, if something terrible happens to that child, that they were worth the risk. He said that he understands the needs and frustrations of parents and that is why he feels entertaining the hybrid learning model, which back in July and August he was skeptical of, is the best way to move forward. Mr. Kopec acknowledged all the questions, critiques, comments,

and suggestions in regard to the reopening plan and presentation to the Board. They are all well taken and asked that site and District leadership take those into consideration moving forward. He noted that he would like to see regular updates on the plan relating to the hybrid learning model. Mr. Kopec concluded that in this year, 2020, things change. Things are not predictable, and changes are inescapable as we go into a new normal.

There was no further discussion. Roll call vote in favor - 4: President Day, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Roll call vote opposed - 0. The Plan for Reopening Schools for In-Person Instruction in the Hybrid Learning Model was approved as presented with additional refinements determined by the Superintendent through deliberation and consultation with District leadership, site principals, District staff, and the guidance by the PCHD.

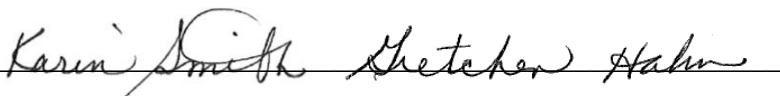
8. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Baker asked for continued updates on the reopening plan.

Mr. Kopec also asked for continued updates on the reopening plan.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Day made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call vote in favor - 4: President Day, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Roll call vote opposed - 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 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*

October 21, 2020

Date

October 27, 2020

Ms. Deanna M. Day, M.Ed.,

Governing Board President

Date