



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

DATE OF MEETING: September 18, 2012

TITLE: Selection of Governing Board Priorities Regarding Development of Arizona School Board Association (ASBA) Top Ten Legislative Priorities for the 2013 Political Agenda

BACKGROUND: At its September 4, 2012 meeting, the Governing Board considered the Arizona School Board Association's (ASBA's) Legislative Priorities for the 2013 Legislative Session(s). ASBA requested that each local school board select its preference for the "top ten" priorities that ASBA should focus its legislative efforts on. The Board's discussion on September 6 identified *eleven* (11) potential priorities from among the list provided by ASBA to choose from (see attached). The eleven identified by the Board were as follows:

I Advocacy for Children and Student Needs

4. Fund Programs to Prepare and support children and families for success in public schools.

II Local Control/Governance

4. Ensure all public schools are funded and governed in a manner consistent with the Arizona Constitution's requirement of a general and uniform public school system, so that substantial disparities in the treatment of schools are not created by the law.
10. Provide Governing Boards with flexibility in committing and prioritizing the use of education funds.

IV Taxation/Revenues

3. Oppose any action that prohibits local school district governing boards from supplementing state funding and budget provisions through M&O and flexible capital overrides as well as bond authorizations.
10. Oppose the various Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) legislation.
15. Advocate for a review of all proposed legislative mandates to ensure any new requirements will have an identified funding stream.

V Funding

1. Advocate for a complete revision of the school finance formula to:
 - a. Reflect the actual costs of the individual educational needs of all students
 - b. Provide for re-evaluation of the school finance formula on a regular basis to adjust the weighting factors as necessary and to compensate for other costs that escalate faster than the GDPPO such as: health insurance, property/casualty insurance and utilities
 - c. Provide funding to improve instruction through the use of technology
 - d. Provide for a transportation support level that reflects actual students transported and actual costs
 - e. Provide funding for an extended school year as a local option
 - f. Provide for a funding formula that allows small and/or rural school districts the ability to fund basic school functions and programs such as maintenance, utilities, health music, arts and be competitive with the urban schools for teacher services
 - g. Ensure schools are held harmless for increases in state retirement contribution rates
 - h. Equalization of performance incentive funding for districts across the state
4. Adequately fund English Language Learners
7. Oppose any effort to divert Medicaid in Public Schools (MIPS) reimbursement dollars from school districts to the state general fund
10. Enable Joint Technological Education Districts (JTEDs) to:
 - a. Promote and expand Career and Technical Education programs, including summer programs for high school students through JTED central campus programs and allow communities wishing to form a JTED to do so following all regulations as required by law and to receive similar funding as existing JTEDs.
 - b. Receive equal recognition and funding benefits under state statutes of K-12 public school districts and Joint Technical Education Districts.
 - c. Revise the definition of a JTED Centralized Campus Model to include virtual campuses.
 - d. Continue to work with the legislature to ensure 100% funding for JTED and full funding for inflation, especially in years in which the rate of inflation is greater than two percent.
 - e. Reinstate 9th grade funding for JTED career and technical education.
 - f. Restore funding from 91.8% to the full 100% formulaic allocation
18. Reenact and fund voluntary, full-day kindergarten.

It appears to the administration that items I.4 and II.4 are very similar. It would also appear that II.4 is not only more specific, but it also more directly aligns with the Governing Board's own legislative agenda and discussions. For that reason, it is proposed that Item 1.4 be dropped, and the remaining ten (10) items be forwarded to ASBA as identified by the Board for priority.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Administration recommends that ASBA be notified that the Governing Board's preference for the top ten legislative agenda priorities are: II.(4 and 10); IV.3, 10, and 15); and V.(1, 4, 7, 10 and 18), as described above.

INITIATED BY:



Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: September 18, 2012



Patrick Nelson, Superintendent