



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

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**DATE OF MEETING:**      **January 12, 2016**

**TITLE:**    **Nomination and Election of Governing Board President and Vice-President**

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**BACKGROUND:**

Arizona law, A.R.S. §15-521, requires that the Governing Board hold an organizational meeting between January 1 and January 15. The Board's meeting of this evening obviously meets this requirement. In addition, the same section of Title 15 requires that the Board elect a president from among its members. The President of the Board presides over all meetings of the Board, in accordance with Arizona law and District policies, and performs a number of other key duties on behalf of the Board.

A.R.S. § 15-521(D) provides that the Board must prescribe rules for its own governance. Governing Board Policy BDA, one of the Governing Board rules of governance, requires the election of a Board Vice-President, who presides over all meetings of the Board at which the President is not present.

The nomination of candidates for these two offices, under Roberts Rules of Order, may be done by "open nomination". The President initiates this method by simply calling for nominations from the floor. The current President takes all nominations for the office of President first. Board members may, alternatively, move the nomination of a candidate, requiring a second and a passing vote for the nominee to be placed on the slate of candidates. This, of course, adds an additional step to the election process and is not recommended for small bodies like the Board.

Nominees may decline their nomination prior to any vote. When it appears no further nominations are forthcoming, the President may close the floor to further nominations, or it may be closed upon a passing motion to do the same.

The office of President should be determined first, with the selected candidate assuming responsibility for chairing the remainder of the meeting (including election of the new Vice-President) immediately.

Following the nomination process, there are technically several ways of conducting the election of officers under Roberts Rules; those that are practicable and applicable to the election of Governing Board officers are described below. Secret balloting, permitted by Roberts Rule, is not permitted by the Arizona Open Meeting Law. Any one of the alternative methods below may be used – determined either by the current Vice-President or by motion (the latter of which controls in the event of conflict). If a voting method is selected, the Vice-President should explain how the matter will proceed prior to the vote being taken.

**Acclamation.** If there is only one nominee for an office, the chair of the meeting can simply declare the individual is elected, rather than taking a vote.

**Voice or Other Voting.** Absent election by acclamation, a vote of the Board on nominees is required by voice, roll call, show of hands or rising (where Board members stand). Roberts provides that, unless a method of voting is selected upon motion, the chair will decide the method based upon the nature of the election, closeness of the expected vote, and the size of the group.

The chair announces the result of a vote formally, for the record. Until that announcement, Roberts permits any Board member to change their vote.

In the event of a tie between nominees, the chair may call for a new vote to determine the tie.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

The administration recommends the Board nominate and elect both a President and a Vice-President, through the manner determined by the current President or the Board by motion.

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**INITIATED BY:**



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Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: January 6, 2016



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Patrick Nelson, Superintendent