

DATE OF MEETING: May 6, 2025

TITLE: Special Recognition of the Staff of Rillito Center; Celebrating Extraordinary Heart and Dedication

BACKGROUND:

The Amphitheater School District has long cherished its tradition of honoring those who exemplify excellence, compassion, and service within our community. When we speak of individuals or groups as "The Pride of Amphi," we celebrate their achievements, contributions, and the heartfelt dedication they bring to our district. These words are spoken with genuine admiration and appreciation, serving as a testament to the extraordinary people who make our district special.

Today, we wish to extend that recognition to the outstanding staff of Rillito Center—a team whose unwavering commitment and compassion continuously elevate the lives of their students. Rillito Center staff serve some of our most profoundly disabled students, and they demonstrate daily that extraordinary acts of kindness, patience, and love are the foundation of their work.

Last week, this remarkable team went beyond their already exceptional efforts to create an event that truly embodied their spirit of compassion and inclusion: a prom for their students. Under the theme "Under the Sea," staff members dedicated what must have been countless hours to decorate the entire Center, transforming it into a magical, underwater wonderland. The atmosphere was filled with music, dancing, and a palpable sense of celebration—every bit as vibrant and meaningful as any "regular" high school prom.

This event was more than just an enjoyable day; it was a powerful testament to the heart and soul of the Rillito Center and its staff and students. It showcased their ability to create moments of joy, normalcy, and dignity for their students—moments that many of us might take for granted in any other setting. Their effort and dedication turned a simple event into a lasting memory, demonstrating that every student deserves to experience the joy of celebration and the feeling of being truly valued.

Therefore, this item proposes that the entire staff of Rillito Center be recognized as "The Pride of Amphi" not only for their ongoing devotion to their students but also for their extraordinary act of kindness and love in orchestrating this beautiful prom. Their work exemplifies the very best of our district's values and reminds us all that with passion and heart, we can create moments of joy that transcend expectations.

Thank you, Rillito Center staff, for your unwavering commitment and for reminding us that compassion and dedication are the true markers of excellence. You are a shining example of what it means to serve with heart, and it is with the greatest of pride that we acknowledge your extraordinary contributions.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent gratefully and proudly recommends that the Governing Board take special and specific action to recognize the extraordinary level of service and dedication exemplified by the Rillito Center staff – a level that is truly exceptional.

INITIATED BY:

Date: April 30, 2025