



TO: GOVERNING BOARD PRESIDENTS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

FROM: Torri Anderson, Legislative Committee Chair

DATE: July 6, 2017

SUBJECT: PROPOSED 2018 POLITICAL AGENDA AND DELEGATE ASSEMBLY PROCESS

Enclosed are the proposed Delegate Assembly agenda; ASBA's Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs; and the proposed 2018 Political Agenda as recommended by the Legislative Committee to be considered at the Delegate Assembly on September 9, 2017. **The meeting will be at the J.W. Marriot Desert Ridge located at 5350 E. Marriott Dr. in Phoenix. Registration and the continental breakfast will begin at 8:00am and the opening of the Delegate Assembly will begin at 9:00 am. All delegates must be seated at 9:00 am sharp.**

Please copy and distribute this ENTIRE packet to all board members and place the proposed 2018 Political Agenda recommended by the Legislative Committee for consideration on your next board agenda. Following your board's discussion, the board should instruct your district's official delegate as to the board's direction in voting. **If your board has not appointed its official delegate and alternate yet, please do so [here](#).** While all board members and superintendents are welcome to attend the Delegate Assembly, each member district has only one official delegate.

The Delegate Assembly determines the positions of the Arizona School Boards Association for any future Special Sessions of the current legislature and for the Second Regular Session of the Fifty-Third Legislature. In total 74 governing boards proposed items for consideration this year. We truly appreciate and applaud this robust interest and involvement. Most boards indicated support for items included in the 2017 political agenda, and the committee appreciates your overwhelming support of ASBA's agenda to advance public education statewide.

The Legislative Committee received every proposal and discussed these items for more than 7 hours at its meeting June 2. In that time, the committee thoroughly vetted each item and created the proposed 2018 Political Agenda for your consideration and ratification. The committee's goal this year was to create a broad-based, readily digestible agenda that will serve as a guide to advocating for legislation aligned with ASBA's mission and values.

Thank you for lending your voice to every public school student in Arizona. We look forward to seeing a delegate from every member district at the delegate assembly as we approve the 2018 political agenda. If you haven't registered your board's delegate, there is still time to do so [here](#). **We look forward to seeing you at the Delegate Assembly on September 9th.**



**MEETING OF THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017
J.W. MARRIOT DESERT RIDGE, SCOTTSDALE**

AGENDA

8:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	
8:30 a.m.	CERTIFICATION AND SEATING OF DELEGATES	
9:00 a.m.	OPENING OF DELEGATE ASSEMBLY	
	Presiding, ASBA President	<i>Julie Bacon</i> <i>Paradise Valley Unified</i>
	Chair, Legislative Committee	<i>Torri Anderson</i> <i>Maricopa Unified</i>
	Parliamentarian	<i>Vivian Vincent</i>
	Call to Order	<i>Julie Bacon</i>
	Moment of Silence	
	Pledge of Allegiance	<i>Julie Bacon</i>
	Introductions	<i>Julie Bacon</i>
	Report of Credentials Committee	Luis Marquez
	Rules	Chris Thomas
	Adoption of Rules of Procedures	<i>Julie Bacon</i>
	Adoption of Agenda	<i>Julie Bacon</i>
	Report of the Legislative Committee	<i>Torri Anderson</i>
	Proposed Political Agenda Consideration	<i>Delegate Assembly</i>
	ADJOURNMENT	<i>Torri Anderson</i>

ASBA

Arizona School Boards Association



Learn more at www.azsba.org

VISION

The best schools in every Arizona community.

MISSION

We cultivate excellence in locally-governed school districts.

KEY FUNCTIONS

Provide training and leadership development.

Represent and advocate for the diverse needs of our membership.

Provide products and services that support district success.

OUR CORE BELIEFS

- The basic life needs of children must be met for them to succeed.
- Meeting the unique educational needs of all students must be the foundation of our school systems.
- The governance of publicly-funded schools must lie with locally-elected and publicly-accountable governing boards.
- The responsibility for student success is shared by students, parents, governing board, district staff and the community.
- Public education funding must be broad-based, stable and at a level that assures all students are successful.
- Knowledgeable and professionally trained governing board members are fundamental for ensuring student success.
- Closing the opportunity and achievement gap is a moral and economic imperative that must be addressed to ensure all Arizona's students are successful.



Governmental Relations

2018 Draft Political Agenda

Report of the ASBA Legislative Committee

July 6, 2017

The 2018 draft political agenda is presented as changes to the 2017 political agenda approved at last year's delegate assembly. Deletions are in ~~red strikethrough~~, additions are denoted in **bold**. Where items have simply been relocated, no changes are indicated. Each item is accompanied by a rationale for its inclusion, including reasoning behind proposed changes.

~~Resources for Schools~~ Adequately and Equitably Fund Public Schools

Rationale: The committee recommends this wording as a section heading rather than an agenda item to emphasize its importance to the association.

1. Provide additional state funding for nationally competitive salaries to attract, recruit and retain talented teachers.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda as its own separate item, rather than within the school finance formula item. This item can be achieved without a comprehensive formula redesign and is important enough to stand on its own merits.

2. **Strengthen Revise** the School Finance formula to ~~equitably and adequately fund public schools~~:
 - a. **Provide a stable revenue source less reliant on the general fund or annual legislative appropriation;**
 - b. Fund the implementation and ongoing costs of AZ standards, assessments and technology;
 - ~~c. Protect desegregation funding from any cuts or modifications;~~
 - d. Allow districts the option to operate individual schools for 200-day school years and increase accompanying funding to 8% from 5% to improve student achievement;
 - ~~e. Provide greater equity in funding and access for exceptional student services within the public-school system;~~
 - ~~f. Adequately fund the cost of student transportation;~~

- g. Establish statewide poverty weights within the school funding formula.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining these items from the 2017 political agenda as they have yet to be accomplished, and recommends adding item a) to emphasize that a dedicated revenue source for K-12 education is desired. Other items removed here are included as their own items to indicate they are priorities separate and apart from the school finance formula.

~~3. Assure a more stable and reliable revenue structure for education.~~

Rationale: This item is now included as item 2(a).

4. Fully fund full-day kindergarten and include kindergarten students in the override calculations.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item as-is from the 2017 political agenda.

5. ~~Advocate to~~ Renew, expand and improve Prop 301.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item with minor edits from the 2017 political agenda as it is of critical importance to school districts.

6. Sufficiently fund market competitive salaries for all non-teaching staff.

Rationale: The committee recommends adding this item to recognize that districts also have a need to attract and retain non-teaching staff who are crucial to school district operations.

7. ~~Reinstate and fund formulas~~ **Provide adequate ongoing resources** to comply with at least ~~state~~ minimum school facility standards ~~and restore building renewal funding~~ to ensure school district **equipment and** facilities are adequately maintained.

Rationale: The committee recommends rewording this item from the 2017 political agenda for clarity. References to the building renewal formula were eliminated to provide flexibility for other ways of meeting school district capital needs, and the word "equipment" was added to emphasize the need for a continued source of funding for technology and other non-building items necessary for quality schools.

8. Restore district additional assistance (DAA) reductions

Rationale: The committee recommends adding this item to explicitly call for the full funding of the current K-12 education formula.

9. Enact policy that does not unduly discourage local investment in school facilities.

Rationale: The committee recommends adding this item to address district concerns over proposed modifications to the new school facilities formula that would require more locally constructed space to be considered when qualifying for new school construction funding. It is important not to penalize districts that invest in their own facilities when the state is not providing adequate support.

10. ~~Advocate to~~ Eliminate unfunded mandates and administrative burdens.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda with minor edits as it aligns with ASBA's core values.

11. ~~Ensure 100% funding for all~~ **Fully fund** JTEDs.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda, edited for brevity.

12. Protect desegregation funding from any cuts or modifications.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda, as this funding allows innovative and successful programming that serves to illustrate the benefits of increased funding.

13. Provide greater equity in funding and access for exceptional student services within the public-school system.

Rationale: The committee recommends this as a separate item to recognize the gap between the cost of exceptional student services and gifted education, and the resources provided by the formula.

14. Adequately fund the cost of student transportation.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda as its own item, rather than as part of a broader formula reform effort.

15. Provide funding for preschool programs.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda as it remains important to promoting early literacy and closing the achievement gap.

~~Local Control and Governance~~ Uphold, Preserve, and Strengthen

Local Control

~~1. Uphold, preserve, and strengthen local control to reinforce the connection between the community and its elected governing board members.~~

Rationale: The committee recommends changing the section heading to reflect the wording of the old item 1, as it is a stronger statement of support for local control.

1. Maximize local control and flexibility in managing funds and programs.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item as-is from the 2017 political agenda.

2. Allow school districts greater flexibility in the divestiture of property to address population and course needs.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item as-is from the 2017 political agenda.

3. Change “override/budget increase” language to ~~“locally controlled funding”~~ to better reflect what voters are being asked to support.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda, with an edit to allow more room for negotiation as to what the final wording may be.

4. Oppose legislative intrusion on school site budgeting decisions.

Rationale: The committee recommends adding this item to establish a position in opposition to the practice of the Legislature directing the use of formula funds below the district level, including strict school-level budgeting or other similar proposals.

Accountability to Taxpayers

Rationale: The committee recommends an additional heading to demonstrate ASBA’s commitment to and support of accountability and transparency to state and local taxpayers.

1. Establish financial and academic transparency for all institutions that accept public funds.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda as-is, and moving it under the new heading.

2. Repeal any program that gives public funds for private schools, ESAs & STOs or prevent any future expansion.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda as-is, and moving it under the new heading

3. Require comparative ~~auditor general reports~~ **classroom spending audits** for both school districts and charter schools, **and define "classroom spending" as both instructional spending and student support spending.**

Rationale: The committee recommends rewording this item for clarity, and adding the definition of “classroom spending.” The more expansive definition of “classroom spending” more adequately encompasses the total costs of educating students and is more accurate than the current definition used by the auditor general, which includes only instructional spending.

4. ~~Eliminate the change to Reform current year funding and advocate to hold declining districts harmless for loss of funding and ensure funding accuracy and transparency in ADM calculations~~ to a system that provides districts with appropriate stable annual budgeting ability and technical reliability.

Rationale: The committee recommends rewording this item to reflect the reality that repealing current year funding is likely not feasible at this point, and instead focus on getting to a system that is stable enough both in policy and in terms of actual calculations (i.e. AELAS/AZEDS) to provide predictability for districts in budgeting and tax rate setting.

~~State Education Policy~~ Improving Student Outcomes

Rationale: The committee recommends changing this heading to be more descriptive of the goals of these items.

1. Support policy that recognizes and respects teaching as a profession.

Rationale: The committee recommends this as a new item to establish ASBA's position in support of the profession of teaching, to include opposing continued attacks on teacher certification, and supporting policies that respect the knowledge and expertise of educators on instructional practices.

2. Increase the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 years.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item as-is from the 2017 political agenda.

3. ~~Advocate for~~ Enact research-based reform of the English Language Learner model of instruction to improve student achievement.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda as-is, with minor edits.

4. Fully restore 9th grade CTE/JTED eligibility and funding ~~so students have the opportunity~~ to allow students to explore career fields and/or certification completion.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda as-is, with conforming and clarifying edits.

5. Allow JTEDs to service students through the age of 21.

Rationale: The committee recommends retaining this item from the 2017 political agenda as-is.