



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

DATE OF MEETING: August 7, 2012

TITLE: Review of Bullying Law and Policy

BACKGROUND: Last year, following the Legislature's passage of House Bill 2415 (Laws 2011, Chapter 195, 49th Ariz. Leg.), the Governing Board reviewed and revised district policy documents pertaining to one of the highest profile issues in education today -- bullying. Policy JICK, and its corresponding regulation and exhibits, were revised to set forth the important responsibilities that district staff must meet. The policy documents address the following matters relating to bullying, as required by HB 2415:

- notice of student rights regarding bullying
- bullying by electronic means ("cyberbullying")
- forms for use to report incidents of bullying (required record retention)
- reporting of bullying incidents by students
- reporting of bullying incidents by employees and consequences for failure to report
- documentation of reports
- dissemination of information and training of staff relating to bullying
- disclosure of investigation data and information

Courts have been unfavorable to school systems when evidence was shown that policies had not been enforced and/or district staff was inadequately trained. Accordingly, a focus of our administrative staff development in recent years has been the understanding of and proper response to bullying. Appropriate training of district staff includes not only a comprehensive review of legal requirements and the Board's policy documents, but also a clear understanding of the duty to be observant of inappropriate student behavior and to diligently respond to such behavior covered under the policies.

In addition to the training of staff, the new law and the policy documents also require that we ensure students are made aware of their rights regarding bullying and how they can report its occurrence. Thus, one of the exhibits to the policy actually consists of a policy summary that will be distributed for posting at each school site. The information is also available in each student's Code of Conduct/Parent Information booklet. This Item will be supplemented by a PowerPoint presentation by Mr. Jaeger that will be used to train staff this year.

RECOMMENDATION: This information is provided for the Board's information only; no action is required at this time.

INITIATED BY:

Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: July 31, 2012

Patrick Nelson, Superintendent