



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

DATE OF MEETING: **January 12, 2021**

TITLE: **Designation of Student Suspension and Expulsion Hearing Officers to Hear Evidence, Prepare a Record and Bring Recommendations to the Board, Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-843(F)(2).**

BACKGROUND:

A.R.S. § 15-843(f) permits school district governing boards to provide “by policy or vote at its annual organizational meeting that all hearings concerning the expulsion of a pupil conducted pursuant to this section will be conducted before a hearing officer selected from a list of hearing officers approved by the governing board.” Governing Board Policy JKE authorizes the Superintendent to present expulsion recommendations to a hearing officer selected from a list of hearing officers approved by the Board. The hearing officer appointed is responsible to hear evidence, prepare a record, and make a recommendation to the Governing Board about whether an expulsion is appropriate.

This agenda item provides the Governing Board with an opportunity to approve the following individuals to serve as hearing officers to preside over student suspension and expulsion hearings:

- Roseanne Lopez, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education
- Michael Bejarano, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education
- Michelle Tong, Associate to the Superintendent and General Counsel
- Kristin McGraw, Executive Director of Student Services
- Tassi Call, Director of 21st Century Education
- Shannon McKinney, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum and Assessment
- Armando Soto, Director of Interscholastics
- David Rucker, Equity and Safety Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator

David Rucker, Equity and Safety Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator, and Michelle Tong, Associate to the Superintendent and General Counsel, will continue to serve as the primary hearing officers for student long-term suspension and/or expulsion hearings. However, there will be occasional conflicts of interest or times where additional hearing officers may be required. The above list of potential hearing officers permits the Superintendent to appoint an alternative hearing officer on these occasions.

All hearing officers are trained on the District’s policies and procedures for long-term suspension and expulsion hearings before conducting a student discipline hearing. Additional trainings are provided when necessary. General Counsel Michelle Tong is responsible to ensure that these trainings occur.

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board appoint the individuals listed above as a student discipline long-term suspension and expulsion hearing officers.

INITIATED BY:

Michelle H. Tong, J.D.,
Associate to the Superintendent and General Counsel

Date: January 4, 2021

Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent