

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting**  
**Amphitheater Public Schools**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2023**

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A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

**Governing Board Members Present**

Ms. Deanna M. Day, M. Ed., President  
Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, Vice President  
Dr. Scott K. Baker, Member  
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member  
Ms. Susan Zibrat, Member

**Superintendent's Cabinet Members Present**

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent  
Ms. Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education  
Mr. Matthew Munger, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education  
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum and Assessment  
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Director of Student Services  
Mr. Richard C. La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support  
Ms. Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21st Century Education  
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND SIGNING OF THE VISITOR'S REGISTER**

President Day called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and invited members of the audience to sign the guest register.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Jaeger introduced Dr. Orante Jenkins, Principal of Ironwood Ridge High School. Dr. Jenkins asked Ironwood Ridge High School student and National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist, Emma Langlais to come forward. Emma led the pledge of allegiance and Dr. Baker presented her with a certificate of recognition.

**3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART**

Dr. Jenkins introduced the Ironwood Ridge High School Art teachers, Jill Menaugh and Eileen Rubelmann. A few of the student artists from the audience also came forward. Ms. Menaugh said that they appreciated the opportunity to display 2-D and 3-D art. She spoke about the art curriculum including teaching artistic behaviors and student directed learning. Ms. Rubelmann stated she appreciates the art program and the opportunities it gives to students. She explained that the art displayed represents first year students all the way through fourth year advanced placement art students.

Dr. Baker presented Ms. Menaugh and Ms. Rubelmann with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with Ms. Menaugh, Ms. Rubelmann, the art students, Dr. Jenkins, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

President Day announced that the next Regular Governing Board Meeting would be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ, 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

## **5. RECOGNITIONS**

### **A. Recognition of 2023 Young Woman of Impact Award Winner**

Superintendent Jaeger introduced Mr. A. J. Malis, Amphitheater High School Principal. Mr. Malis invited Amphitheater High School senior, Hannah Harding, to come forward. Mr. Malis stated that each year the University of Arizona recognizes Women of Impact in the community, and this year they expanded their recognition to include outstanding high school students. Hannah was named one of 20 Young Women of Impact. Mr. Malis read his nomination which highlighted Hannah's multitude of academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and community service projects.

Ms. Zibrat presented Hannah with a certificate of recognition and asked her if she wanted to say anything. Hannah thanked her family for their support. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Malis, and Hannah to mark the occasion.

### **B. Recognition of National Merit Scholarship Commended Students and Semifinalists**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. Matt Munger to introduce this recognition. Mr. Munger explained that students qualified to be National Merit finalists based on their PSAT test scores and that these students represented the top 1% of students across the country. He asked Ms. Tara Bulleigh and Dr. Orante Jenkins to come forward to introduce their students.

Ms. Bulleigh introduced Nathan Hartman, a National Merit Scholarship Commended student, and Kevin Neese, a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist, both from Canyon del Oro High School. She spoke about their academic and extracurricular achievements along with their plans to each attend in-state universities after high school.

Dr. Jenkins introduced Kayden Brant and Emma Langlais, National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists from Ironwood Ridge High School. He spoke about the balance and discipline these students have to maintain their demanding academic schedules and extracurricular pursuits.

President Day presented each student with a certificate of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Bulleigh, Dr. Jenkins, and the students.

### **C. Recognition of the Canyon del Oro High School Chess Team**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Bulleigh to introduce the next item. She asked Mr. Chris Chen, Canyon del Oro High School teacher and Chess Coach to come forward with the Chess Team. Mr. Chen explained that the Chess Team was formed five years ago, and they compete in the AIA Region 4. He spoke about the features of the competitions and introduced the members of the chess team present at the meeting. Mr. Chen recapped the team's undefeated season, placing first in the Southern Arizona Region, and moving on to the state competition.

President Day presented the Chess Team members and Mr. Chen with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the students, Mr. Chen, Ms. Bulleigh, Superintendent Jaeger, and the Governing Board.

### **D. Recognition of Canyon del Oro High School 2023 Division II State Swim Team Runners-Up**

Mr. Armando Soto, Director of Interscholastics, spoke about the success that fall sports teams have historically earned at the state level of competition. He introduced one of the Canyon del Oro High School Head Swimming Coaches, JB Yewell. Coach Yewell shared that he has been involved in the Canyon del Oro High School swimming program for many years, including when he was a Canyon del Oro High School student himself. He spoke about his first-year coaching in 2018 and the outstanding swim team that won the state championship that year. Coach Yewell stated that the talent of this year's team is unmatched by any previous team. He introduced the members of the Boys' swim team who were runners up in the state meet.

Coach Yewell spoke about Scott Edmiston's first place finish in the 50 freestyle which he also won last year, and he broke his own school record from last year as well. Assistant Coaches Don Enright and Ana Roper were also present.

Mr. Kopec presented the students and coaches with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken of the team, coaches, Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger.

#### **E. Recognition of 2023 Ironwood Ridge High School Boys' Golf State Champions**

Mr. Soto spoke about the total team victory that was achieved by the Ironwood Ridge High School Boys' Golf Team. He introduced Head Coach Ryan Bais who spoke about the great resolve and grit of the team and how winning came down to the last stroke in a tiebreaker. He talked about breaking most of the current school records and what an accomplishment it has been for the team to win back-to-back state championships. Coach Bais introduced each of the golfers and Mr. Kopec presented them and the coach with certificates of recognition. A few of the students thanked their coach and fellow team members for a great season.

A picture was taken with the golf team, Coach Bais, Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

#### **F. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards**

President Day asked Superintendent Jaeger to introduce the awards.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that each month during the school year, a certificated and a support staff member are recognized with a Distinguished Service Award.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Stephanie Hayes, Principal of Harelson Elementary School, and Certified Distinguished Service Award recipient, Caryn Tate, Kindergarten teacher, to come forward. Ms. Hayes also introduced Heidi Radtke and Polly Kimminau who helped write the nomination. She spoke about Ms. Tate's contributions and her continuous love of learning.

A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Tate for the work she has done in the District.

Ms. Zibrat asked Ms. Tate if she would like to share anything. Ms. Tate thanked the Governing Board for the recognition, as well as Ms. Hayes, Ms. Radtke, and Ms. Kimminau.

Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Tate with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board, a Distinguished Service Award and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

Superintendent Jaeger invited Stepanie Hillig, Principal of Copper Creek Elementary School, and Von Laughlin, SPED Teaching Assistant, the Support Staff Distinguished Service Award recipient, to come forward. Ms. Hillig said that about ten individuals collaborated on Ms. Laughlin's nomination, which is a testament to how much she is appreciated by the Copper Creek community.

A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Laughlin for the work she has done in the District.

Ms. Zibrat asked Ms. Laughlin if she would like to share anything. Ms. Laughlin thanked her family and the Copper Creek community for the recognition.

Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Laughlin with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board, a Distinguished Service Award and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

A picture was taken with Ms. Tate, Ms. Laughlin, Ms. Hayes, Ms. Hillig, Ms. Radtke, Ms. Kimminau, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

#### **G. Recognition of 2023 District Legendary Teacher Award Recipient**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Jen Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Governing Board to introduce this item. Ms. Anderson spoke about the history of the Legendary Teacher Award as it began in 2014 as a way for school districts to recognize

outstanding teachers. She explained that nominations are solicited from the community and a committee from the Legendary Teacher organization selects a recipient. Ms. Anderson introduced Amphitheater's 2023 Legendary Teacher recipient, Ms. Julie Ramsey, a former English teacher from Amphitheater High School and a current Assistant Principal at Coronado K-8 School. Ms. Ramsey was nominated by a former student, Miriam Barraza, who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Anderson read Ms. Barraza's nomination.

Vice President Cox Golder asked Ms. Ramsey if she would like to speak. Ms. Ramsey thanked her family and Mr. Malis, Principal at Amphitheater High School. A picture was taken with Ms. Ramsey, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger.

#### **H. Recognition of 2024 Arizona Teacher of the Year Semifinalist**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Amphitheater High School Principal, A.J. Malis to come forward. Mr. Malis introduced Marian Johnson who was named as an Arizona Education Foundation Ambassador for Excellence which means she was one of the top five finalists. He said that Ms. Johnson teaches Special Education Math to 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. She began working at Amphi High as a secretary but went on to get her teaching credentials. In 2020, she received her National Board Certification. Mr. Malis spoke about Ms. Johnson's teaching methods which engage students to use their mathematical skills in meaningful ways and where students feel safe to express their ideas. He expressed his gratitude that she is part of the Amphi family.

President Day presented Ms. Johnson with a certificate of recognition. Ms. Johnson thanked her family for their support and everyone from the District who came to the Teacher of the Year Award ceremony. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Johnson, and Mr. Malis.

#### **I. Recognition of Cognia Circle of Excellence Award Recipient**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. Michael McConnell, Principal of Innovation Academy, to introduce the item. Mr. McConnell spoke about having the opportunity to nominate a teacher for the Cognia Circle of Excellence Award and Ms. Cordell was the first person to come to mind. He stated that Ms. Cordell is the epitome of a STEM teacher who embraces STEM and project-based learning. She has led professional development for other educators and has presented at multiple conferences. He praised Ms. Cordell as a true leader in education.

Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Cordell with a certificate of recognition. Ms. Cordell thanked her Amphi Family for the honor. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Cordell, and Mr. McConnell to mark the occasion.

*President Day called for a seven-minute break at 7:17 pm.*

*The meeting was reconvened at 7:24 pm.*

### **6. INFORMATION**

#### **A. Superintendent's Report**

*For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint Presentation see Exhibit 1.*

Superintendent Jaeger began his report by sharing some photos of recent District events.

He spoke about the many Veteran's Day activities throughout the District. Painted Sky Elementary School third graders performed patriotic songs for veterans at the Veterans Community Care Center at the VA. Wilson K-8 families gathered to honor veterans, and Innovation Academy students had the opportunity to visit with a Marine veteran.

Superintendent Jaeger said that Mesa Verde Elementary School held its "Color Run" last week. At the event, the Mountain Lion students ran laps around their field and got sprayed with colorful paint. He thanked the Mesa Verde families and members of the Canyon del Oro High School Spiritline for helping to create a fun day.

He talked about the “This is High School” event. Superintendent Jaeger said fifth graders visited Canyon del Oro, Ironwood Ridge and Amphitheater High Schools to learn about all of the incredible learning opportunities they will have in a few years. The high school students loved showing off their Career and Technical Education (CTE) skills and equipment, too.

Superintendent Jaeger reported that several Amphi teachers are recipients of the Barstool: Extra Yard for Teachers Award, which comes with a \$1,000 check! The winners are Amanda Bryant and Rob Lantz at Canyon del Oro High School, Ashlee Watson at Innovation Academy, Trish Ambrosio and Sam Burgin at Ironwood Ridge High School, and Kelsey Bronson at Prince Elementary School.

He shared that Halloween is a special time at Wetmore. The staff decorate their doors and dress up to welcome kindergarteners from Prince, Holaway and Rio Vista Elementary Schools to trick or treat. This year, after the kindergarteners went back to school, a group of Wetmore staff visited Rillito to celebrate Halloween with the students there.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that as part of the District’s Portrait of a Graduate initiative, October was Caring Month. Photos showed principals at Ironwood Ridge and Canyon del Oro High School with some of their Early Childhood Education students who help care for the preschoolers. Another photo showed Wilson Wranglers wearing orange as part of bullying prevention month. For November, the focus will be on Critical Thinking.

President Day thanked him for the report.

## **B. Status of Construction Projects**

*For detailed information on the Status of Construction Projects see Exhibit 2.*

Superintendent Jaeger invited Mr. LaNasa to present this month’s report.

Mr. LaNasa shared photos of some of the current projects in the District. He explained that most of the evaporative coolers have finally been replaced.

Vice President Cox Golder asked how many schools still have evaporative coolers?

He responded that there are a few locations that require conversions and they are in the process of being replaced.

**Amphitheater High School** (AHS) Bond projects include backup generators for MDF rooms, building E parking lot restoration, and improvements to building H hallway, and the main entrance security and access controls. Building Renewal Grant (BRG) projects include the central plant (CP) #2 and #3 hot water lines replacement and phase I east campus and phase II west campus roof replacements. Additional projects include buildings 800, DN and south gym Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) conversion, and 300 wing structural repairs (phase II).

**Canyon del Oro High School** (CDO) Bond projects include the completion of improvements to building BN HVAC controls, and the central plant water line. Auto shop heater replacements have been ordered. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) projects include central plant controls improvements. Building BN HVAC controls improvement has been completed. BRG projects include phase I west campus and phase II east campus weatherization, and the north gym evaporative cooler to air conditioning conversion

**Ironwood Ridge High School** (IRHS) Bond projects include CP plant control valve replacements. BRG projects include the weatherization of the academic buildings. Classroom A105 carpet replacement has been completed.

**Amphitheater Middle School** (AMS) Bond projects include the completion of building D stage bathroom floor replacement. ESSER projects include the completion of building 300 HVAC improvements.

**Copper Creek Elementary School** Bond projects include upgrades to the central plant cooling tower and pump. BRG projects include the MPR roof replacement.

**Coronado K-8 School** Bond projects include the completion of improvements to the boys and girls locker room HVAC during fall break.

**Cross Middle School** BRG projects include the campus weatherization assessment.

**Donaldson Elementary School** Bond projects include reconstruction of the main parking lot. Adjacent Ways Projects include fire lane reconstruction during winter break.

**Harelson Elementary School** BRG projects include the campus roof assessment.

**Holaway Elementary School** Bond projects include campus access control improvements have been completed.

**Innovation Academy** Bond projects include the central plant chiller replacement and temporary chiller rental.

**Land Lab** Bond projects include building D restroom HVAC improvements.

**La Cima Middle School** Bond projects include the completion of security fence improvements. ESSER projects include the central plant chiller replacement in 2024. BRG projects include the campus roof assessment and campus weatherization design.

**Mesa Verde Elementary School** BRG projects include the east and west classrooms, administration and MPR campus roof replacements. The sidewalk access ramp has been completed.

**Nash Elementary School** Bond projects include the replacement of the playground equipment. The kitchen HVAC has been replaced. ESSER projects include the completion of building I HVAC improvements. BRG projects include the campus roof assessment.

**Painted Sky Elementary School** BRG projects include the fire alarm and boiler # 2 replacement.

**Prince Elementary School** Bond projects include building C ductwork, flooring and lighting. BRG projects include the campus roof replacement, and weatherization assessment. The CP water treatment equipment repair and the west wing HVAC coil replacement have been completed.

**Rillito Center** BRG projects include the swimming pool HVAC repair.

**Rio Vista Elementary School** Bond projects include playground improvements. Building C second floor access controls improvements have been completed.

**Walker Elementary School** Bond projects include building I HVAC replacement .

**Wilson K-8 School** Bond projects include the completion of HVAC improvements to the south MPR and locker room. BRG projects include the MPR stage HVAC and roof replacement, campus building hot water line replacement and the campus weatherization assessment.

Mr. La Nasa then offered to answer any questions. There were none.

President Day thanked him for his report.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Details of agenda items, supporting documents, and presentations are available in the electronic Board Book by clicking on the hyperlink below.*

[Amphitheater Public Schools Public View - BoardBook Premier](#)

*President Day asked if any items needed to be removed for comment or discussion. There were none.*

*President Day asked for a motion. Vice President Cox Golder moved for Consent Agenda Items 8. A.-P. be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0.*

**A. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel**

*Non-administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 3.*

**B. Approval of Personnel Changes**

*Certified and classified personnel changes were approved as listed in Exhibit 4.*

**C. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence**

*Leave(s) of absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.*

**D. Approval of Separation(s) and Termination(s)**

*Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.*

**E. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers**

*Stipend for Coaching Volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.*

**F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

*The Governing Board approved minutes from the October 24, 2023 meeting as submitted in Exhibit 8.*

**G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$4,607,511.95**

*A copy of vouchers for goods and services received by the Amphitheater Public Schools and recommended for payment has been provided to the Governing Board. The following vouchers were approved as presented and payment authorized as submitted in Exhibit 9.*

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1097	\$89,655.05	1098	\$423,278.17	1100	\$143,162.84
1101	\$207,061.90	1102	\$620,975.05	1103	\$312,214.83
1104	\$23,117.17	1105	\$5,176.30	1106	\$161,905.83
1107	\$47,879.20	1108	\$24,322.21	1109	\$185,605.80
1110	\$60,774.89	1111	\$536,847.42	1113	\$151,082.14
1114	\$55,871.61	1115	\$338.06	1116	\$142,516.69
1117	\$100,136.46	1118	\$1,223,483.68	1119	\$10,606.03
1120	\$81,500.62				

**H. Acceptance of Gifts**

*Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as submitted in Exhibit 10.*

**I. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) - 2023-2024**

*The Governing Board approved CDO Swimming Booster, Model UN Booster (Ironwood Ridge High School), CDO Womans Soccer Booster for the 2023-2024 school year as submitted in Exhibit 11.*

**J. Receipt of September 2023 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances**

*The Governing Board approved Receipt of September 2023 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances as submitted in Exhibit 12.*

**K. Approval of Disposal of Surplus Property via PublicSurplus.com**

*The Governing Board approved Disposal of Surplus Property via PublicSurplus.com.*

**L. Approval of All Authorized Signatories on District Checking Accounts for the 2023- 2024 Fiscal Year**

*The Governing Board approved All Authorized Signatories on District Checking Accounts for the 2023- 2024 Fiscal Year as submitted in Exhibit 13.*

**M. Approval of Agreement with the Arizona Department of Education for Arts Consumables Program Grant**

*The Governing Board approved Agreement with the Arizona Department of Education for Arts Consumables Program Grant as submitted in Exhibit 14.*

**N. Approval of Supplemental Texts and Materials**

*The Governing Board approved Supplemental Texts and Materials as submitted in Exhibit 15.*

**O. Approval of Revision to the 2023-2024 Governing Board Meeting Schedule**

*The Governing Board approved Revision to the 2023-2024 Governing Board Meeting Schedule as submitted in Exhibit 16.*

**P. Approval of Out of State Travel**

*The Governing Board approved requests for out of state travel as listed in Exhibit 17.*

**9. STUDY**

**A. Public Meeting Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-481(Y) to Provide an Update on Programs Financed through the 10% Maintenance and Operations Override and the 3.5% K-3 Special Programs Override**

*For the PowerPoint presentation see Exhibit 18.*

President Day asked Superintendent Jaeger to introduce this item. Superintendent Jaeger explained that school districts that receive override funding must annually hold a public meeting to share with the Governing Board and the public how the funds have been utilized. This information is also presented to meet the compliance requirement. He said Ms. Call and Mr. Munger will review the information.

Mr. Munger explained that Arizona law permits school districts to obtain local voter approval to override the state budget formulas for a school district's capital and or maintenance and operations (M and O) budgets. He said the override funds must be used for the specific purpose approved by the voters and the enrollment numbers determine the amount of funding. The first override is a 10% general M and O budget override and the second is a 3.5% K-3 special programs budget override.

Ms. Call reviewed information about the overrides. The District will receive the full percentage for the first five years, until school year 2024-2025. At that point, unless the voters renew the overrides, they will phase down during years six and seven. She said this year, the M and O override provides \$8,344,257 in additional funding to Amphitheater Public Schools. This amount decreased from last year largely due to decreased student enrollment. Ms. Call stated that all schools in the District receive override funding.

Mr. Munger gave a detailed breakdown of how the override funding specifically helps in each school. He said the override adds approximately 3% to the base salary for all employees. Additionally, the 10% M and O override adds facilities and technology positions to enable the District to remain current with growing technology demands and changes.



Ms. Call spoke about the 3.5% Special Programs Override for Kindergarten through Third Grade. She said the funds were approved to provide free all-day kindergarten, and to reduce class size in K-3 grades. Additionally, Title I funds previously used to subsidize Kindergarten in Title I schools are now being used to help all students in the Title I schools. Ms. Call explained that before the override, parents in schools that did not qualify to receive Title I funds had to pay for the half-day Kindergarten program. Now, no parent pays for Kindergarten at any Amphitheater school. Since the override has been in place, class size has been reduced to 25 in Kindergarten and First Grade. She reported that the override currently provides \$2,385,460 in additional funding.

Mr. Munger concluded by saying that both overrides provide substantial benefits for Amphitheater students and their educational programs. He stated that the overrides will expire in 2024-2025, and the District will seek voter approval to renew the overrides in November of 2024. He said Amphitheater Public Schools is grateful to the voters who continue to support the students of the District with these overrides.

He offered to answer any questions.

Vice President Cox Golder asked why is the renewal being done in 2024 when it doesn't expire until 2028?

Mr. Munger responded that the overrides have a phased cessation, therefore the funds need to be renewed to continue to receive the funding.

Mr. Kopec asked what is the total percentage cap allowed by the state for an override?

Superintendent Jaeger said that school districts can pursue maintenance and operations overrides up to 15%. He explained that administration will be studying the renewal in the future.

Vice President Cox Golder commented that she thought that the funding amount was based on the property values/tax rates not student enrollment. She asked for clarification.

Mr. Little stated that M & O is determined by student enrollment, and bond funds are tied to property taxes.

## **B. Presentation on Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) and Recognition of AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction and Showcase School**

*For the PowerPoint presentation see Exhibit 19.*

Superintendent Jaeger was pleased to introduce Julie Valenzuela. He asked her to share more about the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program.

Ms. Valenzuela explained that AVID began as a program at the secondary level. It equips teachers and schools with what they need to help these students succeed on the path to college and career success. She said these are often the students who will be the first in their families to attend college.

Ms. Valenzuela noted the AVID program was successful at the secondary level and then was introduced at the elementary level to create a foundation to better prepare the students for middle school, high school, and college. The students learn about organization, study skills, communication, and self-advocacy in an age-appropriate and challenging way.

She talked about the timeline of the AVID program. The first school was La Cima Middle School in 2008. Then eight feeder-pattern schools joined between 2009-2014: Amphitheater High School, Amphitheater Middle School, and Holaway, Keeling, Nash, Prince, Rio Vista, and Walker Elementary Schools. In 2022 three additional schools joined, Coronado K-8, Donaldson, and Mesa Verde Elementary Schools. The decision to go Districtwide was made last year and was implemented this school year. She explained there are some schools working

towards the certification needed to be part of the program.

Ms. Valenzuela spoke about the strategic planning that took place in order to implement the Districtwide program. She said as part of the planning process a definition of Districtwide AVID was created:

*“Grounded in the AVID College and Career Readiness Framework, Districtwide AVID informs strategic planning and resource allocation to establish the beliefs and infrastructure needed to ensure college and career readiness for all students.”*

She shared that they have revisited the Districtwide program and identified areas that are doing well and where growth is needed. The group will meet quarterly to continue focusing on the framework.

Ms. Valenzuela stated as a result of the planning process, a uniform definition of rigor was developed.

Rigorous learning is an intentional approach that fosters student agency and empowers students to take control of their own learning without fear of failure and requires:

- Sustaining Amphitheater's 8 areas of the Portrait of a Graduate
- Personalized Competency Based Learning
- Setting high expectations
- Engaging students in complex, inquiry-based tasks
- Challenging students' thinking to reach increasingly higher levels of understanding
- WICOR strategies across all content areas

Ms. Valenzuela shared pictures of AVID in action, and then invited Laurie Sheber, Principal of Prince Elementary School, to come forward to be recognized as an AVID “Showcase School”. The designation by AVID means that Prince Elementary School will be a school for other districts to visit and will have a walkthrough on February 1, 2024.

Ms. Sheber said she was proud to achieve this goal and acknowledged the hard work of AVID coordinators Kelsey Glavin and Gabriela Gonzales. Ms. Glavin explained that AVID is the entire school culture and talked about the process to becoming a “Showcase School”. Ms. Gonzales spoke about the AVID continuum, where elements are added each year. She invited the Governing Board to attend the AVID Showcase reveal on February 1, 2024.

Ms. Valenzuela invited A. J. Malis, Principal of Amphitheater High School and Shawn Smith, AVID Site Coordinator to talk about the AVID “Site of Distinction” recognition the school received. Mr. Smith explained the recognition was not a new certification, but an acknowledgement of the hard work to maintain the designation. He said the program has continued to grow, and there are more teachers involved and student involvement has increased as a result. He talked about additional schoolwide strategies in place that have been successful. Mr. Smith stated that a new plan is to have the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from the feeder schools visit Amphitheater High School to see what AVID is all about. Mr. Malis praised Mr. Smith for his strong leadership and guidance of the AVID program.

Ms. Zibrat presented certificate of recognition to Prince Elementary School and Amphitheater High School.

To mark the occasion a picture was taken with the school representatives, Ms. Valenzuela, Ms. Call, David Humphries, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger.

### C. Presentation on District Data as it relates to the School A-F Letter Grades

*For the PowerPoint presentation see Exhibit 20.*

Superintendent Jaeger reported school letter grades were recently released by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and they will be reviewed tonight. He explained Jason Weaver, Amphitheater Program Evaluation and Data Analyst prepared the presentation, but was unable to be here. He then invited Ms. Elizabeth Jacome to present the information.

Ms. Jacome said she will review the key components and calculations of the A-F letter grade system; the District letter grades and the state assessment achievement data. She talked about the proficiency levels used for student assessment.

- **Highly Proficient (Level 4)**  
Advanced understanding, highly likely to be ready (for the next grade level)
- **Proficient (Level 3)**  
Strong understanding, likely to be ready (for the next grade level)
- **Partially Proficient (Level 2)**  
Partial understanding, likely to need support be ready (for the next grade level)
- **Minimally Proficient (Level 1)**  
Minimal understanding, highly likely to need support be ready (for the next grade level)

She spoke about factors that are used to determine the A-F letter grades for K-8 students including the percentage of proficient students on the AASA grade level assessment (grades 3-8), longitudinal indicators of relative student growth, English learner language proficiency and growth (grades K-8) and indicators to measure students' ability to accelerate beyond elementary school. Ms. Jacome then reviewed the factors for high school letter grades: percentage of proficient students on the state administered ACT (grade 11), longitudinal indicators of relative student gain and growth, English learner language proficiency and growth (grades 9-12), college and career readiness indicators and graduation rates. She noted the calculations are very complex and that there are additional underlying factors that are used to calculate the letter grades. Ms. Jacome shared the letter grades for the Amphi schools. There were 8-"A's", 7-"B's", 4-"C's" and 1-"D".

Ms. Jacome showed passing percentage graphs. The graphs compared Amphitheater School District with the state and other neighboring school districts assessments in Math and English Language Arts. It also showed the scores for each Amphi school. The District was higher than the state average in all grades.

Ms. Jacome recapped the student performance summary. She noted that 75% of Amphi schools were excellent or highly performing schools and stressed that the A-F letter grade provides only one snapshot or view of the schools. The data shows there are areas of success and excellence to build upon, and also the areas requiring growth and improvement.

She offered to answer questions.

Vice President Cox Golder expressed concerns regarding some of the school grades.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that there are many factors that comprise the letter grades, and there can also be different reasons for the lower scores/grades. He noted COVID continues to have a significant effect on student outcome measures. Superintendent Jaeger provided the context that, overall, the District continues to perform at higher levels than the state average and other districts are grappling with the same latent COVID issues. He commented that some of our schools may have grounds for an appeal, and he felt their letter grade would improve after the appeal process.

President Day noted that the letter grade is just one measure, but it doesn't measure the successes.

Mr. Kopec agreed that the letter grades are just one measure and felt that the data will be used to create targeted interventions for the future.

Superintendent Jaeger stated there are already improvement plans in place. He noted the record of growth and improvements in the District over the last seven years. The District has grown, during that time frame, from two "A" schools, to ten last year and eight this year. Superintendent Jaeger said there is work ahead, and we will continue to pursue improvement under the school grade label system.

## 10. ACTION

### A. Resolution Declaring the Tuesday Before Thanksgiving as "Kindness Day"

Superintendent Jaeger explained that Kindness Day has been a tradition in the District for a few years. He recommended that the Governing Board adopt the resolution declaring "Kindness Day" on November 21, 2023.

*Vice President Cox Golder made a motion adopt the resolution. Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor - 5: President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed - 0. The Governing Board passed and adopted Resolution Declaring the Tuesday Before Thanksgiving as "Kindness Day" as submitted in Exhibit 21.*

Dr. Baker read the resolution.

## 11. PUBLIC COMMENT

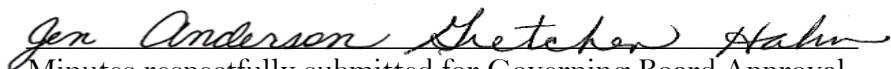
There were no comments.

## 12. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

*President Day moved to adjourn. Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor - 5. President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed - 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.*

  
Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval  
Jen Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board  
Gretchen Hahn, Secretary III, Governing Board Office

January 3, 2024  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deanna M. Day M. Ed, Governing Board President

January 9, 2024  
Date