



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

DATE OF MEETING: January 10, 2023

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 JDK sets forth the process for student suspension hearings. A formal hearing with a hearing officer is required before a student may be suspended from school for more than ten (10) days.

Similarly, 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 specific District administrative positions to serve as a hearing officer to preside over student suspension and expulsion hearings. Administration recommends the following positions, and the individuals working in those positions, be approved to serve as hearing officers for this purpose:

- Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education,
- Matthew Munger, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education,
- Michelle Tong, Associate to the Superintendent and General Counsel,
- Kristin McGraw, Executive Director of Student Services,
- Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21st Century Education,
- Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum and Assessment,
- Armando Soto, Director of Interscholastics, and
- Elizabeth Rusiecki, Equity and Safety Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator

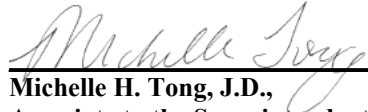
The Equity and Safety Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator will continue to serve as the principal hearing officer for student long-term suspension and/or expulsion hearings. However, there will be occasional conflicts of interest or times where additional hearing officers may be required. The above list of potential hearing officers permits the Superintendent to appoint an alternative hearing officer on these occasions. In this situation, a hearing will be assigned to the Associate to the Superintendent or to the Director of Interscholastics before any of the other positions.

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:

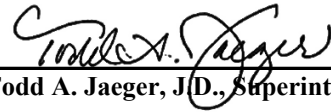
The administration recommends the Governing Board appoint the individuals listed above as a student discipline long-term suspension and expulsion hearing officers.

INITIATED BY:



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

Date: December 27, 2022



Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent