

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, August 11, 2020**

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A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held Tuesday, August 11, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 West Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ in the Leadership & Professional Development Center. The meeting was held under COVID-19 pandemic related conditions.

**Governing Board Members Present**

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

**Governing Board Members Absent**

Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, Vice President – absent

**Superintendent's Cabinet Members Present**

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent  
Dr. Roseanne Lopez, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education  
Mr. Michael Bejarano, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education  
Ms. Michelle H. Tong, J.D., Associate to the Superintendent and Legal Counsel  
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Director of Student Services  
Ms. Tassi Call, Director of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education  
Mr. James Burns, Executive Manager of Operational Support  
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications  
Dr. Shannon McKinney, Director of Curriculum and Assessment

**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 visitors' register.

*President Day reviewed directives regarding Arizona Governor Ducey's announcement that all Arizona schools are to be closed through August 17, 2020 due to the COVID-19 health crisis and Amphi will be following CDC recommendations for public gatherings. She noted that Arizona law permits Board members to attend meetings by videoconference or telephone. In addition, she requested that all persons present exercise safe social distancing for this Board meeting. There was a quorum at this meeting. This meeting was live streamed for the public.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Day asked Dr. McKinney to lead the Pledge.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SPECIAL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

President Day announced the next Special Governing Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ in the Leadership & Professional Development Center.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*President Day noted that public comments had been sent to Ms. Smith via email, as well as attendees at this Board meeting, all wishing to be heard. Therefore, President Day noted that a public comment from an email will be heard followed by a public comment from an attendee, and back and forth.*

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Ms. Trisha Panka, Amphi parent. Ms. Panka asked the Board to reopen in-person learning. She said the benefits of school outweigh the risks of the virus and noted that pediatricians said it is safe for students to return to school. She said that online learning will not create lifelong learners. Ms. Panka also said closing schools should be illegal and, as a parent, it is difficult to monitor all her children at the same time. She felt Zoom meetings were inadequate instruction, especially for kindergarten through second grade.

President Day read the Call to the Audience Procedures for the live speakers.

Mr. Michael Meridieth, Amphi classified employee, wanted to know where the process was for classified employees to work from home. He said an email dated July 31, 2020 stated there was no process for classified employees to work from home. He also said there was a later email saying that if you have a child, you may bring them to work, however when a classified employee requested this, they were told they could not bring their child to work. He said there is inequity within the District. He asked the Governing Board to direct the administration to open a direct line of communication with the Amphi Education Association.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Tong to respond. Although the Board cannot enter into a discussion regarding public comments, inaccuracies and misleading statements can be addressed.

Ms. Tong addressed the Board regarding inaccurate statements made by Mr. Meridieth. She noted the July 31<sup>st</sup> letter did not mention anything about restrict.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Ms. Sara Nicolai, an Amphi parent. She said that via Facebook she received a petition with a pre-printed email to forward to the Superintendent in support of teachers working remotely, but she is in support of teachers going back to their classes. She said that in March many teachers were not available for students and parents when they needed assistance. Teachers were also busy trying to teach their own children while trying to teach their classes, others were not tech savvy and overwhelmed. Then there were limited outlets for students who would normally have elective courses between academics. Electives became classes where teachers assigned essay papers to write. Working in the healthcare profession she didn't feel the school environment is unsafe if teachers are in their own classroom and proper cleaning and disinfecting of common areas is done. Ms. Nicolai also addressed teachers bringing their children to work. She felt this should not be approved, and suggested looking into the community for childcare for teachers.

Ms. Lisa Millerd, Amphi Education Association (AmphiEA) President, addressed that Board. She said that she is tired. Most of the educators are hopeful, despite administration's reactive decisions. She said that it gives her anxiety when employee working conditions decisions are being made without AmphiEA representation. She said that she was told that she was offensive

and had a poor attitude when she brought employee concerns forward. Ms. Millerd talked about a good teacher who will take what is not working and change it to make sure all students are learning. AmphiEA will continue to listen to the employees and is ready to take the next step.

## **1. INFORMATION<sup>1</sup>**

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

*For Superintendent Jaeger's Power Point Presentation see Exhibit 1.*

Superintendent Jaeger reviewed the District's professional development programs that were offered throughout the summer, including its BOOST program for brand new teachers, Results Based Funding programs, and the annual Effective Teaching Conference. These training were conducted remotely.

From August 3-7, School Operations offered more than 100 hours of professional development. Session topics included Blackboard, Google Classroom, iReady, SeeSaw, Edgenuity, IEP writing, trauma-informed practices, Waterford, and "How to" Zoom. He acknowledged the hard work by staff for these presentations. He also expressed his appreciation to the participants, and commented that he has received positive feedback.

On August 6, Superintendent Jaeger attended a meeting with other local superintendents and officials with Pima County Health Department (PCHD) to review draft guidance for reopening schools. The final draft will give specific protocols and utilize local metrics to determine when it safe to reopen schools.

On August 10, Superintendent Jaeger attended a public meeting of superintendents and the Pima County Health Department to review the current health metrics, and the determination that schools will not be able to reopen for in-person learning for at least seven to eight weeks. He explained that the health department uses three main criteria: disease, healthcare capacity, and public health capacity. Disease criteria included decreasing cases and hospitalizations and Covid-19 related deaths over two consecutive weeks. Currently, those declines have not occurred sufficiently. He discussed that there is also a delay in accurate reporting of test results. The death rate data can be delayed by as many as four weeks.

Superintendent Jaeger mentioned PCHD will have a liaison for each school district to help facilitate in the reopening plan. The liaison will assist with data review, assessment support, and health care protections. They will also evaluate each school individually before a district can reopen.

He expressed his gratitude to the community for the donation of over three thousand masks for students when they begin in-person learning.

Superintendent Jaeger also acknowledged the continued support of the Amphi Foundation. In addition to school supplies, they provided school nurses and health aides with resource kits filled with supplies for students. The Foundation also donated \$40,000.00, which includes \$20,000.00 from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona. These funds will expand student access to technology while they are learning from home.

He reported that August 10 was the first day of school, and he heard many positive comments from students, teachers, and parents about the start. The tradition of “First Day School Photos” were presented as a slide show.

President Day thanked Superintendent Jaeger for the report and expressed her gratitude to the entire Amphi community; administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and students who came together and created a totally different teaching modality. She commented that she has received positive feedback from teachers about a successful first day of school. She also acknowledged the Amphi Foundation and the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona. Their financial support is helping to bridge the digital divide with devices and online access for Amphi students.

## **B. Status of Bonds**

Superintendent Jaeger expressed how fortunate we are to have a Bond program in our District that greatly benefits our student, staff and community. He invited Mr. Burns to update the Board on the status of the Bonds.

Mr. Burns presented the following report on the Bond projects throughout the District. *For detailed information on the Bonds report see Exhibit 2.*

Amphitheater High School (AHS) Bonds projects include asphalt repairs to the parking lot and baseball field. Arizona School Facilities Board (SFB) projects include a structural evaluation of the 300 wing, the preliminary report has been received, and the AHS main gym roof replacement drain leak detection is scheduled.

Canyon del Oro High School (CDO) Bonds projects include the T building fan coil improvement, which is near completion. Materials are on order for the replacement of the east parking lot lights. The M & T building underground pipe replacement and the addition of a snack bar and air conditioner are now complete. SFB projects include campus roofing phase I for buildings D, E, JE, JW, J, K and S, which are all 90% complete, building N is 30% complete. Campus roofing phase II, the supplemental construction funding grant request has been submitted to SFB. Adjacent Ways paving of fire lane by the tennis courts is underway.

Ironwood Ridge High School (IRHS) Bonds projects include Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) repairs for science tables which are near completion. SFB projects underway include roofing replacements to buildings A and F.

Amphitheater Middle School Bonds projects include the Public Address (PA) system improvements, which is now complete.

Copper Creek Elementary Bonds projects include design work for staff and special needs restroom remodel which is 95% complete.

Coronado K-8 School Bonds projects include, administration and elementary building Air Conditioning (A/C) unit replacements, and a retrofit electric panel in room 24, materials are on order. Exterior lighting fixture replacement is completed. SFB projects include the (MPR) building roof replacement.

Cross Middle School SFB projects include the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) replacement. The design grant

for roof replacement has been submitted to SFB for funding. There is also a Tucson Electric Power grant project for Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lighting upgrades.

Donaldson Elementary Bonds projects underway include building E HVAC replacement, interior ceiling repainting, and classroom lighting.

El Hogar Bonds projects include exterior painting and installation of an exterior sink and bottle filler which are now complete.

Harelson Elementary SFB projects include the Funhouse roof and HVAC replacement. All roofing work has stopped.

Holaway Elementary Bonds projects include west side security fence painting, and washer and dryer hook up renovation to building E.

Innovation Bonds projects include east side drain improvements under the solar panels and washer and dryer hook up renovation to building B.

Keeling Elementary Bonds projects underway include replacement of three A/C units on Building G. Access control improvements, new and additional card readers, and a new lock down button are complete.

Mesa Verde Elementary Bonds projects include MPR A/C replacement and washer and dryer hook up renovation to building G. SFB projects include the roof replacement; design drawings have started. There is also a Tucson Electric Power grant project for LED lighting upgrades.

Rillito Center Bonds projects include sensory room improvements, and a new sign in front of the school which are complete. SFB projects included the campus roofing replacement, which is underway.

Walker Elementary Bonds projects include the computer room A/C replacement which is complete. SFB projects include classroom 14 HVAC replacement which is underway.

### **C. Report on the Effective Teaching Conference 2020**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Dr. McKinney to report to the Board on the Effective Teacher Conference. He noted that the other professional development sessions will be reported on at a future Board meeting. *For Dr. McKinney's Power Point Presentation and program handout on the Effective Teaching Conference 2020 see Exhibit 3.*

Dr. McKinney thanked Superintendent Jaeger and the Board members for this opportunity to tell them about the Effective Teaching Conference (ETC) that was held virtually, through Zoom, on July 29 and 30. The ETC is held annually to welcome new certificated staff to Amphi, introduce the Governing Board members and district-level administrators, develop relationships, share general information, and provide professional development on topics specifically geared toward teachers new to our District. There were 110 participants, with 23 facilitators that presented on a variety of topics. The sessions on TYLER SIS, The Amphi Way, and afternoon orientations were required by all participants, other sessions were chosen by the

individuals. Breakout sessions went really well and collaboration was excellent. Feedback given was a feeling of positive interaction among facilitators. Her closing comment was “could this be our new normal”?

#### **D. Report on Employee and Parent Surveys**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Valenzuela to present a report for the Board on the recent surveys that have been sent out.

*For detailed information on the Employee and Parent Surveys report see Exhibit 4.*

Ms. Valenzuela presented information from three surveys that were sent to families and employees; 1) Parent Survey on Learning Choices. 2) On-Campus Supervision. 3) Employee Technology/Workplace.

The first survey Ms. Valenzuela presented was sent to parents to find out their preference for learning during the school closure and the 2020-2021 school year. This survey provided information to the parents about the learning choices available in the Amphitheater District. Parents were asked to choose between full-time Online Learning, which is through Amphi Academy Online, and In-person Learning (Remote Learning by Necessity). Once the surveys were tabulated, and based on the information given, school personnel contacted families to discuss their option and confirm their choice. The survey included a field where families could enter comments for choosing full-time online learning. The comments were specific concerns for the health of the student or someone in the home, risks of going to school, a health issue related to wearing masks, the safety of returning to school, and the need for flexibility.

Ms. Valenzuela discussed the next survey that was generated due to Arizona Governor Ducey’s executive order to provide On-Campus Supervision in schools. Districts are required to provide a supervised space, on campus, for children who need a place to go until schools open for in-person instruction. This survey assessed parent interest in having their children participate in such a service.

The employee survey was created to assess the ability of employees to work from home for the near future and in the event we have to close sites due to a COVID-19 outbreak. The survey results revealed their access to computers and internet service. The primary reasons for requesting to work from home were the employee has underlying health conditions, a caretaker for a loved one, or they don’t have childcare for young children. The information from the survey was provided to supervisors, who assessed each applicant’s capacity to work from home before granting or denying permission.

## **2. CONSENT AGENDA<sup>3</sup>**

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

<https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicHome.aspx?ak=1000433>

*President Day asked if there were any Items that should be pulled for further discussion. There were none. President Day moved for Consent Agenda Items A. – M. be approved as presented Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. Roll call vote in favor - 4: President Day, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Roll call vote opposed - 0. Consent Agenda Items A.-M. passed.*

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

*Non-Administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.*

**B. Approval of Personnel Changes**

*Certified and classified personnel changes were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.*

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

*Leave(s) of absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.*

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

*Separation(s) and termination(s) were approved as listed in Exhibit 8.*

**E. Approval of Additional Post-Retirement Employment Opportunity for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

*Additional Post-Retirement Employment Opportunity for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was approved as listed in Exhibit 9.*

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

*Minutes of July 14, 2020, July 28, 2020 and August 4, 2020 meetings were approved as submitted in Exhibit 10.*

**G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$1,439,795.30**

*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 listed in Exhibit 11.*

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1379	\$112,630.52	1380	\$4,298.60	1014	\$62,726.6
1015	\$29,827.91	1016	\$341,208.97	1017	\$75,408.2
1019	\$10,501.59	1020	\$234,773.25	1381	\$26,049.5
1382	\$5.51	1021	\$190,170.91	1022	\$168,107.
1023	\$36,813.10	1024	\$57,790.58	1025	\$89,482.7

**H. Acceptance of Gifts**

*Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as listed in Exhibit 12.*

**I. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) - 2020-2021**

*The Governing Board approved Innovation Academy PTO and Copper Creek Elementary PTO for the 2020-2021 school year as submitted in Exhibit 13.*

**J. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) FY 2021 Capital Plan**

*The Governing Board approved the School Facilities Board (SFB) FY 2021 Capital Plan submitted in Exhibit 14.*

**K. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for CDO High School Roofing Replacement Phase II**

*The Governing Board approved the School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for CDO High School Roofing Replacement Phase II as submitted in Exhibit 15.*

**L. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Lulu Walker Elementary School HVAC Replacement**

*The Governing Board approved the School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Lulu Walker Elementary School HVAC Replacement as submitted in Exhibit 16.*

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

*Disposal of Surplus Property via PublicSurplus.com was approved as listed in Exhibit 17.*

**3. STUDY**

**A. Report on the District Distance Learning Plan**

Superintendent Jaeger noted that one of the requirements put in place by the Department of Education with the respect to the reopening of schools this year remotely or otherwise, was for each District to submit, for state approval, a Distance Learning Plan. The plan had to include very specific elements. He invited Dr. Lopez to present the District's plan to the Board. The plan has been submitted to, and approved, by the state. *For detailed exhibits of the District Distance Learning Plan see Exhibits 18 & 19.*

Dr. Lopez thanked the Board for this opportunity to share the District's Distance Learning Plan, she noted that it was a collaborative effort to create the Plan. She said that as part of Executive Order 2020-41, all public schools must submit a Distance Learning Plan (DLP), in order to receive funding. Knowing that not everyone in the District would be on the Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) program for the entire 2020-2021 school year, it was necessary to have this detailed Plan.

Dr. Lopez talked about the necessary steps in creating the Plan, beginning with attendance tracking, Zoom lessons, log in platforms, teacher contact by phone, etc. are all tracked and available is required by the auditors. Elementary and secondary students whose parents submit attestation of time spent on educational activities both on and off line will be counted as present and minutes recorded in the Amphi Academy Online record in Tyler SIS. Documented time in the online software is entered into Tyler SIS. Students who must be "offline" due to lack of internet access are given materials and activities to complete to meet stated objectives and includes time estimates for the work which will count for attendance. Completed packets with time estimates for completion of work is given once per week. Teachers have check-ins with students by phone to document and assist student progress and participation.

Dr. Lopez explained the different forms of communication including Google Classroom, Seesaw, Web Pages (District and School Based), Phone Calls (District

and School Based), Emails (District and School Based), Social Media, and ZOOM. She explained that a “Teacher Planning Guide for Remote Teaching by Necessity” along with expectations and support for teachers and staff has been provided to all staff including Human Resources support documents, protocols, and trainings.

Dr. Lopez touched on professional development sessions for staff this summer. She included the detailed instructional methods that are being used and are required to be included for state approval. Special Education and English Language Learners, IEP’s will still be provided for eligible students. All students Pre-K – 12 will receive instruction in social/emotional related issues using one of several researched based programs available such as: Second Step, Sanford Harmony, and Kimochis.

Dr. Lopez noted that all assessments will need to be provided in the first four weeks of schools. These will include the Waterford Assessment of Core Skills for kindergarten and first grade. NWEA Map for second through eighth grade.

Dr. Lopez offered to answer any questions from the Board. President Day thanked Dr. Lopez and commented on the detail and how the State must have been impressed with the Plan, as it was approved and sent back to the District in one day.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT<sup>1</sup>**

President Day reminded the speaker of the Call to the Audience Procedures.

Mr. Chris Ackerly, Amphi parent and teacher, expressed his and his colleague’s relief that the District has reached the right decision to return to work when the public health data says that it’s safe to do so and allowing teachers to work remotely if they feel the need. He went on to say that he was deeply concerned at the difficulty that it took to come to that decision. Until the Superintendent’s letter a few weeks ago there was no process in place and no indication that the District administration was going to be willing to allow employees to work remotely, unless they filed for a disability waiver under ADA. Mr. Ackerly said that listening to the Board meeting tonight and presentations, people may infer that a plan existed before two weeks ago. He said that didn’t fit, if we had a plan, why didn’t we know about it, and why did it wait until the last minute. He continued by saying that as a parent he knows we need to do a better job providing an educational experience for our students until we return to the classroom. He said he understands the politics, the public pressure and the dynamics surrounding all of that. As a professional, he said he know we have to do a better job. He said over the past week he and his colleagues got distracted with all the issues regarding working remotely. He said what was missing was a collaborative process to reach a consensus for these decisions. He concluded by saying, that he will do the best he can to reach the needs of his students and asked for a clear declaration statement of direction, trust employees to do their best, and work together to work out the details.

#### **BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

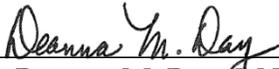
*President Day made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call vote in favor - 4: President Day, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Roll call vote opposed - 0. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.*



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*Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval  
Karin Smith  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Governing Board*

August 24, 2020

Date



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Ms. Deanna M. Day, M.Ed., Governing Board President

August 25, 2020

Date