

**Minutes of the Special Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, August 25, 2020**

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A Special public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held Tuesday, August 25, 2020, beginning at 5:30 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**

*Members attending telephonically are in italics*

*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

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

President Day called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and invited members of the audience to sign the visitors' register.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Day asked Dr. Baker to lead the Pledge.

**3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

President Day announced that the date and time of the next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 in the Leadership & Professional Development Center.

*President Day noted that this meeting was being streamed live for compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for public gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*Amphi will be following CDC recommendations for public gatherings. She noted that Arizona law permits Board members to attend meetings by videoconference or telephone, one or more members attended the meeting by telephone. In addition, she requested that all persons present exercise safe social distancing for this Board meeting. There was a quorum at this meeting.*

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*President Day asked if there were public comments. Ms. Tong said that there were comments sent in earlier to be read at tonight's meeting regarding returning to sports and comments regarding returning to school. She noted that there were five people here in-person to talk about returning to sports and the Amphi EA President would like to make a comment. Ms. Tong proposed to read a comment that was sent in earlier, then have a person that is here in attendance speak, and back and forth. President Day agreed.*

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Kyle Morrison who has a student at Ironwood Ridge High School on the football team. He expressed concern that Amphi is refusing to follow the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) guidelines and begin fall sports. He stated that other area school districts are currently allowing on campus voluntary conditioning. He commented that AIA has developed guidelines to return to sports, but Amphi is not moving forward within those guidelines. He said parents would like an explanation as to why sports were being taken away from their kids.

Lisa Millerd, Amphitheater Education Association (AEA/AmphiEA) President, thanked the District for the staff survey that was sent out and hoped the feedback will be valuable. She noted that policy states that as the Amphi EA President she is to be present at Board meetings. She commented about the excitement she felt meeting her students, even if it was over zoom. Then over the course of the week enrollment changed, classes were moved and challenges met. She noted that as educators we need to be cognizant of our expectations. She continued by saying that people's voices needed to be heard and acknowledged. Referencing some new COVID-19 trainings for staff, she felt the District is working to quell fears employees may have.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from David Peyton who said we need to open our schools so kids can learn and get back normal. He said there is information that says children are not at high risk, and some studies say children don't appreciably infect adults with the virus. He said other districts have opened, and felt we should too. Mr. Peyton said that he has a senior on the football team at Ironwood Ridge High School and hoped that the season will be moved to later in the fall or in the spring so they can have the preparation they need to have a full season. He urged the District to protect the senior year of athletes, saying it is a very important time for them in order to be considered for the next level. A shortened season should not be considered.

President Day read the Call to the Audience Procedures.

David Newell commented that he has a student on the Ironwood Ridge High School girl's golf team. He said he has written to the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger concerning District policies regarding athletics, reopening of schools, and the start of girls' golf season. He commented that he understands the challenges of serving on public boards during COVID-19, but felt that not allowing golf to begin, which is a socially distanced sport, was not good leadership and golf should not be grouped with other sports. He acknowledged

that there will be more hard decisions to be made in the future and urged the board to model leadership concerning the students they are here to serve.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Tony Somohano who has a student at Ironwood Ridge High School on the football team. He said sports motivates his son to get good grades, work towards a common goal with teammates, and gives him a sense of belonging during high school. He said the AIA has given guidelines and other districts in the area to move forward with fall sports and Marana and Vail School Districts have voluntary on-campus conditioning. He understands the District said no sports until in-person learning begins. He mentioned the students have been practicing on their own so they will be ready when the season starts. He asked to allow all sports an opportunity to follow the AIA guidelines and play. He also noted that he and many other parents would sign waivers to allow their student to play now. He concluded by saying sports has a positive impact on kids.

Becky Morrison is a parent of several students in the Amphitheater School District. She noted that she sent letters and, because no one responded, felt the need to attend this Board meeting to voice her concerns. She felt the Blue Ribbon Task Force guidelines are not being utilized and there has been a lack of communication concerning sports. Ms. Morrison said the AIA has guidelines in place that allow for voluntary participation in sports, but Amphi is not using them. The children deserve to be able to participate in sports. She said that Phoenix schools are allowing sports and so are most southern Arizona schools. She urged the Amphi to follow suit and open sports for our students. Club teams are practicing, they are playing, they are traveling, and they are healthy. She pleaded for Amphi to open sports for our students.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Becky Morrison who would like children to return to school. She is a nurse who works with COVID patients. She commented on changes that have to be made every day to ensure the safety of co-workers and families. Nothing is the same as it was before the pandemic hit our community. She said it won't be the same at each school, but there should be options that will start to open schools. Ms. Morrison said that small children are the least likely to suffer from COVID. She said that changes could begin with the elementary schools such as modifying ventilation in the schools to create negative air flow, bring specialists to the classroom, create one-way directional hallways, and bring lunches to the students in their class. *The reading of Ms. Morrison's letter exceeded the 3-minute time limit.*

Valerie Fanelli is a parent of a student at Ironwood Ridge High School on the football team. She is pleading with the District to resume fall sports using the AIA guidelines. She feels that there are many parents that want their children in the schools, learning and playing sports. She said that her son playing sports motivates him to do well in academics. Ms. Fanelli said that she, along with many other parents are willing to sign waivers to allow their children to play sports. She asked to please allow our kids to play sports following AIA guidelines. She also mentioned that her children are struggling with online learning.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Melyssa Palomino who has a senior student at Ironwood Ridge High School on the football team. She is very concerned that there are no fall sports. She said these boys have been practicing on their own with no supervision for months so that they can remain in the physical shape necessary in the event they are given the go ahead and allowed to play this fall. Sports are equally important as academics. AIA issued guidelines for fall sports, and other school districts are playing and conditioning on campus and feels that Amphi should too. Ms. Palomino believes that the reason Amphi has said no sports until in-person learning begins is due to the fact that teachers are refusing to go back to in-person learning. She said with no fall sports this is taking away the opportunity

for exposure to colleges and universities that could offer athletic scholarships for our students. She said that parents are willing to sign waivers to allow their students to play. She asked that sports be allowed to move forward following AIA safety measures.

Stoney Peletier is a parent of a senior student at Ironwood Ridge High School on the football team. He asked why sports were being pushed back until in-person learning begins. He asked if it was a safety thing. He felt it was safer for a student to play a sport and then go home, rather than to a classroom or from a classroom to the field. He mentioned that districts in Phoenix and around the Tucson area who are following AIA guidelines and moving forward with football. He said parents have the right to make the decision for their child to play or not.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Jessica Olsen. Ms. Olsen thanked the Board and the Blue Ribbon Task Force and all those working on this unique situation. She quoted Arizona Executive Orders and Pima County COVID percentages regarding when it is time to reopen schools. She felt that with the declining numbers there would be minimal spread and masks should no longer be required in schools with no distancing, back to normal, when all three areas are green. She said that once this is obtained it should be the parents' choice for their student to wear, or not wear, a facemask.

Celia Schrecker is a student at Ironwood Ridge High School and is on the girl's golf team. She spoke to the Board regarding not being able to participate in practice at school and compete in the state tournament. She is a Junior this year and said that she is hoping to obtain a college scholarship and is worried that not competing this year would hinder her chances. She said that their main rivals are now practicing and competing. Miss Schrecker said that she is practicing on her own, as the golf courses have not closed. She said her parents support her and will sign a waiver if necessary so that she could play.

Ms. Tong told President Day that this was the last live public comment, there were other comments that were submitted earlier regarding returning to sports and asking for in-person learning and re-opening our schools. Ms. Tong asked President Day if she would like her to continue reading the public comments or since the remainder of the comments were repetitive, would she prefer her to have them written into record.

President Day noted, that since the remainder of the letters were repetitive in content and opinion, that they not be read at this time and asked that they be put in the minutes.

Additional email comments that were received earlier, but not read into the record, were as follows:

Zoe Hero Newell is a student in Amphi School District and on the golf team. She sent in a comment asking the District to allow golf practices and competition to resume. She said other schools are playing and does not want to miss the opportunity of this season.

Ruth Seppala sent in a comment asking to resume sports and activities before in-person school resumes.

Sarah Seppala is a student in Amphi School District and on the swim team. She sent in a comment asking to allow sports to begin before in-person school begins.

Ethan Morrison is a student athlete in Amphi School District. He sent in a comment asking to allow sports to begin before in-person school begins.

Dylan Cook is a student athlete in Amphi School District. He sent in a comment asking to allow sports to begin before in-person school begins.

Thomas Smith is a student athlete in Amphi School District. He sent in a comment asking to allow sports to begin before in-person school begins.

Alan Squires sent in a comment saying that in-school learning needs to resume and fall sports should be allowed to begin their seasons.

Bob Allard sent in a comment stating that sports have resumed across the country and in our state as well. He is asking for sports to resume in Amphi schools.

Annie Anderson sent in a comment asking to open Amphi schools for in-person learning. She felt the guidelines set by the state show that we are ready to reopen schools safely now or at least real soon.

Kayleena Rosier sent in a comment that her children are struggling with online school. She said that in-person school is not just for academics, but also for social development. She asked for a definitive return date.

Jeff Drescher sent in a comment requesting that kids be back in school and playing fall sports.

Kristen Mitchell sent in a comment saying that schools should stick to their plan of opening up school September 8.

Alexandra Yarborough sent in a comment that those who want to return to in-person learning at the schools should have that choice to do so. She noted that her children were in summer camps and weekday cheer practices. She feels it is safe to open schools.

Superintendent Jaeger explained, that although the Governing Board cannot respond to public comments under the open meeting law, we can briefly respond to matters that may be potentially misleading. In response to many of comments that referred to Amphi as unique or singular in our stance on sports, he clarified that all of the school districts in Pima County have agreed that there will be no athletic competitions until schools are open. This is based on guidance and direction received from the Pima County Health Department. He noted that he was aware that there are some pre-conditioning activities that are occurring that may or may not be sanctioned by the other districts. Superintendent Jaeger said the current metrics do not support reopening schools or reopening athletic competitions. He also noted the metrics are improving considerably, and his hope is to open all the services as soon as possible.

He also clarified that the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) did not require districts to return to athletic competitions, practices or conditioning. They gave guidelines to districts to proceed forward in some circumstances. AIA left it up to districts to make their own determinations, and Superintendent Jaeger again reiterated that all the superintendents in Pima County were in agreement regarding athletics. They issued a joint letter on August 14, 2020 to make it clear there would be no athletic activities until academics resume.

He also noted that AIA recently withdrew the guidelines from their website and have indicated they are re-evaluating them. He acknowledged that there are varying opinions and not everyone agrees, but the main concern is public safety and we must rely on the guidance of our public health officials. He appreciates earnestness and sincerity from parents that would sign waivers, but this isn't about liability, it's about public safety and the safety of our kids.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2065>

*President Day asked if there were any Items that should be pulled for further discussion. There were none. Ms. Zibrat moved for Consent Agenda Items A. – L. be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec 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.-L. passed.*

**A. Approval of Non-Administrative Appointments**

*Non-Administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 1.*

**B. Approval of Personnel Changes**

*Certified and classified personnel changes were approved as listed in Exhibit 2.*

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

*Leave(s) of absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 3.*

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

*Separation(s) and termination(s) were approved as listed in Exhibit 4.*

**E. Approval of Minute(s) of Previous Meeting(s)**

*Minutes of August 11, 2020 Governing Board meeting were approved as submitted in Exhibit 5.*

**F. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$1,667,308.54**

*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 6.*

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1383	\$752.92	1384	\$5,858.33	1026	\$138,091.77
1027	\$30,961.49	1029	\$279,406.39	1030	\$409,067.10
1031	\$69,131.33	1032	\$108,902.57	1033	\$73,154.51
1034	\$106,471.52	1035	\$49,523.50	1036	\$31,368.52
1037	\$205,870.26	1038	\$158,748.33		

**G. Acceptance of Gifts**

*Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as listed in Exhibit 7.*

**H. Receipt of July 2020 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances**

*The Governing Board approved the July 2020 report on school auxiliary and club balances as submitted in Exhibit 8.*

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

*The Governing Board approved the supplemental texts and materials as submitted in Exhibit 9.*

**J. Posting of Textbook for Possible Adoption: Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches**

*The Governing Board approved posting of textbook Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches for possible adoption as submitted in Exhibit 10.*

**K. Approval of Temporary Permission to Continue Paying District Contribution toward Employee Health Insurance Premiums for Employees on an Unpaid Leave of Absence Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*The Governing Board approved District contributions for health insurance to continue temporarily, through the end of the month in which students return to schools for in-person instruction in SY 2020-2021, for employees on an unpaid Health and Hardship Leave of Absence if the employee provides written verification of an intent to return to their position at the end of the quarantine as submitted in Exhibit 11.*

**L. Approval of Perpetual Easement to Tucson Electric Power Company for an Extension of Existing Electric Line on District-Owned Real Property**

*The Governing Board approved and authorized General Counsel to execute those documents and any others reasonably required to give effect to the easement required as submitted in Exhibit 12.*

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*President Day asked for a motion to hold Executive Session. Ms. Zibrat moved to recess the Open Meeting to hold an Executive Session for discussions regarding Student Disciplinary Action in the Consideration and Decision Upon Expulsion Hearing Officer's Recommendation, Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-843(F)(2), regarding students 1.a. – h. and 2.a. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor 4: President Day, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed - 0. President Day proclaimed they were in Executive Session at 6:15 p.m.*

**A. Motion to Recess Open Meeting and Hold an Executive Session for:**

**1. Consideration and Decision Upon Expulsion Hearing Officers Recommendation, Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-843(F)(2), Regarding:**

- a. Student #30058942
- b. Student #30069381
- c. Student #30049367
- d. Student #30028835
- e. Student #30050464
- f. Student #30066614
- g. Student #30067935
- h. Student #30059357

**2. Consideration and Decision Upon Request for Readmission Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-843(F)(2), Regarding:**

- a. Student #30041593

**RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING**

*President Day reconvened the public meeting at 7:05 p.m.*

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

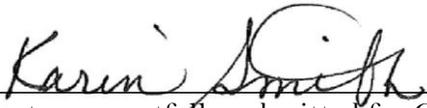
There were none.

**8. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Kopec requested an update on the Summer Meal Program.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

*President Day made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Baker 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 7:07 p.m.*



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

September 2, 2020

Date



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

September 8, 2020

Date