

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 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. Susan Zibrat, President
Ms. Deanna M. Day, M. Ed., Vice President
Ms. Patricia Harris, Member
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member

Governing Board Member Absent

Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, 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
Mr. John Hastings, Director of Human Resources
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. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Zibrat called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Jaeger invited Tim Ripp, Principal of Mesa Verde Elementary School to present the students to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ripp introduced Karen Edmiston, teacher and Odyssey of the Mind (OM) coach from Mesa Verde. Ms. Edmiston introduced OM team members Rhett, Micah, Lily, David, and Abby and spoke about strengths that each student brought to their team. The students then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. Ripp to introduce the Mesa Verde Elementary School Art teacher. Mr. Ripp introduced Ms. Meredith Dale to talk about the artwork display. Ms. Dale thanked the Governing Board and stated that each week, 300 students come through the art classroom to explore and use their imaginations. She went on to speak about how students in art class learn problem solving, how to express ideas, ask questions, reflect, organize their thoughts and work with others. Ms. Dale was appreciative of the support.

Ms. Harris spoke about the team's impressive performance at the Odyssey of the Mind Tournament and presented the students and Ms. Dale with certificates of recognition on behalf of the Governing Board.

A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Ripp, Ms. Edmiston, Ms. Dale, and the Mesa Verde students.

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

President Zibrat announced that the next Special Governing Board meeting will be held on

5. RECOGNITIONS

A. Recognition of 2025 Odyssey Inclusive Teams

Superintendent Jaeger asked Vice President Day, who is also State Director of Odyssey of the Mind (OM), to introduce this recognition. He also noted that the Governing Board would be officially recognizing the OM teams traveling to the World Finals at the next meeting.

Vice President Day shared that Odyssey Inclusive was piloted last year in Maine and California and has expanded to more states this year. Amphitheater High School has the first teams in Arizona and it is expected to further expand in the years to come. Vice President Day introduced Ms. Marian Johnson, teacher from Amphitheater High School and State Coordinator for Odyssey Inclusive.

Ms. Johnson stated she was privileged to speak about this program and its participants and went on to explain the background of the program. She shared that the teams competed at the Regional OM Competition on March 1st. Ms. Johnson shared some of the comments made by the judges, including what an amazing example of true inclusion the team was. She introduced Team 1 members Zayvon, Cyara, Landon, Alexander, Emily, and Alan and Team 2 members Nala, Franco, Anthony, Sierra, Jamiesha, Liam, Diego, Erika, and Emmanuel.

Vice President Day extended her congratulations to the team and how proud she was of their representation of the District. She distributed certificates of recognition on behalf of the Governing Board. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Johnson, and the students to mark the occasion.

B. Recognition of Ironwood Ridge High School Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

For the Ironwood Ridge High School Superintendent's Student Advisory Council PowerPoint, please see Exhibit 1.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that he meets regularly with the advisory students during the year. He said they are a valuable resource to him and appreciated their input about their school and the District on behalf of themselves, and their peers. He noted they are a sincere and earnest group who are active in their school community and not only represent their own interests but the interests of their friends and siblings around the District. He invited Ironwood Ridge High School Principal Dr. Oranté Jenkins to introduce the students.

Dr. Jenkins thanked the Governing Board for the recognition of the hardworking students. He introduced Scarlett, Lydia, Brooklyn, Alexander, Max, Hannah, David, Lucy N., Isabella, and Lucy W. He shared each student's professed accomplishments, extracurricular activities, favorite class at Ironwood, and their plans after high school.

Mr. Kopec acknowledged the parents in the audience and presented the students with certificates of recognition on behalf of the Governing Board. A picture was taken with the students, Dr. Jenkins, the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger.

C. Recognition of Arizona Educational Foundation A+ Schools of Excellence

For the Arizona Educational Foundation A+ Schools of Excellence PowerPoint, please see Exhibit 2.

Superintendent Jaeger shared he was thrilled when he heard the announcement that three schools in the District were receiving this prestigious distinction. He noted Amphitheater has not had an A+ School of Excellence since 2000 and it's a rarity to have one school in a District receive it, much less three. Superintendent Jaeger mentioned the amount of work and effort it takes the school teams to compile the information for the application. He asked the principals of Innovation Academy, Cross Middle School, and Canyon del Oro High School, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Gutierrez, and Ms. Bulleigh to come forward to speak about the process.

Ms. Bulleigh stated she had great pride in sharing the journey that the schools' staff, students, and community went through to earn this prestigious award. She spoke about the extensive application and some of the questions in it as well as it being a collaborative process many contributed to. Ms. Bulleigh also spoke of the collaboration between the three schools throughout the process.

Mr. Gutierrez spoke about sharing application responses with staff and community groups to solicit feedback and the collaborative preparation that ensued to prepare for the site visits.

Mr. McConnell spoke about the review teams' evaluations which included visiting all classrooms and leaving feedback, meeting panelists, and observing the overall culture of each site. He noted that the judges made sure that every part of the school was included in their assessment, making it a rigorous and in-depth process. He praised the cohesive efforts of all involved which helped portray an honest and authentic impression of each of the schools.

Ms. Bulleigh concluded that all three schools are proud of this accomplishment. She expressed gratitude for the support received from their communities and from the school district, and she thanked the Governing Board for this recognition.

Mr. Kopeck stated how proud he was of this accomplishment and the positive impact it has on students. He thanked everyone for their hard work and presented Mr. McConnell, Mr. Gutierrez, and Ms. Bulleigh certificates of recognition on behalf of the Governing Board. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Gutierrez, Ms. Bulleigh, and their respective teams to mark the occasion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Zibrat stated if it would meet with the Governing Board's approval, she wished to inject Public Comment earlier into the meeting, as there is a request to make a comment brought forth by a student and it would be advantageous to allow her to speak so that she could leave the meeting earlier. The Governing Board was agreeable to this request.

Jada Hoskinson is a student at Canyon del Oro High School and shared that she wanted to address the Board about plastic foam trays being used to serve food in schools. She said that she has spoken to her school administration as well as District administration including the Head of Food Service, Mr. Greeson. Ms. Hoskinson spoke about the damaging effects of plastic foam on wildlife, in landfills, and possible side effects when ingested by humans. She gave estimates of the number of trays used by the District each year and suggested alternatives such as reusable or compostable trays and the various costs associated with the alternatives. She encouraged the District to explore a more sustainable alternative for the health and well-being of students and the planet.

D. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards

President Zibrat asked Superintendent Jaeger to introduce the awards.

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

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. Michael McConnell, Principal of Innovation Academy and Classified Distinguished Service Award recipient, Steve Priestle, Behavior Intervention Monitor, to come forward.

Mr. McConnell described Mr. Priestle as an invaluable staff member at Innovation who demonstrates versatility, dedication, adaptability, and is always willing to take on any role necessary. He noted that Mr. Priestle is loved and appreciated beyond measure at Innovation Academy.

A video presentation was shown honoring Mr. Priestle for the work he has done in the

District.

President Zibrat asked Mr. Priestle if he would like to share anything. He acknowledged his wife and staff from Innovation who were in the audience and thanked everyone for this recognition.

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

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. Chris Trimble, Principal at Wilson K-8 and Certified Distinguished Service Award Recipient, Abigail Rouintree, first grade teacher at Wilson K-8 to come forward.

Mr. Trimble spoke about how Ms. Rouintree's dedication, professionalism, and passion for student success make a lasting impact on her students, colleagues, and the school community. He noted her classroom is a welcoming space where students can reach their full potential. Mr. Trimble went on to share that Ms. Rouintree is a lifelong learner committed to improving, collaborates with her colleagues, and is a role model of kindness and patience.

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

President Zibrat asked Ms. Rouintree if she would like to share anything. She thanked the Governing Board, Mr. Trimble, her Wilson K-8 colleagues, and her family in the audience.

President Zibrat presented Ms. Rouintree 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 Mr. Priestle, Mr. McConnell, Ms. Rouintree, Mr. Trimble the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

E. Recognition of the 2025 Early Career Special Education Administrator of the Year

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Kristin McGraw, Executive Director of Student Services to introduce this recognition.

Ms. McGraw introduced Rob Wolf, Assistant Director of Student Services and Principal at Rillito Center. She explained that the award is given to administrators who have made a significant contribution resulting in improved services and outcomes for students with disabilities. Ms. McGraw went on to speak about Mr. Wolf's efforts to create positive relationships with staff and families, how he has impacted programming for students with special needs, his support to staff through professional development, and continued implementation of inclusive practices and co-teaching throughout the District. She spoke of his lasting impact on students over the past 15 years.

Ms. Harris spoke about how amazing it is to see Mr. Wolf in action at Rillito Center. She presented him with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board. A picture was taken with Mr. Wolf, Ms. McGraw, the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger.

F. Recognition of the 2025 United Way Early Childhood Literacy Champion Award Winner

Superintendent Jaeger stated that he was proud that so many Amphitheater teachers have received this award in previous years and it's such a testament to the District's focus on literacy. He asked Ms. Mamie Spillane, Principal at Rio Vista, to come forward.

Ms. Spillane introduced Ms. Kayleigh Paul, Preschool Teacher, at Rio Vista Elementary School. She noted that she acted as Ms. Paul's mentor during her first year of teaching where she first saw her grit, patience, and unwavering commitment to her students. Ms. Spillane went on to speak about Ms. Paul's engaging, thoughtful lessons, strong relationships with her students, and seemingly effortless classroom management. Ms. Spillane concluded by

calling Ms. Paul a model educator and how lucky Rio Vista is to have her as part of their family.

Mr. Kopec thanked Ms. Paul for her work in Early Childhood Education and how impactful it is. He noted the presentation at the United Way Business Breakfast was wonderful. Ms. Paul thanked the Governing Board, Ms. Spillane, her mother, Shelby Davis, and Tiffany Bucciarelli-Fay for nominating her for this award and introducing her to the preschool world.

Mr. Kopec presented Ms. Paul with a certificate of recognition on behalf of the Governing Board. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Paul, Ms. Spillane, Ms. Bucciarelli-Fay, and Rio Vista coworkers.

G. Recognition of the ITEEA STEM Schools of Excellence

Superintendent Jaeger shared that in the recently announced 2025 Arizona Business Ranking, Amphitheater School District was ranked third best school district in the state and was the only school in Southern Arizona to make the top ten. He noted one of the accolades the guide cited was that Amphitheater has two ITEEA STEM Schools of Excellence. He asked Ms. Call to introduce the recognition.

Ms. Call stated she was honored to introduce the schools receiving the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) Schools of Excellence and notes that this award honors schools that excel in implementing high quality STEM education programs, demonstrate exceptional achievement in integrating STEM education across their curricula, and show a strong commitment to fostering innovation, critical thinking, and problem solving skills in students.

She explained the five key features of the award are STEM Integration, Innovative Curriculum, Community Engagement, Support for Educators, and Student Impact. Ms. Call introduced Ms. Annette Orelup, Principal of Keeling Elementary, and Mr. Michael McConnell, Principal of Innovation Academy.

Mr. McConnell stated both schools had teachers recognized at the ITEEA Annual Conference the week prior. He introduced Ms. Ashlee Watson, recipient of the Elementary STEM Council Excellence in Elementary STEM Education Award. Mr. McConnell spoke about Ms. Watson helping to develop the school's STEM curriculum from day one, her unwavering dedication to her students, innovative approach to teaching, and ability to inspire students to embrace STEM. He went on to speak about Ms. Watson's efforts to integrate real-world applications and hands-on learning experiences and the lasting impact these make on her students. Mr. McConnell wished Ms. Watson congratulations on a well-deserved award.

Ms. Orelup stated that Ms. Beth Brungardt, winner of the Goodheart-Willcox Teacher Excellence Award, was unable to attend the meeting. She spoke about Ms. Brungardt's passion for teaching, dedication to her students and STEM education. Ms. Orelup noted that Ms. Brungardt is the ED-P teacher and even though her students face unique challenges, she never fails to teach, and challenges the students to think critically, to innovate and develop skills that will serve them for years to come. Ms. Orelup stated Ms. Brungardt's classroom is a place where every student feels valued and empowered to explore and ask questions, to think independently and work collaboratively. She concluded by sharing that Ms. Brungardt is a mentor, role model, and a source of encouragement for her students and colleagues alike.

Mr. Kopec presented Mr. McConnell, Ms. Orelup, and Ms. Watson with certificates of recognition and noted that this type of award takes a lot of hard work from many. Ms. Watson introduced her family members in the audience. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. McConnell, Ms. Orelup, and Ms. Watson to mark the occasion.

6. INFORMATION

A. Superintendent's Report

For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint see Exhibit 3.

Superintendent Jaeger began his report by sharing photo highlights of recent events in the District.

- Tucson Clean and Beautiful visited Nash Elementary where students cleaned their campus, planted trees, and painted rocks
- USA Pickleball Serves taught students at Amphitheater Middle School the basics of the game and donated equipment to the school
- 5th grade REACH students at Painted Sky Elementary created a Creativity Festival for the school last month and were excited to share with their fellow students
- Innovation Academy celebrated their AEF A+ School of Excellence rating with a pep assembly to showcase their banner, hand out student awards, and witness a silly staff race around the courtyard
- The Ironwood Ridge High School Jazz Band was one of six performing arts groups selected to perform at the ADE Youth Arts Month Festival held at the Arizona State Capitol Plaza
- Imagine Preschool Inclusion Program at Coronado K-8 held their annual "CommuniTea" party to connect and celebrate the students' successful year so far
- The Odyssey of the Mind State Finals were held at Canyon del Oro High School on March 29th. 11 District teams qualified for the World Finals in May
- Thank you to the Amphi Foundation, community partners, staff and students who took part in the Annual Foundation Gala on April 5th. There were over 600 guests and \$178, 849 was raised

Superintendent Jaeger offered to answer any questions. There were none.

B. Status of Construction Projects

For the Status of Construction Project attachments see Exhibit 4.

Superintendent Jaeger said that Mr. LaNasa will give an update on District construction projects that utilize bonds and other funding sources. He asked Mr. LaNasa to present the report.

Mr. LaNasa showed photos which highlighted completed projects and some currently under construction:

- Amphitheater High School concrete replacement using Bond funds
- Copper Creek Elementary School cooling tower replacement using BRG funds
- Innovation Academy chiller replacement using BRG and Bond funds
- La Cima Middle School roof replacement using BRG funds

Mr. LaNasa reported that in March 2025 the District received \$97,461 in funding and a total \$6,261,504 funding for the 2024-2025 school year. The Grant Project Funding Requests Pending Award is \$15.3 million.

He offered to answer any questions. Mr. Kopec expressed his gratitude to the transportation department for their support to the victims of the recent bus accident affecting Kingman students. Superintendent Jaeger noted that the state allocated \$200 million in bond funds

and our District has pursued and received \$6.2 million of it. He noted this was an incredible result in pursuing these funds and how significant it is to lessen the burden on taxpayers.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Per the Governing Board's request, Public Comment took place earlier in the meeting.

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](#)

Mr. Kopec requested Item 8. J. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreements with Pima County and The City of Tucson for Pima Early Education Program (PEEP) be held for separate consideration and recommended that the remaining Agenda items be approved as presented.

Mr. Kopec moved for Consent Agenda Items 8. A. -I and K. be approved as presented. Vice President Day seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Harris and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items 8. A.-I, and K. passed.

Mr. Kopec wished to acknowledge the PEEP Program and the funding partners of Pima County and the City of Tucson. He also praised the rapid expansion of Early Education in Amphitheater and the staff members who have maintained a high standard.

Mr. Kopec moved that Item 8. J. be approved as presented. Vice President Day seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor 4. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Motion 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

Approval of Leave(s) of Absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.

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

Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 8.

E. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

Stipend for Coaching Volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 9.

F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The Governing Board approved minutes from the March 25, 2025 meeting as submitted in Exhibit 10.

G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$2,237,450.72

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 11.

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1254	\$253,635.72	1255	\$34,069.05	1256	\$11,577.48
1257	\$230,691.86	1258	\$232,364.60	1259	\$77,407.31
1260	\$271,774.24	1261	\$131,715.46	1262	\$581,106.02
1263	\$189,218.78	1264	\$172,494.67	1265	\$11,507.64
1267	\$68,758.25	1268	\$61,129.64		

H. Acceptance of Gifts

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

I. Approval of Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement with Pima County Community College District for Dual Enrollment

The Governing Board approved the Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement with Pima County Community College District for Dual Enrollment as submitted in Exhibit 13.

J. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreements with Pima County and The City of Tucson for Pima Early Education Program (PEEP)

The Governing Board approved the Intergovernmental Agreements with Pima County and The City of Tucson for Pima Early Education Program (PEEP) as submitted in Exhibit 14.

K. Approval of Out of State Travel

The Governing Board approved requests for out of state travel as listed in Exhibit 15.

9. STUDY/ACTION

A. Approval of Joint Recommendation from Meet and Confer Committee for an Employee Compensation and Fringe Benefits Package for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

For the Joint Recommendation from Meet and Confer Committee for an Employee Compensation and Fringe Benefits Package for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 PowerPoint see Exhibit 16.

President Zibrat stated she wanted to acknowledge an email each of the Governing Board members received from Rebecca Green, President of the Amphitheater Education Association (AEA). In the email, Ms. Green stated how proud she was of each member of the Meet and Confer team and indicated strong support of tonight's recommendation.

Superintendent Jaeger also praised the camaraderie shown by the Meet and Confer teams over the past few years and feels lucky the District has the AEA as part of the organization.

Ms. Call stated the District has amazing Meet and Confer teams and noted that this is the second year with these same teams who always keep students at the forefront of the work they do. She shared that the heavy lift the leads do prior to the teams meeting, allows the teams to expedite their work and focus on collaboration.

Ms. Call shared a timeline of the committee process starting January 7th and concluding March 24th and a copy of the signed Joint recommendation. She stated the recommendations are as follows:

- Pass through of the anticipated two percent (2%) increase in funding guaranteed by the state under Prop 123 to all eligible employees
- Provision that if the District receives new and undesignated funding in the current year that can be used for salaries, the Meet and Confer committee will reconvene

Ms. Call noted that the only increase in benefits is a 3% increase to the Delta Dental Plan only which if chosen by the employee, equals about \$20 a year. She shared the joint survey results with 499 employees responding and 93.56% agreeing with the recommendations. Ms. Call explained 97 employees made comments with the main themes being a 2% increase does not combat current inflation, concerns about the continued cost of health care, low pay at all levels, and thanks to the meet and confer teams for their work for all employees. Ms. Call concluded by reiterating what an approval of the joint recommendation means and offered to answer any questions.

Vice President Day moved to approve the Joint Recommendation from Meet and Confer Committee for an Employee Compensation and Fringe Benefits Package for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor 4. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Motion passed.

10. ACTION

A. Resolution Recognizing the Special Contributions of Educational Support Personnel

For the Resolution Recognizing the Special Contributions of Educational Support Personnel see Exhibit 16.

Ms. Harris moved to adopt the Resolution Recognizing the Special Contributions of Educational Support Personnel. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-4. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Item 10. A. passed.

Ms. Day read the resolution.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

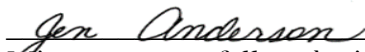
There were no comments.

12. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Day requested formal recognition for Ms. Frye-George from the Transportation Department.


13. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Day moved to adjourn. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-4. President Zibrat, Vice President Day, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval
Jen Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board

April 15, 2025
Date



Susan Zibrat, Governing Board President

April 22, 2025
Date