

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

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A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held Tuesday, November 17, 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  
Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, Vice President  
Dr. Scott K. Baker, Member  
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member  
*Ms. Susan Zibrat, Member-attended telephonically*

**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  
Dr. Shannon McKinney, Director of Curriculum and Assessment  
Mr. James Burns, Executive Manager of Operational Support  
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 visitors' register.

*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. In addition, she requested that all persons present exercise safe social distancing for this Board meeting. There was a quorum at this meeting.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Jaeger announced the Pledge of Allegiance will be led virtually by students from Canyon del Oro High School. The video presentation began with Principal Tara Bulleigh, also appearing via video and introducing the students leading the Pledge of Allegiance. She said they are members of the Link Crew, upper classman who serve as mentors and role models for freshman and new students. They are Maeona Moseley, Josephine Taylor and Alyssa Pitpitan.

**2. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART**

Superintendent Jaeger acknowledged the art displayed in the Governing Board room was done by

students from Canyon del Oro High School. Through a video presentation, CDO art teacher Ms. Gina Beca explained the different media, techniques, and styles used in the artwork on exhibit.

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

President Day announced the next Board meeting would be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ, 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

**4. RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. Bejarano to introduce this award and the recipients.

Mr. Bejarano explained that the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is presented monthly to employees to recognize them for their initiative, collaboration, loyalty, and contribution to the Amphitheater School District. These employees represent a high level of dedication and commitment to the Amphi family, and the values and mission of the District.

Mr. Bejarano announced the Distinguished Service Award recipient for classified staff for the month of November 2020 was Ms. Mary Thatcher, Administrative Assistant at Prince Elementary School. A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Thatcher for the work she has done in the District.

Mr. Bejarano announced the Distinguished Service Award recipient for certified staff for the month of November 2020 was Mr. Robert Retherford, Teacher at Coronado K-8 School. A video presentation was shown honoring Mr. Retherford for the work he has done in the District.

On behalf of the Board, the District presented Ms. Thatcher and Mr. Retherford with a certificate, a DSA award, and a gift card from the Amphi Foundation. A group picture of Ms. Thatcher, Mr. Retherford, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger was taken to mark the occasion.

**B. Recognition of Canyon del Oro High School Division II Boys Swimming and Diving Champion**

Superintendent Jaeger noted that even with a late start to fall athletics, Amphi had some real athletic successes. He asked Mr. Marco Dominguez, Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Canyon del Oro High School (CDO) to introduce this award.

Mr. Dominguez remarked that his job is to create an environment where kids succeed, but the athletes and coaches deserve all the credit. He introduced Coach Jen Inboden and asked her to present this recognition.

Coach Inboden thanked the Governing Board for approving the fall sports season. She introduced CDO student Riley Stewart and noted that he has been recognized in past years for his accomplishments in this sport. This year Riley is being recognized as the Division II State Champion in the 200 in the Individual Medley (IM). She noted that the last time CDO took a state champion in the IM was back in 1991. She also noted that due to the pandemic, awards were not given at the competition and presented Riley with his championship medal.

On behalf of the Board, the District presented Riley with a certificate of congratulations. A group picture was taken with Riley, his parents, Coach Inboden, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

**C. Recognition of Ironwood Ridge High School Division II Boys Swimming and Diving Runner-Up**

Superintendent Jaeger commented that we have some very good swimmers in our District and asked Mr. Matthew Munger, Principal at Ironwood Ridge High School (IRHS) to introduce this award. Mr. Munger echoed the words of Coach Inboden and thanked the Board for approving fall athletics in the District. He then asked IRHS Swim Coach Heidi Sweet to introduce this recognition.

Coach Sweet also thanked the Board and Superintendent, and said how excited everyone was when they were able to begin training and competing. She then introduced IRHS student Carter Dooling, the IRHS Division II State Runner Up in the 200 yard IM and 100 yard breaststroke.

On behalf of the Board, the District presented Carter with a certificate of congratulations. A group picture was taken with Carter, his parents, Coach Sweet, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

**D. Recognition of Ironwood Ridge High School Division II Girls Golf Team State Champions**

Superintendent Jaeger said how especially excited he was about this recognition, because he heard from more of the parents from this team than any other regarding the reopening of fall athletics. He invited Mr. Munger, IRHS Principal to make the introductions.

Mr. Munger thanked the Board and Superintendent for taking the time to recognize these student athletes. He invited Mr. Doug Kautz, Girls Golf Coach, to introduce the team.

Coach Kautz thanked the Board and echoed the Superintendent's comments regarding how he too heard a lot from these parents. He also acknowledged the dedication these parents have to their children. He said these girls are very hard working, dedicated to the sport, and competed across the nation. This summer they placed third in the nation. They came back to take the State Championship again. He asked the following students to come forward, Zoe Newell, Alanna Lopez, Celia Schrecker, Charlotte Schrecker, and Haidyn Warner. The other teammates were not able to attend. Coach Kautz introduced Coach Jewkes and thanked him for helping out this season.

Athlete, Celia Schrecker addressed the Board saying how grateful she was to have this season. She said that they won by only two strokes and winning the second year in a row, was so exciting. They are ready to come back next year and hopefully make it three wins in a row.

On behalf of the Board, the District presented each team member and their coaches with a certificate of congratulations. The girls introduced their parents and then a group picture was taken with the team, coaches, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

**E. Arizona Science Teachers Association 2020 Middle School Science Teacher of the Year Honorable Mention**

Superintendent Jaeger said how proud the District is of our staff and was excited to have two Amphi teachers being recognized in this very prestigious competition. He asked Ms. Elizabeth Jacome, Principal at Coronado K-8 School, to introduce the first of these two teachers.

Ms. Jacome introduced Lauren Marlatt, teacher at Coronado K-8 School. She told the Board of Ms. Marlatt's many contributions to the District. Ms. Marlatt is a veteran teacher who works tirelessly to support her students, and colleagues. She is a strong advocate for our students in bringing science out of the classroom and accessible to every day life. Ms. Marlatt facilitates the middle school field trip to Catalina Island every year, coordinates with community partners; SaddleBrook and Sun City astronomy, VexRobotics, and facilitates the afterschool Project Why program. She said Ms. Marlatt is very deserving of this award.

Ms. Marlatt thanked the Board for this recognition. She said it's wonderful to see that science is important and the that the teachers in Amphi know how to teach it, and teach it well.

On behalf of the Board, the District presented Ms. Marlatt with a certificate of congratulations. A picture was taken with Ms. Marlatt, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

**F. Arizona Science Teachers Association Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2020**

Superintendent Jaeger again expressed what an honor it is that this prestigious award is being presented to an Amphi teacher. He asked Mr. Michael McConnell, Principal at Innovation Academy, to introduce the Teacher of the Year.

Mr. McConnell introduced Ms. Danielle Swartz, who earned the title of Elementary Science Teacher of the Year. Mr. McConnell told the Board of Ms. Swartz' many accomplishments and contributions to the students at Innnovation Academy. Ms. Swartz is a high energy teacher who has high expectations for not only herself, but also her students. She teaches using the five-e method of learning model; engage, explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate. She is encouraging the growth of life-long learners. Her students are kind and care about the world around them. Mr. McConnell asked her students about Ms. Swartz and then read a few of their comments. *She is kind and caring; she always had experiments for us and gave us independence to do them; she has fun activities and makes me feel happy; she's a great teacher and always makes learning fun; science is my favorite subject, because she make science interesting; and she made me feel special and smart.*

Ms. Swartz thanked Mr. McConnell for the kind introduction. She said that she enjoys working for a school district that values STEM.

On behalf of the Board, the District presented Ms. Swartz with a certificate of congratulations. A picture was taken with Ms. Swartz, her husband, the Governing Board and the Superintendent to mark the occasion.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*President Day asked if there were any public comments. Ms. Smith said that there were comments sent in earlier to be read at tonight's meeting and noted that there were people in attendance to speak to the Board as well. President Day read the Call to the Audience Procedures. President Day asked that a comment that was emailed be read and have a speaker ready at the podium to speak next.*

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Michael Garmon, he said that is time to open schools. Life is full of risks, let the parents manage it. The closures are creating more damage than the virus. Open now.

Ms. Darlene Rowe, teacher at Coronado K-8 School, stated that she is angry, upset and overwhelmed. She then thanked the Board and Superintendent Jaeger for sending flowers to the school to welcome the staff to the first day of hybrid learning and said it was a thoughtful gesture. She explained her classroom set up, and outside activities for her students to learn in the hybrid model. She said that she smiles when teaching and doesn't let on to her students how she is feeling. She said she is professional only with parents and students. Ms. Rowe said she is not doing well and daily thinks about quitting to let go of so much stress. She said she loves teaching, but wondered if COVID-19 has gone through her classroom. There is a student who has not attended any in-person learning days; others are out or sent home sick for a day or more. Students have minimal stamina to do work at school; fewer students are engaging in the work and hesitant to ask for help. She is very concerned and has talked to parents and students, however nothing is changing. Ms. Rowe said that she is prepared with student assignments and posts website information before the end of the day. She does not have the motivation to work in the evening or weekend like in past years. She said she is drowning in tasks that need to be

completed and worried about her students and herself constantly. She does not feel supported or understood by Amphi.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Tony Trinh and Amy Lee, parents of a student at CDO HS. They thanked Amphitheater District staff, teachers, and educators for working so hard to keep students safe during hybrid learning. They quoted data from the John Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center stating that the positivity rate for Arizona has been above 10% for the last two weeks. They then stated that the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) data is three weeks behind and so are the benchmarks. They also said that the cases per 100K has risen above 100 as of October 25, 2020. Therefore, the ADHS benchmarks recommends a virtual learning model. They feel waiting until spread happens in the schools will be too late, and would like to see the District be proactive and consider returning to full, virtual on-line learning sooner rather than later.

Lisa Millerd, teacher at Amphitheater High School and Amphi Education Association (AEA) President, said that she was there to speak as the recognized voice of employees. She serves the members and collects input from employees to share with the Board. She has learned about the diligent work happening at our sites to benefit student learning. However, how can forward thinking decision making work without direct input from site staff. She said let's come together to focus on student learning and the best ways to meet their needs. She is concerned that the absentee rate is up in the hybrid learning model. Ms. Millerd asked what the plan was and suggested that staff be asked for their input. She also asked about staff shortages.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Hillary Ohlmaier, an Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teacher at Copper Creek Elementary, asking to please open up the schools to the regular schedule.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Michelle Larson, an Early Childhood Special Education teacher at Copper Creek Elementary, asking to re-implement the remote learning only model for ECSE. She said COVID-19 numbers are dangerously high, and that hybrid is hindering social emotional skills practice and growth for some kids with social emotional goals. It is not possible to stay six feet apart in this program. In person learning with COVID-19 protocol is not offering the return of skill acquisition for the current risk it poses. The increasing COVID-19 cases and pressure to implement unrealistic COVID-19 protocol is breeding contention among staff. It seems like this is just out of fear, but it is making a hard situation worse. Previously cohesive teams are struggling. ECSE is currently teaching two models. This has created a disjointed, un-organized feeling of doing multiple models with mediocrity coupled with protocol insecurity, instead of one model with fidelity. Consistency in our program is more important and more effective than intermittent in-person opportunities.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Becky Jones, a parent of a student at Canyon del Oro High School. She said that parents were told to write a letter to the Board to consider going back to full-time remote learning. Ms. Jones said she does not support that and does not want to go back to remote learning. She said our kids need to be in school. They are missing out on their senior year and missing friends that are not in their cohort. Kids are still hanging out in groups, going to the mall, the stores, church, and other events. They are not getting more exposed by being at school. With proper disinfecting and hand washing that are put in place, our kids can still go to school. Taking school away from our kids is only causing higher suicide rates, depression, and kids going out and being up to no good and vandalizing things. Some kids struggle more with remote online learning. Grades are going down because they learn better one-on-one, being in-person with a teacher. Don't go along with what other school districts are doing. Going back to remote learning isn't the answer. If anything, you should allow all seniors to return to school and space them out so they can enjoy and make memories of their senior year instead of allowing this virus to take it from them. She also said that those contracting the virus now are getting less severe symptoms.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Karen Lefevre, a seventh grade language arts teacher at Cross Middle School. She said she is finding it much more fulfilling to have in-person contact with her students and it is much more engaging for them. However, she felt the need to voice her challenges and concerns with the hybrid learning. She said there is ongoing anxiety about safety and it is very challenging to manage the lesson planning and delivery for both cohorts, which requires four different lessons (two in-person, two electronic) and two different electronic assignments to launch on Wednesday. Then prepare four different lessons again to be ready on Thursday. She said she gets emails from students saying that they're having trouble loading their electronic textbook or asking questions about posted work, which have usually already been answered clearly in her written directions. She feels most of the students don't have a lot of experience or confidence with independent study or with Google Classroom. She also said that the textbook and online materials are different and there is no scanner available at school. She is finding the work load overwhelming. She asked that the Board please do whatever they can to remind teachers that what they're doing is good enough.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Lorella Ritzel, an Amphi parent and Behavior Interventionist at Copper Creek Elementary. She said that she is certain that discussions about whether to resume remote learning or continue with hybrid are going to be discussed, therefore she wanted to express her opinion. She said that she is waiting for the day that we can go back to five days a week of in-person learning. She said that although the teachers are doing their best, there is no way to place accountability on anyone. Teachers are struggling to engage students, students are struggling to stay on task, and parents are struggling to earn a living while attempting to facilitate homework and classwork throughout the day. She asked that we stay in hybrid or return to five days a week as soon as possible.

Ms. Tong read a comment sent in from Makenna Ritzel, a senior at Ironwood Ridge High School. She heard that there was talk about shutting schools and going back to online learning. She hoped that wasn't true. She said that this is not what she thought her senior year would look like. She doesn't believe that the teachers realize the lack of motivation when students are told to do the work at home, with hardly any repercussions if they don't. She felt that there are COVID-19 cases at school only because kids are not being responsible and doing foolish things. She worries about not passing her classes because of only going to school two days a week. She stated that going back to full-time online would do more damage than good.

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

### **A. Superintendent's Report: Reopening in a Pandemic Update**

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

Superintendent Jaeger explained to the Governing Board that the information being presented is to provide them with an update to the pandemic conditions in our community and the implications for our schools, including problematic areas and how we are progressing. He noted that each member of the Superintendent's Cabinet will share specific information and are here to answer any questions the Board may have.

Superintendent Jaeger began by noting how much we have missed recognizing students at the Governing Board meetings. He said how great it is to see them here tonight. It is exactly why we do what we do. We exist for them; we work for them; and ultimately, it is all about their success.

He then showed a few slides of events that recently happened across the District. Veterans' Day celebrations with car parades and tribute videos. He encouraged the Board to view the event photos that have been posted on the school's websites.

In October, annual Halloween celebrations brought fun costumes and smiles to the District.

The Amphi Foundation's Shoes to Smiles program is not the same as years past, however shoes were delivered to fourteen students at the Rillito Center. He thanked the Amphi Foundation for their continued efforts.

Superintendent Jaeger told the Board that the Pima County Health Department (PCHD) updates their data every Thursday on the nine indicators the state uses the following three predominant indicators.

Disease Data Indicators: Cases over two consecutive weeks; Percent positivity; and COVID-19 like illnesses – they are all yellow.

Health Care System Availability: Lab testing availability and utilization; Adequate hospital bed capacity to care for two-times the current COVID-19 cases (+ surge) – statewide; Sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for emergency responders – they are green, red, and yellow respectively.

PCHD Public Health Tracking and Prevention: Timely case investigation; Testing of symptomatic contacts within 48 hours; and Facilities/support for patients who can't be discharged home – statewide they are red, yellow, and green respectively.

Superintendent Jaeger noted: that there have been changes within the categories, however the numbers look the same as in October; 2 red, 5 yellow, and 2 green. Current county health metrics still guide toward hybrid learning at this time. When all indicators are green, full reopening can happen. As of last Friday, November 13, 2020 PCHD advised that there were 150 COVID-19 cases that had been reported in Pima County School Districts. Only 5% of those cases had been contracted at school, and 95% of those cases had been contracted outside of school. This shows that community spread is a really big issue. He also mentioned that in the schools the spread is more adult to adult, not adult to student or student to student. The biggest conduit of community spread is failure to realize that mask wearing and social distancing is not just for school, but for everyone, everywhere, at all times. When there is a more relaxed atmosphere, people are taking off their masks, events such as parties, athletic events, sleepovers, faculty lounges, carpooling, etc. There have been times where quarantine is significant because people are not wearing a mask or social distancing is not maintained. Superintendent Jaeger mentioned that he sent out a letter to staff today, urging everyone to recognize that wearing a mask, along with staying six-feet apart from one another, really does work to slow the spread of the virus.

Keeping schools open is dependent upon not only compliance at school, but also community-wide compliance. What people do on the weekend ultimately has an impact on teachers, students and other staff members. Last week, the State Superintendent of Public Education, public school superintendents, and the Director of Arizona Department of Health Services held a press conference to talk about this very issue and the importance of broader community-based compliance with mitigation measures.

Superintendent Jaeger then asked each Cabinet member to give their update.

Mr. Bejarano reported that staff at the schools have expressed how much they enjoy having the students back on campus. He mentioned that one challenge has been the change in teaching practices, that being the "Flipped Learning Model". Teachers record the content for the students, students watch the video before coming to class, and have access to the video to refer to when needed. The advantages of this program, are students can control the pace at which they learn; students and families have 24/7 access to the video instruction online; teachers don't have to repeat the same information; and videos provide on-demand instruction and allows the teacher to move around the room to work with individual students. The challenges of this learning model include students that are not watching the instructional videos during asynchronous time, and students

whose families do not have internet access, therefore the student must watch the instructional video while attending in-person days.

Dr. Lopez spoke to the Board about reading and the pandemic. So much of teaching reading requires sitting with the student, listening closely. While we are asking everyone to stay six feet away from each other, this is not an easy task. They have noticed students are not moving forward as quickly as in years past. However, having the students in-person two days a week has made a big difference. This tells us that teachers make a difference. Having good software provides practice. She said that in the spring there will be standardized testing, which means that Move On When Reading will still be in effect for third graders. Third grade teachers and principals will meet tomorrow via Zoom and use a VITAL collaboration protocol to look at data and provide recommendations for instruction. Third grade is the gateway year. If students do not pass the standardized tests, they must be retained. Kindergarten through third grade are the fundamental years, where students learn to read, after third grade students read to learn. 63% of students had an increase in their percentile rank from 2019 to 2020 Fall to Fall (NWEA MAP Reading), and 37% of students had a decrease in their percentile rank from 2019 to 2020 Fall to Fall (NWEA MAP Reading).

Dr. Lopez noted challenges through the K-12 programs including: managing educational opportunities for students in quarantine; prioritizing standards to teach when all are important; preparing students for high stakes assessments; managing expectations of what can be taught given these conditions; employee support staff absences due to quarantines; time it takes to process positive cases and ensure accurate and timely communication with substitutes. At times, teachers in specialist areas are called upon to cover regular classroom teacher absences due to lack of substitutes.

Updated student enrollment in the Amphi Academy Online (AAO) are as follows: 701 in elementary, 308 in middle school, and 511 in high school, for a total student count of 1,520 in AAO. There are 58 students on the elementary waitlist and 100 students on the secondary waitlist. Mr. Bejarano noted that as of today the waitlist for the secondary grew to 110 students. He noted that they are looking into shifting staff to assist with AAO.

Dr. McKinney shared information on how our District coordinators are supporting Amphi teachers.

Pam Vandivort is doing an excellent job supporting teachers in middle school in the Inquiry-based 3D curriculum. Lauren Marlatt was part of that team that designed the program. The team is supporting teachers by insuring they have the materials needed to make science come alive.

Polly Kimminau, the District math coordinator continues to support teachers creating lessons, slides, and project based learning lessons for teachers to use through Google Classroom. She also supports the teachers with ALEKS (Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces Web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system).

Karla Campillo-Soto, District literacy coordinator, has been meeting with principals and department heads, learning our system, and examining data and practices.

Dr. McKinney explained that beginning in December, the coordinators will have “office hours” via Zoom to support teachers with targeted strategic plans such as, collaborative project-based learning, personalized learning, reading and writing, projects that support the Portrait of A Graduate, and well-defined evidenced-based curriculum. They will be holding trainings for interventionists and special education teachers in the Wilson “Foundations” & “Just Words” curriculum. She mentioned Arizona Bill-2019-SB 1318 regarding dyslexia. This bill requires at least one Kindergarten through third grade teacher at each school be specially trained in dyslexia, and said that every teacher in Amphi is required to participate in a video training on how to

recognize dyslexia. Dr. McKinney also mentioned training sessions on WestEd VITAL Collaboration Data-Driven Goal Setting for third grade reading, eighth grade middle school math, and high school algebra.

Ms. Call was excited to inform the Board that three Amphi schools earned the school-wide Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) School wide Site of Distinction, the highest rating a school can achieve within the AVID certification continuum. These are schools that are implementing both AVID Elective and AVID School wide with high levels of fidelity. AVID is school-wide when the AVID System transforms the instruction, systems, leadership and culture of a school, ensuring college and career readiness for all students. She acknowledged the hard work of the AVID Site Coordinators at these schools, they are Brock Lange at Amphitheater High School, Jennifer Queiruga at Amphitheater Middle School, and Jessica Roodvoets and Lisa Harper at La Cima Middle School. Rio Vista Elementary is a Showcase School for the state of Arizona and New Mexico, this year the AVID Showcases are virtual, she commended the teachers that have continued their professional development through these virtual showcases.

Ms. Call updated the Board on the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in the District. Mary Dixon at Ironwood Ridge High School and Rob Cannon at Canyon del Oro High School head up the theater programs at these two high schools. Students are designing and building sets, programming the lighting, creating the costumes, and running the soundboards themselves. IRHS's theater programs are all virtual this year while CDO's theater programs are live with limited seating.

Ms. Call noted that students that have over a 3.0 grade point average and are in a CTE pathway are eligible for membership into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS). NTHS honors the achievement of the top CTE students, provides scholarships to encourage the pursuit of higher education, and cultivates excellence.

Ms. Call said that she and Ms. McGraw offer "Office Hours" to provide assistance to teachers to focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) – these sessions assist staff on professional self-care. Teachers are welcome to come and go from this virtual two-hour session. They can send in questions before hand, exchange ideas and experiences with colleagues, and give and receive encouragement. Amphitheater School District is collaborating with "Choose Love", a support program for middle and high school teachers and students that takes a proactive approach to support students.

Ms. McGraw talked about The Family Room, a monthly support session for families. The December 2, 2020 virtual session will focus on support during the holidays. Amphi's District social workers, along with Ms. Call and Ms. McGraw, will be available to talk about ways to cope with the stresses of the holiday season in a COVID-19 world.

Ms. McGraw updated the Board on other services. Special Education and related services have continued in the hybrid model as well as through Amphi Academy Online (AAO), including all IEP, MET, and reevaluation meetings. These meetings are conducted through a Zoom platform. Special Education Department continues to provide "Office Hours" for those who would like assistance. Linda Haller, Assistant Director of Student Services, Robert Wolf, Assistant Director of Student Services and Ms. McGraw are available to assist staff, similar to the "Office Hours" Dr. McKinney talked about. Feedback from those who have attend previous Office Hours found it to be beneficial. Their department continues to process mask accommodations for staff and students requesting to wear a personal protective equipment (PPE) other than a facemask. One example is a face shield. She said their department also monitors other PPE required in the District and obtains the necessary supplies.

Dr. Cherie Gaither, Director of School Health Services, provided information on positive active COVID-19 cases in the District. As of the date of this report, there were four active cases in the

elementary schools, there were eight active cases in the middle schools, there were three active cases in the high schools, and in other District sites there was one active case. She also provided the number of close contacts where there may be exposures to a student or employee. There were 21 in the elementary schools, there were 11 in the middle schools, there were 6 in the high schools, and at other District sites there were 17.

Dr. Gaither mentioned that the challenges in containing the spread, are holidays and weekend activities, Pima County Health Department (PCHD) turnaround time to process cases, and the ongoing staffing issues in our health offices. She then pointed out best practices to stop the spread of a virus including, wearing a mask or face covering, washing hands, social distancing to every extent possible, cleaning and sanitizing your work area, and continuing the District's health and safety mitigation efforts.

Mr. Burns talked about the "COVID-19 Crushers" – the District's quick-response teams that are trained in cleaning and disinfecting areas of high and or emergency needs. The District has two teams, staffed by the grounds department with appropriate PPE.

He then reported the District's Food Service Department is serving over 30,000 meals a week, and has served over 650,000 meals to families in our community since the pandemic began.

The District's Transportation Department is running smoothly, with a few challenges as drivers are out for various reasons and routes have to be changed.

Ms. Tong reported on compliance and mitigation protocols that are continuously updated as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) learns more about COVID-19. Internal protocols are put place to protect those on campus and at the sites when a positive case is reported. According to CDC guidelines, if a person (student or staff) has COVID-19 symptoms, or tests positive for COVID-19, that person, and those that have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive person, must leave work and quarantine for at least ten days or until they receive a negative test result. Because of these situations, substitutes are needed quickly and at times immediately. There are over 300 qualified teacher substitutes in the District's database. The District continues to run ads to hire qualified substitutes. If a substitute cannot be hired, the District may send a qualified certified employee to cover a class until a substitute arrives.

Ms. Tong noted that all requests for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations have been addressed. She also mentioned that the District provides employee support through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). There is a link on the District website with a list of services available to staff.

Ms. Valenzuela delivered information on the District's COVID-19 Dashboard. The dashboard is updated as information comes in regarding a positive COVID-19 case at one of the District's sites. The dashboard is located on the District's website under COVID-19 Information. The dashboard shows the current number of positive COVID-19 cases for employees and for students in the hybrid learning model, as well as, the percentages of cases for each group. When a person who tested positive returns to their site, the case is removed from the dashboard so that the data remains timely and accurate. Ms. Valenzuela provides this information to the public media on a weekly basis. She provides the following information; school or department, student or staff, date of positive test, and number of individuals in quarantine as a result. Providing this information to the public provides transparency and builds trust. Data is sorted by active and inactive cases since we opened in the hybrid learning model.

Mr. Little updated the Board on the Enrollment Stability Grant Funding with final numbers being provided to school districts in the next few weeks. This will assist Mr. Little with the December Budget Revision that will be at the next Board meeting.

He noted that there are 4,000 Chromebooks on order that the District should be receiving in early 2021.

Superintendent Jaeger asked the Board if they had any questions on any of the information provided to them in this report.

President Day asked how many people are utilizing the monthly Family Room meetings. Ms. McGraw said that last month forty-five parents signed up, however only eighteen parents attended the session. In September, twenty-two parents attended the meeting. She said the responses from the families that attended the sessions were favorable, they really appreciated the strategies, support, ideas, and being able to talk as a group with the school social workers. Through a survey of the parents, the topic for November's session was self care strategies. The December topic will be on support during the holidays.

Dr. Baker thanked Ms. Tong for the information on the substitutes. He then asked if the Board could be provided with the number of students that are gone. He noted a newspaper article regarding this topic and would like specific numbers and information about Amphitheater School District.

There were no other questions.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Day read the Call to the Audience procedures.

Mr. Roper addressed the Board and Superintendent Jaeger saying that the Arizona Health Department is hard to interpret because COVID-19 reported cases lag by two weeks. He said the CDC published an indicator and risk threshold that covers school guidance and five different categories. He quoted CDC's several COVID-19 indicators and concluded that the situation is quite different from when there was a peak. He said he is worried about holiday gathering exposures. He urged the Board to return to remote learning following the Thanksgiving break.

President Day called for a seven-minute break.

### **B. Status of Bond Projects**

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 the Central Plant 1 cooling tower replacement and cafeteria serving line renovation. Arizona School Facilities Board (SFB) projects include a structural evaluation of the 300 wing, the AHS main gym roof replacement, Central Plant 1 cooling tower replacement, and classroom 413 Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) replacement.

Canyon del Oro High School (CDO) Bonds projects include the replacement of the east parking lot lights, and HVAC design retrofit to the Dance Studio in building BN. School Facility Board (SFB) projects include the campus roofing phase I for buildings D, E, J, JE and N, which are now complete. Buildings K, JW, M, S and T are near completion. Campus roofing phase II construction will begin soon.

Ironwood Ridge High School (IRHS) Bonds projects include Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) repairs to the science tables, which is near completion. SFB projects underway include weatherization assessments on buildings E-F, and the roof replacement on buildings A, E and F.

Copper Creek Elementary School Bonds projects include the design work for staff and special needs restroom remodel, which is now complete. SFB projects include the assessment of the roof on the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR).

Coronado K-8 School Bonds projects include the security fence and handrails painting, access control improvements, replacement of card readers, new head end equipment, new door controllers and lockdown buttons. The elementary building Air Conditioning unit replacement is complete.

Cross Middle School SFB projects include the roof replacement.

Harelson Elementary School SFB projects include the Funhouse weatherization assessment.

Holaway Elementary School Bonds projects include the east side security fence improvements.

La Cima Middle School Bonds projects include the carpet renovation in building C, and completion of room 118 washer and dryer hook up.

Mesa Verde Elementary School Bonds projects include painting of the playground equipment, exterior fences, and gates. SFB projects include the roof replacement.

Painted Sky Elementary School Bonds projects include the replacement of one 130-ton chiller.

Rillito Center SFB projects include building A and D weatherization, and the campus roofing replacement, which is near completion.

Rio Vista Elementary School Bond projects include improvements to the access controls.

Walker Elementary School SFB projects include the HVAC replacement.

Wilson Elementary School Bond projects include the fire alarm system replacement.

### **C. Report of Governing Board Delegate, Dr. Scott Baker, on the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Delegate Assembly**

Dr. Baker reported on the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Delegate Assembly

He explained that one of the roles of the ASBA is to lobby the legislature on behalf of the public school districts in the state of Arizona. This year the Delegate Assembly was held virtually. The purpose of the Delegate Assembly is to vote on topics the ASBA will be lobbying for. In advance of the assembly, a committee meets to determine the topics to be recommended to the delegates.

Typically, the four main areas are:

1. Adequately and equitably fund district schools to at least the national median per pupil funding
2. Preserve and strengthen local control
3. Improve outcomes for all students
4. Require public accountability for taxpayer dollars spent on education

This year an additional priority was added:

*Managing the Impact of COVID-19 on Public Schools*

Dr. Baker presented the main topics, which included the following for school year 2020-2021:

- hold school districts harmless for significant enrollment losses;
- provide flexibility in seat time and attendance requirements;
- suspend states' standardized testing requirements;
- enact a moratorium on school letter grades;
- provide districts' flexibility in teacher evaluation requirements and procedures;
- regulatory relief if the pandemic interrupts future school years;

- state funded program to purchase bulk personal protective equipment for distribution to districts;
- funding for increased expenses due to COVID-19, especially the cost to meet the social and emotional needs of students;
- technology modernization and improvements to ensure students can continue learning;
- unless a public emergency is declared, allow districts to close if needed because of a community outbreak; and
- protect school districts from liability if a community member contracts COVID-19 while engaged in a school sponsored activity.

**D. Review of Enrollment Projections and Actual Enrollment for Current (2020-2021) School Year**

*For detailed information on the Review of Enrollment Projections and Actual Enrollment for Current (2020-2021) school year see Exhibit 3.*

Superintendent Jaeger stated typically this is the time of year to review the projected enrollment versus what the actual student enrollment is, and how close the District was to the projections. He invited Ms. Tong and Mr. Little to present the information.

Ms. Tong reminded the Board that in years past, Districts received funding based on what the prior year enrollment was on a certain date. Currently, fiscal year funding is calculated by student's Average Daily Membership (ADM), during the first 100 days of the current school year. In July 2020, an executive order was issued by Governor Ducey, which allowed student's attendance to be counted utilizing Zoom, Goggle classroom, or their task packet (if they have no internet), as long as a distance learning plan was submitted to the state and approved. The District has submitted and received approval for distance based learning. Ms. Tong noted that fewer students are actually attending than were projected. She provided a slide presentation showing the projected enrollment versus the actual enrollment at all schools in the District, which showed a decrease in enrollment. However, Amphi Academy Online reflected an increase in enrollment. Total district decrease is 1,066 students.

Mr. Little explained the projected ADM for this year is 10,900. The formulas used to calculate funding is very complicated this year. Since the school year began, some students have participated in both online and in-person learning at brick and mortar schools.

Funding for online students is reduced compared to students in brick and mortar schools, and with more students online this year, funding will be less than projected. He continued saying, the calculation for online learning will not be known until June 30, 2021. Therefore, a budget revision will be done in December.

He stated many other school districts in Arizona have similar funding challenges, and hopes the legislature will recognize the funding reductions and create a relief package for future funding.

Ms. Tong concluded by saying, because some students are not logging in and therefore are not being counted, and some students are not attending at all, those factors will affect funding. She mentioned that there are some teacher vacancies listed, but currently there is not a need to fill them. Due to the pandemic, the financial outlook is not as good as desired, but the District is doing the best they can given the circumstances.

There were no questions.

**7. 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://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2065>

*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. – O. be approved as presented. Vice President Cox Golder seconded the motion. Roll call vote in favor - 5: President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Roll call vote opposed - 0. Consent Agenda Items A. - O. passed.*

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

*Non-administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 4.*

**B. Approval of Personnel Changes**

*Certified and classified personnel changes were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.*

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

*Leave(s) of absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.*

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

*Separation(s) and termination(s) were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.*

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

*Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 8.*

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

*Minutes of the September 22, 2020, October 13, 2020, and October 27, 2020 meetings were approved as submitted in Exhibit 9.*

**G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$2,163,620.86**

*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 10.*

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1104	\$5,521.15	1105	\$178,431.14	1106	\$274,067.07
1107	\$49,320.97	1108	\$221,942.59	1109	\$14,280.62
1110	\$1,104.28	1112	\$25,871.46	1113	\$140,467.12
1114	\$38,999.20	1115	\$40,428.88	1117	\$97,847.04
1118	\$30,420.64	1119	\$243,586.32	1120	\$223,885.67
1121	\$3,610.99	1122	\$573,835.72		

**H. Acceptance of Gifts**

*Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as listed in Exhibit 11.*

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

*Governing Board approved La Cima PTO for the 2020-2021 school year as submitted in Exhibit 12.*

**J. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Amphitheater High School Classroom 413 HVAC Replacement**

*Governing Board approved the SFB grant for Amphitheater High School classroom 413 HVAC replacement as submitted in Exhibit 13.*

**K. Award of Contract for Fencing Materials and Installation Based on Response to Invitation for Bids (IFB) 10-15-2020**

*Governing Board approved the Award of Contract for fencing materials and installation based on response to invitation for bids as submitted in Exhibit 14.*

**L. Award of Contract for Amphi High School Main Gym Roof Replacement Project - Based Upon Responses to Invitation for Bids (IFB) 10-22-2020**

*Governing Board approved the Award of Contract for Amphi High School main gym roof replacement project based on responses to invitation for bids as submitted in Exhibit 15.*

**M. Approval of School Facilities Board (SFB) Grant for Donaldson Elementary School Music Room HVAC Replacement**

*Governing Board approved the SFB grant for Donaldson Elementary School music room HVAC replacement as submitted in Exhibit 16.*

**N. Approval of Textbook for Adoption - IB Mathematics Textbook**

*Governing Board approved the adoption of the IB Mathematics textbook as submitted in Exhibit 17.*

**O. Approval of the 2019-20 School Level Reporting Forms**

*Governing Board approved the 2019-2020 School Level reporting forms as submitted in Exhibit 18.*

**8. STUDY**

**A. Study of November 3, 2020 Election Results**

Superintendent Jaeger invited Ms. Tong to review the Election Results.

Ms. Tong showed a Power Point Presentation of the Pima County election results and congratulated President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, and Board Member Dr. Baker on their re-election.

Ms. Tong discussed the voter approved Arizona Ballot Measure Proposition 208. She said the proposition will be a benefit to the District. The tax revenue will be placed in the Student Support and Safety Fund (SSSF) to be distributed to schools based on student count. 50% to hire and increase base compensation for teachers and classroom support personnel; 25% to hire and increase base compensation for student support services personnel; and 10% to provide mentoring and retention programming for new classroom teachers. Ms. Tong noted that the funds will not be distributed until April 2022.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*There were none.*

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

*There were none.*

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

*President Day made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Cox Golder seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call vote in favor - 5: President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Roll call vote opposed - 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.*

*Karin Smith*      *Gretchen Hahn*

Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval  
*Karin Smith, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board*  
*Gretchen Hahn, Secretary III, Governing Board Office*

December 2, 2020  
Date

*Deanna M. Day*

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

December 8, 2020  
Date