

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, September 10, 2024**

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A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 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, Vice President  
Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, Member-*telephonically*  
Ms. Deanna M. Day, M. Ed., Member  
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member

**Governing Board Member Absent**

Dr. Scott K. Baker, President

**Superintendent's Cabinet Members**

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. Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21st Century Education  
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications

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

Vice President Zibrat called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and invited members of the audience to sign the guest register.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Prince Elementary School Principal Samantha Doyle to come forward to introduce her students. Ms. Doyle stated that the students leading the pledge this evening were student council elected officers and classroom representatives. She praised their hard work and leadership and commented that they are looking forward to what the students will accomplish this school year. Ms. Doyle introduced their student council facilitator, Mr. Nick Robles, as well as students Brianna, Dulce, Violet, Alexis, Jordan, Za'Nyla, Athena, Valentina, and Jesus.

The students led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Kopec thanked the students for attending and distributed certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Robles, and the students to mark the occasion.

**3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART**

Ms. Doyle introduced the Prince Elementary Art Teacher, Ms. Jenna Sullivan. Ms. Sullivan shared that this was her first-year teaching art, and it was a true honor to be sharing with the Governing Board. She stated that her classes will be focusing on a different artist each unit and the art displayed in the board room was inspired by the works of Piet Mondrian. Ms. Sullivan explained how each grade level utilized art concepts such as tracing, weaving, use of geometric shapes, linear perspective, and abstract renditions to create their art works. Ms. Sullivan thanked the district for

their support of the arts.

Mr. Kopec presented Ms. Sullivan with a certificate of recognition. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Ms. Doyle, and Ms. Sullivan.

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

Vice President Zibrat announced that the next Special Governing Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ, 85705, in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

5. **RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards**

Vice President Zibrat asked Superintendent Jaeger to present the awards.

Superintendent Jaeger stated that each month during the school year, a certificated and support staff member are recognized with a Distinguished Service Award. He asked Facilities Manager, Mr. Tom Gill to come forward to introduce the classified staff recipient.

Mr. Gill introduced Lead HVAC Technician, Jesus Medina, who has been in the district 16 years. He spoke about his reliability and expertise. A video presentation was shown honoring Mr. Medina for the work he has done in the District.

Vice President Zibrat asked Mr. Medina if he would like to recognize anyone. He thanked everyone for the recognition and introduced his wife and daughter. Mr. Medina shared that this award meant a lot to him. Vice President Zibrat presented him with a certificate of recognition, a Distinguished Service Award, and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

Superintendent Jaeger asked La Cima Middle School Principal, David Humphreys, to come forward to present the certificated recipient. Mr. Humphreys introduced Social Studies teacher, Jeff Panneck. Mr. Humphreys spoke about Mr. Panneck's dedication, teaching excellence, and strong relationships with the entire La Cima community. A video presentation was shown honoring Mr. Panneck for the work he has done in the District.

Vice President Zibrat asked Mr. Panneck if he would like to speak. He stated his wife, father, brother, sister-in-law, and pastor were in the audience along with several friends and colleagues. Mr. Panneck thanked the La Cima administration and staff for the recognition. Vice President Zibrat presented him with a certificate of recognition, a Distinguished Service Award, and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

A picture was taken of the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Medina, Mr. Panneck, Mr. Gill, and Mr. Humphreys to mark the occasion.

**B. Recognition of the 2024 National School Public Relations Communications Award Winner**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Communications Director, Michelle Valenzuela to present the next recognition. She explained that the National School Public Relations Association has an awards program every year where work is recognized in many different categories. Ms. Valenzuela shared that Web and Digital Media Specialist, Sam Henson, won an Award of Excellence for a photograph he took at Amphi High School Graduation and also received an Honorable Mention for his video, "This is CTE". She spoke about Mr. Henson's dedication to capturing special moments of students at the graduation ceremonies in particular. Ms. Valenzuela displayed Mr.

Henson's award-winning photograph.

Ms. Day presented Mr. Henson with a certificate of recognition. He expressed his gratitude and encouraged staff to continue to invite him to their schools to capture moments. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. Henson and Ms. Valenzuela.

### **C. Recognition of the 2024 Arizona Air Force Association's STEM Teacher of the Year**

Superintendent Jaeger asked Innovation Academy Principal, Michael McConnell to come forward. Mr. McConnell introduced First Grader Teacher, Holly Talbert. He spoke about Ms. Talbert's ability to infuse science and engineering into reading and other subject matter. Mr. McConnell went on to share how Ms. Talbert began at Innovation Academy as a substitute teacher and her ability to foster positive relationships with students and families.

Ms. Day presented Ms. Talbert with a certificate of recognition. Ms. Talbert thanked the Governing Board for the recognition and her husband and children for their support. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Mr. McConnell, and Ms. Talbert to mark the occasion.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Vice President Zibrat asked fellow Board members if they had an objection to her moving the Approval of the Consent Agenda up in the meeting. There were no objections.*

***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](#)***

*Vice President Zibrat asked if any items needed to be removed for further discussion or comment. Ms. Day requested Item H. Acceptance of Gifts be removed for separate consideration.*

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

Superintendent Jaeger thanked Ms. Day for pulling Item H. for separate consideration, and asked Mr. LaNasa and Lisa Bayless to come forward. Mr. LaNasa explained that three months ago Ms. Bayless inquired about paying off student lunch debt. He said some campuses receive federal funding for free breakfast and lunch for all students, but ten campuses do not qualify for that funding. Additionally, there are programs to receive free or reduced meals, which require families to apply, and not all meet the criteria. He noted that no student goes hungry, but some students incur a debt. Mr. LaNasa commented that it was extremely generous of Ms. Bayless to offer over \$4,000.00 to pay off the current debt, and that she has made donations in the past to support the students.

A photo was taken of Ms. Bayless, Mr. LaNasa, Superintendent Jaeger, and the Governing Board.

*Ms. Day moved for Consent Agenda Item 8. H. be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Item 8. H. passed.*

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

*Non-administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 3.*

### **B. Approval of Personnel Changes**

*Certified and classified personnel changes were approved as listed in Exhibit 4.*

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

*Leave(s) of Absences were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.*

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

*Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.*

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

*Stipend for Coaching Volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.*

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

*The Governing Board approved minutes from the July 23, 2024, August 13, 2024 and August 7, 2024 meetings as submitted in Exhibit 8.*

**G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$989,343.84**

*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 9.*

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1050	\$136,187.54	1051	\$124,915.72	1052	\$5,601.47
1053	\$95,886.11	1054	\$176,983.16	1055	\$74,080.11
1056	\$6,831.32	1058	\$101,767.29	1059	\$119,823.65
1060	\$97,286.94	1061	\$46,608.94	1062	\$3,371.59

**H. Acceptance of Gifts**

*Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as submitted in Exhibit 10.*

**I. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) - 2024-2025**

*The Governing Board approved CDO Woman's Soccer Booster, CDO Parent Organization, Amphi High Volleyball Booster club, CDO Orchestra Booster, Nighthawk Swim and Dive Booster, IB Parent Booster Club and La Cima Middle School PTO for the 2024-2025 school year as listed in Exhibit 11.*

**J. Approval of Arizona Department of Administration School Facilities Division Building Renewal Grants**

*The Governing Board approved Arizona Department of Administration School Facilities Division Building Renewal Grants as submitted on Exhibit 12.*

**K. Approval of Revision to the 2024-2025 Governing Board Meeting Schedule**

*The Governing Board approved Revision to the 2024-2025 Governing Board Meeting Schedule as submitted in Exhibit 13.*

**L. Approval of Qualified Amphitheater Teacher Performance Evaluation System (ATPES) Evaluators**

*The Governing Board approved Qualified Amphitheater Teacher Performance Evaluation System (ATPES) Evaluators.*

**M. Approval of Out of State Travel**

*The Governing Board approved requests for Out of State Travel as listed in Exhibit 14.*

**7. INFORMATION**

**A. Superintendent's Report**

*For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint see Exhibit 1.*

Superintendent Jaeger shared photos highlighting some recent District events.

Superintendent Jaeger spoke about the long tradition of seniors at Canyon del Oro High School

gathering for their Senior Sunrise event. Students have breakfast, play games, and take pictures. In the spring, they will gather again for their Senior Sunset.

He spoke about Prince Elementary getting a visit from Ned and his Mindset Mission and learning about the power of believing in yourself. The students enjoyed yo-yo tricks and fun stories.

Pictures from Walker Elementary School showed fifth grade students working in the STEM lab learning about fire and recording observations.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that Ironwood Ridge High School Culinary Arts students work on their baking skills as they learn technical and professional standards aligned to their program.

He shared pictures from Amphi High School's Welding Program and explained their teacher, Mr. Crist, was assessing the skill levels of students to guide instruction. Superintendent Jaeger stated that this is an example of personalized learning in Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Lastly, pictures from Engineering students at Ironwood Ridge High School showed them using their creative thinking skills to complete the Marshmallow Challenge using marshmallows and raw spaghetti to build structures.

Superintendent Jaeger said that last year the Arizona Legislature passed a bill banning cell phone use in schools, but it was vetoed by the Governor. He stated that the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Horne, has alluded to pursuing this measure again. Superintendent Jaeger reviewed recent data related to student use of cell phones during the school day including the amount of time students spend on their phones during class, the number of notifications students receive on average in a day, the percentage of students who use social media, and the correlation between mental health issues in teenagers and the use of social media. He went on to share more data related to increased mental health issues in students and the possible links to screen time.

He gave information about the reported learning impacts that cell phone usage has in schools which includes teachers reporting them to be a major distraction, students not using their cell phones scoring higher on multiple-choice tests, and 35% of teens admitting they use their cell phones to cheat.

Superintendent Jaeger showed a graphic of the median duration of use of different smartphone apps during school hours and another showing the average smartphone use in minutes, hour by hour in different age groups.

Superintendent Jaeger concluded that he is not necessarily suggesting the District take action at this time, but cell phone usage in young people does have an impact and the legislature is likely to revisit this ban again.

Ms. Day asked why the Governor had vetoed the ban last year. Superintendent Jaeger stated Governor Hobbs published a letter to accompany the veto that can be provided to the board.

Ms. Cox Golder commented that this is a prevalent issue in the media right now and thanked him for his report.

## **B. Status of Construction Projects**

*For the Status of Construction Project attachments see Exhibit 2.*

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. LaNasa to provide an update on District-wide construction projects since last month's report.

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

- Amphitheater High School 800 Building HVAC Conversion using BRG funds which is an expansion of the auto shop and welding lab
- Amphitheater High School Library Media Room Renovations using Bond funds
- Amphitheater High School Locker Room Renovations using Bond funds
- Canyon del Oro High School N Building SAT ceiling and lights using Bond funds

Mr. LaNasa reported that the District received \$1,360,382 in grant funding in August 2024 bringing the 2024-2025 school year total to \$4,292,658.

He offered to answer any questions. There were none.

Vice President Zibrat thanked him for his report.

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments.

## **9. ACTION**

### **A. Resolution Declaring September 26, 2024 as "Legendary Teacher Day"**

*For the Resolution Declaring September 26, 2024 as "Legendary Teacher Day" see Exhibit 15.*

Superintendent Jaeger explained that Amphitheater was joining the rest of Tucson and Pima County in setting aside September 26, 2024 as Legendary Teacher Day. He explained this is celebrated across eight states and the public is being solicited for nominations.

*Mr. Kopec moved to approve the Resolution Declaring September 26, 2024 "Legendary Teacher Day". Ms. Day seconded. Voice vote in favor-4. Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed-0.*

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments.

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

There were no requests.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

*Ms. Day moved to adjourn. Mr. Kopec seconded. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-4. Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Day and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.*

Jen Anderson Gretchen Hahn

Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval

*Jen Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board*

*Gretchen Hahn, Governing Board Office Secretary*

September 23, 2024

Date

Scott K Baker

*Scott K. Baker, Ph. D., Governing Board President*

September 24, 2024

Date