

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, August 13, 2024**

A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, August 13, 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

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

Governing Board Member Absent

Ms. Vicki Cox Golder, Member

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. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications

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

President Baker 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

President Baker asked Vice President Zibrat to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

President Baker announced that the next Special Governing Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center.

4. INFORMATION

A. Superintendent's Report

For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint see Exhibit 1.

Superintendent Jaeger shared photos of recent District events from the opening of the new school year.

He talked about the annual Effective Teacher Conference, which was held this year at Ironwood Ridge High School. There were about 100 teachers new to Amphi who participated. He thanked everyone who helped plan, facilitate, and present the event, which is an annual event designed to welcome and assist the newest teachers develop their skills, learn about the District, get to know their principals and schools, and meet some of their new colleagues.

Superintendent Jaeger said we had a great start to the school year. He noted that there were some challenges with the new transportation app and gave a special shoutout to the Transportation team for working through it. He said thousands of students are routed

throughout the District, and everyone once again arrived at school and back home safely. Superintendent Jaeger stated that Curtis Simpson, in particular, went the extra mile to help families with their routing information this year. He thanked Curtis for demonstrating so many of our Portrait of the Graduate characteristics this year: Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Collaboration, Communication and Caring to name a few.

Superintendent Jaeger congratulated Vanessa Hill who was selected by the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) as the recipient of the 2024 Gifted Coordinator Award. He said Ms. Hill will be recognized at the NAGC's National Conference on Gifted Education in November. He reported that he, Ms. Call, Governing Board members Ms. Day and Mr. Kopec will also attend the conference, in furtherance of the District's emphasis on gifted and talented education.

Superintendent Jaeger then reviewed a recent (2024) annual report called "Kids Count®" that was issued by the Kids Count Foundation. He explained that it covers academics, health, family, community engagement and the overall well-being of children. He then talked about some data that was particularly concerning:

- There were unprecedented drops in fourth grade reading and eighth grade math proficiency for U.S. students between 2019 and 2022 -- representing decades of lost progress (citing NAEP).
- While other nations made gains, U.S. scores in reading and math have slipped.

He stated that research demonstrates the critical importance of fourth grade reading proficiency and eighth grade math proficiency to later success, and both measures are therefore a focus of the report. Superintendent Jaeger said mastery of reading by fourth grade becomes key to keeping up in other subjects. Children who are not proficient readers by this time are less likely to finish high school, enroll in college or keep pace with the earnings of their peers.

Superintendent Jaeger presented national data which gave historical information on proficiency scores in 2000, 2019, and 2022. Among other things, the data demonstrates that minorities and subgroups experienced the greatest decline in academic proficiencies.

Superintendent Jaeger reported there was one particular thread throughout the data for all students, not just the sub-groups, that was perhaps most concerning: attendance.

He said, "children cannot learn if they don't attend school" and shared some national data.

- In 2021–22, 30% of all students were chronically absent (meaning they missed 10% or more of all days in the academic year)
- By comparison, prior to the pandemic, in 2018–19, the chronic absence rate was 16%
- The absence increase, by more than 80%, almost certainly contributed to the drop in NAEP scores, according to the U.S. Department of Education.
- The negative impacts of this challenge are far-reaching because two-thirds of all U.S. students attend schools plagued by chronic absence – resulting in a "spillover effect":
 - Students in high-absence classrooms are more likely to have lower test scores as their teachers are slowed by a perpetual cycle of 'catching up' chronically absent students
- Unfortunately, 46% of Arizona's children were chronically absent in 2021-2022 school year

He said Amphi has a big push this year to curtail absences, and shared additional information:

- Consequences of chronic absence go beyond academics

- A study tracking Rhode Island kindergartners through their next seven years found those who were chronically absent were twice as likely to repeat a grade and were *more than* twice as likely to be suspended.

Superintendent Jaeger noted the report also provides a composite index of overall child well-being for each state by combining data across four domains. He shared the Arizona composite scores, that were translated into state by state ranking for overall child well-being.

1. Economic well-being: ranked 33rd
2. Health: ranked 34th
3. Family and Community: ranked 41st
4. Education: ranked 44th
5. Overall well-being: ranked 42nd

Superintendent Jaeger concluded with positive news, that Amphitheater continues to outpace the statewide (Arizona) academic measures of proficiency. He said when the specific state data is released publicly, the administration will provide that information to the Governing Board.

President Baker thanked him for the report.

B. Status of Construction Projects

For the Status of Construction Project attachments see Exhibit 2.

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

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

- Canyon Del Oro High School north gym HVAC using BRG funds to be completed soon
- Coronado K-8 School central plant pump replacement using bond funds-now complete
- Ongoing renovations to the Cross Middle School library using bond funds
- La Cima Middle School chiller replacement using the last of the ESSER funding
- Painted Sky Elementary School MPR painting project using bond funds-now complete
- The replacement of the Rillito Center parking lot using bond funds
- Wilson K-8 School building hot water line replacement site restoration using BRG funds-almost complete
- Wilson K-8 School MPR stage HVAC replacement using BRG funds

Mr. La Nasa was pleased to report that the District has received \$2,932,275 in funding this year. He explained that the SFB has changed their grant appropriation process and that may affect timely roof repairs, but the team will continue to pursue funding for roofs and other projects.

He offered to answer any questions.

On behalf of the Governing Board, Ms. Day expressed her appreciation to Mr. La Nasa and his team for securing \$3,000,000 in funding.

President Baker thanked him for the report.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

6. 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](#)

President Baker asked if any items needed to be removed for further discussion or comment. There were none.

Mr. Kopec moved for Consent Agenda Items 6. A.-P. be approved as presented. Vice President Zibrat seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items 6. A.-P. 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 Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$5,951,539.12

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 8.

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1379	\$12,724.45	1380	\$89,673.64	1381	\$72,871.73
1382	\$14,588.88	1011	\$11,068.22	1012	\$36,035.00
1014	\$292,453.69	1015	\$56,062.53	1016	\$13,984.66
1017	\$117,179.19	1383	\$19,208.13	1384	\$2,427,595.35
1385	\$16,574.36	1018	\$103,799.22	1019	\$91,679.05
1020	\$303,323.34	1021	\$168,861.08	1022	\$12,975.58
1386	\$20,938.90	1387	\$35,781.58	1388	\$9,302.50
1389	\$40,213.27	1390	\$14.12	1023	\$374,146.36
1024	\$769,006.21	1025	\$79,480.57	1026	\$165,470.38
1028	\$526,802.02	1029	\$30,135.02	1031	\$2,647.30
1032	\$36,942.79				

G. Acceptance of Gifts

Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as submitted in Exhibit 9.

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

The Governing Board approved IRHS Boys Soccer PAC, IRHS Project Graduation and Dorados Football Touchdown Club for the 2024-2025 school year as submitted in Exhibit 10.

I. Approval of One-Time Increase to Job Order Contract Limit

The Governing Board approved One-Time Increase to Job Order Contract Limit.

J. Award of Contract for Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) / Global Tracking Systems (GPS)- Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP) 2024017

The Governing Board awarded the Contract for Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) / Global Tracking Systems (GPS)- Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP) 2024017 to Synovia as submitted in Exhibit 11.

K. Award of Contract for Student Tours & Group Travel Services - Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP 2324019)

The Governing Board awarded Contract for Student Tours & Group Travel Services - Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP 2324019) to Project Exploration and Forum Music Festival/Travel.

L. Approval of Fee Waivers for Facility Rentals 2024-2025 School Year

The Governing Board approved Fee Waivers for Facility Rentals 2024-2025 School Year.

M. Approval of Site Fund-Raising Activities

The Governing Board approved Site Fund-Raising Activities.

N. Approval of Supplemental Texts and Materials

The Governing Board approved Supplemental Texts and Materials as submitted in Exhibit 12.

O. Approval of Revisions to the 2024-2025 Fee Schedule

The Governing Board approved Revisions to the 2024-2025 Fee Schedule as submitted in Exhibit 13.

P. Approval of Out of State Travel

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

7. STUDY/ACTION

A. Study/Action of Proposed Addenda Recommendations

For the Proposed Addenda Recommendations see Exhibit 15.

Superintendent Jaeger recapped that the Governing Board has heard this information at a prior meeting, and Mr. Munger has additional information and a recommendation. He asked Mr. Munger to present the updated materials.

Mr. Munger referenced the presentation which was made at the July 9, 2024 meeting. He said based on the feedback at that time, the new proposal splits the items: compensation and a rubric for accountability. He explained that addenda the committee will reconvene this fall to design the rubric and that information will be presented to the Governing Board for approval at a future meeting.

Superintendent Jaeger emphasized that some of the programs have already started, and it was important that this item be approved so that staff can be compensated accordingly.

Ms. Day moved to approve the Proposed Addenda Recommendations. Vice President Zibrat seconded. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-4. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed - 0.

8. ACTION

A. Adoption of New Policy System:

Chapter 1 – Governance;

Chapter 2 – Administration; and

Chapter 3 – Business

For the complete New Policy Systems attachments see Exhibit 16.

Superintendent Jaeger noted that the Governing Board was aware of the ongoing daunting task to shift the current policy system coding to a different policy system provider. A benefit of the new systems' coding and structure is that it will reduce the number of policies listed.

Superintendent Jaeger stated that it was important to approve these (three of the five) chapters so that they can be posted. He commented that if needed, additional changes can be made, and recommended that the policies be adopted. He explained that when chapters four and five are completed, they will be presented at a future meeting.

Ms. Day moved to approve the Adoption of New Policy System: Chapter 1 through Chapter 3. Mr. Kopec seconded. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-4. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0.

B. Study and Approval of the Revised Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

For the Revised Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 attachments see Exhibit 17.

Superintendent Jaeger stated that for different reasons throughout the year, the expenditure budget requires revision. He asked Mr. Little to explain in greater detail the reason for this revision.

Mr. Little noted that the most recently approved budget had coding errors for some personnel, specifically for Special Education staff. If the budget was not corrected now, a federal test of maintenance for effort for SPED expenditures, which is needed to receive federal funding would not be met. He noted that the tax rate numbers were also corrected, and he will present that information at a future meeting.

Mr. Kopec moved to approve the Revised Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Vice President Zibrat seconded. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-4. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

10. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Day moved to adjourn. Vice President Zibrat seconded. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-4. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.



Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval

Jennifer Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board

Gretchen Hahn, Governing Board Office Secretary

September 4, 2024

Date



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

September 10, 2024

Date