

**Minutes of the Organizational Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

An Organizational public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held Tuesday, January 11, 2022, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 in the Leadership and Professional Development Center. This meeting was held under COVID-19 pandemic related conditions.

Governing Board Members Present

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

Superintendent's Cabinet Members Present

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent-*telephonically*
Ms. Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education
Mr. Matthew Munger, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education
Ms. Michelle H. Tong, J. D., Associate to the Superintendent and Legal Counsel
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Shannon McKinney, Director of Curriculum and Assessment
Mr. Richard C. La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support
Ms. Michelle Valenzuela, Director of Communications
Ms. Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21st Century Education

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

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Call invited Gabbie Castelow, Prince Elementary School Student Council Advisor, to introduce the students leading the pledge. Ms. Castelow introduced Vanessa, Jazlyn, Liliana and Adylenie and talked about their academic accomplishments and involvement at school. The students then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Governing Board presented the students with certificates of commendation. A group picture with the students, Ms. Castelow, and the Governing Board was taken to mark the occasion.

3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART

Ms. Call said the Prince Elementary School art teacher, Mia Wolfson, was unable to attend. She asked one of the students to talk about her art on display. The student explained what she created and said Ms. Wolfson is a very nice, helpful art teacher. The Governing Board also commended Ms. Wolfson with a certificate.

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

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ, 85705, in the Leadership and Professional Development Center, SE Entrance and Parking.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A. Nomination and Election of Governing Board President and Vice President

Arizona law, A.R.S. §15-521, requires that the Governing Board hold an organizational meeting annually between January 1 and January 15. The same section of Title 15 requires that the Board elect a president from among its members. The President of the Board presides over all meetings of the Board, in accordance with Arizona law and District Policies.

A.R.S. §15-521(D) provides that the Board must prescribe rules for its own governance. Governing Board Policy BDA, one of the Governing Board rules of governance, does require the election of a clerk, which the Board has traditionally designated as “Vice-President”. The Vice-President presides over all meetings of the Board at which the President is not present.

The nomination of officers, under Roberts Rules of Order, may be done by open nomination. The President initiates this method by simply calling for nominations from the floor. Alternatively, any member could offer a motion that nominations be made from the floor. After passage of such a motion, or upon initiation by the President, the current President takes all nominations for the office of president first. Board members may, alternatively, move the nomination of a candidate, requiring a second and a passing vote for the nominee to be placed on the slate of candidates. This of course, adds an additional step to the election process and is not recommended for small bodies like the Board.

Nominees may decline their nomination prior to any vote. When it appears no further nominations are forthcoming, the President may close the floor to further nominations, or it may be closed upon a passing motion to do the same.

Under Roberts Rules, there are technically several ways of conducting the election of officers following the nomination process; those that are practicable and applicable to the election of Governing Board officers are described below. Secret balloting, for example, is permitted by Roberts Rules, but not by the Arizona Open Meeting Law. Once again, any one of the alternative methods below may be used – either upon selection of method by the current President or by motion (the latter of which controls in the event of conflict). If a voting method is selected, the chair should explain how the matter will proceed prior to the vote being taken.

Acclamation. *If there is only one nominee for an office, the chair of the meeting can simply declare the individual is elected, rather than taking a vote.*

Voice or Other Voting. *Absent election by acclamation, a vote of the Board on nominees is required by voice, roll call, show of hands or rising (where Board members stand). Roberts provides that, unless a method of voting is selected upon motion, the chair will decide the method based upon the nature of the election, closeness of the expected vote, and the size of the group.*

The current President announces the result of a vote formally, for the record. Until that announcement, Roberts permits any Board member to change their vote. In the event of a tie between nominees, the chair may call for a new vote to determine the tie.

Superintendent Jaeger introduced the item and provided an overview of the Governing Board Officer election process (as stated above) beginning with the office of the presidency and then followed by the Vice President (or Clerk), who serves in the absence of the President.

President Zibrat nominated Ms. Cox Golder for President. She then asked if any Board Members wished to offer a nomination for President. There were none. Ms. Cox Golder accepted the nomination, and Vice President Day seconded the nomination. Since there were no other nominations, Ms. Cox Golder was declared President by acclamation without objection. The gavel was passed, and they changed seats.

President Cox Golder asked for nominations for the Office of Vice President. Mr. Kopec nominated Vice President Day for another term. President Cox Golder seconded, all concurred. There were no other nominations. Through acclamation and without any objection, President Cox Golder declared Ms. Day is Vice President.

A Certificate of Election of Governing Board President and Vice President was signed by all Board Members. A copy of this Certificate has been forwarded to the Pima County School Superintendent's office.

6. INFORMATION²

A. Superintendent's Report; Update on Pandemic Conditions and Operations

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

President Cox Golder asked Superintendent Jaeger to present his report.

Superintendent Jaeger began his report by showing some photo highlights of events around the District that happened prior to the Winter Break.

- Band and orchestra students at Nash Elementary School performed their very first concert of the year. It was held outside and attended by many family and friends.
- La Cima Middle School students staged a performance of 'Into The Woods'. The show featured wonderful sets, music, singing and fun characters in costumes!
- Students at Amphi Middle School spent time wrapping lap robes for patients in nursing homes. This was a collaborative activity with the Mighty Mentors from Pantano Christian.
- Innovation Academy's Student Council helped the school's kindness elf spread joy and happiness. They placed candy canes with kind messages all around campus for students to find.
- The Grinch musical was performed by students at Walker Elementary School. The show put everyone in a festive mood as they headed into the holidays.
- The girls varsity basketball team at Amphi High School played hard during their winter break. At the Casa Grande Basketball Tournament, they finished in second place.

Superintendent Jaeger spoke about the pandemic and mitigation efforts, including Pima County COVID-19 health data. The information presented was cumulative for the entire pandemic. There have been a total of 174,189 cases and 3,206 deaths in the county. Approximately 52% of cases were among females and approximately 47% were among males. Approximately 17% of the cases have been in the 0-19 year-old age group, and the largest percentage of cases have been in the 20-44 year-old age group.

He showed a graph that had overlapping COVID-19 case counts and deaths. The data began in February of 2020 and showed a peak beginning in November 2020 and continuing to March 2021 when cases and deaths declined thereafter. He said the cases are getting closer to the case level peaks from last January. Fortunately, the death rate is still much lower than last year's peaks.

Superintendent Jaeger reviewed the Pima County health metrics. As of December 26, 2021 there were 521 cases per 100,000 individuals, which shows an increase from the week before. He stated the test positivity rate is also increasing and is currently at 20.1%. Pima County is still in a high transmission level. He reported that according to the Pima County metric charts, most of the criteria still remain in the red category.

Superintendent Jaeger talked about COVID-19 cases in the District. He said all districts are experiencing a growth in cases. Currently, there are eleven active employee cases, and 74 active

student cases, which is an increase in the cases from the December 7, 2021 report. Cases for the entire school year are currently 854, which is an increase of approximately 96 from the last report.

Superintendent Jaeger reported that on January 7, 2022, he participated in a teleconference with Secretary of Education Cardona and Surgeon General Murthy. They reviewed the importance of in-person schooling for students and urged schools to remain open, as the social and emotional needs of students continues to be of concern. Additionally, they recommended multiple mitigation strategies including vaccination, and announced the availability of booster shots for children 12 years and older.

Superintendent Jaeger spoke about the OSHA employee vaccination mandate. He said the United States Court of Appeals allowed the mandate to proceed, and that we are still awaiting a decision from the Supreme Court. He shared the results of a recent survey of District employee's vaccination status. There were 2,200 employees surveyed and approximately 1,500 people have responded so far. According to the results and based on the definition from the CDC and PCHD, about 30% of the District employees are not "fully vaccinated".

He offered to answer any questions from the Governing Board.

President Cox Golder thanked him for his report.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT¹

President Cox Golder read the Call to Audience Procedures.

Cami Reinhardt, an Amphi employee talked about the required COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated employees. She wanted to know who will administer the test, where will it be done, and who will pay for it. Ms. Reinhardt said many people who are vaccinated have breakthrough cases, and felt there was a bias against the unvaccinated. She stated the vaccine and testing should be a choice, not a mandate. Ms. Reinhardt urged that the Board stand up for employees choice.

Lorella Ritzel is an Amphi parent and staff member. She said the District is using Pima County as a scapegoat and urged the Governing Board to rescind the mask mandate. She compared COVID-19 case numbers at other districts that do not have a mask mandate, saying their case numbers are not any higher than Amphi. Ms. Ritzel felt there is not respect for others and their circumstances. She appreciated there was not a vaccine mandate for staff and students at this time, and hoped it would not be required in the future. Additionally, she was concerned about employees having to incur the cost of testing. Ms. Ritzel read the definition of discrimination.

John Maynard has grandchildren in the District. He spoke about his professional background and felt requiring children to wear masks is child abuse. Mr. Maynard said it is a fact that the cloth masks that most children wear are not effective. He urged the Governing Board to reconsider the mask mandate, and not require masks for K-12 students.

David Powell, a pediatric dentist, said that the mortality rates of children is low. He felt that children learn a lot from facial expressions, and are missing out when people have masks on. Dr. Powell talked about the effectiveness of masks, saying the N95 is the most effective. He felt that students need to learn the fundamentals to become critical thinkers. Dr. Powell said that students need to be taught how to think, not what to think.

Jeanette Boverit said she was a teacher in California, but took early retirement because she felt requiring students to wear masks was child abuse. She spoke about a study of masks and the

pathogens that were found on them. Ms. Boverit said there is no reason to continue to frighten children when there are reliable therapeutics to treat illnesses.

Joni Kaminski, an Amphi parent and teacher, said she still wanted the mask mandate removed. Additionally, she felt that requiring vaccinations is an overreach of government. She was concerned about the requirement to be vaccinated when breakthrough cases continue to happen. Ms. Kaminski questioned the current quarantine requirement for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. She also was concerned about the testing requirement and wondered when will it end? Ms. Kaminski felt these requirements were a mistake for the District. She said there already is a shortage of bus drivers and teachers, and people are leaving because they are tired of it.

Rafael Polo felt that currently, children do not think, question, or analyze. He said the main responsibility of the school boards is to provide reading, writing, and arithmetic and that critical thinking is not taught anymore. Mr. Polo referenced a book by John Dewey and suggested reading it. He believed that other countries are doing a better job educating their students to succeed in today's global economy. Mr. Polo rejects Critical Race Theory and said there is nothing wrong with traditional values. He stated elections are coming and with it, so is a change for the better for our school system.

Mona Gibson said now was the opportunity to review the last year, and now was the time for second chances. She reported that studies have continued to show that cloth masks are not as effective, COVID-19 protocols have caused mental and physical harm to students, and the CDC has lost credibility. Ms. Gibson said children rarely get seriously ill, and vaccinations do not prevent transmission. She suggested it is time to rethink COVID-19 protocols, and do what is best for the students. The focus needs to be on academics, having competitive schools, and respecting parents' choices.

Darlene Rowe, a third-grade teacher at Coronado K-8, read from a letter dated January 7, 2022 from Superintendent Jaeger. The letter was sent to families and staff, and referenced the Pima County mask mandate and new protocols for the quarantining of close contacts. With the current increase of cases, she was concerned because some people in attendance were not wearing masks. Ms. Rowe felt that the District was being two-faced for not enforcing the mask mandate at Governing Board meetings.

Larry Shoemaker talked about being a regular platelet donor to the Red Cross for 30 years. He said months after receiving the vaccine, levels in his blood have fluctuated and he is no longer eligible to donate. Mr. Shoemaker stated the vaccine is an experiment and that it comes with a high cost.

8. CONSENT AGENDA³

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 Cox Golder asked if there were any Items that should be pulled for further discussion. There were none. Vice President Day moved for Consent Agenda Items A. – P. be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Cox Golder, Vice President Day, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items A. – P. passed.

A. Approval of Appointment of Administrative Personnel

Administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 2.

B. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel

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

C. Approval of Personnel Changes

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

D. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence

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

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

Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.

F. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

Stipend for coaching volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.

G. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Previous minutes for Governing Board Meeting held on December 7, 2021 were approved as listed in Exhibit 8.

H. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$3,713,962.72

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 9.

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1134	\$155,769.45	1135	\$388.41	1146	\$98,246.34
1147	\$315,205.00	1148	\$302,687.79	1149	\$877,158.55
1150	\$141,846.01	1151	\$94,477.58	1153	\$81,814.47
1154	\$18,484.36	1155	\$101,298.57	1156	\$51,422.65
1157	\$113,951.09	1158	\$250,168.67	1159	\$4,855.71
1161	\$609,334.70	1162	\$5,593.09	1163	\$248,658.12
1164	\$51,518.71	1166	\$341.88	1167	\$161,056.12
1168	\$29,685.45				

I. Acceptance of Gifts

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

J. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) - 2021-2022

The Governing Board approved Harelson PTO and CDO Spiritline Booster for the 2021-2022 school year as submitted in Exhibit 11.

K. Receipt of November 2021 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances

The Governing Board approved the November 2021 report on school auxiliary and club balances as listed in Exhibit 12.

L. Annual Approval of All Authorized Signatories on District Checking Accounts for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year – Revised 1-11-2022

The Governing Board approved All Authorized Signatories on District Checking Accounts for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year – Revised 1-11-2022 as submitted in Exhibit 13.

M. Approval of Disposal of Surplus Property via PublicSurplus.com

The Governing Board approved Disposal of Surplus Property via PublicSurplus.com.

N. Approval of Out of State Travel

The Governing Board approved request for out of state travel as listed in Exhibit 14.

O. Approval of School Facilities Oversight Board (SFOB) Grant for Harelson Elementary School Funhouse Weatherization Construction

The Governing Board approved School Facilities Oversight Board (SFOB) Grant for Harelson Elementary School Funhouse Weatherization Construction as submitted in Exhibit 15.

P. Approval of School Facilities Oversight Board (SFOB) Grant for Ironwood Ridge High School FA & Gym Weatherization Construction

The Governing Board approved of School Facilities Oversight Board (SFOB) Grant for Ironwood Ridge High School FA & Gym Weatherization Construction as submitted in Exhibit 16.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT¹

There was none.

10. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vice President Day requested an update on Model Schools.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Cox Golder made a motion to adjourn. Vice President Day seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor- 5: President Cox Golder, Vice President Day, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed - 0. The meeting adjourned at 6:57.



Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval
Jennifer Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board
Gretchen Hahn, Secretary III, Governing Board Office

February 2, 2022

Date



Vicki Cox Golder, Governing Board President

February 8, 2022

Date