

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, June 11, 2024**

A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, June 11, 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. Vicki Cox Golder, Member
Ms. Deanna M. Day, M. Ed., Member
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, 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. John Hasting, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Richard C. La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support
Mr. Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Elizabeth Jacome, Director of Curriculum and Assessment
Ms. Julie Valenzuela, Director of 21st Century Education

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 Ms. Day 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, June 25, 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. RECOGNITIONS

A. Recognition of Ironwood Ridge High School 2024 Track Division II State Champions and State Runners Up

Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. Armando Soto, Director of Interscholastics to come forward to introduce the recognitions this evening. For the first recognition, Mr. Soto invited the Athletic Director for Ironwood Ridge High School, Ms. Patsy Harris to come forward. Ms. Harris explained that much of the track team is currently out of the state and that the coach was also unable to attend this evening. She went on to say that the Ironwood Ridge Track Team had over 130 participants this year, which is the most they've ever had. Ms. Harris named the students who placed first and second at the state competition and commented that most of this year's team members will be back again next year so they look forward to another successful season.

B. Recognition of Canyon del Oro High School 2024 Division III Discus State Runner Up

Mr. Soto introduced Stephen Mosley, one of the Canyon del Oro High School Track and Field coaches. Coach Mosley stated that Katrina Trahan has been throwing discus for three years and this year she placed first in the event for the District and second in the state. Katrina also

broke a school record that was previously held for twelve years by throwing 143 feet, 7 inches.

Mr. Kopec presented Katrina with a certificate of recognition. A picture was taken with Katrina, Coach Mosley, the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

C. Recognition of Canyon del Oro High School 2024 4A Softball State Runners Up

Superintendent Jaeger shared that some of the Governing Board members and District administration were able to attend the State Championship Softball game and were very proud of the showing the girls made. Mr. Soto introduced Canyon del Oro High School Softball Coach, Kelly Fowler. Coach Fowler said that the team had a great season with a record of 33-3. They were disappointed to not win the last game but were proud of their performance leading up to it. Coach Fowler asked the team members present to introduce themselves. The seniors shared their position and which school they are headed to next year. The rest of the team members shared their names and positions.

Ms. Day presented Coach Fowler with certificates of recognition to distribute to the team members. A picture was taken with the Governing Board, Superintendent Jaeger, Coach Fowler, and the softball team members.

D. Recognition of Canyon del Oro High School 2024 4A Baseball State Runners Up

Superintendent Jaeger noted that both Canyon del Oro High School softball and baseball teams made appearances at the state championship game this year. Mr. Soto took the opportunity to explain that there was a reclassification instituted by the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) which moves Canyon del Oro High School up to the 5A Division next year. The move is based on the school's enrollment. Mr. Soto introduced Canyon del Oro High School Baseball coach, Jason Hisey. Coach Hisey stated that he appreciated the opportunity to recognize the team and the program. He thanked the site administration for their continued support as well as support from Mr. Soto. He also thanked Ms. Harris for hiring him. Coach Hisey shared the winning history of the Canyon del Oro High School Baseball program and the multiple times they have made appearances at the state championship game. He took an opportunity to specifically highlight the seniors on this year's team who have been to the state championship game three times in their high school careers. Two players from the team were able to join in person to accept recognition on the team's behalf.

President Baker extended congratulations to the team and coaches for their tremendous program. He presented Coach Hisey with certificates of recognition to distribute to the team members and coaches. A picture was taken with the team members in attendance, Coach Hisey, the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger.

5. INFORMATION

A. Superintendent's Report

For the Superintendent's Report PowerPoint see Exhibit 1.

Superintendent Jaeger commented that some people think activities shut down during the summer, but there is still a lot going on. He began his report by sharing photo highlights of recent events in the District.

Superintendent Jaeger said the District is offering free meals at Amphitheater High School until June 20. The cost of the meals is underwritten by federal funding, and breakfast and lunch are available for all community children 18 and under, not just Amphi students. Meals must be eaten on site.

Superintendent Jaeger talked about the summer school program that is offered this year. He reported that the program is available to middle and high school students, and approximately 400 students are enrolled. He said that Canyon del Oro High School will be holding its Summer Bridge program for incoming 9th graders again this year.

Superintendent Jaeger spoke about professional development opportunities this summer. He said that AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) training was held for teachers new to AVID. Approximately 60 (30 elementary and 30 secondary) teachers attended and they earned their “AVID Trained Educator” certificates. The eight modules of learning were presented by District staff who have been trained to do so by AVID.

He stated that the upcoming National AVID Summer Institute in Dallas TX, includes three days of training for 101 teachers, staff, and Board Member Kopec. At the event, the staff will choose a Community of Practice, and afterwards all Amphi teachers will also come together to create site specific goals and action plans for the 2024-2025 school year, led by Ms. Julie Valenzuela. The site plans and goals will be aligned to students’ own personalized learning goals, our District College and Career Readiness Framework, and the District Portrait of a Graduate.

Superintendent Jaeger reported on additional Summer Institutes including:

Structured Literacy Institute:

Elementary teachers and curriculum coordinators will meet to learn about the foundations of structured literacy and the integration into elementary curricula.

Spanish Scope and Sequence:

Secondary Spanish teachers will meet to develop a scope and sequence guide for Spanish. The work will be centered around the newly adopted Spanish curriculum.

Instructional Technologies:

Lauren McIntyre will be conducting several summer sessions concentrating on the integration of instructional technologies in the classroom.

Superintendent Jaeger reported that principals and assistant principals completed a seminar on the CSTAG (Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines). He said it is a nationally recognized model that supports school identification of students in distress, evaluating concerns, and intervening to support students and ensure their safety. He thanked Mr. Munger for facilitating the training and said that Amphitheater is only the second district in Pima County to provide this training to administrators. Future trainings will be provided to counselors, social workers, health staff, BIMs, front office staff, teachers, and other groups.

Superintendent Jaeger talked about the Cognia re-accreditation process. He noted that Mr. Munger is leading this effort, and the leadership team has met with the Cognia lead and co-lead accreditors to begin the completion of the 6-year Cognia system re-accreditation. He said that over the next several months, the District will complete the required attestations and provide data associated with Cognia’s 4 characteristics:

- Culture of Learning
- Leadership for Learning
- Engagement for Learning
- Growth in Learning

He explained that there will be lots of work ahead, and in March 2025 the accreditation process will be complete.

Superintendent Jaeger reviewed the current certificated vacancies. He said for many years, the hiring of highly qualified teachers across the nation has been challenging, but is especially so in the state of Arizona, due to low school funding.

He shared the current staffing needs:

- 7.4 total secondary vacancies across all 3 high schools

- 1.667 total secondary vacancies across 3 of the middle schools
- 8.9 total elementary vacancies across 7 of the elementary schools
- 26.9 total Special Education vacancies across 14 of our schools (all grade levels), including Resource, Cross Cat, Preschool, and ED-P

Superintendent Jaeger noted that at this time of the year is not uncommon to still have some vacancies and explained that administration is working hard to fill these positions.

He offered to answer any questions.

President Baker thanked him for the report.

B. Status of Construction Projects

For the Status of Construction Project attachments see Exhibit 2.

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

Mr. LaNasa spoke about the projects currently under construction with School Facility Division Building Renewal Grants (BRG), Bond, Adjacent Ways and ESSER funding. He shared that there are many projects currently underway during the summer months including:

- A/C conversion at the Amphi High School Gymnasium
- Flooring projects across various kitchens particularly the kitchen at Ironwood Ridge High School
- Removing carpet flooring at various sites and polishing the concrete underneath
- Hot water tank at Copper Creek Elementary School was replaced using bond funds as there are no more BRG funds available
- Chain-link fencing erected at Innovation Academy to discourage parent pick up at the public park east of the campus which creates unsafe pedestrian traffic across the bus lane
- BRG funds were used to replace cooling towers at Prince Elementary School
- New security gates installed at Wilson K-8 School and continued progress on replacing the hot/chilled water line
- Grant money was approved last week to replace a compressor and chiller at Rio Vista Elementary School

Mr. La Nasa reported that the District completed \$4.6 million in grant funded projects this fiscal year.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

7. 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.

Ms. Cox Golder moved for Consent Agenda Items 7. A.– I. be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items 7. A.-I. 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 Separation(s) and Termination(s)

Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 5.

D. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

Stipend for Coaching Volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.

E. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$2,617,734.22

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 7.

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1319	\$165,855.96	1320	\$8,319.74	1321	\$42,292.15
1322	\$74,980.73	1324	\$538,817.64	1325	\$168,960.82
1326	\$9,207.66	1327	\$499,442.41	1328	\$227,214.28
1329	\$134,380.73	1330	\$527,095.68	1331	\$7,692.58
1332	\$204,813.78	1333	\$8,840.06		

F. Acceptance of Gifts

Gifts were accepted by the Governing Board as submitted in Exhibit 8.

G. 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 in Exhibit 9.

H. Approval of Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Tucson for Facility Usage for Public Recreation

The Governing Board approved Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Tucson for Facility Usage for Public Recreation as submitted in Exhibit 10.

I. Approval of Out of State Travel

The Governing Board approved requests for out of state travel as listed in Exhibit 11.

8. STUDY**A. Study of Proposed Varsity Letter Policy**

For the Proposed Varsity Letter Policy attachments see Exhibit 12.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that a concern was brought forth by Board Member Day about the inconsistencies under which student athletes are awarded varsity letters. This led to the District conducting an audit on the current procedures across the three high schools and ultimately the formation of a committee to recommend a Governing Board policy. Superintendent Jaeger asked Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education, Matt Munger to explain the process.

Mr. Munger spoke about what a coveted achievement a varsity letter is and the gravity of what they mean to student athletes. He explained that the varsity letter committee was formed with the intention of establishing a clear, consistent, and equitable policy that was transparent to students, parents, and coaches. Mr. Munger spoke about the varsity letter survey that was used to gather data on what criteria coaches are currently using to award letters, the committee members comprised of coaches from all three high schools and across all three seasons, as well as the results of the survey.

Mr. Munger shared that with the data received the committee created a focus of work which ultimately led to policy recommendations and a proposed plan of implementation. The policy recommendation is as follows:

1. A student-athlete who is on the published varsity roster will be awarded a varsity letter
2. Student-athletes on non-varsity level teams would earn a varsity letter if they participated in at least 20% of varsity competitions and/or invitationals
3. Additional factors that may be considered include:
 - Participation in post-season competitions
 - Promotion to varsity roster/team
 - Promotion due to injury
 - Sportsmanship
4. Team fundraisers and fundraising activities cannot be considered
5. Disqualifying factors include:
 - a. Violation of the 24/7 Rule
 - b. Removal from a team by school administration (Policy JKDA)
 - c. Violation of an AIA Rule that results in school-level discipline

Mr. Munger stated that if the Governing Board adopts the policy, coaches will receive the policy at required pre-season meetings and it will be included in the District's Athletic Packet. The policy will be discussed at District pre-season parent meetings and any team meetings. Mr. Munger offered to answer any questions.

Ms. Cox Golder asked if a student's year in school had any determination of their ability to receive a letter. Mr. Munger stated that year in school was not a criteria.

Ms. Day asked about when a student who is not originally on the varsity roster is moved up to varsity game play. Mr. Munger stated if a student participates in 20% of the team's competitions, then they would qualify for a letter.

Dr. Baker asked for more information on this notion using cross country as an example. Mr. Munger explained this is why there is a guideline of 20% of game play as opposed to a number of matches as there is a large variance between different sports in the number of "games" played.

Ms. Day asked if 20% participation was achievable across different sports. Mr. Munger stated that it was.

Ms. Day also expressed a concern about the use of the phrase "coach's discretion". Mr. Munger explained that coaches have discretion as to whether or not to move a non-varsity team member up to the varsity roster to fill a gap, but the awarding of a letter is based on meeting the designated criteria and not just up to the coach's discretion.

Ms. Cox Golder asked if students have to apply for a varsity letter. Mr. Munger stated they did not.

Ms. Day thanked Mr. Munger for his work on this policy recommendation.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that this item was just for study this evening and it will be brought back for approval at a later date.

9. ACTION

- A. Approval of Resolution Ordering and Calling a Special Bond Election to be held in and for Amphitheater Unified School District No. 10 of Pima County, Arizona on November 5, 2024; Providing for the Conduct of the Election, Setting a Deadline to Submit Arguments "For" or "Against" the Bonds, the Printing of Ballots, the Canvassing**

of the Election and Authorizing the District's Chief Financial Officer as the Officer to Comply with Sections 103 and 141 through 150 of the Internal Revenue Code

For the Resolution Ordering and Calling a Special Bond Election to be held in and for Amphitheater Unified School District No. 10 of Pima County, Arizona on November 5, 2024; Providing for the Conduct of the Election, Setting a Deadline to Submit Arguments "For" or "Against" the Bonds, the Printing of Ballots, the Canvassing of the Election and Authorizing the District's Chief Financial Officer as the Officer to Comply with Sections 103 and 141 through 150 of the Internal Revenue Code see Exhibit 13.

Superintendent Jaeger spoke about the previous study items that were brought forth to the Governing Board over the last few weeks regarding the need to call for a bond election due to the current bond program expiring. He pointed out the timeframe necessary to pursue voter approval for the bond election, and that action is required at this meeting from the Governing Board. Superintendent Jaeger reiterated that the District is able to seek these funds without increasing the current tax rate and in fact, during the lifetime of this bond program, taxes may decrease. He went on to stress the necessity of these bond funds due to diminishing state funds allocated to Building Renewal Grants (BRG) which used to be more plentiful. Superintendent Jaeger stated Districts like Amphitheater are fortunate to be able to fill the void in state funding in this way as there are communities where there are not bond funds to repair and improve facilities. The lack of these funds results in buildings in disrepair, inadequate heating/cooling, and other safety issues. Superintendent Jaeger stated the District is proposing \$84 million in bond funding and noted the District will continue to pursue using BRG funds as much as possible. He shared the main categories bond funds would be used for which includes:

- School facility maintenance and renovation
- Student transportation (purchase of school buses)
- Safety and Security measures and improvements
- Technology infrastructure

Ms. Cox Golder asked about the length of the bond program. Superintendent Jaeger responded that the bond's legal length varies based on what it is used for but is typically 7-10 years. She also asked if there is a minimum each year that has to be spent. Superintendent Jaeger stated that there is actually a maximum that they can sell each year and that is what determines the ability to keep the tax rate where it is. Ms. Cox Golder inquired about a bond committee. Superintendent Jaeger stated there is not currently a political action committee, but there likely will be one formed as there are some interested parties. He noted that once the election is called for, there cannot be any District resources used to advocate in any way for passage of this bond.

Mr. Kopec thanked Superintendent Jaeger for his introduction of this item. He feels the District has been very judicious in its use of the various funding sources available and that it is important the tax rate will remain stable. Mr. Kopec expressed that the proposed content of the projects was specific enough, but also affords flexibility if needed. He shared he was hopeful for the public support of this measure and thanked everyone for their work on this project.

Dr. Baker moved to adopt the Resolution Ordering and Calling a Special Bond Election to be held in and for Amphitheater Unified School District No. 10 of Pima County, Arizona on November 5, 2024; Providing for the Conduct of the Election, Setting a Deadline to Submit Arguments "For" or "Against" the Bonds, the Printing of Ballots, the Canvassing of the Election and Authorizing the District's Chief Financial Officer as the Officer to Comply with Sections 103 and 141 through 150 of the Internal Revenue Code. Vice President Zibrat seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-5. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Item 9. A. passed.

B. Approval of Resolution Ordering and Calling a Special Maintenance and Operation Budget Override Election to be Held In and For Amphitheater Unified School District

No. 10 of Pima County, Arizona, on November 5, 2024 and Providing for Notice of the Election, the Conduct of the Election, the Establishment of a Deadline by the County School Superintendent to Submit Arguments “For” or “Against” the Override Authority, the Printing of Ballots and the Canvassing of the Election

For the Resolution Ordering and Calling a Special Maintenance and Operation Budget Override Election to be Held In and For Amphitheater Unified School District No. 10 of Pima County, Arizona, on November 5, 2024 and Providing for Notice of the Election, the Conduct of the Election, the Establishment of a Deadline by the County School Superintendent to Submit Arguments “For” or “Against” the Override Authority, the Printing of Ballots and the Canvassing of the Election see Exhibit 14.

Superintendent Jaeger stated that this second election resolution is just as important as the bond resolution and absolutely vital to the district because the bulk of it supports programs that have been in effect for the last twenty years. He noted that there has been a 10% maintenance and operations override in place since 2005 which Ms. Zibrat was the leader of the parent and community action committee that spearheaded the efforts on that override. Superintendent Jaeger stated that four years ago, the district went back to the voters to add a 3.5% K-3 Special Programs override which means asking for that percentage over what the state is already giving you in Maintenance and Operating funds in a given year. Because of that, it is a fluctuating amount. Superintendent Jaeger said that this override funds free all-day kindergarten throughout the district which eliminated tuition payments for families and allowed Title I schools to put those funds back into other uses as opposed to funding all-day kindergarten. It also allowed for smaller class sizes in K-3 by 5-8 students each class. He proposed that the two overrides be combined into one item which will not increase the tax rate. Superintendent Jaeger reiterated how vital these programs are to the Amphitheater culture and identity. He noted that the district is fortunate that our voters have supported our students with these overrides.

Dr. Baker moved to adopt the Resolution Ordering and Calling a Special Maintenance and Operation Budget Override Election to be Held In and For Amphitheater Unified School District No. 10 of Pima County, Arizona, on November 5, 2024 and Providing for Notice of the Election, the Conduct of the Election, the Establishment of a Deadline by the County School Superintendent to Submit Arguments “For” or “Against” the Override Authority, the Printing of Ballots and the Canvassing of the Election. Vice President Zibrat seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-5. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. Item 9. B. passed.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

11. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Kopec asked for an update of the rollout of the new employee health insurance plan.

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Baker asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Day moved to adjourn. Ms. Cox Golder seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor-5. President Baker, Vice President Zibrat, Ms. Cox Golder, Ms. Day, and Mr. Kopec. Opposed – 0. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.


Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval

Jennifer Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board
Gretchen Hahn, Governing Board Office Secretary

July 17, 2024

Date


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

July 23, 2024

Date