

**Minutes of the Special Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, March 22, 2022**

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A Special public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held Tuesday, March 22, 2022, beginning at 5:30 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. Vicki Cox Golder, President  
Ms. Deanna M. Day, M.Ed., Vice President  
Dr. Scott K. Baker, Member  
Mr. Matthew A. Kopec, Member  
Ms. Susan Zibrat, Member

**Superintendent's Cabinet Members Present**

Mr. Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent  
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  
Ms. Kristin McGraw, Director of Student Services  
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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education

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

President Cox Golder called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and invited members of the audience to sign the visitors register.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. A. Motion to Recess Open Meeting and Hold an Executive Session for:**

**A. Consideration and Decision Upon Long-term Suspension/Expulsion Hearing Officer's Recommendations, Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-843(F)(2) Regarding:**  
**a. Student # 30053307**

**B. Consideration and Determination of Appeal of Long-term Suspension/Expulsion Hearing Officer's Decision Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-843(A) Regarding:**  
**a. Student # 30044139**

**C. Discussion and Consultation with Representatives of the Governing Board in Order to Consider its Position and Instruct Its Representatives in the Meet and Confer Process Pertaining to Policy, Compensation and Benefits for Certificated, Professional Non-Teaching, Support and Administrative Staff Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(5)**

*President Cox Golder asked for a motion to hold Executive Session. Vice President Day moved that the Board go into an Executive Session to address the matters identified in item 2. of the Board's agenda and pursuant to the legal authorities listed on the agenda under item 2. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5: President Cox Golder, Vice President Day, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec, and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed–0. President Cox Golder proclaimed they were in Executive Session at 5:31 p.m.*

### **3. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING**

President Cox Golder reconvened the public meeting at 6:38 p.m.

### **4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Cox Golder asked Ms. Zibrat to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

President Cox Golder announced that the next Regular Governing Board Meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ 85705 in the Leadership & Professional Development Center.

### **6. INFORMATION<sup>2</sup>**

#### **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 sharing some photos which highlighted events from around the District.

He congratulated Amphitheater High School Cheer and Basketball teams for winning gold medals at the Special Olympics State Competition. The basketball team beat Peoria High School and West Point High School to win gold.

Superintendent Jaeger said a group of students at Canyon del Oro High School surprised their teacher and coach, Michelle Gerard. The students each wrote to Walmart to ask for help in doing something special for Ms. Gerard. Walmart donated a new refrigerator and items to stock it. Television stations KOLD and KVOA were on hand to share the wonderful story when Walmart staff and the students surprised Ms. Gerard with the framed students' letters and gifts.

He reported Holaway Elementary School held its Jump for Heart event before break to celebrate healthy activities and raise money for the American Heart Association. Amphi is one of the highest earning school districts in Arizona and has participated in this event for many years. Great job, Coyotes!

Superintendent Jaeger said that Copper Creek Elementary School students and staff members put their talents on display at the school's Variety Show. The show featured singing performances, dance, gymnastics and comedy.

He talked about a "Day of Awesomeness" celebrated at Painted Sky Elementary School and Donaldson Elementary School. The event was held at the conclusion of their Step It Up fundraisers. Students at both schools had a great time with inflatables, games, and activities to celebrate their work in supporting their schools.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that with instruction from Chef Jean Gowen, Pima Community College dual enrollment students from Ironwood Ridge High School's Advanced Culinary Arts program learned the skills and techniques required for creating beautiful and delicious pastries.

He congratulated Mesa Verde Elementary School principal Carol Tracy Kitchen and her husband Don. They are the proud parents of the newest Amphi family member, Thomas Daniel Kitchen.

He said the Rio Vista Robotics Club recently introduced JACZBOT, an articulating robot, which the students built from scratch. JACZBOT is one of five such robots built in the U.S. and is the only such robot built by elementary students in the U.S.

JACZBOT came to an administrators meeting and amazed the crowd with complicated functions, including dropping and catching a ball, answering specific questions, and mirroring the movement of students. Students used 3D printers to make JACZBOT's limbs, torso, legs, head and face. He revealed that hopefully, JACZBOT will be coming to a Governing Board meeting in the future.

Superintendent Jaeger gave an update on the Odyssey of the Mind competition. He explained that it is an international problem-solving and critical-thinking competition. 25 District teams competed at the regional tournament and 17 teams are advancing to the state competition, which will be held at Canyon del Oro High School on March 26, 2022. He noted that four teams won Outstanding OMER Awards. Superintendent Jaeger said he participated as a judge and thanked President Cox Golder, Vice President Day and Mr. Kopec for participating also.

He talked about the Summer Institute trainings the District will be offering. There will be approximately 60 courses for administrators, teachers, and classified employees this summer. He said the trainings will cover a wide range of topics. Additionally, the District will hold its annual BOOST (Building Outstanding Organized Success Teachers) session July 18-21 and the Effective Teacher Conference on July 27-28 for teachers new to Amphitheater.

Superintendent Jaeger shared that Bethany Papajohn, principal at Painted Sky Elementary School, is fulfilling a lifelong dream to drive a school bus! With the help of Transportation Director Norma Frye George, Ms. Papajohn recently earned her Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Ms. Papajohn plans to drive students to field trips, with a goal of taking each class on at least one field trip every year.

Superintendent Jaeger said the Amphi Foundation's Annual Gala will be held on April 23, 2022. The event is a key fundraiser for the Foundation, and is an incredible support and resource for Amphi schools. He reported that the Foundation has invested more than \$1 million in Amphi schools over the past five years. Ticket information and other ways to support the Annual Gala can be found at [www: amphifoundation.org](http://www.amphifoundation.org).

Superintendent Jaeger gave an update on the Pima County Health Metrics. He said Pima County has changed the way the metrics are reported. Currently, all the factors are in the green category. He reported there are no COVID-19 cases in the District at this time.

He offered to answer any questions from the Governing Board. There were none.

President Cox Golder thanked Superintendent Jaeger for his report.

## **B. Auditor General's School District Spending Analysis—Fiscal Year 2021**

*For the Auditor General's School District Spending Analysis-Fiscal Year 2021 report see Exhibit 2.*

Superintendent Jaeger stated that the state legislature charged the Auditor General's office to develop an annual classroom spending report that compares how school districts spend their budgets in different areas. He asked Mr. Little to review the most recent report.

Mr. Little explained that the report format has changed, so it reads differently than prior years' reports. He went through the definitions of the categories of expenses which included Administration, Plant, Food Services, Transportation, Student Support, and Instruction Support. Mr. Little explained that the report aggregates the districts in Tucson. He commented that the presentation of national data was missing from this year's report, but ESSER expenditures are included.

Mr. Little went on to say that comparisons are difficult to make between districts because ESSER funds were distributed based on Title I populations, which vary district to district. He said that the Student Support expenditures was elevated because during online learning, bus drivers were used for on campus supervision as opposed to transporting students. He noted that being bound to how the CARES Act money had to be utilized dictated in what areas those dollars were spent.

He stated that when looking at the data it is important to look at actual dollars and not percentages. Mr. Little stated that food and transportation expenditures vary greatly between districts and shouldn't really be compared to one another. He also noted that when school districts spent their ESSER funds has varied, which can also have an impact on skewing the comparison.

Mr. Little said that there has always been confusion as to how the Auditor General's office calculates their numbers for teacher salaries. They pick and choose certain things to pull out of the calculations, but not all districts report the same data so the impact of that criteria varies between districts. Mr. Little spoke about current teacher salaries in the district and salary increases over the years.

He offered to answer any questions.

Vice President Day thanked Mr. Little for the talking points.

Dr. Baker asked about the information presented regarding 5 year salaries and 5 years of Prop 301 money and if they were separate.

Mr. Little stated that this was the Auditor General's data and they reported total teacher pay and how much of that was Prop 301 performance pay, meaning the Prop 301 money is embedded in that total.

President Cox Golder thanked Mr. Little for his report.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT<sup>1</sup>**

Lisa Millerd is an Amphi teacher and President of the Amphi Education Association (AEA). She spoke about feedback she receives from some employees outside of the decision-making process and that they feel undervalued. She stated that she felt most of these concerns could be subverted addressed with direct communication. Ms. Millerd said collaboration and valuing opinions help employees feel respected.

## **8. CONSENT AGENDA<sup>3</sup>**

***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 to be pulled for further discussion.*

*Superintendent Jaeger requested Item A. to be pulled for his recommendation.*

*Vice President Day moved for Consent Agenda Items B.- K. be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Cox Golder, Vice President Day, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Items B.-K. passed.*

Superintendent Jaeger recommended Ms. Stephanie Jo Hillig for the position of Principal at Copper Creek Elementary School. He spoke about Ms. Hillig's academic and work experience in Tucson. He stated currently she is a principal with the Prescott School District, and she

looks forward to returning to Tucson. Superintendent Jaeger said he is excited to recommend her for the position.

*Vice President Day moved for Consent Agenda Item A. be approved as presented. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 5. President Cox Golder, Vice President Day, Dr. Baker, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. Consent Agenda Item A. passed.*

To mark the occasion, a picture with Ms. Hillig, Ms. Call, the Governing Board and Superintendent Jaeger was taken.

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

*Administrative personnel appointments were approved as listed in Exhibit 3.*

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

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

**C. Approval of Personnel Changes**

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

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

*Leaves of absence were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.*

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

*Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.*

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

*Stipend for coaching volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 8.*

**G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$1,027,106.34**

*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
1236	\$110,856.93	1237	\$268,929.18	1231	\$115,943.95
1233	\$277,659.86	1234	\$49,183.25	1235	\$125,562.03
1238	\$32,751.88	1239	\$46,219.26		

**H. Acceptance of Gifts**

*Gifts were accepted as presented in Exhibit 10.*

**I. Approval of Out of State Travel**

*The Governing Board approved out of state travel requests as presented in Exhibit 11.*

**J. Approval of the Revised 2020-2021 Annual Financial Report**

*The Governing Board approved the Revised 2020-2021 Annual Financial Report as submitted in Exhibit 12.*

**K. Award of Contract for Amphitheater High School 300 Wing Restoration-Based Upon Responses to Invitation for Bids (IFB) 3-8-22**

*The Governing Board approved the Award of Contract for Amphitheater High School 300 Wing Restoration-Based Upon Responses to Invitation for Bids (IFB) 3-8-22 to Marsh Development Inc.*

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT<sup>1</sup>**

There was none.

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

Mr. Kopec asked for an update on Summer School offerings in the District and information about the Summer Camp program that is being offered by the state.

Vice President Day requested a timeline of when the Model Schools concept will be applied in the District.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

*President Cox Golder made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kopec 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 7:19 p.m.*

  
Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval

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

April 25, 2022

Date

  
Vicki Cox Golder, Governing Board President

April 26, 2022

Date