

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting
Amphitheater Public Schools
Tuesday, October 1, 2024**

A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, October 1, 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 Present

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

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

Superintendent Jaeger invited Stephanie Hillig, Principal of Copper Creek Elementary School, to introduce her students to lead the pledge. She presented 5th Grade Student Leadership students: Coco, Mila, Kailee, McKenzie, Savannah, Ava, and Kelly. Ms. Hillig explained that some of the students responsibilities are to talk about what the "Hawk" expectations are, to help with incentives, to do video announcements, lead assemblies and be visible on campus. The students then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On behalf of the Governing Board, President Baker presented the students with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the students, Ms. Hillig, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART

Superintendent Jaeger asked Ms. Hillig to introduce the Copper Creek art teacher. Ms. Hillig said Sonja Jenks has been at the school for over two years. She said she has a very positive energy and hosts an extremely popular after school art club.

Ms. Jenks said she was pleased to be able to present the students' art. She explained that the art on display represents self-portraits, working with proportions, principals of designs, and monochromatic and analogous color schemes. Ms. Jenks noted that during the school year the students also focus on lines, form, value, 3-D artwork, and learn about different artists.

On behalf of the Governing Board, President Baker presented Ms. Jenks with a certificate of recognition. A picture was taken with Ms. Jenks, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

4. 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, October 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson AZ, 85705, in the Central Conference Room.

5. RECOGNITIONS

A. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards

President Baker asked Superintendent Jaeger to introduce the awards. Superintendent Jaeger explained that each month during the school year, a certificated and a support staff member are recognized with a Distinguished Service Award.

Superintendent Jaeger asked Chris Trimble, Principal of Wilson K-8 School and Vanessa Hill (who wrote the nomination) to introduce the Support Staff Distinguished Service Award recipient, Tracy Gaspari, Attendance Clerk. Ms. Hill spoke about Ms. Gaspari's willingness to help and said she was a "living ray of sunshine". She noted that Ms. Gaspari treats all students, families, and staff so well and that she is very deserving of this award.

A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Gaspari for the work she has done for the District.

On behalf of the Governing Board Ms. Zibrat asked Ms. Gaspari if she would like to share anything. Ms. Gaspari thanked the Governing Board for the recognition, and noted that Amphi truly is a family, and that she loves what she does.

Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Gaspari with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board, a Distinguished Service Award and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

Superintendent Jaeger then invited J. J. Letts, Principal of Coronado K-8 School, and Rebecca Green, Reading Intervention and AVID Teacher, the Certificated Distinguished Service Award recipient, to come forward. Ms. Letts spoke about Ms. Green's many accomplishments and the support she has provided to so many people. She noted that she currently serves as a reading interventionist, AVID teacher and coordinator and also as the Amphi Education Association (AEA) vice president. Ms. Letts said she is very positive and devotes countless hours supporting students and colleagues.

A video presentation was shown honoring Ms. Green for the work she has done in the District.

Ms. Zibrat asked Ms. Green if she would like to share anything. Ms. Green introduced her family and she thanked the Coronado and AEA community for their support.

Ms. Zibrat presented Ms. Green with a certificate of recognition from the Governing Board, a Distinguished Service Award and a gift card donated by the Amphi Foundation.

A picture was taken with Ms. Gaspari, Ms. Green, Mr. Trimble, Ms. Hill, Ms. Letts, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

6. INFORMATION

A. Superintendent's Report

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

Superintendent Jaeger shared photos highlighting some recent District events.

He talked about the Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) Club Officers. He said that the Advisors from the three high schools held an Officer and Advisor Retreat a couple of weeks ago. Superintendent Jaeger explained that CTSOs are a required part of all Career and Technical Education programs, and they help students learn how to run clubs and follow all required policies of the state. The clubs also help students learn invaluable professional skills

they will use well into their future.

Superintendent Jaeger reported that students throughout the District marked Constitution Day on September 17th. He said this commemorates the day that America's forefathers signed the historic document on September 17, 1787. Students from Prince, and Mesa Verde Elementary Schools and Innovation Academy are shown in photos participating in learning activities which celebrates the day and taught them the significance of the founding document.

Superintendent Jaeger shared that the "Roving Chef" program visited Mesa Verde Elementary School in mid-September to teach students how to make quesadillas. They also made salsa, with the blending powered by stationary bicycle pedalling. He thanked SFE (the District food service department) for providing a fun, and tasty experience for the Mountain Lions.

Superintendent Jaeger noted that Copper Creek Elementary School celebrated its "16th Annual Hawk Walk" on September 13th. He explained that the fundraiser includes a fun run and concludes with the human sundae event!

He shared that Savannah Randall, a sixth grader from Cross Middle School, recently advocated for a measure to allow Oro Valley residents to own chickens. He explained that her initiative led to a Town Council decision to approve ownership of small livestock for residents in Oro Valley.

Superintendent Jaeger said that William Holmes, a 2024 graduate from Ironwood Ridge High School won the prestigious 2024 Rocky Mountain Student Production Award for his outstanding school project in the category of Best High School Music Video. The award marks a significant milestone for Ironwood Ridge High School, as this award is their first "Student Emmy."

Superintendent Jaeger concluded by providing a list of upcoming events including:

- October 2: Presentation at the Oro Valley Town Council Meeting
- October 4: Superintendent Roundtable Meeting with Governor Hobbs
- October 10: Superintendent Panel Regarding CTE
- October 7-11: Schools closed for Fall Break. District offices will be open.
- October 15: Special Board meeting (4 p.m.)
- October 22: Special Governing Board meeting (5:30 p.m.)
- October 31: Halloween (school in session)
- November 1 & 2: United Way Days of Caring Event (25th Annual)
- November 4: "This is High School" event at Amphi High
- November 5: Election Day (school in session)
- November 8: "This is High School" event at Canyon del Oro High School
- November 11: Veterans Day (holiday) District offices will be closed
- November 15: "This is High School" event at Ironwood Ridge High School

President Baker thanked him for the report.

B. Annual Review of Bond and Capital Projects pursuant to A.R.S. 15-491(K)

For the Annual Review of Bond and Capital Projects pursuant to A.R.S. 15-491(K) attachments see Exhibit 2.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that annually the District is required to provide to the public a summary of capital improvement projects to account for the local and state funds spent. He asked Mr. La Nasa to update the Governing Board on Bond and Capital projects throughout the District.

Mr. La Nasa said the review encompasses projects being funded with monies from the following sources: Adjacent Ways, Building Renewal Grants, and District bond projects.

Adjacent Ways Project Expenditures total of \$ 294,774

Donaldson Elementary School-fire lane paving

Prince Elementary School-sidewalk replacement

Painted Sky Elementary School-fire lane paving

Amphi Middle School-sidewalk replacement and fire lane paving

Amphi High School-fire lane paving

Building Renewal Grant Expenditures total of \$6,343,690

Amphitheater High School (AHS) projects included the central plant 3 pipe replacement design, east campus roof replacement design, plant 2 pipe replacement design, central plant 3 chiller replacement design, south gym HVAC conversion design, Land Lab fire alarm assessment, 200 wing electrical feed replacement and 800 building HVAC conversion.

Amphitheater Middle School (AMS) projects included the library roof leak repair.

Canyon del Oro High School (CDO) projects included weatherization assessments phase 1 and phase 2, and the north gym HVAC conversion.

Copper Creek Elementary School projects included the MPR roof replacement.

Cross Middle School projects included the weatherization assessment.

Donaldson Elementary School projects included building A and MPR roof repairs.

Harelson Elementary School projects included the campus roof assessment.

Innovation Academy projects included a temporary chiller, chiller design and replacement.

Ironwood Ridge High School (IRHS) projects included mold remediation, academic buildings weatherization design, and classroom carpet replacement.

La Cima Middle School projects included mold remediation and campus roof replacement design.

Mesa Verde Elementary School project included campus roof replacement.

Nash Elementary School projects included campus roof assessment and MPR, kitchen and administration building roof repairs.

Painted Sky Elementary School projects included the fire alarm replacement weatherization assessment and boiler replacement design.

Prince Elementary School projects included the campus roof and weatherization assessment and cooling tower replacement.

Rillito Center projects included swimming pool room HVAC Repair.

Rio Vista Elementary School projects included fire alarm repairs and chiller compressor replacement.

Wilson K-8 School projects included the MPR stage HVAC replacement and MPR roof design, underground hot water pipe replacement and weatherization assessment.

Mr. La Nasa shared a slide that showed the Building Renewal Grant (BRG) Expenditures that have been spent over the last six years. He noted that last years' funding amount was the highest amount received (over \$6.3 million) and the combined six year total is approximately \$28.1 million. He explained that it is sometimes challenging to receive BRG funding. However, since the money comes from the state, those funds don't have to come from the District taxpayers (requiring bond or maintenance and operations funds).

Facilities Renewal Bond Project Expenditures totaling \$3,851,141

Amphitheater High School (AHS) bond projects included bottle fillers installation and campus clock replacements. Security fencing, single point of entry security booth and Performing Arts Center access controls. Parking lot drainage improvements, student parking and building E parking lot restoration, Land Lab bathroom and building 800 and H renovations. Central plant 1 VFD and central plant 1 and 2 control upgrades.

Amphitheater Middle School (AMS) Bond projects included B building stage bathroom floor replacement, campus building improvements and parking lot replacement.

Canyon del Oro High School (CDO) Bond projects included bottle fillers installation, access controls and security fencing installation. Central plant pipe replacement, dance room renovations and N building flooring and south gym floor resurfacing. East parking lot replacement design and light fixture conduit/conductors. HVAC controls, BN building HVAC and north gym HVAC design and auto shop heater replacement.

Copper Creek Elementary School Bond projects included central plant renovation and campus building and site improvements.

Coronado K-8 School Bond projects included bottle fillers installation, locker rooms HVAC replacement and exterior building painting.

Cross Middle School Bond projects included bottle filler installation, sidewalk replacement and Library renovations.

Donaldson Elementary School Bond projects included parking lot replacement and campus PA replacement.

Harelson Elementary School Bond projects included bottle fillers installation and exterior painting.

Holaway Elementary School Bond projects included administration office renovation, access controls, campus improvements and security fencing.

Innovation Academy Bond projects included chiller replacement design and fencing.

Ironwood Ridge High School (IRHS) Bond projects included D building access controls, kitchen floor renovations, central plant controls and valve replacement and classroom carpet replacement and main gym floor resurfacing.

La Cima Middle School Bond projects included security fencing, central plant controls and central courtyard renovations.

Mesa Verde Elementary School Bond projects included the handicap sidewalk ramp.

Nash Elementary School Bond projects included the kitchen HVAC replacement and playground equipment replacement.

Painted Sky Elementary School Bond projects included classroom carpet replacement and classroom, bathroom and MPR renovations.

Prince Elementary School Bond projects included C building HVAC renovations and controls.

Rillito Center Bond projects include security fence and pool re-plaster and exterior improvements.

Rio Vista Elementary School Bond projects included building C access controls, security fencing, MDF HVAC replacement and playground equipment replacement.

Walker Elementary School Bond projects included building E renovations and building I HVAC replacements.

Wilson K-8 School Bond projects include security fencing, classroom carpet, south MPR and locker room HVAC replacement and parking lot, basketball court and track improvements.

Bond Expenditures – Transportation total of \$196,780

Transportation Department Bond purchases included the acquisition of one bus with a wheelchair lift.

Bond Expenditures – Technology \$1,642,773

Technology Department Bond purchases included computers, technology equipment, cabling and infrastructure.

Mr. La Nasa stated that they have continued to struggle with supply chain issues and four new buses are expected in November. They experienced a delay of 12-18 months after the order was placed for delivery. He then shared a breakdown of the facilities expenditure summary. The total amount spent was \$10,489,605 to improve District campuses.

Mr. La Nasa offered to answer any questions from the Governing Board. There were none.

Superintendent Jaeger said there are 228 school districts in the state (competing for funding) and he expressed his gratitude to the entire facilities department for their hard work. He recapped that all funding received from the SFD saves our local taxpayers money. Superintendent Jaeger asked Mr. La Nasa to explain more about the where the Amphi ranks in the state compared to other districts.

Mr. La Nasa was proud to report that the District ranks third in obtaining funds from the Building Renewal Program.

Ms. Day asked who ranks first and second?

He responded that Chino Valley was first, due to a very large request for HVAC.

C. Introduction of the Meet and Confer Teams for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, Addressing Working Condition Policies and Compensation Terms for Certificated, Support and Professional/Non-Teaching Employee Groups

Superintendent Jaeger said this is the time of year that the meet and confer process begins. He explained that after the policy portion of the process has been completed, compensation and benefits will be discussed. He asked Ms. Call to provide the Governing Board with more information.

Ms. Call said she was excited to begin the process again this year. She commented that last year there was a lot of collaboration between the District and Amphi Education Association (AEA) and she looks forward to that again this year. She then introduced the teams for this year.

AEA Professional Staff Team

Rebecca Green, Literacy Intervention and AVID Teacher at Coronado K-8, and AEA Certified Vice-President, Colin Cordell, Fifth grade Teacher at Innovation Academy and Brie Ronnie, Fifth grade Teacher at Painted Sky Elementary School

AEA Support Staff Team

Vanessa Harding, Bookstore Manager at Amphitheater High School, Linda Lewis, Special Education Instructional Assistant at Coronado K-8 and Robert Wacker, Journeyman Electrician

AEA Facilitator for both teams: A.J. Benavidez, Special Education Instructional Assistant, Rillito Center

District Professional Staff Team

Matthew Munger, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education, Angela Wichers, Amphitheater Middle School Principal and Chris Trimble, Wilson K-8 School Principal

Facilitator: Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education

District Support Staff Team

John Hastings, Director of Human Resources, Richard La Nasa, Executive Manager of Operational Support, J.J. Letts, Coronado K-8 School Principal

Facilitator: Chris Gutierrez, Cross Middle School Principal

Ms. Call explained that a survey has been sent to employees and so far, there have been 620 responses. She said after the survey closes the leads will analyze the data and will bring forward any issues and policies that need to be addressed. She noted the next step is for the whole team to begin their work together in November.

Superintendent Jaeger also thanked the team members. He stated that they are a dedicated group of individuals and he appreciates all their hard work. He also noted that future Governing Board member, Pasty Harris was in attendance and commented that she spent many years on the meet and confer teams.

D. Weighted and Unweighted Courses and the Calculation of Student Grade-Point Averages (GPA)

For the Weighted and Unweighted Courses and the Calculation of Student Grade-Point Averages (GPA) PowerPoint presentation see Exhibit 3.

Superintendent Jaeger said that at a prior meeting, Ms. Day had requested information about the calculation of student grade-point averages (GPA). He asked Mr. Munger to present the report.

Mr. Munger stated that Amphi offers many diverse courses, and he would explain how those grades are calculated. He began by giving background information and said that school districts have utilized an academic course structure that assigns both weighted and unweighted values to courses that are most often associated with courses that are deemed “on-level” or “advanced.” Typically, the classes that are awarded a “weighted” value include courses where students are completing course work that is at a college level or beyond what a student would experience in an “on-level” course.

Mr. Munger gave examples of some weighted courses, which include Advanced Placement (AP), Cambridge Academy, Dual Enrollment, Honors and International Baccalaureate Programme (IB). He noted that these courses not only have to meet state standards, but also must comply with the program’s or university’s/college’s course requirements and standards. He said the weighted courses in Amphitheater are “weighted” on a 5-point scale, A=5 points, B=4 points, C= 3 points, D=2 points, F=0 points.

Mr. Munger talked about the Amphi course catalogue. He said that it includes notations that show students and parents if a course is weighted. Mr. Munger then shared some slides that compared course offerings and gave examples of the differences in the rigor of the classes. He thanked Beth Lake, Community and Family Engagement Coordinator, for updating the course catalogue and enhancing its’ features.

Mr. Munger explained how GPA’s are calculated. He said a student’s GPA is determined by multiplying each grade associated with a course and dividing by the total number of courses a student has completed. He went on to say, a student’s GPA can be calculated during each grading term; however, the student’s cumulative GPA can also be calculated at the end of each year and at the conclusion of a student’s senior year.

Mr. Munger compared unweighted versus weighted, by sharing the following table:

Letter Grade	Unweighted	Weighted
A	4.0	5.0
B	3.0	4.0
C	2.0	3.0
D	1.0	2.0
E	0.0	1.0

He showed an example of a student's schedule with grades and a student transcript which showed the cumulative GPA, unweighted cumulative GPA and class rank.

Mr. Munger says he is often asked by parents about the calculations of GPA and class rank. He referred to the course catalogue, and said it is explained there. He commented that are some anomalies, which might include course credits completed in middle school, weighted grades from students transferring from other districts, courses from non-accredited institutions, or non-qualified teachers from (non-accredited institutions). Referring to transferred credits, Mr. Munger said we do not have to accept the credits if they do not meet Amphi standards and will defer to the value the District has determined.

Mr. Munger spoke about student GPAs and their impact on opportunities during and after high school. He noted that prior to graduating, a student's GPA has an impact on their ability to participate in extracurricular activities, admittance into school organizations, such as National Honor Society, and their ability to earn "Honors" prior to graduation. He explained that class rank is also used to determine the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Top Ten for each graduating class. He said that similar to weighted GPA, a class rank is often required information when students apply for scholarships or admissions to in or out of state universities.

He offered to answer any questions.

Ms. Day asked when did the District start using weighted grading?

Mr. Munger responded that the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate Programme (IB) courses have used weighted grading since they began.

Ms. Day commented that she found it interesting that there are weighted courses in automotive and asked if there were any fine arts courses.

Mr. Munger said that there are: AP 2-D and 3-D art, and dual enrollment fine arts programs.

Ms. Day asked if there were any AP performing arts classes, like music?

He answered that there are AP opportunities for both fine art and performing arts.

Mr. Kopec said he appreciated the information and the presentation.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

8. 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 8. A.-J. 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 8. A.-J passed.

A. Approval of Appointment of Non-Administrative Personnel

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

B. Approval of Personnel Changes

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

C. Approval of Leave(s) of Absence

Leave(s) of Absences were approved as listed in Exhibit 6.

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

Separations and terminations were approved as listed in Exhibit 7.

E. Approval of Stipend for Coaching Volunteers

Stipend for Coaching Volunteers were approved as listed in Exhibit 8.

F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The Governing Board approved minutes from the September 24, 2024 meeting as submitted in Exhibit 9.

G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$1,388,221.05

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 10.

Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount	Voucher #	Amount
1079	\$24,026.32	1080	\$162,367.91	1081	\$104,558.01
1082	\$7,348.99	1083	\$266,263.30	1084	\$823,656.52

H. Receipt of August 2024 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances

The Governing Board approved Receipt of August 2024 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances as submitted in Exhibit 11.

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

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

J. Approval of Out of State Travel

The Governing Board approved requests for Out of State Travel as listed in Exhibit 12.

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. Ms. Cox Golder seconded. 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 7:34 p.m.

Jen Anderson
Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval
Jen Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board

November 6, 2024
Date

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

November 12, 2024
Date