

**Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Tuesday, October 3, 2023**

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A Regular public meeting of the Governing Board of Amphitheater Public Schools was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 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**

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

**Governing Board Member Absent**

Dr. Scott K. Baker, 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 Day 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 Mamie Spillane, Principal of Rio Vista Elementary School, to introduce her students to lead the pledge. She presented the "Students of the Month": Alexander, Emma, Danae, Mailyn, Julia and John. The students then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ART**

Ms. Spillane stated that Rio Vista's art teacher was not able to attend the meeting, so she talked about the student art on display. She said the kindergarteners made cityscapes, and first and second graders experimented with lines, shapes, colors and crayons. The third graders used primary colors and horizontal and vertical lines, and the fourth and fifth graders created a story with lines, and shapes using oil pastels.

Mr. Kopec thanked the students who recited the pledge for coming to the meeting and presented them with certificates of recognition. A picture was taken with the students, Ms. Spillane, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

*President Day took a point of personal privilege. She explained that the Governing Board members were wearing black because Dr. Baker's wife Windy, passed away last night. She asked for a moment of silence.*

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

President Day announced that the next Special Governing Board Meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Center, 701 W. Wetmore Road,

## **5. RECOGNITIONS**

### **A. Recognition of Arizona's 2023 International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Student of the Year**

Superintendent Jaeger invited Ms. Tara Bulleigh, Principal of Canyon del Oro High School to share more about the award winner.

Ms. Bulleigh introduced the winner, Brynley Ferris, a student at CDO, as well as Amy Bomke, International Baccalaureate (IB) coordinator at CDO. Ms. Bulleigh explained that Canyon del Oro High School is one of three schools in southern Arizona to have the IB program, which is a rigorous 11th and 12th grade diploma program. It offers weighted courses and prepares students to be academic and well-rounded students. Students may choose a few IB courses or be enrolled completely in the program.

Ms. Bulleigh said Brynley is a full diploma student in the IB program and competed with students from 21 other IB programs in the state for this prestigious award.

On behalf of the Governing Board, Mr. Kopec presented Brynley with a certificate of recognition and offered her a chance to recognize her family in the audience. Brynley introduced her mother and brothers and thanked the Governing Board for recognizing her.

To mark the occasion, a group picture was taken with Brynley, Ms. Bomke, Ms. Bulleigh, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger.

### **B. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards**

President Day 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 Norma Fry-George, Transportation Director and Support Staff Distinguished Service Award recipient, Allisa Pittman, Secretary III, to come forward. Andrew Miller, Assistant Manager of Transportation also joined them.

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

Ms. Zibrat asked Ms. Pittman if she would like to share anything. Ms. Pittman thanked the Governing Board for the recognition, and said it really means a lot to her.

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

Superintendent Jaeger invited Angela Wichers, Principal of Amphitheater Middle School, and Chris Mercillott, Social Studies Teacher, the Certified Distinguished Service Award recipient, to come forward.

A video presentation was shown honoring Mr. Mercillott, for the work he has done in the District.

Ms. Zibrat asked Mr. Mercillott if he would like to share anything. Mr. Mercillott thanked the Governing Board for the award, and he also thanked his wife for her support.

Ms. Zibrat presented Mr. Mercillott 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. Pittman, Mr. Mercillott, Ms. Fry-George, Mr. Miller, Ms. Wichers, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Jaeger to mark the occasion.

## **6. INFORMATION**

### **A. Report on American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge**

Superintendent Jaeger introduced Theresa Hoge, Region VP Development and School Engagement. He noted that the District and the American Heart Association (AHA) have had a longstanding relationship for many years. Ms. Hoge began by showing a video that encouraged everyone over 12 years old to learn “Hands-Only CPR”.

She reported that, last year, over \$36,000.00 was raised by participating schools, students and staff in the Amphitheater District, making our District was the top school fundraiser in Southern Arizona for the American Heart Association. Ms. Hoge stated that in partnership with Arizona Complete Health, there will be five Hands-Only CPR school kits donated to the District.

The kits will further the education of the students and staff to learn life-saving skills. She was proud to announce that Harelson and Mesa Verde Elementary Schools have been partners with the AHA for forty years, and that association needed to be celebrated.

Superintendent Jaeger commented that the relationship with the AHA is mutually beneficial. The AHA programs engage students in activities that build understanding of heart health. He offered the example of the Arizona Legislature’s mandate from several years ago which required that all graduating seniors be trained in CPR. The challenge was that the state provided no funding to school districts for this mandated training. Fortunately, the AHA donated many Hands-Only CPR kits and curriculum donated to school districts throughout our state, including Amphi. He said he was grateful for their support in this and many other respects.

### **B. Superintendent’s Report**

*For the Superintendent’s Report PowerPoint Presentation see Exhibit 1.*

Superintendent Jaeger began his report by sharing some photos of recent District events.

He talked about the recent Gifted Education (REACH) Institute held by Vanessa Hill, District REACH Coordinator, and her team. This year’s institute included guest speaker and nationally renowned author and neuropsychologist, Dr. Paul Beljan. He thanked Ms. Hill for the program.

Superintendent Jaeger explained that September highlighted the Portrait of a Graduate trait of “Creative Thinking” throughout our schools. He thanked various sites for sharing some of the activities that demonstrate “Creative Thinking”. He shared pictures of students at Ironwood Ridge High School, Cross Middle School, and Amphi High School.

He reported that Wilson K-8 School held its annual “Wilson Wrangler Round Up”. The event included performances, a silent auction, games, prizes, snacks, and the now famous chili cook-off contest.

Superintendent Jaeger said that as the District continues with the Year of the Portrait of a Graduate, the shift has been made from “Creative Thinking” month (September) to “Caring” month (October). Harelson Elementary School students helped announce the transition with a fun little video, that can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/reel/870067197974355>.

He was pleased to announce that Jeremy Tarbet, Automotive CTE Teacher at Canyon del Oro High School, was honored with the news that he is one of 25 recipients, nation-wide, of the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Award for Teacher Excellence. Mr. Tarbet is the only teacher in Arizona and the entire western region to win the \$50,000 prize this year. He congratulated Mr. Tarbet, Canyon del Oro High School and the students in the automotive

program.

Superintendent Jaeger reported that a celebration honoring Canyon del Oro High School teacher, Amanda Bryant was recently held. She was selected for the “Barstool Sports Arizona Bowl Extra for Yard Teachers” grant program. Part of this recognition includes \$1,000 for her classroom, and she will be recognized on the field at the Arizona Bowl football game later this year.

He reminded everyone that FEMA and the FCC will conduct a joint, nation-wide test of the emergency alert system and wireless emergency alert system on October 4, 2023. He wanted to make sure that staff, students and the community were aware of the test that will impact all cell phones, radios, and TV’s.

Superintendent Jaeger said there will be several textbook and curriculum adoption processes in the next several months. The District will solicit interested parties who may wish to participate by publishing a notice of committee formation both internally and externally, via our website and newspaper advertisement. Also, in keeping with Governing Board Policy and other requirements, the committee will be composed of educators and concerned citizens.

He noted that Mr. Munger is chairing the group that will review the addenda in the District (added duties and contractual terms). He explained that the committee is charged with reviewing the existing addenda, studying other areas for which addenda may be warranted, and examining Amphi comparability with other districts. They expect to have the results of recommendations to him in the Spring semester.

Superintendent Jaeger reported that he has been invited to speak at an event hosted by the Tucson League of Women Voters entitled, “Public Education - Challenges and Innovation” on October 21, 2023, at the Junior League. Additional panelists will be Kathy Prather, CEO of JTED; Marcy Wood, Head of the Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies at the University of Arizona; and Judi Moreillon, former school librarian and retired associate professor at Texas Woman’s University.

He concluded his report by offering District sympathies to Dr. Scott Baker, Governing Board Member and friend to us all, on the recent passing of his dear wife, Windy. He said our thoughts and hearts go out to the Baker family.

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

*For detailed information on the Annual Review of Bond and Capital Projects pursuant to A.R.S. 15- 491(K) 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 local and state funds. 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 \$222,939**

Cross Middle School Funding projects included bus and fire lane paving and sealcoating.

Ironwood Ridge High School Funding projects included front fire lane reconstruction.

#### **Building Renewal Grant Expenditures total of \$3,845,240**

Amphitheater High School (AHS) projects included the evaporative cooler and central plant 3 hot water line replacements, east and west campus roof assessments, 300 wing structural

repairs, north gym HVAC conversion, central plant 3 water treatment repairs and classroom flooring.

Canyon del Oro High School (CDO) projects included phase II roof replacement and north gym HVAC conversion.

Cross Middle School projects included the campus roof replacement and HVAC repair.

Harelson Elementary School project included the Funhouse weatherization.

Ironwood Ridge High School (IRHS) projects included the lecture hall remediation and the fine arts and gym weatherization design, and weatherization process.

La Cima Middle School projects included roof and weatherization assessment.

Nash Elementary School projects included cooling tower water treatment repairs.

Mesa Verde Elementary School project included roof replacement.

Painted Sky Elementary School project included the fire alarm replacement design.

Prince Elementary School projects included the Mustang room and classroom 19 HVAC replacement and cooling tower water treatment repairs.

Rillito Center project included weatherization.

Walker Elementary School project included cooling tower water treatment repairs.

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

Mr. La Nasa shared a slide that showed the SFD funding that has been received for the last six years. He noted that this years' funding amount was slightly less than the last few years, because in March the SFD stopped funding grants for the fiscal year. He reported that on July 1, 2023 funds became available for the new fiscal year, and they will continue to obtain additional funding for upcoming projects.

#### **Facilities Renewal Bond Project Expenditures totaling \$5,243,971**

Amphitheater High School (AHS) bond projects include nurse's office and 100 and 200 wing lighting improvements, classroom carpet replacement, D building electric service upgrade design, fine arts security fencing, stadium lighting upgrades design, fire alarm device relocations, campus PA system upgrades and central plant #1 pump replacement. Additional projects included security fencing, access controls, 700 building HVAC, fence painting, single point of entry security booth, D building exterior ADA access improvements, SW campus security fencing and security communication conduits.

Amphitheater Middle School (AMS) Bond projects include A building access controls and 300 building soffit repair and roof coating.

Canyon del Oro High School (CDO) Bond projects include east parking lot replacement design and reconstruction, central plant renovation design and renovations, bottle fillers installation, chilled water valve replacement, sidewalk and retaining wall, BN building HVAC and E building HVAC controls, A building access controls, softball field handicap access improvements and the fine arts building VFD replacement.

Copper Creek Elementary School Bond projects include HVAC controls, exterior lighting and painting, A building access controls and MPR electrical.

Coronado K-8 School Bond projects include A, E, H & J building roof coating, F building and activity gym canopy roof replacement, access controls, chilled water pump and band room carpet replacement, site and playground improvement and marque electrical service.

Cross Middle School Bond projects include bottle filler installation, cafeteria HVAC replacement, access controls, and parking lot restoration.

Donaldson Elementary School Bond projects include bottle filler installations, campus access controls, A building exterior painting and roof structural review for HVAC replacement.

Harelson Elementary School Bond projects include access controls, PA system, and A building exterior painting.

Holaway Elementary School Bond projects include access controls.

Ironwood Ridge High School (IRHS) Bond projects include irrigation well design, lecture hall renovations, A building carpet replacement, bottle filler installation, parking lot reconstruction, A building access controls, main gym bleacher repairs, painting and weatherization, and fine arts auditorium painting and weatherization.

Innovation Academy Bond projects include exterior railing, chiller and cooling system assessment and A building access controls.

Keeling Elementary School Bond projects include bottle filler installation, HVAC controls and A building access controls and HVAC replacement.

La Cima Middle School Bond projects include access controls, kitchen HVAC replacement and parking lot reconstruction.

Mesa Verde Elementary School Bond projects include exterior door replacements and bottle filler installations.

Nash Elementary School Bond projects include A building access controls and exterior repairs and painting.

Painted Sky Elementary School Bond projects include access controls, A building paint and carpet and bottle filler installation.

Prince Elementary School Bond projects include A building access controls, additional access controls, C building HVAC design and renovations and C building HCM abatement.

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

Rio Vista Elementary School Bond projects include access controls, PA system and activity gym HVAC replacement.

Wilson K-8 School Bond projects include central plant expansion tank replacement, A building access controls, exterior painting and north MPR interior improvements.

Walker Elementary School Bond projects include bottle filler installation, A building access controls, additional access controls, chilled water pump replacement and F building HVAC replacements.

**Bond Expenditures – Transportation total of \$627,661**

Transportation Department Bond purchases included the acquisition of three 84 passenger buses.

**Bond Expenditures – Technology \$2,212,625**

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

Mr. La Nasa shared a breakdown of the facilities expenditure summary. The total amount spent was \$9,312,150.00. He invited Kevin Chester and Tracy Hill, Amphi construction project managers to come forward. Mr. LaNasa said he wanted to recognize them, because they both are instrumental in facilitating the funding and completion of the projects. Those in attendance applauded.

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

Superintendent Jaeger expressed his gratitude to the entire facilities department for their hard work and financial savings to the local taxpayers.

**D. Introduction of the Meet and Confer Teams for the 2023-2024 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 this year. She commented that last year there was a lot of collaboration between the District and Amphi Education Association (AEA). She introduced the teams for this year.

**AEA Professional Staff Team:**

Rebecca Green, Literacy Intervention and AVID teacher at Coronado K-8 School, and AEA Certified Vice President; Patricia Hebert, Mathematics Teacher at Canyon Del Oro High School; and Colin Cordell, 5th grade Teacher, Innovation Academy

**AEA Support Staff Team:**

Chad Guymon, Locksmith, Facilities Support Services, Vanessa Harding, Bookstore Manager, Amphitheater High School and Robert Wacker, Journeyman Electrician  
AEA Facilitator for both teams: Brie Ronnie, 5th grade Teacher, Painted Sky Elementary School

**District Professional Staff Team**

Matthew Munger, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education, Chris Trimble, Walker Elementary School Principal and Angela Wichers, Amphitheater Middle 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 and J.J. Letts, Coronado K-8 School Principal

Facilitator: Chris Gutierrez, Cross Middle School Principal

Superintendent Jaeger also thanked the team members. He noted they are a dedicated group of individuals and he appreciates the hard work involved.

**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 Day asked if any items needed to be removed for comment or discussion. There were none.*

*President Day asked for a motion. Vice President Cox Golder moved for Consent Agenda Items 8. A.-R. be approved as presented. Ms. Zibrat seconded the motion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0.*

**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 absence 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 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

*The Governing Board approved minutes from the September 12, 2023 meeting as submitted in Exhibit 8.*

**G. Approval of Vouchers Totaling and Not Exceeding Approximately \$6,392,606.64**

*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
1052	\$410,122.42	1053	\$78,566.35	1054	\$156,685.23
1055	\$603,618.30	1056	\$654,174.38	1057	\$419,054.73
1059	\$623,677.65	1060	\$231,988.82	1061	\$75,499.91
1062	\$452,127.79	1065	\$3,164.55	1066	\$642,480.27
1067	\$522,088.37	1068	\$31,852.44	1069	\$60,229.05
1070	\$14,387.31	1071	\$386,168.63	1072	\$397,155.64
1073	\$334,521.14	1074	\$293,470.25	1076	\$1,573.41

**H. Acceptance of Gifts**

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

**I. Approval of Parent Support Organization(s) - 2023-2024**

*The Governing Board approved A Club (Amphi High), Amphi High Volleyball Booster, Holarway Elementary PTO, IRHS Girls Basketball Booster, CDO Softball Booster and CDO Orchestra Booster Club for the 2023-2024 school year as submitted in Exhibit 11.*

**J. Approval of Disposal of Surplus Property via PublicSurplus.com**

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

**K. Receipt of August 2023 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances**

*The Governing Board approved Receipt of August 2023 Report on School Auxiliary and Club Balances as submitted in Exhibit 12.*



- L. Award of Contract for Industrial Water Treatment System, Water Treatment, Maintenance & Repair-Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP) 2324006**  
*The Governing Board approved Award of Contract for Industrial Water Treatment System, Water Treatment, Maintenance & Repair-Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP) 2324006 to Southwest Water Solutions (SWS).*
- M. Award of Contract for Security Guards-Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP) 2324005**  
*The Governing Board approved Award of Contract for Security Guards-Based Upon Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP) 2324005 to Blackstone Security.*
- N. Award of Contract for Musical Instrument Repairs, Sheet Music Accessories and Supplies-Based Upon Responses to Request for Bids (RFB) 2324000**  
*The Governing Board approved Award of Contract for Musical Instrument Repairs, Sheet Music Accessories and Supplies-Based Upon Responses to Request for Bids (RFB) 2324000 to Instrumental Music Center.*
- O. 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 13.*
- P. Approval of Revisions to the Following Policy Documents:**  
**Policy IGA (Curriculum Development), Policy IGD (Curriculum Adoption)**  
**Policy IJJ (Textbook/Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption)**  
**Policy JLCD (Medicines/Administering Medicines to Students)**  
*The Governing Board approved Revisions to the Following Policy Documents:*  
*Policy IGA (Curriculum Development), Policy IGD (Curriculum Adoption)*  
*Policy IJJ (Textbook/Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption)*  
*Policy JLCD (Medicines/Administering Medicines to Students) as submitted in Exhibits 14-21.*
- Q. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with University of Arizona and AmeriCorps for AmeriCorps STEMM Program**  
*The Governing Board approved Memorandum of Understanding with University of Arizona and AmeriCorps for AmeriCorps STEMM Program as submitted in Exhibit 22.*
- R. Approval of Out of State Travel**  
*The Governing Board approved requests for out of state travel as listed in Exhibit 23.*

*President Day called for a seven-minute break at 7:15 pm.*

*The meeting was reconvened at 7:22 pm.*

## **9. STUDY**

### **A. Early Childhood Education Programs Review**

*For the Early Childhood Education Programs Review PowerPoint Presentation see Exhibit 24.*

Superintendent Jaeger explained this is a program review of Early Childhood Education (ECE). He asked Ms. Call to present the information.

Ms. Call praised the ECE leadership team members, Tiffany Bucciarelli-Fay, Director of Early Childhood Education, Brandi Lipich, Special Education Preschool Lead, Gabby Adams, Curriculum Instructional Program Specialist, and Dina Gutierrez, Program Supervisor, Parents as Teachers.

She talked about the amazing growth of the number of preschools over the last four years. All Preschools are licensed and currently there are 21 Imagine Preschools and 7 Special

Education Preschools. She expressed her appreciation to Rich LaNasa and the facilities team, SFE Food Service for providing meals, Scott Little for handling the grant monies received, John Hastings and the HR staff for helping with the staffing, Michelle Valenzuela and the Communication Departments for advertising the schools and providing registration information. Ms. Call also thanked the principals and school staff for supporting the new families.

She spoke about the Parents as Teachers program, which serves children birth to 5-years old. Last year, the program served 48 families, 68 children, and there were 361 personal visits. The goal is to assist and encourage the children and families during that time, but as importantly, to support them as they enter Amphi schools.

Ms. Call reported that all District elementary schools (with the exception of Harelson Elementary School) and all three high schools have preschools and Early Childhood programs. There are about 500 students served and 70 staff members to care for them.

Superintendent Jaeger noted that the kindergarten cohort is typically about 600 students. They will be tracking enrollment in order to be prepared for a significant number of students for the upcoming school year.

Ms. Call talked about the workforce development program run by Sumaya Frick, District Internship Coordinator and Brande Golden, Early Childhood Education Teacher, and Preschool Director at Canyon del Oro High School. There are ECE students at all three high schools, who help with the Preschools. Their support includes 31 paid and 18 unpaid interns. There are 290 ECE students in the high schools, and the goal is to encourage those students to become teachers.

Ms. Call said the preschool curriculum used play-based learning. This method incorporates different levels of structured and unstructured play to learn. She noted there is supplemental curriculum, which includes Dr. Heggerty's Phonemic Awareness, ZooPhonics, Handwriting without Tears and Kimochis.

She noted that last year there was a pilot program to create an inclusive preschool. It was a success and now all 7 Special Education Preschools participate fully in inclusive opportunities.

Ms. Call spoke about upcoming plans for the ECE program. She said that there will be a preschool classroom at Harelson Elementary School. Also, in January, they will look at the District-wide enrollment numbers to determine if additional classrooms need to be added.

She said all the expenditures of the schools has come from outside resources. They include Pima County, Pima Early Education Program Scholarships (PEEPs grant), Childcare Stabilization Grants, Workforce Development Grant, DES Funds, Quality First Scholarships and private pay families.

Ms. Call shared the community partners that have been extremely supportive: Pima County (PEEPS), the Town of Oro Valley, City of Tucson, United Way, Arizona Child Resource and Referral, Quality First, Accelerated Quality, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Department of Childcare Licensing, First Things First, Easterseals Blake, and NECPA-National Early Childhood Program Accreditation

Ms. Call asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Kopec said their hard work makes such an impact and was thankful to everyone involved.

Superintendent Jaeger was grateful to the Governing Board for encouraging and supporting this program, and he expressed his thanks to the community partners.

He commented that a benefit of the ECE program, which was designed to inspire high school students to become teachers, is the feedback he has received about the responsibility the high school students feel towards the “littles”.

## **B. Special Education Programs Review**

*For the Special Education Programs Review PowerPoint Presentation see Exhibit 25.*

Superintendent Jaeger invited Ms. McGraw to share more about Special Education services.

She noted there are many acronyms in Special Education and spoke about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA). This is a federal law that requires schools to service the educational needs of eligible students with disabilities, and all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education (FAPE). It states that each student is entitled to receive specially designed instruction to meet their individual needs. She explained that in 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was established to ensure inclusive and equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in all areas of public life.

Ms. McGraw talked about the eligibility requirements needed to receive special education services. Currently, there are 2232 students that meet the requirements for services, (Pre-K through 12th grade) which is approximately 15% of the students in the District. She said the need for services has been increasing over the last 20 years. At this time, 48% of students receiving services are for a specific learning disability, followed by speech and language impairments and developmental delays. She shared a graph that showed that majority of the students are spending the day inside a regular classroom. This was noteworthy, because the goal is to have students in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) possible and be in an inclusive classroom.

She said some students require specialized support programs such as, behavior support programs (G.R.O.W. and EDP), cross categorical programming or the Rillito Center. Ms. McGraw reviewed the additional services provided, including up to 4 hours of instruction time weekly for homebound students, services to private schools in the Districts' boundaries, and an extended school year at the Rillito Center every summer for students who meet the criteria.

Ms. Graw was pleased to share data about the Special Education preschool students. It compared state target, state average and the District outcomes. The District was above the state outcomes in all categories.

She spoke about the transformative changes that have happened with the Imagine Preschool programs. The law requires special education preschool students to be in school for two hours, but with the Imagine Preschools, they have piloted three- and four-hour programs. The longer programs create more inclusive opportunities for students with special needs. In addition, the collaboration and communication with the Imagine and Inclusive Preschools has provided additional professional development training. They have also worked to streamline systems to serve students and families better.

Ms. McGraw talked about students that are Twice Exceptional (2E). She noted there are 117 students that qualify for both special and gifted education services. To better support 2E students, over the summer there were collaborative professional development opportunities offered by the REACH department and Special Education staff. Ms. McGraw explained that there are 2E advocates that attend meetings and evaluations to make sure that gifted representation is at the meetings.

Ms. McGraw shared pictures of students at various sites in the District and was pleased that there are so many services and opportunities available for students.

She offered to answer any questions.

President Day asked about the qualifications needed to be in the Twice Exceptional program.

Ms. McGraw responded that there are multiple assessments, data and evaluation tools used to determine qualifications.

Superintendent Jaeger talked about the gradual increase of the special education population percentage. He said it is mostly attributable to the migration of students to public charter schools, who largely do not serve special education students. He explained that there may not be more special education students in Amphi, but with more students *without* special needs leaving, the percentage of special education students is higher.

President Day asked if the categories to qualify for services have changed.

Ms. McGraw answered they have stayed the same.

There were no more questions. President Day thanked her for the report.

## **10. STUDY/ACTION**

### **A. Approval of 2022-2023 Annual Financial Report**

*For the 2022-2023 Annual Financial Report see Exhibit 26.*

Superintendent Jaeger explained that each year at this time, school districts are required to submit their Annual Financial Report (AFR) to the state of Arizona. He invited Mr. Little to present the 2022-2023 Annual Financial Report.

Mr. Little said the Annual Financial Report is required to be submitted by October 15th. Due to the accounting department staff shortage, the report is not complete at this time, but is being presented for adoption tonight. The report will require some corrections, and the revisions will be presented at a future meeting for approval.

*President Day moved to approve the 2022-2023 Annual Financial Report. Vice President Cox Golder seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor - 4: President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed - 0.*

## **11. ACTION**

### **A. Joint Resolution Expressing Concern and Disapproval Regarding the Recent Executive Director Appointment Process Conducted by the Executive Board of the Arizona School Boards Association**

Superintendent Jaeger explained this resolution is being brought to the Governing Board as concerns about the falsification of the qualifications of the new Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Executive Director have not been addressed by the ASBA.

He stated that members of the Pima County School Board/Superintendent Collaborative have joined together to express their concerns. A formal resolution was drafted and provided to other Pima County School districts to adopt and many have done so already.

Superintendent Jaeger said the Governing Board is aware of the situation, and he recommended they adopt the resolution. He commented that it is unfortunate that an organization that exists to support Governing Boards and advocates on their behalf, seems to be engaging in unethical behavior.

*Vice President Cox Golder made a motion adopt the resolution. Mr. Kopec seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor - 4: President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed - 0. The Governing Board passed and adopted Joint Resolution Expressing Concern and Disapproval Regarding the Recent Executive Director Appointment Process Conducted by the Executive Board of the Arizona School Boards Association as submitted in Exhibit 27.*

President Day read the resolution.

Vice President Cox Golder said now that the resolution has been signed, what will the next step be? Superintendent Jaeger explained if school districts were to pull their membership, they would have no representation. The goal is that with multiple districts (statewide) expressing their concerns via the resolution ASBA will address the problem.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

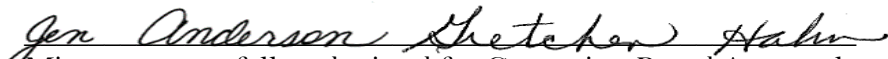
There were no comments.

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

Mr. Kopec asked for an update on the implementation of the new student information system.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

*President Day moved to adjourn. Vice President Cox Golder seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice vote in favor – 4. President Day, Vice President Cox Golder, Mr. Kopec and Ms. Zibrat. Opposed – 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.*

  
Minutes respectfully submitted for Governing Board Approval

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

October 18, 2023

Date

  
Deanna M. Day M. Ed., Governing Board President

October 24, 2023

Date