



GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

DATE OF MEETING: June 11, 2024

TITLE: 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

BACKGROUND:

Over the course of the last two Board meetings, the Administration reviewed continuing and indeed ever-growing needs for school facility improvement bonds, and Executive Manager for Operational Support Richard LaNasa has outlined the proposed uses of new bonding authority with the bulk of such funds naturally going to ongoing maintenance and upkeep of school facilities given decades of state funding cuts to the support of the same.

The reality, of course, is that it has long been impossible for any school district in this state to meet their school plant and other capital needs given the billions of dollars in cuts made by our legislature to state funding of school district capital funds – with many of those cuts continuing today and no sign that the funds cut in the past will ever be repaid.

The disparity between the capital needs of the District and state funding levels is not solely attributable to budget cuts. School district capital funding received from the State of Arizona has long been eclipsed by actual needs, often leaving districts dependent upon their bonding capacity to provide adequate facilities for their students. As a result, the capital needs of the District, its schools and its students cannot be met even to the slightest degree with the capital funding provided by the State of Arizona. To even approach the level of funding necessary for annual maintenance and improvement of District facilities as well as that necessary to support the educational growth of the District’s students, the administration recommends the Board call for a bond election as the current bond program is concluding.

The proceeds of these bonds (consisting of no more than \$84,000,000) will be used for the following purposes, as previous presented:

- School facility maintenance and renovation (Facility Renewal) to include:
 - Elementary playground improvements
 - Middle and High School athletic facility renovations and improvements
 - School bus facility renovation
 - Classroom lab space renovations
 - Career and Technical Education classroom and lab space expansions
- Student transportation vehicles purchases (school buses, etc.)
- Safety and Security Improvements to include:
 - Site access control enhancements
 - Security camera systems and related technologies
 - Infrastructure improvements
- Technology infrastructure maintenance and upgrades

Our Board and Administration has always worked to ensure that our bond programs do not increase the District’s existing tax rate. With our deliberate financial planning, we are again able to make the same commitment to our

taxpayers and voters. Indeed, we anticipate that during the lifetime of this proposed bond program over the next 7 to 10 years, our District tax rate will actually *decrease*.

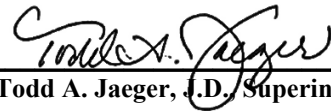
A resolution ordering, calling for, and providing notice of a special bond election for the November 5, 2024 general election has been prepared and is attached.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent and Administration recommend the Governing Board's approval of the attached form of resolution and thereby order and call for a special bond election as specified therein.

INITIATED BY:

Date: June 5, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd A. Jaeger", is written over a horizontal line.

Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent