



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

DATE OF MEETING: **May 2, 2017**

TITLE: **Study/Determination of Proposed Issues for the 2018 ASBA Political Agenda**

BACKGROUND:

The Arizona School Boards Association, of which the District is a member, is holding its annual ASBA Delegate Assembly on September 9, 2017. The Delegate Assembly determines ASBA's positions for any future Special Sessions of the current legislature and for the Second Regular Session of the Fifty-third Legislature.

In advance of the September Delegate Assembly, ASBA is requesting that individual Governing Boards review its 2017 Political Agenda as compiled at its 2016 annual meeting. From the Agenda, ASBA asks the Board to affirm its top five (5) priorities and then select two additional priorities for consideration by the ASBA Legislative Committee and provide the rationale for each. The deadline for submission of the priorities is May 12, 2017.

At its June 2nd meeting, the Legislative Committee will create a draft document to be circulated to all governing boards and superintendents the week of June 19th. That document will be the basis for discussion at the official Delegate Assembly on September 9th. The Item for appointment of a Delegate and Alternate to the ASBA Delegate Assembly will be submitted to the Board in August.

ASBA's 2017 Political Agenda is attached for the Board's consideration and discussion, as is the Governing Board's own legislative priorities.

RECOMMENDATION:

This Item is presented for the Board's consideration and discussion of proposed Political Agenda issues for submission to the ASBA Legislation Committee. By motion, the Board will need to state their recommended top five legislative priorities (and two alternative recommendations) with rationale for submission to ASBA.

INITIATED BY:

Karen S. Gardiner

Karen S. Gardiner, Administrative Assistant to the Governing Board

Date: April 26, 2017

Patrick Nelson

Patrick Nelson, Superintendent

ASBA 2017 Political Agenda

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

1. Strengthen the School Finance formula to equitably and adequately fund public schools:
 - a. Fund the implementation and ongoing costs of AZ standards, assessments and technology;
 - b. Protect desegregation funding from any cuts or modifications;
 - c. Allow Districts the option to operate individual schools for 200-day school years and increase accompanying funding to 8% from 5% to improve student achievement;
 - d. Provide greater equity in funding and access for exceptional student services within the public school system;
 - e. Provide adequate funding to cover the cost of student transportation;
 - f. Establish statewide poverty weights within the school funding formula;
2. Advocate to eliminate unfunded mandates and administrative burdens.
3. Assure a more stable and reliable revenue structure to support education.
4. Advocate to renew, expand and improve Prop 301.
5. Ensure 100% funding of JTEDs.
6. Fully fund full-day Kindergarten and include Kindergarten students in the override calculations.
7. Provide funding for preschool programs.
8. Reinstate and fund formulas to comply with at least state school building minimum standards and restore building renewal funding to ensure school district facilities are adequately maintained.
9. Provide additional state funding for nationally competitive salaries to attract, recruit and retain talented teachers.

LOCAL CONTROL AND GOVERNANCE

1. Uphold, preserve, and strengthen local control to reinforce the connection between the community and its elected governing board members.
2. Allow school districts greater flexibility in the divestiture of property to address population and course needs.
3. Maximize local control and flexibility in managing funds and programs.
4. Change “override/budget increase” language to “locally controlled funding” to better reflect what voters are being asked to support.

STATE EDUCATION POLICY

1. Fully restore 9th Grade CTE/JTED eligibility and funding so students have the opportunity to explore career fields and/or certification completion.
2. Allow all JTEDs to service students through the age of 21.

3. Eliminate the change to current year funding and advocate to hold declining districts harmless for loss of funding and ensure funding accuracy and transparency in ADM calculations.
4. Establish financial and academic transparency for all institutions that accept public funds.
5. Repeal any program that gives public funds for private schools, ESAs and STOs or prevent any further expansion.
6. Require comparative auditor general reports for district and charter schools.
7. Require charter holders and applicants to use their local entity's most recent demographic study and enrollment demand data to justify the need for a new school.
8. Increase the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 years.
9. Advocate for research-based reform of the English Language Learner model of instruction to improve student achievement.

**AMPHITHEATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GOVERNING BOARD 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

1. Provide Adequate Funding for K-12 Education.
2. Restore Career Ladder Funding.
3. Maintain Desegregation Funding.
4. Provide Adequate Funding to Serve English Language Learners.
5. Establish a Reliable and Adequate Source of Funding for the School Facilities Board.
6. Provide User-friendly and Practical Reporting Requirements and Provide Funding Support for the Same.
7. Protect and Support Educator Due Process Rights.
8. Provide Adequate Funding to Serve Special Education Student.