



MEMORANDUM

MEMO TO: GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

FROM: PAUL KULPINSKI, Legislative Committee Chair

DATE: April 15, 2016

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE 2017 POLITICAL AGENDA

I look forward to serving as your Legislative Committee Chair as we prepare for the Delegate Assembly and work to create a Political Agenda for the upcoming legislative session. I'm honored to be a part of this important process and look forward to hearing your proposals.

As you know, your input to the Legislative Committee is critical. This year we ask that you take a moment to review the current [2016 Political Agenda](#) and reaffirm your top five priorities. Furthermore, please indicate two additional priorities you would like the Legislative Committee to consider. [Click here](#) to submit the form online or [here](#) to download the pdf version. Once submitted, these proposals will be compiled by staff and provided to the ASBA Legislative Committee for consideration. The Committee will then create a draft document that will be circulated to all governing boards and superintendents. This draft agenda will be the basis for discussion and final approval at the official Delegate Assembly on Saturday, September 10th. The timeline is as follows:

- Friday, May 20th – Proposed Items Due
- Friday June 3rd – Legislative Committee meets
- Week of June 20th – Legislative Committee recommendations sent to all governing board members and superintendents
- Saturday, September 10th – Delegate Assembly (Saturday morning following the Law Conference)
- November 2016 (TBD) – ASBA/AASBO/ASA Legislative Workshop

As a reminder, you should schedule this item on an upcoming Board agenda for discussion. Please remember, only one submission per District and it must reflect the collective will of the Board. These proposals are due by the close of business on Friday, May 20, 2016.

As you are aware, the 2016 Delegate Assembly will determine the positions of the Arizona School Boards Association for any future Special Sessions of the current legislature and for the First Regular Session of the Fifty-Third Legislature. In addition to submitting proposals, your board has the opportunity to help craft ASBA's advocacy stances by [registering](#) your district's delegate. Your delegate will represent your district at the Delegate Assembly, a critical meeting where the views of your district can be represented and discussed. The Delegate Assembly will be held on Saturday, September 10th at The Camelback Inn.

Thank you for your active participation in ASBA. If you have any questions, please call Darbi Jenkins, Governmental Relations Analyst at 602-254-1100 or 800-238-4701. You can also reach her by email at djenkins@azsba.org; she is happy to help answer any questions you may have. **Once again, all proposals are due by May 20, 2016.**

ISSUES FOR LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION –

2017 POLITICAL AGENDA

The Governing Board of _____ School District presents the following issue(s) to the ASBA Legislative Committee as adopted by the Governing Board on _____.

Top Five Priorities

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Additional items for consideration

1. _____
2. _____

PLEASE RETURN BY: MAY 20, 2016

ASBA FAX #: 602.254.1177 OR EMAIL: esanchez@azsba.org

Prefer to complete this form online? [Click here.](#)

www.azsba.org

Quality leadership and advocacy for children in public schools

ASBA Delegate Assembly Special Notice

In accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 2(a) of the association bylaws, a governing board that is an active member of the association shall be deemed to be present at a membership meeting if one or more members of such governing board are in attendance. On each matter presented to the membership for vote, each governing board that is an active member shall be entitled to one vote, provided such governing board of a school district has paid dues as established and assessed as in Section 3(a) hereafter. The right to the floor for the purpose of discussion shall, however, be open to any and all members of a governing board that is an active member.

Section 3. Dues of membership

(a) Active - The dues of each school district shall be as established by the association at its annual membership meeting or as established by the law.

ASBA Official Delegate Form

To ensure an orderly process with which to conduct the meeting of the ASBA Delegate Assembly on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016, please send us the names of the delegate and alternate who will represent your board at the meeting.

Name of Delegate: _____
(Please print)

Name of Alternate Delegate: _____
(Please print)

School District: _____
(Please print)

County: _____
(Please print)

☐ I am a first-time delegate (please check here).

Please submit your official delegate form to ASBA by August 26, 2016.

- Complete delegate forms may be faxed to 602.254.1177.
- To complete this form online, go [here](#).

Event Registration Is Also Required

All delegates must also register for the ASBA Delegate Assembly. The registration fee for this year's Delegate Assembly is \$55/person. Registration begins online on July 5, 2016, and must be completed no later than August 26, 2016. Register [here](#).

2016 Political Agenda

Long-Term Focus

These overarching issues must be addressed for public schools to excel and provide an opportunity for every child to succeed. Providing high quality public education is the best investment to grow Arizona's economy. The items below reflect those key issues on which we will concentrate over the next 5-10 years.

1. Strengthen the school finance formula to equitably and adequately fund public schools to:
 - a. Assure a more stable and reliable source.
 - b. Maximize local school district flexibility in managing these funds.
 - c. Require the same financial accountability and transparency measures of all schools and individuals that receive public funds.
 - d. Repeal any program that gives public monies for private schooling.
2. Uphold, preserve, and strengthen local control to reinforce the connection between the community and its elected governing board members.
3. Meet the unique educational needs of every student so that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Short-Term Focus

Building toward our long-term areas of success, the following items represent critical needs to put us on that path, and will engage our energies up to the next 3-5 years.

1. Reinstate and fund formulas to comply with at least state school building minimum standards.
2. Provide greater equity in funding and access for special education students within the public school system.
3. Allow public school tax credits to be used as determined by local districts.
4. Establish financial transparency and academic accountability for Empowerment Scholarship Accounts.
5. Maximize income opportunities for teachers' salaries and student support.
6. Fully restore 9th grade CTE/JTED eligibility and funding so students have the opportunity to explore career fields and/or certification completion.
7. Require comparative and consistent Auditor General Reports for public (district and charter) schools.

2016 Legislative Session-Specific

Building toward our long-term areas of success, the following items reflect issues that will not only move us forward, but we believe can be accomplished next year given the legislative atmosphere and current public trends.

1. Fully fund full-day kindergarten and include kindergarten students in the override calculation.
2. Fund inflation fully in the manner prescribed by statute mandated by Arizona voters.
3. Repeal CTE and JTED cuts slated to take effect in Fiscal Year 2017.
4. Change "override/budget increase" language to "locally controlled funding" to better reflect what voters are being asked to support.
5. Fund the implementation costs of Arizona's standards, assessments, and technology.
6. Restore Building Renewal funding to ensure school facilities are adequately maintained.
7. 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.
8. Increase the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 years.
9. Eliminate the change to current year funding.
10. Advocate to lessen unfunded mandates and administrative burdens.
11. Allow school districts greater flexibility in the divestiture of property to address population and course needs.
12. Protect desegregation funding from any cuts or modifications.
13. 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.