



Governmental Relations

TO: GOVERNING BOARD PRESIDENTS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

FROM: Anne Greenberg, Legislative Committee Chair

DATE: July 8, 2014

SUBJECT: PROPOSED 2015 POLITICAL AGENDA AND TRANSITIONED PROCESS

Enclosed are the proposed Delegate Assembly agenda; ASBA's Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs; and the 2015 Political Agenda as recommended by the Legislative Committee to be considered by the Delegate Assembly on September 6, 2014. **The meeting will be at The Camelback Inn located at 5402 E. Lincoln Drive in Scottsdale and will begin at 8:00 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast.** Please find the draft agenda attached.

As you are aware, this Delegate Assembly determines 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-Second Legislature. Your board not only has the opportunity to be represented at this critical policy-determining meeting but also the responsibility to share your district's views and concerns. ASBA cannot be truly representative of all school district governing boards if your board is not part of this deliberative process.

Please copy and distribute this ENTIRE packet to all board members and place the proposed 2015 Political Agenda recommended by the Legislative Committee for consideration on your next board agenda. Following the board's discussion, the board should instruct the district's official delegate as to the board's direction in voting. **If your board has not appointed its official delegate and alternate yet, please do so immediately and notify ASBA of your selection (see attached).** While all board members and superintendents are welcome to attend the Delegate Assembly, each district has only one official delegate.

As ASBA continues to create a more focused document, we do so keeping firmly in place the integral aspect of all members voting on the final product. Thus, staff continued to solicit items for the Political Agenda from every school district governing board, asking that every submitted item be designated to one of three areas: long-term, short-term, and session-specific items. Governing boards put forth 173 total items for consideration.

After a staff review, the Legislative Committee received every proposal as well as staff input regarding key trends seen among the items and issues submitted. The Legislative Committee discussed and distilled those items, voting to present the proposed 2015 Political Agenda for your consideration and ratification. As you review the Political Agenda, please note that although it contains three separate sections, they do not exist in a vacuum, but rather serve as integrated building blocks from session-specific to long-term focus.

Session Specific



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graph TD; A[Session Specific] --> B[Short Term]; B --> C[Long Term]
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Short Term

Long Term

This is your board's chance to be heard. Public education, your students, and your community need your board's voice as the issues are debated and positions formulated and articulated. Don't let your board be left out of the discussion. We look forward to seeing you at the Delegate Assembly September 6th.



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. 6, 2014, please send us the names of the delegate and alternate who will represent your board at the meeting.

Prefer to complete and register online? Go to <http://www.azsba.org/events/delegate-2014/>

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 Aug. 29, 2014.

- Complete delegate forms may be faxed to 602.254.1177.
- This form may also be completed and submitted online at <http://www.azsba.org/events/delegate-2014/>

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 9, 2014, and must be completed no later than Aug. 29, 2014. Register at <http://www.azsba.org/events/delegate-2014/>

www.azsba.org

Quality leadership and advocacy for children in public schools



**MEETING OF THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2014
THE CAMELBACK INN, SCOTTSDALE**

DRAFT AGENDA

8:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	
8:30 a.m.	CERTIFICATION AND SEATING OF DELEGATES	
9:00 a.m.	OPENING OF DELEGATE ASSEMBLY	
	Presiding, ASBA President	<i>Elaine Hall Sahuarita Unified</i>
	Chair, Legislative Committee	<i>Anne Greenberg Paradise Valley Unified</i>
	Parliamentarian	<i>TBD Professional Registered Parliamentarian</i>
	Call to Order	<i>Elaine Hall</i>
	Moment of Silence	
	Pledge of Allegiance	<i>Elaine Hall</i>
	Introductions	<i>Elaine Hall</i>
	Report of Credentials Committee	<i>Luis Marquez</i>
	Adoption of Rules of Procedures	<i>Elaine Hall</i>
	Adoption of Agenda	<i>Elaine Hall</i>
	Report of the Legislative Committee	<i>Anne Greenberg</i>
	Proposed Political Agenda Consideration	<i>Delegate Assembly</i>
	ADJOURNMENT	<i>Elaine Hall</i>

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Executive Director - Dr. Timothy L. Ogle

President – Randy Schiller, Phoenix Union HSD • **President Elect** – Elaine Hall, Sahuarita USD

Treasurer - Jesus Rubalcava, Gila Bend USD • **Secretary** – Kathy Knecht, Peoria USD

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Quality leadership and advocacy for children in public schools



Learn more at www.azsba.org

VISION

Quality leadership and advocacy for children in public schools.

MISSION

Promoting community volunteer governance of public education and continuous improvement of student success by providing leadership and assistance to public school governing boards.

GOALS

GOAL ONE

Provide model training and leadership emphasizing best practices in public school governance.

GOAL TWO

Represent and advocate for the diverse interests of public school governing boards.

GOAL THREE

Advocate the core beliefs and political agenda as adopted by the membership.

OUR CORE BELIEFS

- The basic life needs of children must be met for them to succeed.
- Meeting the unique educational needs of all students must be the foundation of our school systems.
- The governance of public schools must lie with locally elected and accountable school district governing boards.
- The accountability for student success is a shared responsibility of the students, parents, governing board, district staff and the community.
- Public education funding must be broad-based, stable and at a level that assures all students receive an education that enables them to be successful.
- State and federal mandates must be funded.
- Knowledgeable and professionally trained governing board members are fundamental for ensuring student success.

2015 DRAFT Political Agenda – Legislative Committee Recommendations

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. **Structurally change** ~~Revise~~ the school finance formula to **equitably and** adequately fund public schools to:
 - a. ~~Structurally change the tax structure to~~ **a**Assure a more stable and reliable source.
 - b. Maximize local school district flexibility in managing these funds.
 - c. Require the same accountability measures of all schools and individuals that receive public funds.
 - d. Repeal any program that gives public monies to private schools.
 - e. ~~Include dedicated funding to education.~~

Rationale: The Committee believes that this wording change focuses more on the school funding formula and what is necessary to effectively fund public schools, rather than on the “how’s” such as the tax/revenue system. Additionally, the Committee feels that point (a) covers the need for a reliable funding source and renders point (e) unnecessary.

2. Uphold preservation of 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 every student has the opportunity to reach his/her 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. Fund voluntary, full-day kindergarten and include kindergarten students in the override calculation.
2. **Reinstate and fund** ~~Restore~~ capital funding to ~~funding formulas~~ **to comply with at least state school building minimum standards** ~~allocations.~~

Rationale: This year’s budget removed the various capital formulas, leaving in place “district additional assistance.” This not only underfunds our capital needs, it also eliminates the specific areas of capital need that were outlined in the minimum standards that provided a solution to Roosevelt v. Bishop.

3. Fund inflation fully in the manner prescribed by statute mandated by Arizona voters ~~baseline to uphold the voters' mandate.~~

Rationale: The Committee felt that this statement needed clarification and the statement strengthened pursuant to the court decision regarding Proposition 301.

4. Allow public school tax credits to be used as determined by local districts.

- ~~5. Create greater flexibility with mandated graduation requirements.~~

Rationale: ASBA has worked, and will continue to do so, with the State Board of Education to ensure greater flexibility is had with math credits, especially as it relates to Career and Technical education credits.

6. Establish appropriate financial and academic accountability for Empowerment Scholarship Accounts.

Rationale: In building towards ASBA's long-term focus of repealing any program that gives public monies to private schools, the Committee believes that in the shorter term, ASBA should work towards increasing the financial and academic accountability for ESAs that use public dollars to support private education. Additionally, ASBA will look for credit flexibility in other subjects as the opportunity arises.

2015 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. Advocate for an ~~Administrative Reduction Omnibus~~ to lessen unfunded mandates and administrative burdens.

Rationale: The Committee acknowledged the numerous school districts reinforcing the goal to lessen unfunded mandates and administrative burdens; however, Committee members believe that staff should be given the greatest flexibility on how to accomplish this, particularly in light of the dearth of specific suggestions as to what an omnibus bill would contain. Therefore, we recommend removal of the omnibus language.

2. Restore Building Renewal funding to ensure school facilities are adequately maintained.

3. Change “override/~~budget increase~~” language to “locally controlled funding support” to better reflect what voters are being asked to support.

Rationale: While referred to as “overrides,” the actual ballot language articulated in statute is “budget increase.” Thus, the Committee continues to recommend a wording change, but believes “locally controlled funding” better articulates what an override is, especially when it comes to the actual ballot question.

~~4. Advocate for school safety funds to create a safe learning environment.~~

Rationale: Additional school safety dollars were appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2014 budget, with pilot program requirements and monies from the appropriation still being fleshed out.

5. Allow school districts greater flexibility in the divestiture of property to address population and course needs.
6. Maximize trust land income for teachers' salaries and student classroom opportunities.
7. Allow districts the option to operate individual schools for 200-day school years and increase accompanying funding from 5% to 8% from 5% to improve student achievement.

Rationale: The Committee recommends a wording change to make it clear that funding for 200-day school years should be at 8% from the current 5% (rather than appear to be requesting an increase in a range from 5% to 8%).

8. Restore 9th grade funding for CTE/JTEDs, and fully fund JTEDs at 100%, so that students have the opportunity to be exposed to and pursue career fields and/or certification completion.

Rationale: The Committee supported the numerous district proposals to also ensure that all JTEDs receive 100% funding in addition to restoring 9th grade funding, so that students are career-ready through exposure to various career fields and/or certification.

9. ReinstateProtect the abilityright of districts to charter schools for innovation.

Rationale: Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015, a traditional school district will no longer be able to sponsor charter schools solely through its governing board. Those districts that sponsored charter schools prior to Fiscal Year 2014 are constrained with a 20% growth limit and those that began operation in FY15 can only operate that one year before converting back.

10. Fund the implementation costs of Arizona's new standards, assessments, and technology and provide for adequate assessment transition time.

Rationale: While funding for Arizona's College and Career Ready standards continues to be a core need, there are also accountability and policy implications that must be addressed (i.e., administration times, data turnaround times, needing a baseline data year for growth purposes, etc.)

11. Lead efforts to align Arizona's accountability system with the criteria desired for student, school, and district success.

Rationale: Not only will Arizona be choosing a new assessment, but, as we have seen with recent issues on the change in the traditional A-F high school model, there are changes happening as to what should and should not be measured and by how much, as well as

questions regarding the psychometrics of reliability. This is an opportune time for ASBA to lead the discussion on how we want to hold our schools and districts accountable that may move us beyond assessments and specific subject areas.

12. Provide greater equity in funding and access for special education students within the public school system.

Rationale: More than 7 years have elapsed since Arizona conducted its special education cost study. At the same time that schools are underfunded across the board, we have shortchanged our schools in special education funding. Further, access for special education students (charter schools, traditional school open enrollment, ESAs, etc.) continues to be problematic, creating an equity issue that needs to be addressed.

13. Establish appropriate financial and academic accountability for Arizona Online Instruction programs.

Rationale: The proliferation of online providers has heightened the discussions about what constitutes a quality online course, quality provider standards, how students are funded, etc. While opportunities exist for online learning to assist our public school students, it is important that the playing field be equal for brick-and-mortar and online providers and programs.