

COALITION CORNER

Monthly Newsletter of the Arizona Coalition of School Board Members

NEWS & FEATURES

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Start of Legislative Session

BY KATIE WARD

The Legislature is officially in session again! We are working hard to keep you up to date on what is going on and in the loop about bills being heard and voted on. I sent out a survey to all of you last week asking your opinion on critical bills that are filed. Thank you all so much for taking time out of your busy schedules to get that done. I look forward to working with all of you to put Students First!

Join us for our upcoming events!

FEBRUARY 2022						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

10th: Training: The Arizona School District Spending Report (7 PM)

21st: Coalition Call: Rhonda Thomas - Founder and President of Truth in Education (6 PM)

24th: Training: The Arizona School District Spending Report (7 PM)

Virtual Training: The Arizona School District Spending Report

The Arizona School District Spending Report is prepared annually by the Arizona Auditor General in response to the Arizona Revised Statutes §41-1279.03 requirement to determine the percentage of every dollar Arizona school districts spend in the classroom. Learn how to not only analyze how much your school district is spending on facilities, food service, transportation, administration, and the classroom but also compare your district's spending to peer districts. This class will also introduce you to School District Performance Audits.

Coalition Call: Rhonda Thomas

Rhonda Thomas is the Founder and President of Truth In Education. You can read more about Truth In Education [here](#). Founded in 2021, Truth in Education is dedicated to protecting minors from harmful education concepts that have seeped into the classroom and advocating for the rights of parents to control the education and health of their children.

Sign up to attend on the member event page or click [here](#)!



"I only hold the position of board member. I would like to learn more before assuming any role above board member since both the president and clerk have additional duties they are responsible for."

Chris King

ON WHAT HIS TOP PRIORITY IS AS A BOARD MEMBER.

Active Member Profile: Chris King

Q: How long have you been a school board member?

A: I was sworn in on January 4th, 2021 in front of Vail Academy and High School. This is the school my children graduated from.

Q: How do you work to put Students First in your capacity as a board member?

A: I ran for the school board on a platform of safety, community, and respect. All of these stand alone and complement one another equally. Safety must always be a priority since it is a basic need of all people. Children being the most vulnerable among us need parents to advocate for them and other people to make decisions to protect them. That is what board members need to remember when they are casting votes that will affect the safety of children.

Q: What are you looking forward to most by joining the Coalition?

A: I value education and believe the more a person has, the better they can represent the people who elected them. If we receive all our education from one source, we become an echo chamber. I attended the inaugural training of the coalition and obtained and absorbed so much information I couldn't wait to get back and share it with parents and other southern Arizona board members. I look forward to many more trainings.

Q: What is one thing you would like our members to know about you?

A: I am also an in-house substitute teacher (Middle and High School) and I use Dad Jokes and Rubber chickens as well as other gimmicks to keep the children engaged. I recently (September) was subbing and told a dad joke to the class. One young lady laughed so hard she had tears rolling down her face. Let me back up a bit. In the class immediately preceding the one I was subbing for, she was giving a speech and could barely be heard. She made no eye contact, her voice didn't change. After my Dad joke and she regained her ability to talk, she asked if she could tell a dad joke. At this point, it couldn't hurt to let a couple more go. She told a couple of quick ones and then we all got to work. Fast forward a couple of weeks. When I stepped on campus, I was greeted by students who were playfully indignant about this young lady telling dad jokes. A teacher friend of mine told me that I had created a monster. When I saw this young lady again, she was walking around campus with her held held high, a dad joke for everyone, and a sense of self-confidence I had never seen before. My message in all of this is never underestimate the power of a dad joke.





Associate Member Profile: Amy Carney

Q: In what ways and for how long have you been involved in education?

A: I have always been involved in supporting my children in their education but I had never attended a school board meeting or met with district administration until a year ago.

Q: Why are you passionate about The Coalition's mission to put students first?

A: The mission of students first is where our focus must be when it comes to K-12 education. We must prioritize what is best for the children in our communities, and I'm thankful The Coalition is available to help guide and educate parents, school board members, candidates, and community members together.

Q: What is one thing you would like our members to know about you?

A: I wrote my book Parent on Purpose after our family of 6 (at the time) traveled around the USA in an RV for 7 months in 2014.

Q: Why are you passionate about The Coalition's mission to put students first?

A: I believe that our school districts have moved away from students first, and the more we stray from that, the worse schools

will become. I have always advocated for my children and feel that the districts they have attended in their tenure have been wonderful. But I see some teachers in our country straying a bit from students being #1. I have not encountered much of that with my children's teachers, but I have heard some teachers have become Social Justice Warriors in our district.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: The Bible!

Q: Is there anything else you want to tell me?

I am the Arizona Director of BEST (Building Education for Students Together), and I'm running for a seat on the Scottsdale Unified School Board in Nov. 2022. I'm passionate about our next generation getting the education they need and deserve, so I'm pivoting from my writing projects to putting my efforts into this vital arena.

HB2011: PARENTAL CONSENT; STUDENT GROUPS; SEXUALITY

Bill Spotlight

HB2011: PARENTAL CONSENT; STUDENT GROUPS; SEXUALITY

Bill Summary

Public educational institutions are required to obtain signed, written consent from a student's parent or guardian before allowing a student to participate in any school student group or club involving sexuality, gender, or gender identity. Parents of a student in a public educational institution have the right to review the "formational documents" (defined) of any school student group or club involving sexuality, gender, or gender identity. Read the full bill [here](#).

Action

Call or Email Speaker of the House, Rep. Rusty Bowers, and House Education chair, Rep. Michelle Udall, to place H2011 on the House Education Committee agenda.

Speaker Bowers

Call: (602) 926-3128

Email: RBowers@azleg.gov

Representative Udall

Call: (602) 926-4856

Email: MUdall@azleg.gov



Accessing Your District's Academic Data

Training, Tricks, and Tools

Did you miss our Using Your District's Academic Data Training? The recorded video is now available on the Resources section in the Member's Portal.



You can find the PDF walkthrough of the Training [here](#).



How to Get Involved

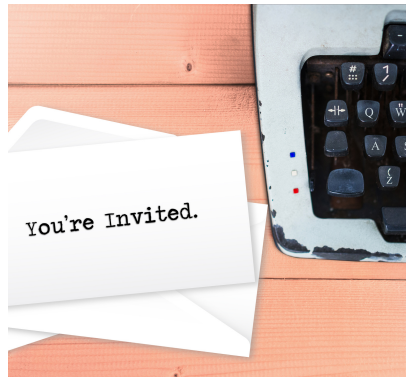
Next Steps

Now that you are a member, you may be wondering what the next steps are to help us put students first. We want to help make that easy for you!



Attend a Training

We have a variety of trainings coming up over the next few months. Sign up to attend on the member event page or click [here](#)! Remember, our training events are for our members. If you have friends who are interested in a training, please have them contact Katie at Katie@azcoalition.org!



Invite your Friends

Our members will be at the forefront of the mission to put Students First. When the legislature is called in to session in January, we want our members to be ready to support policy that aligns with our mission.



Sign Up for an Account on RTS

Request To Speak (RTS) is a system utilized by the Arizona Legislature to support or oppose bills as they go through the legislative process. RTS is an online, thumbs up, thumbs down system where you can express your support or opposition to a bill. please sign up by clicking [here](#)!