
COALITION CORNER

Monthly Newsletter of the Arizona Coalition of School Board Members

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Bills to Watch at the AZLeg!

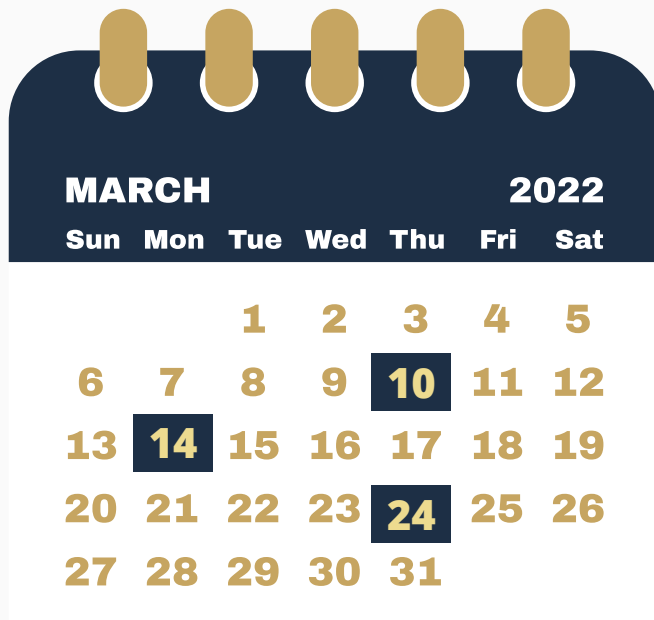
BY KATIE WARD

Arizona has an incredible list education bills being considered before our state legislature. Please make your voice heard by contacting your legislators and making public comment on the Request to Speak system. Below is a list of bills to watch!

- **HB2112** - waiting for Senate Education Committee
- **HB2284** - waiting for Senate Education Committee
- **HB2439** - Senate Education Committee Hearing 3/1 @ 2 PM
- **HB2495** - waiting for Senate Education Committee
- **HB2803** - waiting for Sen. President Fann assignment of committee
- **HB2086** - waiting for Sen. President Fann assignment of committee
- **HB2616** - pulled from Senate Education, awaiting new assignment
- **SB1159** - Waiting on Sen. President Fann to hear in Committee of the Whole
- **SB1211** - Waiting on Sen. President Fann to hear in Committee of the Whole (more info pg. 5)
- **SB1011** - Waiting on Sen. President Fann to hear in Committee of the Whole
- **SB1198** - Waiting on Sen. President Fann to hear in Committee of the Whole
- **SB1707** - Waiting on House Speaker Bowyers assignment of committee

Click [here](#) to search the full text of the above bills!

Join us for our upcoming events!



10th: Training: How School Board Policies Are Made (6:30 PM)

14th: How School Board Policies Are Made (7 PM)

24th: Coalition Call: 2022: The Year of the Parent (6:30 PM)

Virtual Training: How School Board Policies Are Made

In this class, we will explore how school board policies have historically been created in Arizona. We will discuss the role and authority of different governing bodies in making policy and their authority. Finally, we will compare a policy of two AZ school districts to illustrate the authority local school boards have.

Coalition Call: 2022: The Year of the Parent

George Khalaf serves as President of Data Orbital and Managing Partner of The Resolute Group. For the last decade he has leveraged his political instincts, data expertise and strategic relationships to advance conservative clients and causes throughout Arizona and a growing number of states. With a strong grassroots and data background, George has worked at the local, state and national levels. Under George's leadership, Data Orbital is a top ranked survey research and data visualization firm that is known for its accuracy and transparency. Data Orbital was the most accurate firm that polled Arizona political races and is top rated by FiveThirtyEight.

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



My top priority as a school board member is to ensure the budget is allocated responsibly. Second, I believe it is important to make sure our staff are paid sufficiently as well as held accountable. Third, the children and their freedoms were the number one reason I ran for school board in the first place, our schools were closed down, masks were required and the inevitable was going to shortly follow; mandates. So, I wanted to be a voice for the parents, teachers, and children. Lastly, the curriculum and what is taught in schools is a priority.

ASHLEY GERICH ON HER PRIORITIES AS A BOARD MEMBER.

Active Member Profile: Ashley Gerich

Colorado River Union High School District (Bullhead City)

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

A: I was elected to the Colorado River Union High School District school board in November of 2020.

Q: Do you hold any of the positions on the board?

A: I was just appointed last month to be School Board Clerk.

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

A: For me it is simple, the organization must work its way down from board and administration level to ensure its primary stakeholders, the children, have the best possible outcome. When we budget responsibly, pay our teachers more and hold them accountable it is a win. I think an important part of putting students first is ensuring the environment they learn in is stable and full of resources. When stability is a part of the equation, their ability to learn is maximized. When students are

held accountable they feel valued. In order to sustain such outcomes we need to make sure that staff are taken care of as well and turn over is minimized.

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

A: I am happy that there is a group that is for all of the same values that I hold near and dear to me. The other organizations went against my beliefs and lobbied for things that opposed my values. I know that this coalition will be very successful because schools are looking for a way to get back to the grassroots of education, the children. The agenda is not political and I respect the mission that the coalition has sought out to implement.

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

A: That I love fighting for the children, their families, and their freedom.



"I am grateful to all those who have worked so hard to make the Coalition a reality. I support the Coalition's mission to put students first because for far too long the fundamentals of solid educational instruction have taken a back seat to the agendas of unions, corporate interests and bloated administrations. The result is that public school graduates are completely unprepared for college, career or self sufficiency. As a member of the board, decisions will have to answer the question, "How will this decision improve the academic outcome of students?"

**ED STEELE ON WHY HE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT
THE COALITION'S MISSION**

Associate Member Profile: Ed Steele

Mesa Public School

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

A: For the past 3 years I've been a volunteer in the Men's Mentoring Program for a local non-profit. I provide instruction and share my experiences to young men with the goal of helping them become better men, better husbands, and better fathers. Contrary to what we are told we have to believe, we don't have too much patriarchy, we have too little. One of the biggest contributors to our weakened society is a lack of authentic fatherhood. I believe that each generation has an obligation to pass down the knowledge and wisdom they have gained over their lifetime. As the family goes, so goes society.

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

A: I am seeking a position on the Mesa Public School Board to bring my lifetime of experience in order to create the most effective education system for our community. I do this out of a sense of civic duty and will approach the job with a "clean slate" perspective from which I intend to implement creative, effective and measurable policies and practices.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: The Bible, I read from it every day. I really enjoy reading. One book I recently completed is "Fragility of Order" by George Weigl. The author speaks about the enemies of order in society. The biggest of which is a lack of interest in seeking the truth and flat out denial of truth, or "your truth vs my truth". He writes, "Rightly ordered government submits itself to the judgement of those truths built into the world and into us, and if it attempts to redefine those truths, it has acted unjustly and illegitimately." Sound familiar? I encourage everyone to read something educational, inspirational, or motivational each day.

Q: Anything else you want to tell me!

A: I have been a Mesa resident for the last 34 years. My children attended MPS. I am an engineer with a good head for numbers and a strong ability to solve complex problems. I've worked for large corporations and small privately held companies. For 13 years, I owned and successfully operated my own manufacturing business. These experiences will allow me the ability to navigation through extensive MPS policy and operational requirements, bring effective communications skills with people across multiple disciplines and functional responsibilities, and ensure strict fiscal responsibility.

SB1211: Curriculum Transparency

Bill Spotlight

SB1211: Schools; Materials; Activities; Posting; Review

Bill Summary

Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, each school district and charter school governing board is required to ensure that each school under its authority prominently displays on a publicly accessible portion of its website a list of specified information, including the procedures for a parent to access the current learning materials used for student instruction, the procedures for the school principal to approve lesson plans, a listing of the learning materials and activities used for instruction at the school, a listing of available resources in the school library, and a copy of each survey administered at the school that solicits personal information about a student. This information must be displayed online at least seven days before the start of each school year. Establishes a complaint process that a party must follow prior to initiating legal action to enforce this requirement.

Read the full bill text by clicking [here](#).

Want more information?

Click [here](#) to hear Katie Ward discuss SB1211 with Matt Beienburg from the Goldwater Institute!

Action

Call or Email Senate President, Sen. Karen Fann, and ask her to place SB1211 on the agenda for the Senate Committee of the Whole!

President Fann

Call: (602) 926-5874

Email: KFann@azleg.gov



Training: The Arizona School District Spending Report

Training, Tricks, and Tools

Did you miss our The Arizona School District Spending Report Training? The recorded video is now available on the Resources section in the Member's Portal.



You can find the video of the Training [here](#), a PDF walkthrough is coming soon.



How to Get Involved

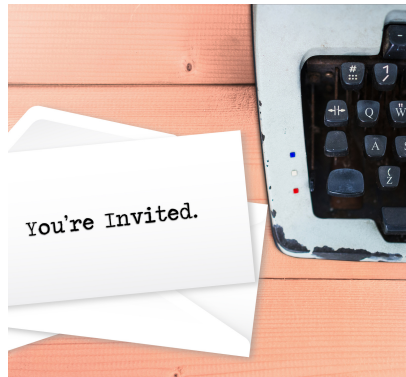
Next Steps

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](#)!