
COALITION CORNER

Monthly Newsletter of the Arizona Coalition of School Board Members

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Changes to Title IX

The Biden Administration has declared its intent to go around Congress and change the rules concerning Title IX (the federal law that bans discrimination based on sex in education) to now cover sexual orientation and gender identity. This will endorse gender identity ideology in all K-12 public schools, colleges, and university as a federal mandate, with devastating effects on parental rights, children's health, and girl's privacy and sports opportunities.

We have only until September 12 to submit public comments about the negative impacts these proposed rules will have in order to help stop these rules from being adopted. We are would like to share several resources we have created to sound the alarm:

Click [here](#) for a short two-minute video that you can share regarding the proposed changes.

Parental Rights in Education also created a Title IX website page where you can submit public comments directly to the Federal Register and you'll find easy to follow instructions and comment starters to help you submit public comments at by clicking [here](#).

Join us for our upcoming events!



15th: Rhonda Thomas: Community Schools (6:30 PM)

Workshop: Rhonda Thomas: Community Schools

Rhonda Thomas from Truth in Education is returning to discuss the community school model that builds on the whole child idea. This will be an opportunity to ask additional questions regarding SEL and other education curriculum topics.

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



Associate Member Profile: Michele Hamer

Prescott Unified School District

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

A: I have never been involved in the education sector before. Most of my professional career has been in business management and running a small business. The experience I will bring to the board is forecasting, data analysis, understanding benefit-cost ratios (BCR), and how to beat my competition.

You can't produce a good budget without forecasting. My district, Prescott Unified (PUSD), budgeted for over 3800 students in the summer of 2021 because they assumed the same number of students would return for FY2021/2022. It was a poor assumption.

Since 2010, PUSD has seen a constant decrease in student enrollment, to the tune of 2000 students. And when 300 fewer students returned for FY2021/2022, PUSD, like many other public schools, demanded an Aggregate Spending Limit override. This override would have been unnecessary if the schools got their students back and the money that followed them. Without data analysis, forecasting and BCR are very hard to tackle. I believe any program or contract implemented at PUSD must have measurable evidence that it increased our students' academic achievement by a minimum of 5% or it won't be renewed. We shouldn't keep spending money on programs if they have no benefit for our children.

And our competition is winning. Private and charter schools in my area have 100+ students on enrollment waiting lists because they give their customers a great product. In contrast, PUSD has lost 37% of its customers since 2010 in a city that has grown by 18%, with 22% of those new citizens being families with children under 18. I would be fired in the private sector with a performance like that.

Q: What has been your favorite opportunity The Coalition has provided?

A: Your summer training event was fantastic. All the speakers brought timely issues and solutions. I left the training feeling confident I could speak knowledgeably on all the topics presented.

Because that is my philosophy also. Putting on my business hat again, I see parents as our customers. The only way you keep customers coming back is by giving them the product and service they count on you for. Parents count on schools to provide an excellent academic education for their children. As a parent and grandparent, I believe this is the most important tool our children can acquire to help them succeed in this complex world.

Michele Hamer

**WHY SHE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT
THE COALITION'S MISSION**

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

A: I am the Chairman and co-founder of the Arizona School Board Watchdogs (AZSBW). The primary goal of AZSBW is to ensure that parents and taxpayers band together, share information, become informed, speak truth to power, and engage in concerted action. Most importantly, we seek to ensure the transparent slating and election of school board members who are competent, reasonable, and critical thinkers who embrace the AZSBW mission.

This journey for me started after volunteering at the Prescott Unified School District for four years up until they closed in-person learning. I then joined PUSD's Attendance Excellence team. The team would get weekly lists of children who were not logging onto online lessons and then contact parents asking if we could help. I can't repeat some of the words used, but I can say there were many frustrated parents and guardians.

What started as a casual conversation about my experiences at PUSD as a volunteer turned into a grassroots movement of twenty-six citizens with equal concerns to form AZSBW. The information our group has uncovered about PUSD and our school system in general is the motivation for my run for a governing board position. For more information about the Watchdogs, visit <https://azschoolboardwatchdogs.com/>

New Law Spotlight

HB 2008

SCHOOLS; ACADEMIC STANDARDS; CIVICS INSTRUCTION

The academic standards for high school graduation that the State Board of Education (SBE) is required to prescribe must include a comparative discussion of political ideologies that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy. The SBE is required to develop civic education standards that include instruction on a list of specified topics, including the original intent of the founding documents and principles of the United States. Session law allows SBE to implement this legislation during the next update to the social studies standards.

Click [here](#) to read the full text of the bill. Thank you to Representative Nguyen for running this bill!



Training: How School Board Policies Are Made

Training, Tricks, and Tools

Did you miss our Training: How School Board Policies Are Made? The recorded video is now available on the Resources section in the Member's Portal.



You can find the video of the Training [here](#), as well as the presentation shown in the video.



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!



Review Our Model Policies

If you are looking for policies to present at/to your school board on important issues like Parental Rights and Curriculum Transparency, search no further! Our policies have been reviewed by legal, and are compliant with statute. We will be providing an updated version shortly, as the session has finally ended! Click [here](#) to view.



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](#)!