

COALITION CORNER

Monthly Newsletter of the Arizona Coalition of School Board Members

NEWS & FEATURES

Summer Training
PAGE 1

Upcoming Events
PAGE 2

Active Member Profile:
Shelli Boggs
PAGE 3

Associate Member
Profile: Anna Van Hoek
PAGE 4

New Law Spotlight
PAGE 5

Training, Tips, and Tricks
PAGE 6

How to Get Involved
PAGE 7

Summer Training



Our summer training event last month was incredible! The work that all of you do speaks to the passion for this organization's mission - putting students first. Our speakers discussed many issues that have become so important to understand in the classroom environment of today. I would also like to extend a HUGE thank you to BEST for partnering with us to offer this training to all of you!

If you missed the training, the PowerPoints and information from our speakers are located in the member portal in the Resources section - click [here](#) for access!

I look forward to announcing our Winter training soon. We hope to see you there!

Join us for our upcoming events!



25th: Rhonda Thomas: Whole Child Concept (6:30 PM)



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

Workshop: Rhonda Thomas: Whole Child Concept

Rhonda Thomas from Truth in Education is returning to discuss the whole child framework that is currently invading our schools.

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.

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



Active Member Profile: Shelli Boggs

East Valley Institute of Technology

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

A: I have been a school board member for almost 4 years. I have been VP/Secretary for 3 years.

Q: What is your top priority as a Board Member?

A: My top priority is to make sure the culture at the school is positive and empowering for students.

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

A: Putting ALL students first should be the priority of every school district. School boards direct the superintendent on the culture they want created. My focus is and will always be on empowering students with knowledge. At EVIT we are adamant on putting the students first, taking care of our teachers and staff, and listening to parents. Without that sort of partnership, we would not be successful. This school year, EVIT is breaking records in enrollment. We will be starting the school year with over 5,000 students. We do not allow political activism to distract from educating students to be successful hard working citizens. What our board has done in less than 3 years can be what any district can do when the focus is on the students' education.

I'm looking forward to having board members, parents, and teachers being properly informed about what each of them can bring to our students in Az. I believe the coalition is 100% on the right track in accomplishing that mission. The last training we had was full of great information. I've attended several ASBA trainings, it is focused on political activism, not on information that is education focused. The coalition is the exact opposite, and it is refreshing.

Shelli Boggs

**ON WHAT SHE IS LOOKING
FORWARD TO MOST BY
JOINING THE COALITION**

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

A: I have been in education since 2002. I was a teacher, a college career specialist, I worked with special needs students and now I am a school board member. My experience in all of these roles has helped me be a voice in guiding our superintendent in creating a culture that is good for kids, teachers, and staff. That is what makes parents thankful and happy. As a mom of 3 and a grandma of 7, I know these are important elements schools need to have successful, America loving families. I am thankful for the time and effort the Arizona Coalition has put in to help others know what we all can do to empower our future.



Associate Member Profile: Anna Van Hoek

Higley Unified School District

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

A: I have been involved in education for 12 years, ever since my oldest daughter started kindergarten. I realized that dealing with the district to get accommodations for my daughter wasn't as easy as I hoped. I had to quickly learn the laws and how to advocate for my child. I then started helping other parents do the same for their children. I also have spent all these years to ensure parents are aware of their parental rights. Being a health freedom advocate, I realized that schools do not give parents all the information for us to have informed consent. I have spent the last 7 years educating parents on the law related to vaccinations and that we still have all 3 vaccine exemptions here in Arizona. Since 2020, I have also helped many to fight back against mask, vaccine mandates and how to obtain religious and medical exemptions.

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

When I first decided to run for HUSD governing board, I appreciated all the information the Coalition was able to provide me in order to know where to start. I look forward to all the future training opportunities they have to offer.

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

A: I moved to the US legally from the USSR (Armenia) in 1987. I know what it's like to live in a communist country and appreciate all the opportunities the US has to offer. I didn't move here wanting to change this country. My family moved here because it is the best country in the world. Every single citizen here has the opportunity to make something great of themselves.

When students' needs are put first, we can't fail them. I have seen the teacher associations, Red 4 Ed and SOS ruin our education system. Since 2018, children have been impacted by their actions such as strikes and walk outs. Then covid came along and gave them a bigger reason to push their agenda but that also exposed what was happening in the classrooms. Children are failing their core subjects, yet these radicals rather force gender and racist ideologies on the kids. We must go back to basics and ensure that the needs of children are being met when it comes to learning and that they aren't being indoctrinated in school. We must concentrate on the developmental needs of the students as they are our future. Higley lost over 1000 students since 2020. I want to help improve the district so that Higley is a desirable district and those 1000 children plus more want to come to school here.

Anna Van Hoek

WHY SHE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT THE COALITION'S MISSION

There is no excuse. I used to be fluent in Russian but forgot how to speak, read and write once I learned English in a few months. I do still speak Armenian though.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: Tuesdays with Morrie. Ever since I was a little girl, I always enjoyed sitting down with grandmothers and grandfathers and listening to their stories about their lives. There's so much to learn from them. The life lessons they can offer are invaluable. Before my father-in-law passed, we would always go to Utah to visit him, and I would spend the whole time sitting on the porch with him and asking him questions about his life. I learned more about him than my husband knew about his own father.

Q: Anything else you want to tell us!

A: I have always been devoted to parents and children. I have spent many years working with school districts and parents to make positive change in the lives of families and our community. It's this intense dedication, passion, and devotion that fuels my fight for change.

New Law Spotlight

HB 2495

SCHOOLS; SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIALS; PROHIBITION

A public school in Arizona is prohibited from referring students to or using any "sexually explicit material" in any manner. The definition of "sexually explicit material" is provided in the chaptered version of the law.

Materials may be exempted from the prohibition if a list of specified conditions is met. These conditions include:

1. The material possesses serious educational value, or serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.
2. Written parental consent is received before the student is referred to or directed to use the material. Parental consent must be given on each material.
3. If consent is not secured, the school will provide an alternative assignment that does not contain sexually explicit material.

Click [here](#) to read the full text of the bill. Thank you to Representative Hoffman 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](#)!