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# COALITION CORNER

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Monthly Newsletter of the Arizona Coalition of School Board Members

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## NEWS & FEATURES

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## Welcome to The Coalition!

**BY KATIE WARD**

Welcome to the team! We are so happy to have your support. The Coalition is looking forward to providing the training and resources necessary to make you the most effective you can be to support the mission of putting Students First!

The Coalition Corner will be your monthly guide to what is going on in Education Policy, an introduction of our members, tips and tricks for success, and a place to learn what is up with our local school boards.

# Join us for our upcoming events!

## THE COALITION CALL

When: November 17th at 7 PM

Where: Google Meets\*

Shelli Boggs

The Coalition Board Member; EVIT Board Member

Duties of a School Board Member

\*Call information will be given after registration

**SIGN  
UP  
HERE**

**SIGN  
UP  
HERE**

December 3-4, 2021 • Scottsdale, Arizona

Buy tickets at [AZCoalition.org/events](https://AZCoalition.org/events)



VERNADETTE BROYLES



ALEXANDER KOLODIN



DR. MATTHEW LADNER



MATT BEIENBURG



JAKE HOFFMAN



## Active Member Profile: Dawn Densmore

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

A: I was elected to the Dysart School Board in 2018, so I've been serving for three years now.

**Q: How long have you been president and if you have held any other positions?**

A: I was elected President in our first meeting of 2021. Prior to serving as President, I served as Governing Board Clerk during 2020.

**Q: What is your top priority as President?**

A: My top priority as President has been to allow all Board Members and members of our community to be heard.

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

A: Students and their families are at the core of every decision I make.

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

A: First and foremost, I'm a Mom! My oldest is a Dysart graduate and now attends NAU. I have twin High School Seniors and a 4th grader who all attend Dysart schools.

**Q: What is your favorite book?**

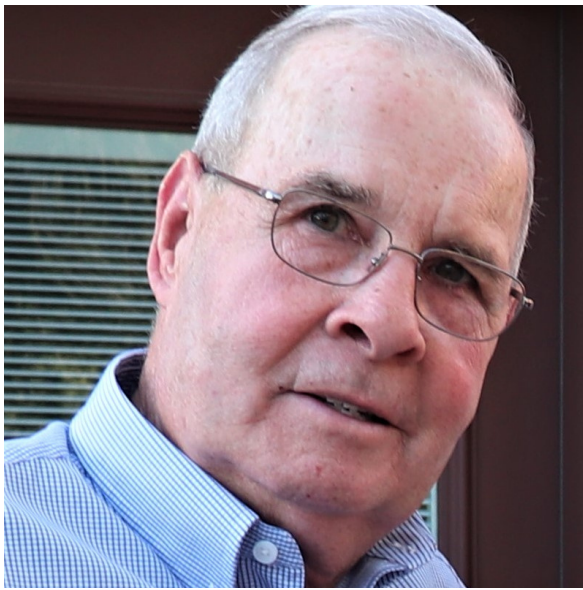
A: The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas. I've read it countless times.

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I am looking forward to representing my community and sharing best practices with like minded parents, Governing Boards and other educational stakeholders.

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



## Associate Member Profile: Bob Lenihan

### Q: How have you been involved in education?

A: I guess I truly became involved in education when my Dad was a teacher and coach back in South Dakota. At three years old, I was selected to be the football team "Mascot." Actually, while my wife and I were going to the University of Arizona we worked as playground monitors and evening custodians while doing our student teaching in Catalina Foothills School District. After those initial experiences, I was a teacher in the Sunnyside School District, followed by being a teacher, a head teacher, and principal in the Catalina Foothills School District. I finished my career as a principal at two schools in the Amphitheater School District in Oro Valley. Interestingly, three of the four schools I was in during my career were brand new schools, so I was able to be involved in everything related to building a school from the ground floor up. Those were exciting, and very professionally fulfilling times!

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

A: I think it started with my family when I was a youngster. My Dad was a teacher, coach, and school administrator, and he served as my role model, not only regarding education, but in all things so important for young children to have as they grow up. Those values being love for family, work ethic, honesty, enthusiasm, integrity, decency, and love for America (patriotism), to name a few. To me, when one thinks of everything related to education, common sense tells us that this is totally about the children, nothing else. Some may try to "fog up" that focus, but if we truly love the children and care about them now while they are in school, and look at the road ahead for them as they become high character, contributing members of their communities, then we see there can only be one direction to go. That focus is the children, and only the children!

### Q: What is your favorite book?

A: I enjoy reading books about heroes, particularly war heroes.

- "Unknown Valor," by Martha MacCallum
- "Left For Dead At Nijmegen," by Marcus A Nannini. This one was personal for me, because I had the good fortune of getting to know Gene in Show Low during a summer of playing softball. He had played baseball at USC after the war, and could still hit very well even in his nineties. A very impressive, humble American hero.

### Q: Anything else you want to tell our members?

A: I am a very fortunate husband, father, and grandfather. I enjoy playing senior softball, fishing, watching University of Arizona sports, and traveling, especially to Alaska. Looking back, I feel very blessed to have had the type of life given to me. Having a wonderful family, being able to serve America in the U.S. Air Force, and enjoying a very fulfilling career helping children are some things very special to me.

## Read Bob's Opinion Editorial in the White Mountain Independent [Here!](#)





The specific language from HB2898 states “A Teacher, administrator, or other employee of a school district, charter school, or state agency who is involved with students and teachers in grades preschool through twelve may NOT use public monies for instruction that presents ANY form or blame or judgement on the basis of race, ethnicity, or sex.” “Blame or judgment on the basis of race, ethnicity or sex” is defined in ARS 41-1494.

## Policy Spotlight

**It is within the authority of Arizona School Board members to add policy language to prohibit instruction containing elements of Critical Race Theory.**

HB2898 is more commonly known as the “no mask mandate” and was part of the 2021 budget reconciliation bill. HB2898 was ruled unconstitutional by the Arizona Supreme Court earlier this week because it violated the “single subject rule” for legislation. But the court made it very clear that it was the procedure (the how) and not the what (content/policy) that was the problem.

This language is consistent with House Bill 2906 which did pass. That language states, in part, that: “School districts and charter schools, may not expend public monies for board members for training, orientation or therapy that presents any form of blame or judgment on the basis of race, ethnicity, or sex.” Arizona school boards have already modified their Board Development and Training policies to reflect this language, so it would seem fitting to modify their instructional policies to reflect the language of HB2898.

\*This is not legal advice. Please consult with a lawyer regarding legal questions.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Here at the Coalition, we believe that school board members should be empowered and trained to write their own policies, not rubber stamp policy language. The ability to create and amend the district policies is codified in statute in ARS 15-341 A(1): The governing board shall: Prescribe and enforce policies &

procedures to govern the schools that are not inconsistent with law or rules prescribed by the state board of education. This should not be relegated to an association, but regarded with the utmost importance. For more Policy Alerts, please visit the member portal on our website!

# December

## MIXER AND TRAINING

Join us in Scottsdale to hear from experts at the forefront of Arizona education issues. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Our Speakers:



**Jake Hoffman**

Former Higley Unified School District  
Governing Board Member; Arizona  
State Representative  
Mismanagement,  
Malfeasance & Corruption:  
Knowing The Difference &  
How To Deal With Them



**Matt Beienburg**

Director of Education Policy; Van  
Sittert Center for Constitutional  
Advocacy (Goldwater Institute)  
Stopping Politics in K-12  
with Curriculum  
Transparency



**Alexander Kolodin**

Attorney at Law; President at  
Kolodin Law Group PLLC.  
Masks, Quarantines, and  
Vaccines: Parents' Rights in  
Arizona's K-12 Public  
Education



**Dr. Matthew Ladner**

Director  
Arizona Center for Student  
Opportunity (Arizona Charter  
Schools Association)  
Arizona K-12: The Case  
for Optimism



**Vernadette R. Broyles**

President and General Counsel;  
Child and Parental Rights  
Campaign  
Gender Identity Ideology  
in Public Schools

### REGISTRATION:

**AZCOALITION.ORG/EVENTS**

INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION COST:

**MEMBERSHIP, BREAKFAST, LUNCH**

**DECEMBER 3  
7PM - 8:30PM**

**DECEMBER 4  
8AM - 4PM**

EMBASSY SUITES SCOTTSDALE  
5001 N. SCOTTSDALE RD., SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85205





Have you ever wondered what curriculum departments, administrators, school boards, and teachers are discussing about certain topics?

Helpful Resources can be found in your Member Portal.

- Click [here](#) for Understanding Woke Jargon.
- Click [here](#) for Responding to Social Justice Rhetoric.
- Click [here](#) for the Arizona Ombudsman Citizens' Aide website.

## Tools, Tips, and Tricks

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) allows you to request all correspondence regarding a particular issue.

Watch our video on FOIA [here](#)!

5 steps for submitted an effective FOIA request:

1. Do your Research
2. Use Keywords
3. Specify a Time Frame
4. Consider our Sources
5. Be careful with your wording



# How to Get Involved

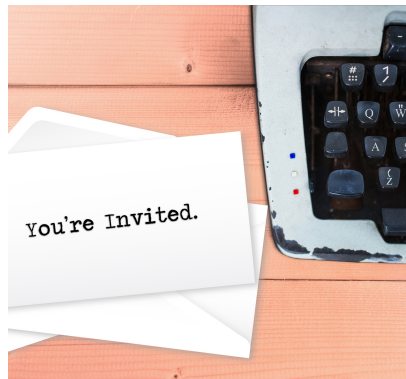
## Next Steps

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!



### Provide a Quote

Send us a quote about why you are excited to be a part of The Coalition. We will use this on our website and social media. Help us show people that we are an association that is strong on Parental Rights and policies that put Students First! Email it to [info@azcoalition.org](mailto:info@azcoalition.org) with your name and position (see website for more info).



### 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.



### Write a Letter to the Editor

If you are interested in writing a letter to the editor in your local paper, please contact Katie at [Katie@azcoalition.org](mailto:Katie@azcoalition.org). She will help you find your local paper and identify how to submit a letter. We would love to have you support The Coalition in your communities!