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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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## Update on Bills at the AZLeg!

The legislative session is finally over. There have been a few updates to the list of bills we are currently tracking that improve parental rights and put students first. Please email me with any questions!

- **SB1412 - Passed**, waiting for governor's signature.
- **SB1159 - Passed**, waiting for governor's signature.
- **HB2853 - Passed**, waiting for governor's signature. See more on Page 4!
- **HB2495 - Passed**, waiting for governor's signature.
- **HB2439 - Passed, Signed**
- **HB2498 - Passed, Signed**
- **HB2616 - Passed, Signed**
- **SB1211 - Failed**, House Committee of the Whole.
- **SB1198 - Failed**, Senate Committee of the Whole.
- **SB1269 - Dead**, Not heard in Committee of the Whole.

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

# Join us for our upcoming events!



**25th:** Rhonda Thomas: Whole Child Concept (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.

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



## Associate Member Profile: Libby Settle

### Fountain Hills Unified School District

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

**A:** I have been involved in education over the years as a public-school teacher, an advocate, and a parent. Prior to moving to Arizona, I graduated with a degree in Elementary Education and taught in public schools in Illinois. Being in the classroom, developing lesson plans, and interacting with the students and families was such a fantastic experience. Although it was 18 years ago, the insight I have from teaching in the classroom gives me a unique perspective as to what our teachers encounter on a daily basis. Shortly after moving to Arizona, we began our journey as foster parents. This led us to the doors of our local elementary school. As a new parent of a student with special needs, I was lost. If it wasn't for such caring staff at the elementary school guiding us and teaching us how to navigate the system, we'd still be lost today. The staff has stood by my side along the way and taught me how to ask the questions and the best ways to access services for the children in our home. It has helped me continue to champion for other students in our district and around the valley. In becoming an advocate, I've learned that one of the best ways to be a leader for our children and community is to be on a local school board of which I am currently running.

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

The Coalition has provided training on many topics which help bridge the gap for parents, educators, and members of school boards. I love the fact that the Coalition is embracing parents and community members rather than distancing themselves. They have provided many informative training sessions from the Optimistic Picture of Arizona K-12 Education to How School Board Policies are Made. I am really looking forward to The Coalition's Summer Training Series where we will be hearing from experts and discussing topics that are at the forefront of Arizonian education.

**Q: Anything else you want to tell us!**

**A:** As I reflect on how we got here as a country focusing on our schools and how I became a member of The Arizona Coalition, I am so thankful for the organizations and the people that have stepped in the gap, offered support, and walked alongside one another. I am excited to be a part of placing the focus back on our children, providing an education free of ideologies and instead focusing on measurable educational outcomes. I am humbled and honored to be standing alongside so many amazing advocates for our children. I look forward to continuing our efforts to provide a better future for our children in the upcoming years.

As a foster and adoptive parent of 13 children, kids are a passion of mine. I appreciate The Coalition's mission to put students first. Children across our country and state come from diverse backgrounds. As a parent and educator, we must find ways to meet the students where they are and help them to learn. The Coalition's mission to put student's first is truly what education is about. Benjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

The Coalition has been coming alongside school boards, educators, parents, and students to make a precious investment in our future. The children in our schools become tomorrow's future leaders. We must invest in our children for a successful tomorrow. The Coalition is taking the steps to put children first each and every day and I'm excited to be a part.

**Libby Settle**

**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 currently seeking a position on the Fountain Hills Unified School Board as I am passionate about creating a great community school which provides opportunities for all students and staff to be successful. We need to ensure the children in our schools have the best possible outcomes and as a teacher and advocate, I intend to work tirelessly to provide the best environment possible to achieve this goal.

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

**A:** As a little girl, I grew up in a small farming community. I was fascinated by the Little House on the Prairie series and they were by far my favorite book as a child. I still enjoy reading the collection to my children today along with The Boxcar Children and a few other series from the 1980s and before. However, as a believer, The Bible is the book I find myself reading the most today and is my guide to life and has so many fantastic principles that can be applied to all areas of life.



## Policy Book

### Model Policies!

Our model policies are now finished and available to you. 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 for our Policy Book](#)

# HB2853

## Bill Spotlight

### ARIZONA EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS; APPROPRIATION

#### What does HB2853 do and why is it needed?

- Expands eligibility for the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program to every family in Arizona.
- Families would receive over \$6,500 per year per child for private school, homeschooling, 'learning pods,' tutoring, or any other kinds of educational service that would best fit their students' needs.
- Any child who wishes to opt out of their local public school (or who already has) would be allowed to join the ESA program under the bill.
- Many families currently make financial sacrifices and shoulder the expense of private school tuition or paying for homeschool supplies. These families are all currently entitled to send their child to a public school (at a cost of over \$10,000 per year to taxpayers), regardless of their income. This bill would ensure that all families have the freedom to choose whatever form of education best fits their child.

HB2853 Allows families to choose the best educational option that fits their needs regardless of zip code or income.

**Arizona has become the state with the MOST educational freedom in the country!**

#### Action

Contact Governor Ducey and ask him to sign HB2853 into law!

**Governor Ducey**

Call: 602-542-4331



## Training: Running for School Board

### Training, Tricks, and Tools

Have you seen our Running for School Board training available in the Resources section in the Member's Portal? Learn tips and tricks from Coalition Board President, Pam Kirby.



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





# How to Get Involved

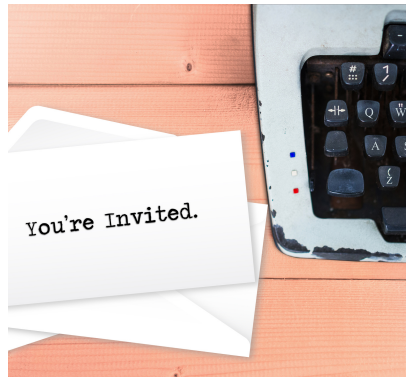
## Next Steps

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](mailto:Katie@azcoalition.org)!



### Invite your Friends

Our members will be at the forefront of the mission to put Students First. We want our members to be ready to support policy that aligns with our mission, but we need an army to do it.



### 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](#)!