

**April 24, 2018**

**Agenda Item No. 9A – Superintendent’s Report**

Good evening everyone, and thank you for joining us for tonight’s Governing Board meeting.

Before I begin my prepared comments, I would like to share a few thoughts relative to the impending walkout by Arizona teachers and staff. I appreciate the patience of our community and Mesa Public Schools families as we walk through this uncharted territory.

Community reaction has spanned the gamut – from staunch support of the RedforEd movement to disbelief that teachers would leave their classrooms and students. I appreciate and respect these concerns.

The decision to close our schools was not made lightly, but was done in reaction to outside forces, including statewide teacher leadership and the current climate surrounding Arizona public education funding. We know our teachers are torn between their dedication and love of their students and the need to advocate for a better future for all children.

We look forward to when our focus can return to teaching and learning. We will share the most recent news and updates with families via several channels, including our notification system, social media, and the district website, [mpsaz.org](http://mpsaz.org).

I'd like to take a moment to honor former first lady Barbara Bush, who passed away last week at the age of 92. Mrs. Bush was an important champion of childhood literacy. She will be remembered as a friend to Mesa Public Schools, as the namesake of **Barbara Bush Elementary School**. In 1996, the school was named after the first lady to honor her work as an advocate for literacy and education. Every day, children entering the school see a beautiful display featuring her portrait along with interesting artifacts, photos and favorite books.

Mrs. Bush attended the school's dedication and visited Barbara Bush Elementary School several times afterward to spend time with students and read to them.

The school observed a moment of silence for Mrs. Bush, and students are creating a scrapbook to send to the Bush family. Barbara Bush Elementary Principal **Tracy Olson** shares, "Our community is saddened by the loss of our school's namesake. We look forward to carrying on her legacy."

I can't think of a better way to honor our education champions and teachers than by celebrating the culmination of their hard work. We are always delighted to sing the praises of our exceptional students, staff and leaders. Let the celebrations begin!

### A+ Schools of Excellence named

Mesa Public Schools continues to hold the record for A+ Schools of Excellence among school districts in the state. The coveted designation

from the Arizona Educational Foundation honors schools that best meet the academic and non-academic needs of their students. We are excited to announce our four newest A+ Schools, bringing our district count to 26. Our newest award-winning schools are **Field, Irving** and **Zaharis** elementary schools, and **Red Mountain High School**. We will celebrate with these schools' communities at the May 22 Governing Board meeting.

#### MPS honored with Best Communities for Music Education designation

Mesa Public Schools has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation, or NAMM. The district is recognized for its outstanding commitment to providing music access and education to all students. In cooperation with The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas, NAMM recognizes teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who demonstrate a high commitment to music education.

**Scott Burgener**, district music education specialist, shares, "Receiving this national recognition affirms the high quality work that our music teachers do daily."

#### Jan Cawthorne receives Raising Special Kids award

Earlier this month, **Dr. Jan Cawthorne**, executive director of special education, received the parent partnership award at the Raising Special Kids Symposium on Children with Special Health Care Needs. She is honored for her leadership and commitment to the spirit of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, along with ensuring equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities.

Raising Special Kids is a nonprofit that provides support and information for parents of children with a full range of disabilities and special health care needs. Programs are available in English and Spanish, and are offered at no cost to families. Congratulations, Dr. Cawthorne! Thank you for being an advocate for our students.

#### Coach Mike Thiel celebrates 500<sup>th</sup> career victory

Congratulations to **Mike Thiel, Mountain View High School** head varsity baseball coach, for becoming the newest member of the 500 career-win club. For 33 years, 21 as a Toro, Mike's passion for baseball has burned bright. He celebrates a long history of success, including coaching athletes who pursued their baseball dreams at the college and professional levels, induction into the Arizona Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame, and two state championship titles. This spring, the Toros celebrate an outstanding season. Talk at the water cooler is that coach says this is the most talented team he has ever coached. The Toros enter post-season as the expected No. 1 seed. We wish all of this year's competing teams good luck during the AIA state championships.

Mr. President, this concludes my report to the board. Will the board please join me front of the dais for this evening's recognitions?

*[Mike to the podium, board to front of dais]*

## **Agenda Item No. 10A – Student Recognitions**

### Feeding Frenzy

For the third year in a row, **Stapley Junior High School** has dominated the district's Feeding Frenzy food-drive competition. This year, the Sabercats collected 33,676 pounds of food for the United Food Bank. That is 35 pounds per student! In total, Stapley and other participating junior high schools collected 35,474 pounds of food, an 11,000 pound increase from last year!

I'd like to invite **Jeremy Shindlecker**, assistant principal, **Dana Dobson**, physical education teacher and student council advisor, and student-council representatives to the front of the room. Principal **James Fisher** is unable to join us tonight as he is with students on the Close Up trip to Washington, D.C. I'd also like to invite **Melissa Forrester**, **Dave Richins** and **Tyson Nansel** from United Food Bank to join us. Melissa, I understand you have some board members in the house as well, and they are invited to also join us at the front.

As part of their collection, Stapley has a check for \$6,000 they would like to present to United Food Bank. In our Feeding Frenzy competition, every dollar collected is equal to five pounds of food.

*[Invite Dana and students to present the check to Melissa and/or United Food Bank board members.]*

I'd like to present this plaque to Stapley Junior High as the 2018 winner of Feeding Frenzy.

Melissa, I see you have a trophy that you would also like to present. Would you please introduce your team and present the trophy?

*[Melissa to the podium]*

*[Invite Jeremy or Dana to speak]*

Thank you, Stapley Junior High, and all of our junior-high schools that participated in Feeding Frenzy. Your efforts will make a positive impact on our entire community.

### National Academic League – Mesa Academy for Advanced Studies

Next, we will recognize the Mesa Academy for Advanced Studies National Academic League team and coaches for their national championship win. Will coaches **Joe Reilly** and **Michael Spencer**, along with the Mesa Academy team, please join me?

National Academic League, or NAL, is the super sport for academic athletes, designed to challenge scholars and spark friendly competition and collaboration. It combines important aspects of team sports, such as strategy and team mentality, along with problem-solving, critical-thinking and scholarship skills. Competing students encounter topics from four

major academic areas: language arts, humanities, mathematics and sciences, which are then divided into 22 subcategories.

The Academy has competed on the national level for the last five years, but this is their first national title. They faced Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's Marshall Middle School in the championship game at Arizona State University, winning the title with a score of 59-48.

Coach Reilly, will you please introduce your team, and then tell us a little about their success this year?

*[Joe Reilly to announce names of students.]*

Seventh-grade members

- **Colin Bronson**
- **Cara Brown**
- **Jakob Dueck**
- **Christian Godfrey**
- **Helen Lottman**
- **Annabel Ohman**
- **Alec Peng**
- **Brant Peng**
- **Michael Rencher**
- **Caleb Smith**
- **Collin Wilkerson**
- **Peter Winward**

### Eighth-grade members

- **Keanu Chandra**
- **Garrett Comes**
- **Tyler Early**
- **Thor Eckman**
- **Sara Enright**
- **Hayden Ferrell**
- **Julian Gordon**
- **Megan He**
- **Natasha Kiriluk**
- **Briana Le**
- **Ivan Mix**
- **Ben Reeb**
- **Karim Rodriguez**
- **Logan Wilke**

Congratulations, Mesa Academy Knights! I know you have made your parents, coaches and school community proud.

[Recognize supporter in the audience]

- **Nikki Wilfert**, principal of **Mesa Academy for Advanced Studies**

## CTE Awards

Tonight we celebrate our Career and Technical Education students who received first place at their state competitions. Students, will you please join me at the front?

When I announce your name and award, please step forward or raise your hand so the audience may acknowledge you.

*[Teachers are in the audience with the exception of Andrew Bradford, Dobson culinary teacher]*

We will start with **Dobson High School**.

- **Alan Ibarra Arizmendi**, sophomore, received first place in Applied Math for Culinary Management at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America culinary arts competition. His culinary arts teacher is **Andrew Bradford**. *(Unable to attend meeting)*
- **Joshua Burks**, junior, captured gold in Networking Concepts at the Future Business Leaders of America computer maintenance competition. **Rich Ence** is his business teacher. Please stay put, Joshua.
- **Joshua** also earned first place in Network Design, alongside his teammates, seniors **Jonathan Lopez Valdez** and **Jaden Montgomery**. They're instructed by **Rich Ence**.

- **Haley Merriman**, senior, received first place in the Educators Rising Moment event at the Educators Rising state competition. Haley's family and consumer sciences teacher is **Sheryl Redenius**.

Next, we have our first-place winners from **Mesa High School**.

- **Luis Morales Marquez**, junior, took gold in Computer Coding and Programming at the FBLA software development competition. His computer science teacher is **Ali Packer**.
- **Mahala Palma**, junior, earned her first-place Educators Rising Moment award at the Educators Rising state competition. She's instructed by family and consumer sciences teacher **Kim Adams**.

Last, but not least, is **Red Mountain High School**.

- **Erin Clancy**, sophomore, captured her award in Medical Law and Ethics at the HOSA-Future Health Professionals biotechnology competition. Her teacher is **Katy Gazda**.
- Seniors **Brandon Huss** and **Nicodemus Phaklides**, and junior **Nick Jones** (*Nicodemus may not attend*) took gold in Engineering Technology at the SkillsUSA engineering competition. The Red Mountain engineering and robotics teams have been busy this spring. They represented Mesa Public Schools at Johnson Space Center in Houston, at the Real World Design Challenge in Washington, D.C., and then back to Houston for the FIRST Robotics World Competition! Their teachers are **Adam Middleton** and **Shane Bycott**.

Under the leadership of Director **Marlo Loria**, the Career and Technical Education team of accomplished educators has given serious attention to detail in developing 22 cutting-edge programs to prepare students for high-skill, in-demand careers.

Let's give another round of applause to our CTE students and their dedicated teachers, who are in the audience tonight. Teachers, please stand up so we can celebrate your hard work.

Congratulations again to you all. We are so proud of your outstanding accomplishments!

*[Recognize supporters in the audience]*

- **Tamara Addis**, principal at **Dobson High School**
- **Kirk Thomas**, principal at **Mesa High School**
- **Marlo Loria**, director of **Career and Technical Education**
- Jared Ryan, principal at Red Mountain High School (*unable to attend*)

## **Agenda Item No. 10B – Spotlight Recognitions**

Next on the agenda are Spotlight Recognitions. This program gives our community a more comprehensive look at our schools, programs and departments, and allows us to recognize some incredible individuals.

This evening's Spotlight Recognitions include **Mesa High School, Irving Elementary School** and the **Maintenance and Grounds** departments.

Will **Kirk Thomas**, principal at **Mesa High School**, please join me at the podium while we watch a video about your school?

*[Cue video to start once principal is at the podium]*

Principal Thomas, will you introduce us to your honorees?

*[Stand to the side as Kirk announces awardees and reads script]*

- Outstanding Student: **Aaron Brubaker**, senior
- Educator Who Makes a Difference: **Connie Turley**, music teacher
- Customer Service Champion: **Josefina Cordova**, general clerk

*[Mike to the podium. Please remind awardees to go for handshakes if Kirk forgets. Mike recognizes supporters in the audience and continues with script.]*

Let's have a round of applause for Mesa High!

Our next spotlight shines on **Irving Elementary School**.

Will **Penny Briney**, principal at **Irving Elementary School**, please join me at the podium while we watch a video about your school?

*[Cue video to start once principal is at the podium]*

Principal Briney, please introduce us to your honorees.

*[Stand to the side as Penny announces awardees and reads script]*

- Outstanding Student: **Haley Haws**, sixth grade
- Volunteer Extraordinaire: **Karen Church**
- Educator Who Makes a Difference: **Paula Saul**, kindergarten teacher
- Customer Service Champion: **Noemi Burgos**, office specialist

*[Mike to the podium. Please remind awardees to go for handshakes if Penny forgets. Mike recognizes supporters in the audience and continues with script.]*

Let's have a round of applause for our Irving Iguanas!

Our last spotlight of the evening shines on the **Maintenance and Grounds departments**. Will **Joe Orrantia**, director, please join me? Let's watch a video to learn how our Maintenance and Grounds teams support our schools.

*[Cue video to start once Joe is at the podium]*

Joe, will you please introduce us to your employees who make a difference?

*[Stand to the side as Joe announces awardees and reads script]*

- **Veronica Boolman, Laura Santiago and Abigail Zern**, work order clerks

*[Mike to podium. Please remind awardees to go for handshakes if Joe forgets. Mike recognizes supporters in the audience and continues with script.]*

Let's have a round of applause for Joe and his team.

Thank you to our master educators and top-notch employees. Your individual and collective efforts engage and inspire young learners every day. You give children the tools to be successful in life, which is evident in the outstanding students honored at this evening's meeting. We celebrate you!

Our Spotlight recipients receive:

- a Certificate of Appreciation, and
- an Amazon gift card for personal use from the **Mesa Public Schools Foundation**.

In addition, our Volunteer Extraordinaire receives a candy-filled tumbler, and Outstanding Students are recognized with an official portrait, to be displayed in our Governing Board room [*Gesture to the wall*].

We will take a brief three-minute recess, allowing honorees and guests to continue with their evening plans. You may receive congratulations and take photos in the lobby.

Mr. President and board members, this concludes our presentations for the evening.

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Debra Pangrazi <dlpangrazi@mpsaz.org>  
To: Laurie Struna <lastruna@mpsaz.org>

Mon, Apr 2, 2018 at 2:49 PM

You are so great at making sure everyone knows and can be there to support their "people".

Thank you!

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Deb Pangrazi  
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[Quoted text hidden]



## *Congratulations!*

The Governing Board would like to recognize  
Kelli Brown for being named  
a 2018 Flinn Scholar.

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 7 p.m.  
in the Governing Board Room  
549 N. Stapley Drive, Mesa  
(north of University)

**PLEASE RSVP TO LAURIE STRUNA, 480-308-7548, OR  
LASTRUNA@MPSAZ.ORG, BY MONDAY, MAY 14.**