

# The Boarder

## A Summary Report of the April 9, 2024 CFSD Governing Board Meeting



### In Memoriam



Amy Sue Bhola  
CFSD Governing Board  
2015-2024

Board members reflected on the passing of dear friend and fellow board member, Amy Bhola. Since joining the governing board in January 2015, Amy served as a fearless & committed advocate for CFSD students, staff, and families. The Board and members of the CFSD community expressed heartfelt thoughts about how profoundly Amy will be missed!



## Outstanding Achievements!

### Outstanding Achievements

Superintendent Mary Kamerzell shared the following outstanding student and staff achievements:

#### Southern Arizona Regional Science & Engineering Fair (SARSEF):

Sunrise Drive: Abrielle Stevens - "What's that Smell?!" (Fixing Problems That Stink - 3rd place); Armelie Puell - "Fish Behavior in response to the environment" (2nd place); Cora Sakievich - "Cookie Monster" (2nd place); David Bui - "Affects of Temperature on Gold Balls" (3rd place); Diego Fatas-Belous and Jakob Chan - "Does Spicy food Affect Body Temperature?" (3rd place); Emery Chukly - "Why is it a bother to have H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in our water?" (2nd place); Jotham David - "Conductors and Insulators" (3rd place, Second Place Elementary School award); Sylvie Schenten - "How do the bubbles get into bread?" (1st place); Timothy Wong - "Canyon Melting Project" (2nd place); and Zenji Ashton - "Is Your Fingerprint Identification Actually Safe?" (3rd place).

Manzanita Elementary: Aubrey Wettengel - "How Does Tube Size Affect the Weight a Dump Truck Can Lift?" (2nd place); Elise McDonald - "Does Positive or Negative Encouragement Vault a Gymnast to Success?" (2nd place); Elizabeth Sipe and Christopher Sipe - "Investigating Well-Known Baking Techniques" (SARSEF Board Award); Ella Winter - "After How Many Days of Use Does a Water Bottle Become Germy?" (1st place); Kathleen Bowman's Class - "One Small Step for Manzanita, One Giant Leap for the Environment: Less Idling, More Smiling" (3rd place); Lilah Winter - "How do Different Macronutrient Ratios Affect My Blood Glucose and Blood Ketones?" (3rd place, Alex and Laura Schauss Elementary School Award "WCC Best Female Project, Third Grade, WCG Shirley Bemis Memorial Award"); Maura Baker's class - "How Strong Are You, Mayan Blue?" (1st place); Megan Winter's class - "Which Classroom is Germier, a First Grade Classroom or a Fifth Grade Classroom?" (1st place); Mike Allie's class - "Recycling Sorting for Success" (1st Place); Remy Scott - "Why is Milk White?" (1st place); and Ria Tuli - "Colors and Feelings" (2nd place).

Canyon View Elementary: Autumn Andrews-Hanna - "Twisted Science: Tornados and Hurricanes" (3rd place); Elijah Wilkinson - "Amazing Abilities of Sound #302" (3rd place); and Olivia Babst - "Smart soils keep more water for dryer times" (3rd place).

Ventana Vista Elementary: Eliot Mandel - "A Rabbit's Toy" (3rd place); London Emerson - "Are Your Hands Clean?" (3rd place); Michael Montoya - "Changing Ingredients" (1st place); Mikael Cusanovich - "Poppin' popcorn with oil!" (2nd place, ASQ SARSEF Sponsored Award); Natasha Jain - "Tennis Fiasco" (1st place); Pascal Guifarro - "Comparing Apples and Oranges" (3rd place); and Rebecca Black - "Is a warm swimmer a faster swimmer?" (3rd place).

Esperero Canyon Middle: Brooklyn Natkowski, Elena Suarez, and Cecilia Suarez - "Snail Power" (2nd place, Lee and Kack Mayer Memorial award for excellence in science); Isabelle Babst - "Producing Food and Energy in a Dryer Climate: Agrivoltaics and Water Management of Arizona's Crops" (1st place, Alex and Laura Schauss Middle School Award, Hogan Energy Hero); and Khalil Shehab and Leo Blueskyes - "Cool Roofs" (1st place).

Catalina Foothills High: Iliana Wisniewski - "Runoff Erosion Prevention with Forest Thinnings" (1st place, Arizona Hydrological Society).

#### Two Flinn Scholars!

Two CFHS Seniors, Seth Rojas and Ruby Wray (pictured at the right) are 2024 Flinn Scholars. The scholarship is valued at more than \$130,000 and covers tuition, fees, housing, and meals at one of Arizona's public universities, plus study abroad. With our two scholars in the Class of 2024, we will have graduated nineteen (19) Flinn Scholars. This is the first year that we have had two Flinn Scholars in a single class. The record for the most Flinn Scholars in a single year is held by the Class of 2009, with three.



#### Artist Awards:

CFHS art student Gwendolyn Alviar was chosen as one of five winners of the Outstanding Emerging High School Artist Award. Her artwork is currently in the exhibition Our Stories: High School Artists at the University of Arizona Museum of Art (UAMA) and was selected as outstanding by a jury of U of A School of Art faculty and UAMA staff. Her piece is called "Boxed." The U of A School of Art recognizes Gwendolyn with a \$1,000 tuition waiver to the School of Art BA or BFA major in the next two years. Her art teacher is Zoe Reinhardt.

Orange Grove Middle School student Catherin "CoCo" Wang won 1st place in the Aline Goodman Young Artist Award competition at the Tucson Festival of Books art contest this year. It is a linoleum block print, "Jewel of the Crested Cactus." Her art teacher is Jennifer Eschedor.



#### CFSD 2024 Poetry Contest Winners:

Congratulations to the winners of our annual poetry contest, one from each K-12 grade level. They are: Kindergarten - "Spring" by Xavier Bingham (MZ), 1st Grade - "Micah" by Mara Chan (SD), 2nd Grade - "Pink" by Abby Vanwinkle (MZ), 3rd Grade - "Constellation" by Lilah Winter (MZ), 4th Grade - "The Wild Life" by Reese Lewis (VV), 5th grade - "Rain Dance" by Robyn Burguillo Meyen (VV), 6th grade - "Peace" by Emma McNulty (ECMS), 7th Grade - "Fading Memories" by Zen Shah (OGMS), 8th Grade - "Death" by Riley McGuire (OGMS), 9th Grade - "If I Could" by Quin Mekkelsen, 10th Grade - "Wanderlust" by Avery Maland, 11th Grade - "Dear Imaginary Friends" by Adlanta Cromer, and 12th Grade-"My Girl" by Amy Cao.

#### Best Community for Music Education:

Our district has been recognized with a Best Communities for Music Education Award, sponsored by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation that states, "We applaud your community's unwavering commitment to creating an environment where each child can learn & grow with music."

#### Early Childhood Program

In year one of our Early Childhood Education program, senior Alyssa Siwik received the Gold Medal award in her interview competition at this year's state Family, Career and Community Leaders of America competition, held April 1-3 at the Westin La Paloma. The high school's ECE teacher is Brenda Cabarga.

#### Approval of Revisions to Policy JFABDA, Admission of Students in Foster Care (second reading)

Associate Superintendent Denise Bartlett presented the second reading of policy JFABDA, *Admission of Students in Foster Care*. To conform with updated statutory language, the policy now states that these students will be enrolled, and their previous academic records will be requested "within two days." The previous timeframe for doing both was "immediately." The board approved the revised policy, as presented.

#### Approval of Revisions to Policy JH, Student Absences and Excuses (second reading)

Dr. Bartlett presented the second reading of policy JH, *Student Absences and Excuses*. After the first reading three additional revisions were made to improve clarity. The revisions remove the requirement for an admission slip and cites "mental or behavioral health" as a reason for an excused absence. The board approved the revised policy, as presented.

#### Approval of Revisions to Policy JHD, Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance (second reading)

Dr. Bartlett presented the second reading of policy JHD, *Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance*.

After the first reading, “*therapist*” was added to the list of *certified medical, mental, or behavioral* health professionals and “*A.R.S. 32-3251*” was added as an additional legal reference. The board approved the revised policy, as presented.

#### **Maintenance & Operation Budget Proposal**

Dr. Kamerzell presented the 2024-2025 Maintenance and Operations (M&O) budget. She underscored that the proposed budget sustains all current student programs and services as well as their staffing support. She stated that because employee compensation is such an important consideration for professionals considering joining or remaining at CFSD, any new significant expenses are related to employee compensation. The complete proposed M&O budget report is available for viewing on the CFSD website as part of the April 9, governing board agenda.

#### **Approval of 2024-2025 Professional Salary Schedule**

Dr. Bartlett presented the proposed professional salary schedule for 2024-2025. Of special note is the increase in compensation for certified employees as a result of an increase in starting salaries and a vertical step movement. While increments between steps on the schedule remain the same, depending on a certified employee’s placement on the schedule, compensation will increase between 3.53 and 5.89 percent. The board approved the revised professional salary schedule, as presented.

#### **Approval of District Contribution to Cafeteria Plan of Employee Benefits**

Dr. Bartlett presented the 2024-2025 cafeteria plan of employee benefit options for full-time benefit-eligible employees. Dr. Bartlett highlighted that the increased district contribution per employee allows two of the offered medical plans to be fully covered. In addition to available district-funded options, there are employee-funded options, including short-term disability insurance and Voluntary Life insurance. The board approved the district contribution and the list of benefit providers, as presented. The new benefit plan year begins on July 1, 2024, and ends on June 30, 2025.

#### **Approval of First Round of Certified Contracts for 2024-2025**

Dr. Bartlett presented for the Governing Board’s review and approval a list of professional staff being offered contracts for the 2024-2025 school year. The board approved both the list and the issuance of contracts to those listed, as presented. Samples of the contracts are available for viewing on the CFSD website as part of the April 9, governing board agenda.

#### **Consent Agenda Items**

The governing board approved the following consent agenda items:

- March 12, 2024, governing board meeting minutes
- March 12, 2024, executive session governing board meeting minutes (confidential)
- Expense voucher memorandum
- Field trip request memorandum
- Fundraising request memorandum
- Personnel memorandum
- Gifts and donations memorandum
- Updated estimates for the 2023-2024 cooperative purchasing list

On the consent agenda, under the personnel memorandum, the board approved the hiring of Dr. Katrina Sacco as CFSD Associate Superintendent for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Sacco is currently with the Payson Unified School District where she serves as its Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment and Director of Special Services. She was previously a principal, Director of Special Education, Coordinator of Curriculum & Assessment, and an elementary school teacher. A 2023 graduate from Northern Arizona University with a PhD in Educational Leadership, she describes herself as data-driven, flexible, ethical, analytical, knowledgeable, and approachable. We look forward to Dr. Sacco joining the CFSD team on July 1, and helping us build upon our culture of excellence.

#### **Upcoming Board Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled governing board meeting is ***Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Carole Siegler Boardroom at Valley View Early Learning Center. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.***

Topics on the April 30 agenda include:

- CFSD Foundation Semi-Annual Gift to the District
- Consideration of Early Childhood I, II, III Course Standards (first reading)
- Consideration of Standards for 11th grade Social Studies Courses: *Modern History / American Law & Justice* (first reading)
- Approval of Second Round of Certified Contracts for 2024-2025
- Audit Reporting Package for the Year Ended June 30, 2023
- Elementary Math Report
- Fiscal Year 2025 M&O Budget



**Please welcome new CFSD staff members!**

Sally Conboy, Assistant Principal, Esperero Canyon  
Kristen Meza, Assistant Principal, Orange Grove  
Pablo Riggs-Molina, Maintenance Technician II