

The Border

A Summary Report of the March 9, 2021 CFSD Governing Board Meeting



Superintendent Mary Kamerzell shared the following student and staff achievements.

Arizona Music Educators Association (AMEA) Regional Honor Band

The following high school musicians were selected for the 2021 AMEA Regional Honor Band. This is the largest number from any high school in the state. Their director, Renee Shane-Boyd commented, “they are to be commended not only for the skill they have developed that allowed them to be selected, but their resilience in auditioning in this unusual time.”

Piccolo – Emma Rowe; **Flute** – Gabby Ames, Olivia Baumann, Evangeline Cumming, Siena Davoli-Boen, Rohini Ghosh, Joseph Han, Claire Kross, Erin O’Rourke, Ella Pemberton, Emma Rowe, Noah Wellman; **Oboe** – Jonathan Clements, Connor Fitzgerald, Matthew Jacobs, Claire Kross; **English Horn** – Matthew Jacobs; **Bassoon** – Zachary Cramton, Wyatt Jackson, Eli Lefkowitz; **Bb Clarinet** – Kyle Cagno, Braden Cantor-Goldner, Nastacia Carter, Nina Cox, Megan Garland, Julia Hejl, Miranda Henderson, Adelynn Jensen, Anna Kang, Steven Klestadt, Audrey Lister, Lorenzo Mars, Dillon Peng, Amelia Prucinsky, Zach Russell, Kulindu Vithanachchi; **Bass Clarinet** – Jasmine Junker, Ben Wallace; **Alto Saxophone** – Alex Choi, Margot Nicholson, Andrew Smith, Daniel Sutherland; **Tenor Saxophone** – Joshua Raposo; **Baritone Saxophone** – Aidan Gee; **Cornet/Trumpet** – Will Ames, Megan Bime, Ian Britanik, Jeremy Bryant, Connor Cagno, Sevren Jackson, Sara Lessie, Winston Reese; **French Horn** – Ethan Dai, Aditi Ghosh, Matthew Hashim; **Trombone** – Shaurya Chauhan, Gavyn Epstein, Spencer Jacobs, Robby Pawloski, Hannah Seo; **Euphonium BC** – John Evans, Will Grobe, Andrew Lister; **Tuba** – Max Chaffee, Diego Jaquez, Elijah Leviton; **Percussion** – Max Burrows, Anna Davis, Camille DeWilde, Logan Douglas, Avalon Garrett, Tyler Kebo, Mignon King, Lucy McLaughlin.

AMEA Regional Honor Choir

The following high school vocalists were selected for the 2021 AMEA Regional Honor Choir: Alexander Aguilar, Pierre Aoun, Jean Paul Aoun, Romit Banerjee, Chloe Bell, Morgan Hinkle, Tristan Holmes, Rene Navarro, Shawna Parsa, and Carolyn Zhao. Their choral director is Jeffrey Evans.

2021 U.S. Senate Youth Program

CFHS student Nathaniel David Mehmert Cross was selected as one of two students representing the state of Arizona at the 2021 U.S. Senate Youth Program to be held March 14-17. He will be one of the 104 national student delegation and will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study.

Robotics

Three (3) CFSD Community Schools’ FIRST Lego League (FLL) teams won top awards at a recent Tucson regional tournament with 24 teams competing from around the state. They will advance to state competition. **Innovation Award – Team 5151:** Madison Chiem (SD), Simon Crawford (SD), Audrey Dessent (SD), Warren Moore (SD), Nicholas Pickard (OG), and Aiden Zhou (OG); **Robot Design Award – 5155:** Estaban Aguirre (OG), Sa’id Badereen (former OG student), Connor Belakovsky (EC), Landon Chang (OG), Braeden Gracy (OG), and Zac Young (OG). **Motivate Award – 5153:** EC students Owen Cantor-Goldner, Ethan Lin, Anthony Milo, and Christian Pierson. The theme for this year’s robotics missions and research challenge is physical activity. The teams are charged with finding ways to address the problem of inactivity, which has serious mental, physical and emotional health consequences. Their coach is Charlotte Ackerman, STEM Integration Specialist, with the assistance of volunteer coaches Mark Haye, Jenny Dessent, and Jesse Barrios. CFHS alum Nik Gruber refereed all of the robot matches that had to be filmed for submission.

A community team, The Couch Beaters, qualified for FLL state competition. Team members are Ethan Bialis (EC), Zeke Bialis (VV), Arianna DuPont (EC), Siena Mayfield (EC), and Sergius Sakali (VV). Their coach is CFSD teacher and parent Tiffanie Bialis.

Elementary Math League

Community Schools has offered a Math League enrichment club in which students from all four CFSD elementary schools participate. Club members earned 1st places in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade groups in the Math League competition, the 6th qualifying round for Arizona. Jayden Yao earned overall first place in Arizona. The district championship on April 11 is a qualifying round based on mathleague.org. Eight (8) of our students who qualified for the district championship now qualify for the state championship in May. Their Math League coach is Ning Hao.

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

CFHS senior Ty R. Pham-Swann has been nominated as a U.S. Presidential Scholar. There are 103 nominees representing Arizona in this year's candidate pool. The Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars each year.

Update Regarding In-Person and Remote Learning

Dr. Kamerzell reported that as of Monday, March 8, all CFSD elementary schools have an in-person learning schedule of five days a week. Prior to the Governor's Executive order of March 3, Canyon View and Manzanita had planned to combine their two cohorts of in-person learners and move to a 5-day schedule. The Executive Order requires elementary schools to admit any student who wants to return to in-person learning. As a result, all CFSD elementary schools will expand their in-person enrollment no later than March 15.

Dr. Kamerzell mentioned again that the transition to support more in-person learners was the most challenging at the elementary level due to the necessity to reassign teachers. Six elementary remote teachers have been reassigned as in-person teachers to support the increase in enrollment of in-person learners.

CFSD middle schools and the high school had already announced that they would combine their two cohorts of in-person learners and expand the on-campus schedule to four days a week before the Governor issued his Executive Order. In response to the Executive Order, middle schools and the high school will now implement a 5-day schedule beginning March 15. Unlike the provision in the Executive Order for elementary schools that requires admittance of all in-person learners, middle and high schools can 'reduce attendance' if the county's COVID transmission level is in the 'substantial' category. That is where Pima County is now. If the transmission level moves to the 'moderate' or 'low' category, then all in-person learners must be admitted.

Dr. Kamerzell said that the overarching theme of the Governor's Executive Order is to bring as many public school students as possible back to in-person learning as soon as possible for teacher-led instruction. The timeline is influenced by the school's calendar. The transition is to occur no later than the Monday following a scheduled spring break, or on March 15 if there is no scheduled spring break. Since CFSD's spring break is the week of March 22, the deadline for compliance with the Executive Order is March 15. Dr. Kamerzell noted that she had already submitted the required form to the Arizona Department of Education attesting to CFSD's compliance with the Executive Order.

Superintendent Kamerzell added that more in-person learners make a positive contribution to the district's budget since they are funded at 100%. Unless the Legislature changes the current per pupil dollar support for remote learners, the district will receive 95% funding for them. The district has a budget hole to fill created by the unanticipated and large expense to pay for the CFSD mitigation plan.

On a final note, Dr. Kamerzell commented that returning to a full-time on-campus learning model is an important transition to the next school year since families are now registering their students for 2021-2022. CFSD has experienced about a 4% drop in enrollment over the course of this year. It is important to try and influence families to return to a CFSD school next year if they left due to a part-time on-campus learning model.

Non-Renewal of Teaching Contracts

Assistant Superintendent Denise Bartlett presented the list of teachers who would receive a letter on March 10 notifying them of their contract non-renewal. Certain types of employment contracts in the district are not eligible for automatic renewal by law. They are contracts for teachers hired after September 1, employed part-time, in the first year of employment, filling in on a temporary basis for someone on a leave of absence, grant funded, or failing to maintain teacher certification. Dr. Bartlett added that retired teachers are also subject to contract non-renewal, in accordance to statute. She reported that most of these teachers would be offered 2021-2022 contracts. The board approved the non-renewals, as presented.

2021 Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity

Board Members discussed the legislative bill expanding Empowerment Scholarship Accounts to a much larger number of eligible students. They also discussed Senate Bill 1246 that imposes term limits for school board members to two consecutive terms, and House Bill 2435 that imposes term limits and requires two or three board members to have children in the district either as parents, grandparents or guardians.

Consent Agenda Items

The governing board approved the following consent agenda items.

- February 23, 2021, regular governing board meeting minutes
- Expense voucher memorandum
- Personnel memorandum
- Fundraising request memorandum

Executive Session

The governing board held an executive session for the discussion of employee salary/wage and benefits proposals for 2021-2022.

Upcoming Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled governing board meeting is ***Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 6:30 p.m., at the Professional Learning Center at Valley View Early Learning Center.*** Note: The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. with an executive session for Employee Salary/Wage and Benefit Proposals for 2021-2022.



Please welcome new CFSD staff members:

Maria Lorta, EA Inclusion, OGMS