

## PUSD delays vote for month on new superintendent's evaluation tool



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The final piece of new Superintendent Clark Tenney's employment — an evaluation tool that will be pertinent to his performance pay parameters come spring and into the future — was expected to be concluded at the regular Governing Board meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

The board, however, agreed in a 3-2 vote to postpone a decision to give member Linda Conn requested time to consider the evaluation measures.

Conn noted she wanted to add some additional measurable outcomes and timelines to that tool. Her

colleagues reiterated that at last month's board retreat members reached a consensus with Tenney on staying with the existing, five-point evaluation tool and rating scales to highlight what they considered to be key performance measures. Tenney's performance pay — up to 8.5% — also will be based on measurable outcomes, including student's academic performance in English language arts, math and science. The results of his board evaluation equate for 3.5% of that pay.

So the three members who agreed to postponing the vote said they were not willing to entertain anything new to the evaluation tool but wanted to offer Conn the courtesy of adequate time to review the tool prior to a vote expected at the Dec. 5 board meeting.

Conn, too, said she wanted more time to peruse a lengthy list of new board policies, although Tenney and district leaders stated most relate to state legislation that must be followed with or without a board vote. Fellow board member Jane Robertson said these policies are not opinions, but documents crafted through the Arizona School Boards Association to ensure all member boards comply with state law. In a 3-2 vote, the board agreed to postpone a vote on approval of those policies until next month.

In other business, Prescott High Principal Adam Neely asked permission for board approval for two 2024-2025 international trips: the first would be a spring break trip to Rome, Italy and Athens, Greece and the second would be a summer trip to the Galapagos Islands. The trips would be offered to between 15 and 70 students with one adult chaperone per six students. The costs for each trip organized through EF Education Tours will cost around \$4,500.

Before both trips were approved in a unanimous vote of all five board members, Conn queried about the wisdom of such trips given all the unrest in the world today. Neely assured that EF will cancel and redeem all costs if they determine it is unsafe to go forward with any particular tour. Tenney also noted that these trips must be sanctioned by parents, with some of those parents serving as volunteer chaperones.

The board also unanimously approved a closer-to-home wrestling tournament trip in Reno, Nevada for three to five of the Prescott High wrestling team seniors during the coming Christmas break.

In another matter, the Governing Board voted unanimously to sign a resolution condemning the actions of the new Arizona School Boards Association executive director, who admitted to falsifying his resume prior to his hire.

To date, ASBA has opted to retain Devin Del Palacio despite its members' concerns about the hiring process. This resolution from ASBA Governing Board members asks for an independent investigation into whether this was an improper hiring selection.

ASBA is an organization that Governing Boards trust because they have always operated with a high level of integrity, and the controversy related to the new executive director "calls into question that integrity," Tenney said.

As elected members of a Governing Board that is an ASBA member, President Andy Fraher said he felt it important members be presented with the resolution.

"I think it's important that we express our views," he said.

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