MEETING SUMMARY OF
THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR
Anthem Preparatory Academy; Archway Classical Academy – Arete;
Archway Classical Academy – Chandler; Archway Classical Academy – Cicero;
Archway Classical Academy – Glendale; Archway Classical Academy – Lincoln;
Archway Classical Academy – North Phoenix; Archway Classical Academy – Scottsdale;
Archway Classical Academy – Trivium East; Archway Classical Academy – Trivium West;
Archway Classical Academy – Veritas; Arete Preparatory Academy; Chandler Preparatory Academy;
Cicero Preparatory Academy; Glendale Preparatory Academy; Lincoln Preparatory Academy;
Maryvale Preparatory Academy; North Phoenix Preparatory Academy;
Scottsdale Preparatory Academy; Trivium Preparatory Academy; Veritas Preparatory Academy

Date: August 13, 2020

Time: 11:02 a.m.

Location: Via ZOOM (the teleconference information was identified in the notice and agenda for this meeting)

Board Directors Present: Board Directors Absent:
Robert Mulhern, Chairman
Philip Tirone, Vice Chairman
Diane Bishop, Secretary
Cristofer Pereyra

Item 1. Call to Order: Recorded comments are available.
Robert Mulhern, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. and presided over meeting.

Items taken out of order

Item 3. Recognition of Karen Williams Board Service: Recorded comments are available

Motion:
I move, to acknowledge the resignation of Karen Williams and remove her as a Board member.
Motioned by Philip Tirone
Seconded by Cristofer Pereyra

Motion passed unanimously: 4-0
Aye: Mulhern, Tirone, Bishop, Pereyra

Item 2. Call to the Public: Recorded comments are available.

Item 4. Election of Officers: Recorded comments are available

Motion:
I move, to approve Robert Mulhern as Board Chair, Philip Tirone as Vice Chair and Diane Bishop as Secretary.
Motioned by Cristofer Pereyra
Seconded by Philip Tirone

Motion passed unanimously: 4-0
Aye: Mulhern, Tirone, Bishop, Pereyra
Item 5. Discussion and Consideration of Great Hearts Mask Policy: Recorded comments are available

Motion:
I move, to approve the Mask Policy as presented.

Motioned by Philip Tirone
Seconded by Diane Bishop

Motion passed unanimously: 4-0
Aye: Mulhern, Tirone, Bishop, Pereyra

Item 6. Discussion and Consideration of Great Hearts Mitigation Plan: Recorded comments are available

Motion:
I move, to approve the Mitigation Plan with the amendments that were discussed in this meeting.

Motioned by Philip Tirone
Seconded by Diane Bishop

Motion passed unanimously: 4-0
Aye: Mulhern, Tirone, Bishop, Pereyra

Item 7. Discussion and Consideration regarding the Benchmark Recommendations released by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Guidance from County Health Officials, Community needs and available resources to determine when In-Person Teacher-Led Classroom Instruction can safely be made available: Recorded comments are available

Item 8. Pre-Audit June 2020 Financial Results
This item was moved to next week’s meeting.

Item 9. Announcements/Adjournment: Recorded comments are available

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:01 p.m.
11:12:54 From Kevin: Kevin K - The need to open now

11:14:32 From Sarah’s iPhone: Sarah ... need to open now.

11:14:36 From Amy W: How do you rectify the mental and emotional affect that this is having on our children? my 3rd grader cries every morning because she just wants to go to school. this is not good for our children. Please PLEASE vote to go back in person now!

11:15:20 From Tiffany C: Tiffany C - The risk/reward of opening.

11:15:48 From Mike’s iPhone (2): AGREED

11:15:57 From Jennifer Bradshaw: Thank you Mr. K for your service and for your thoughts

11:16:09 From Beth L: Younger children are struggling and remote learning is no replacement for in person learning. Parents should have the choice and we choose to go back to school.

11:16:14 From Beth G: Agreed with Mr. K.

11:16:18 From Steve: Disagree 100%

11:16:25 From Mike’s iPhone (2): thank you mr K very well articulated

11:16:26 From Beth L: Agreed with Mr. K.

11:16:45 From Amy W: well said Kevin!

11:17:03 From Christa T: Christa T - I can speak

11:17:09 From Beth G: Agreed with everything Mr. T also. Thank you!

11:17:38 From Kevin: Agree with Mr. T 100%

11:17:48 From Mike’s iPhone (2): YES you have our support

11:17:55 From Mike’s iPhone (2): thank you Blake!

11:18:16 From mr T: Thank you Mr. T and Kevin, profound agreement

11:18:19 From sylvia: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak

11:18:34 From Mike’s iPhone (2): profound agreement Mr T indeed

11:18:39 From Cody & Heather A: Brilliant message from Mr. T and we agree completely.

11:19:04 From Amy W: GO TIFFANY!

11:19:16 From Jianna w: I would like to speak...

11:19:18 From Beth L: Thank you Tiffany! Well said.

11:19:18 From Beth G: Yes, Tiffany, thank you!

11:19:36 From Jianna w: Blake AMAZING... agree 100%

11:19:52 From bill B: Agree with Mr. T.

11:19:57 From Sarah’s iPhone: I agree with Tiffany completely!

11:19:57 From Blake T: Agree Tiffany! There is nothing safe about the mental health damage being done in this moment.

11:19:59 From Mike & Kristin S: As parent’s of two Scottsdale Prep and two Archway Scottsdale students, we are in agreement with the American Academy of Pediatrics - we must get kids back to school.

11:20:00 From Mike’s iPhone (2): yes!!! we’re sacrificing the kids for the aging tiny minority who are at real risk

11:20:09 From Kevin: Well said Tiffany

11:20:09 From Amy W: Go Christa GOOO!

11:20:22 From Mike’s iPhone (2): nicely said Tiffany

11:20:23 From Sarah’s iPhone: I would like to speak. I am not sure the cue

11:20:34 From Dan G: It is important to teach our children to persevere through adversity, not cower from it. Perseverance is the quality that made this country what it is. I support parents who choose to teach their kids virtually, but that shouldn’t stop those of us that want to send our kids to school. It is important for our kids development to be in school.


11:21:30 From Betsy L: Betsy L - I have students both at ACS and SPA. First of all, I would love to give credit to GH, admin, staff, and faculty at both schools for the amazing at-home instruction and communication. It has been a great improvement from Q4, and we were pleased with that effort! My 6th grader is working independently with great success. My 1st grader is thriving, engaged, and excited to learn. However, there are many families who are not as blessed with flexible schedules or students who do well in this virtual environment. We are eager to return to in-person learning, and fully support a return as soon as possible. The schools are taking such measures to protect the children as much as reasonable. I feel confident that we will start successfully, and appreciate the choice families have to stay home if that’s the best solution for their family.
Younger children are struggling to be heard in virtual learning.

We teach our kids about courage, liberty, freedom, etc. Talking about it and exercising it are worlds apart. We need to act those values now, or else they are meaningless, and our children will know it.

Patricia's iPad: Patricia if there is still time. We can do hard things...together!! Teaching our children

Charu: The state and local guidelines set out for reopening are the cumulative work of health officials and experts who have spent their careers studying and preparing for these situations. It is imperative to make these decisions based on available data. Currently available data is limited by the fact that children under 18 have not really congregated since March. I think great hearts is doing an amazing job in tracking this data and making their decisions based off of that.

Steve: no we don't. don't speak for me.

Charu: Thank you Christa! Completely agree with Blake and Tiffany. Very well said.

Amy: well said Christa!

Tiffany: @Charu11111111, There have been a large number of camps open all summer.

Steve: this secret meeting is filled with supporters where are the opposition?

Kevin: The medical community is not uniform on COVID. Those in the medical community who speak out against the closures speak about the relative immunity of children, and the efficacy of treatments, are censored. That is political and not science.

Cody & Heather: Our 3rd grader was in tears because he is not noticed and feels ignored participating on the Zoom sessions. Our 5th grader tells us daily how “depressed” he is he cannot be in school with his friends. We deserve to have the choice to take the known risks. If teachers or children are concerned, it’s their choice not to back; but don’t take away our right to choose.

Charu: completely. agree with Dr. C.

Jennifer Bradshaw: Thank you Sylvia

Charu: and again there are choices if you wish to keep their children home.

Beth: Thank you, Jianna! Agreed!

Blake: Cody & Heather -- agree 100%.

Beth: Thank you, Jianna. YES. Completely agree.

Sarah's iPhone: the hospitalization rates for the flu last year for children 5-17 was 22.6/100,000 and is currently according to the cdc 7/100,000. If we were to use the Covid metrics for the flu season last year we would have been closed for 18 weeks.

Tiffany: Thank you, Jianna!

Amy: yes Jianna

Jackie: From a medical family who is in the covid unit specifically at Phoenix Children's, we need to get the kids back in school. The covid unit is being decreased daily because kids are not coming in with covid. Suicide, abuse, and everyday health issues that could be treated if not left alone.

Amanda: Teaching our children courage over fear and addressing their mental and emotional health by safely returning as soon as possible is so important. I agree with you Jianna.

Sarah's iPhone: thank you Jackie. I am also very concerned about the mental health of children and parents.
From [redacted]: Personally, I worry when there is this type of meeting when there is ONLY one point of view shared by all attendees.

From Steve: That is a lie. Phx Children isn’t closing units. Do you have facts? Hearsay doesn’t count. Secret meetings violate open meeting laws.

From [redacted]: Amen the flu... it makes no sense to respond to this the way we are but to stay open during a typical flu season.

From [redacted]: seems like we are not hearing the opposite point of view.

From Jen [redacted]: Our family is unified with those requesting return to school. Well put by those supporting return to in-class.

From iPhone: agree.

From Amy [redacted]: yes Sarah!

From Beth [redacted]: Thank you, Sarah.

From Beth [redacted]: Thank you Sarah.

From Mike’s iPhone (2): dr sarah I agree!!!!

From Mike’s iPhone (2): agree Jianna!

From Steve: wow.

From Angie [redacted]: We don’t live in a zero risk society and I believe that Great Hearts has thought through the in-person opening in a positive way and have implemented as many safety precautions as possible. The parents who have concerns have the option to keep their children in distant learning. I believe we should have the option and if we need to sign a waiver of understanding I would be more than happy to do that. Keeping the kids out of school until we have all the answers will only harm them more. My kiddos, in 5th and 1st grade are both struggling with all the screen time and my 1st grader feels like she’s unable to connect with her new friends via a computer screen. The mental aspect is so much more important at this time.

From Amy [redacted]: Speak the truth Sarah!

From Tiffany [redacted]: Thank you Sarah.

From Michelle [redacted]: we LOVE our school but we have to get back to the classroom! Please vote to have our kids return asap. My only child is suffering from being away from her teachers and friends, was honestly depressed last Spring and it’s starting again. We signed up for Great Hearts bc it is a classical education not technology based or to have my child in front of a screen all day. The science does not support keeping kids under 15 home any longer. The CDC just came out with a new study from 2/1/20-8/12/20 in the US, there was only 23 deaths from COVID and 88 from pneumonia. The American Academy of Pediatrics also supports going back to school and a new journal of Pediatrics shows children are NOT super spreaders. Being around other adults is more dangerous than being around children. Please note-most private schools in AZ are opening Monday, several charters are opening this month. I fear we will lose families to these schools who actually open. Please don’t let our kids suffer any longer. Thank you for your time.

From iPhone: So well said Sarah!!

From Mike’s iPhone (2): YES please let’s show these children we will put them first.

From Chelsey [redacted]: Yes! Thank you Sarah!

From Mike & Mary [redacted]: Well said Sarah, thank you.

From Jeff [redacted]: well put Sarah, thank you and agreed.

From St [redacted]: I plead for you to open the schools. I have four kids in the Lincoln schools, and this distance learning is not working. My littles hate getting on Zoom everyday. So, I spend my mornings pleading with my littles to get on Zoom (because they have no choice). My 3rd grader is desperate to been seen and heard, but he is so defeated everyday because it is impossible to be seen on Zoom. I know the teachers are doing their best, but learning behind a computer screen is not learning at all. Please open these schools...for the sake of our children!

From Michelle [redacted]: Yes, Sarah, thank you!!

From St [redacted]: Thank you, Sarah!

From Mike’s iPhone (2): masks work so send them back with masks.

From Steve: Clearly this meeting was only disseminated to supporters of opening. This meeting was NOT shared with the general population. Clearly the amount of ppl present represents that.

From Tiffany [redacted]: If the JCC is open with kids, maybe school should be open to kids.

From Beth [redacted]: Please open our schools.

From Tiffany [redacted]: The Governor’s metrics are rooted in the pressure he has...
received from Senator Sinema. Not any science that shows a high risk to kids.

11:36:30 From Nicole G [iPhone]: CDC says schools should be open to students.
11:36:42 From Mike’s iPhone (2): yes Nicole!
11:36:44 From Beth G [iPhone]: Could someone please post the email where we can send our comments to the board if we do not get to speak or want our comments on record?
11:36:45 From [email protected]: THANK YOU, Laura M [..YES
11:36:45 From Linda R [iPhone]: No required masks. They harbor germs and are unsanitary to wear continuously.
11:37:02 From Sarah’s iPhone: if parents want their children home then they can stay home. This should be the CHOICE of the parents and not the choice of government officials.
11:37:04 From Tiffany C [.: Then why do we all have to stay home?! YOU choose to keep your kids home. WE can choose to send ours.
11:37:08 From Cody & Heather A [.: Completely disagree with Laura. If we’re basing decisions on science, there is none that supports remaining closed.
11:37:12 From m [.] One thing I don’t want to get lost... my kids' teachers are doing a FANTASTIC job under very difficult circumstances. I do not think remote learning is nearly as effective, but I also understand it could be far worse (and is, sadly, if stories I hear from non-GH parents are true).
11:37:16 From Beth G [.] If parents want to keep their kids home, they have their option.
11:37:23 From Charu K [.] Agree with laura 100%
11:37:31 From Linda R [.] if you feel social distancing works then masks are not needed.
11:37:37 From Ron Zoromski to Bianca Ulibarri(Privateley): Bianca how many participants on the call?
11:37:39 From Sarah’s iPhone: also the numbers have changed since that survey went out and many parents decided to choose in person vs online.
11:37:46 From m [.] Kids are not in danger. There is no science backing this notion and the Academy of Pediatrics agrees.
11:37:47 From Dan G [.] : Data/metrics can be used to support most any position depending on the measure you choose to discuss. The point is that parents should have the option.
11:37:47 From Amanda M [.] : I agree Sarah!!! We should be able to CHOOSE
11:37:49 From Charu K [.] I can speak as well if there is time
11:37:50 From Jianna W [.] The board needs to consider both sides Laura...Give parents a choice to either send kids back in person full time OR remote full time...if you don't feel comfortable then stay home.
11:37:51 From Amy W: stay home if you are concerned
11:37:53 From Mike’s iPhone (2): YOU stay home with your “science”
11:37:54 From Sill: Parents have a choice - you can continue online learning.
11:37:56 From sylvia C [.] agree with Laura
11:38:02 From Mike’s iPhone (2): we should have a CHOICE
11:38:10 From Nicole G [.] : In person or remote are beautiful choices for families.
11:38:27 From Mike’s iPhone (2): PLEASE GIVE US A CHOICE
11:38:30 From Christa T [.] : That survey data is now old. You have a choice to keep your kids at home if you don’t feel it is safe.
11:38:31 From Patricia’s iPad: continue all the mitigation efforts and follow the metrics we are very close
11:38:37 From Beth G [.] : Give us a choice, please!
11:38:38 From bill B to Bianca Ulibarri(Privateley): how do we ask to speak?
11:38:40 From m [.] If you assume the mantle of "SCIENCE" please support your argument with logic and evidence.
11:38:44 From Beth G [.] : Hello, my name is Beth G [.. and I have two children in 1st and 2nd grade at Archway Arete. I’m asking the board today to reopen our schools on the 31st and not to continue moving the goal post. We are parents of school choice and have chosen to send our children to Great Hearts for the education and the goodness you cultivate in our children. I have read the “benchmarks” put forth by the Department of Health. The benchmarks put forth could possibly not be met for months if not longer, namely the percent positivity. This is not acceptable and what is missing from the DHS website and the COVID benchmarks are the mental, physical and emotional health of our children. The TRUTH is they are also suffering; not just in the aforementioned categories, but academically. The schoolyear for our children ended so abruptly and it was understandable the schools were not prepared for this type of event, but parents were forced to adapt to the situation and take on these new roles so that we
would be ab
11:38:52 From Ron Zoromski to Bianca Ulibarri (Privately): Found it.
11:39:03 From Bianca Ulibarri: Hello all, For clarification this is a public meeting. Pursuant to Open Meeting Law, this Board is required to post their meeting notices and agendas at least 24 hours in advance to their meeting. The August 13, 2020 meeting notice and agenda was posted on the Finance & Compliance page of each schools website on Thursday, August 6th.
11:39:07 From [redacted]: thank you Laura for bravely representing the point of view of so many, even if they are not all on this call.
11:39:18 From Mike’s iPhone (2): we will enroll our son in Christian school if you don’t open in September
11:39:19 From Kristin H: Allow freedom of choice please
11:39:19 From marisa k: we are just asking for the choice!!!! Those we prefer to keep their children home can choose that option
11:39:23 From Angie H: Survey numbers have changed since it originally went out and those of us who are willing to send out children to in-building should have the choice. Those that don’t want their children in-building have the choice to continue DL.
11:39:48 From Jackie W: I beg you to consider the kids with special needs as well. I have a child with an IEP and the online learning is not working. His teacher asked him to repeat himself 3 times and she still couldn’t understand him. He is detaching himself from the class because of this. In person they would’ve been able to hear and understand him. Those that are fighting to keep schools close have the option to keep their kids home. We don’t have the option to send ours back. The survival rate is 99%. you cannot get a better survival rate than that. it isn’t going anywhere and we need to get back to normalcy. Give teachers the option that want to stay online, work online, and those that want to go back in person that option.
11:40:20 From iPhone: Thank you for letting us join in on the meeting. I sent an email, but am pleading that you reopen the schools, thank you!
11:40:42 From Jennifer Bradshaw: Thank you Laura
11:40:53 From Jeff G: I agree that students and families should have a choice to continue remote learning if that’s right for them. But likewise, the choice for classroom learning should be an option - which is right for ours / many families). Thank you.
11:41:05 From Dan G: Thank you to the Board and the staff members that have to make these difficult decisions, please give parents the choice to return if they so choose.

At this time, Item 2. Call to the Public ended.

What follows is additional public comments made after Item 2.
11:41:10 From Sarah’s iPhone: agreed Jeff.
11:41:44 From Jianna W.: Please just give us a choice...thank you
11:42:58 From Charu K.: Masks have a proven track record. We should be wearing masks, 100%
11:45:01 From Mike’s iPhone (2): why do we have to follow the dhs guidelines?
11:45:11 From Charul: Having a choice is absolutely a fundamental pillar of freedom. Sacrifice of personal freedom for greater good is courage not fear.
11:45:43 From Linda: There’s a reason when you blow your nose, you throw the tissue away. You don’t wear it on your face all day. It’s full of germs. Masks are full of bacteria you exhale from you mouth and nose. Just gross.
11:46:10 From Bonnie M.: Bonnie M - I’m glad Great Hearts has offered remote and on-campus learning options; allowing parents the choice. Although, where I’m disheartened is in the remote learning not being on par with on-campus learning. Please increase the amount of live learning for students who are remote. A suggestion, have technology in the classroom so that students who are remote are able to Zoom into class. Learning for both inperson and remote needs to stay on the same track.
11:46:14 From Linda R.: Freedom is not to be sacrificed for security.
11:46:28 From charul: yes, Linda
11:46:43 From bill E.: Over the past few months camps and clubs have been operating around the state and seem to be doing well. The Y and Boys and Girls club is hosting kids as school and are not being restricted but schools are. Parents have a full and free choice to attend school or go virtual. It is not reasonable to ask parents who choose in-person school to be penalized by those who choose virtual but resent the choices of others. It seems more of a desire to direct their choices upon others or a fear of missing out. Please look to choice as a responsibility of those making the choice to choose what is best for themselves. Epidemiological data shows Covid was affecting death rates in AZ in Nov. 2019 and has had a similar rate each month since. Through March 2020, this was not an issue. Please look to data and facts and try to parse viral Covid from Political Covid. GH is a leader in education, please remain a leader. I know the BOD is in an unenviable position and we would hope you listen to parents and their choices.
11:47:37 From Linda : Masking distorts facial features and dehuminizes.
ecd=wnl_evn_200812_mdedge_8pm&utm_source=News%5FMDedge%5FeNL%5F081220%5FC&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Trending%3A%20COVID%2D19%20cases%20in%20children%20early%20doubled%20in%20just%204%20weeks
11:48:08 From Mike's iPhone (2) : my forefathers died so that we could have freedom. freedom and not security (security as defined by a government overstepping its bounds)
11:48:58 From Linda : Oxygen is a right. It is wrong to restrict oxygen!
11:49:04 From Jess : “In areas with rapid community spread, it’s likely that more children will also be infected, and these data show that,” Sally Goza, MD, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said in a written statement.
11:50:10 From Beth : Thank you, Mike. Agreed.
11:51:11 From Linda : The psychological damage to covering faces needs to be considered.
11:51:31 From Patricia's iPad : children are malleable and they can be taught... the reason the JCC was very successful is because they followed county guidelines. You are not impeding the flow of oxygen using a mask. we use it all the time in the hospital and in the OR - while taking care of Covid patients. There are clear masks or face shields for those that cannot do the mask.
11:51:49 From Jianna : How did you come up with the age requirement for masks for kids? In other states the age is 11 or older?
11:52:05 From Charu : the GH mask policy as it stands is VERY GOOD. For that matter, their overall handle on this situation is commendable.
11:52:32 From Emily : My husband is a teacher and wants to go back! He misses his kids just as much as they miss their teachers!
11:53:03 From Linda : explain how masks will work for kids in Choir??????
11:53:08 From Jess : Thank you for protecting the teachers with the masks!
11:53:35 From Jess : Keep your child home if you do not want them to wear a mask!
11:53:39 From Jeff : Agreed Charu. The mitigation helps support our decision and support (along with choice of in-class or remote).
11:54:02 From Beth : Yes and I work in law enforcement every day since March. Take precautions which you have done and open our schools.