

**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; Great Hearts Online - Arizona

Date: December 2, 2021

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

Board Directors Present:

Robert Mulhern, *Chairman*
Philip Tirone, *Vice Chairman*
Cristofer Pereyra, *Director*

Board Directors Absent:

Diane Bishop, *Secretary*

Item 1. Call to Order: *Recorded comments are available.*

Robert Mulhern, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. and presided over meeting.

Item 2. Call to the Public: *Recorded comments are available and written comments attached.*

Item 3. Approval of Consent Agenda: *Recorded comments are available.*

a. Approval of the following amendment requests:

1. Anthem Preparatory Academy

i. School Location to Arroyo Norte Drive & Hudson Trail

2. Archway Classical Academy Trivium East:

i. Enrollment Cap Increase from 540 to 2000

ii. Grade Level Change to add 6-12

iii. School Location to Jackrabbit Trail & W. Blue Horizons Pkwy

iv. School Name to Great Hearts Academies - Roosevelt

v. Charter Mission to reflect updated name

vi. Charter Holder Name to Roosevelt Preparatory Academy

3. Archway Classical Academy Trivium West:

i. School Name to remove West

ii. Charter Mission to remove West

iii. Charter Holder Name to remove West

b. Approval of the Transfer Application for Archway Classical Academy Trivium West

Motion:

I move, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motioned by *Philip Tirone*

Seconded by *Cristofer Pereyra*

Motion passed unanimously: 3-0

Aye: Mulhern, Tirone, Pereyra

Item 4. Discussion and Consideration to add Silvia Hayakawa to the Disciplinary Hearing Committee:

Recorded comments are available.

Motion:

I move, to add Silvia Hayakawa to the Disciplinary Hearing Committee.

Motioned by *Cristofer Pereyra*

Seconded by *Philip Tirone*

Motion passed unanimously: 3-0

Aye: Mulhern, Tirone, Pereyra

Items taken out of order

Item 6. Financial Reports:

- a. 1st Year Quarterly Results FY22 Financials Reports
- b. Discussion and action to accept the following audits and compliance questionnaires by roll call vote in compliance with H.B. 2018, 55th Legislature, First Regular Session (2021).
 1. Anthem Preparatory Academy
 2. Archway Classical Academy Arete
 3. Archway Classical Academy Chandler
 4. Archway Classical Academy Cicero
 5. Archway Classical Academy Glendale
 6. Archway Classical Academy Lincoln
 7. Archway Classical Academy North Phoenix
 8. Archway Classical Academy Scottsdale
 9. Archway Classical Academy Trivium East
 10. Archway Classical Academy Trivium West
 11. Archway Classical Academy Veritas
 12. Arete Preparatory Academy
 13. Chandler Preparatory Academy
 14. Cicero Preparatory Academy
 15. Glendale Preparatory Academy
 16. Lincoln Preparatory Academy
 17. North Phoenix Preparatory Academy
 18. Scottsdale Preparatory Academy
 19. Trivium Preparatory Academy
 20. Veritas Preparatory Academy

Motion:

I move, to approve the audits and compliance questionnaires in compliance with H.B. 2018.

Motioned by *Philip Tirone*

Seconded by *Cristofer Pereyra*

Motion passed unanimously: 3-0

Aye: Mulhern, Tirone, Pereyra

Item 7. Discussion and action to change the current Charter Representative for all Great Hearts academies. Recorded comments are available.

Motion:

I move, to remove Erik Twist and add Brandon Crowe as the Charter Representative.

Motioned by *Cristofer Pereyra*

Seconded by *Philip Tirone*

Motion passed unanimously: 3-0

Aye: Mulhern, Tirone, Pereyra

Item 5. Academy Operations Report: *Recorded comments are available.*

- a. COVID-19 Update
- b. Update on New School Building Projects
- c. Update on Exceptional Student Services

Item 7. Announcements/Adjournment: *Recorded comments are available.*

Motion:

I move, to adjourn the meeting.

Motioned by *Cristofer Pereyra*

Seconded by *Philip Tirone*

Motion passed unanimously: 2-0

Aye: Tirone, Pereyra

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:28 p.m.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AZGoverningBoard](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Governing Board meeting for GH
Date: Thursday, December 2, 2021 11:54:24 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Governing Board,

I understand that there was a discussion about masks and vaccines for our students that are attending Great Hearts. I would like to go on record as being against this. We should not be discussing any option of mandating an experimental drug on children. There are no long term studies on this vaccine on children.

I'm truly not trying to be difficult. I would just like to know who would be responsible for any adverse reactions that the children may suffer from being administered this vaccine? I am happy to discuss this further if someone would like to reach out to me.

Thank you for your attention,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Erik Twist](#); [Leanne Fawcett](#); [Bianca Ulibarri](#); [Jay Heiler](#); [Ron Zoromski](#); [Robert Jackson](#); [Marilyn Papke](#); [Dan Scoggin](#); [AZGoverningBoard](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Parent Feedback for Board Meeting
Date: Thursday, December 2, 2021 10:12:24 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Great Hearts Leaders,

In lieu of attending Thursday's Arizona board meeting due to conflicts with my own work schedule, please consider and share my statements below.

- School interruptions due to Covid-19 outbreaks at each Arizona school have been a huge strain on teachers and students this school year. Great Hearts needs to promote to the entire community the importance of vaccines and masking to prevent this cycle of Covid-19 spread from continuing. Vaccines are available for ALL STUDENTS now and that should be promoted and encouraged.
 - I do personally track the cases at each school in the network on a daily basis and have watched the pattern of outbreaks that have occurred.
 - At my children's school, they have had major interruptions with teachers out sick and many close contact occurrences.
- Great Hearts should not claim that the virus is not spread through the air and that surface cleaning will take care of it as was sent to us in a recent close contact email. See text below in the section titled "How is it spread?". This is false, especially in conjunction with minimal masking, and needs to be retracted immediately. Great Hearts is not qualified to make "we do not think" type statements. They need to state facts from health experts.
 - ***How is it spread?***
*COVID-19 spreads most commonly in the same way as the common cold or flu — through respiratory droplets that are produced when someone coughs or sneezes. **We do not think that COVID-19 spreads through the air across the room**, and that it is easily cleaned off of surfaces using routine disinfectants.*

Respectively,

[REDACTED]

Dear Great Hearts Board Members,

I had planned to speak today, and appreciate your patience as I tried to get the computer settings to cooperate on my laptop. We have been following the pandemic for almost two years now. On August 12th of 2020, Mr. Twist sent an email about starting in person learning when the county positivity rate was below 7%. He gave data from the county and took time to explain this information to me in follow up emails. We started the school year at 7% positivity fully masked while many schools remained closed. It was a risk, but it worked! *I was thankful that school did not close last year.* Great Hearts did an exceptional job keeping our kids and families safe during the pandemic with a mask policy in place. The evidence is in the fact that not only did we have no outbreaks as other schools did, but we had **the highest attendance of faculty and students during cold and flu season** since the school opened, no mono, hand-foot-mouth disease, strep, flu; absences were mitigated by careful sanitization and masking. Empirical evidence that masks worked. This is backed by the common practice of mask wearing in other countries, the practice of wearing masks in medical facilities, and the recommendations of scientific advisors of the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control, National Institute of Health, and our own Maricopa County Health Services.

Fast forward to the 2021 school year and looking at campus you would think there was no pandemic. Great Hearts is living with its head in the sand and ignoring what is happening globally. It is not acting as great-hearted citizens or even attempting to protect its most vulnerable population. I have begged for the mask policy to be restored because my son and parents are at risk from this careless direction. My son is immune compromised, he is allergic to everything, including the ingredients of the vaccine (yes I paid to have him tested for reactivity because he was hospitalized for almost a week and put on oxygen following prior vaccines). My parents are older and my father recently recovered from cancer are also at risk even with the vaccine. I was told Great Hearts was complying with a state directive that prohibited schools from mandating masks. I read the legislation and there was nothing in this legislation that prohibited mask use, this was a convenient excuse. Since July, the courts have ruled the legislation to be flawed and was thrown out. There is no longer a state rule standing between Great Hearts and children's safety. The court has overturned the state rules on school mask mandates, leaving Great Hearts open to change their policy if they so choose. Some might consider this willful negligence for failing to follow health standards that would protect families at risk. a

Great Hearts has deferred responsibility of decision making to a handful of individuals with no background in epidemiology, immunology or medicine. Mr. Twist informed me that the decision and discretion to not mask at school this year lies with himself and your Executive Director for Upper Schools, Brandon Crowe. **The Maricopa County rate of positivity is at 12%, ironically higher than what we were allowed to even open school last year with masks. This is during a time when almost 60% of the Arizona population is vaccinated, so presumably we should have fewer cases of positivity than last August.** Last August, we were not allowed to return to school until we had 2 full weeks at less than 7% positivity of cases in the County. School opening last year required masks and we succeeded in beating the odds with covid cases.

The policy direction of Great Hearts has nothing to do with science, and it leaves many at unnecessary risk of exposure. The WHO, CDC, NIH, AZ and County Health Departments all give professionally advised public policy on personal protective equipment necessary for the prevention of the spread of a virus that has cost millions of dollars and lives. Is it willful negligence to ignore all levels of government and the scientific medical community when operating a school during a pandemic without masks?

This lack of protections for our family's health and welfare, is done with blatant disregard for the federal, state and county guidelines for how to manage in person learning during a pandemic:

Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as screening testing.

Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.

The Veritas covid counter shows 5 cases, and Archway has 14 cases, but these are only the ones confirmed by test. Ignorance is bliss, if kids' parents want them in school, they simply don't test, so you have no idea if a student is asymptomatic, has allergies, has a common cold, or covid unless they actively come to school sick and haven't been drugged to cover the symptoms, which some parents do for the convenience of sending their kids to school. I've personally witnessed this twice prior to the pandemic in the front office.

Face Coverings Are Recommended for Everyone in K12

Public school districts and charters are no longer prohibited from mandating face coverings for students and staff per the [Monday, September 27, 2021 court ruling](#).

In accordance with the [CDC](#) and the [Arizona Department of Health Services \(ADHS\)](#), face coverings are recommended and encouraged for all individuals in K12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Consistent and [correct mask use](#) by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Public schools can and should encourage consistent and correct mask use. Under the current state law, a school district or charter may require its students and staff to wear a mask in school or while on other school facilities.

If you've not read the full court ruling, the last page ironically ends with this:

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY

CV2021012741

09/22/2021

FOR ALL IN-PERSON APPEARANCES: Due to the spread of COVID-19, the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order 2021-109 and the Maricopa County Superior Court Administrative Order 2021-119 require all individuals entering a court facility in Maricopa County to wear a mask or face covering at all times that they are inside the facility. Any person who refuses to wear a mask or face covering as directed by court personnel will be denied access to the facility. If a participant is denied physical access to a courthouse for refusing to wear a face covering, the participant must contact the assigned judicial division to determine whether the person can participate in the proceeding using an audio or video connection.

We are now at 12% positivity entering a holiday season, when over 58% of Maricopa County residents 5 years and older, and over 66% of adults 18 years and older have received at least 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine. What has changed since last year that protected *the majority of the population when vaccines were not available*? MASKS. I ask you to reconsider the decision for the remainder of the semester for the protection of our families, this is the Great-Hearted thing to do. **Keep the kids in school, keep them safe, you did it last year before the vaccines were available.**

Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter, [REDACTED]