

# Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable

Summer Convening | 7 July 2020

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

## PARTICIPANTS

City/Town	Mayor	Staff
Casa Grande	Craig H. McFarland	
Douglas	Donald Huish	Dawn Prince, Deputy City Manager Jerene Watson, City Manager
Flagstaff	Coral Evans	
Goodyear	Georgia Lord	John Raeder, Assistant to Council
Mesa	John Giles	Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager Melissa Randazzo, Chief of Staff Amy Trethaway, Mesa Counts on College
Miami	Sammy Gonzales	
Phoenix	Kate Gallego	Willa Altman-Kaough, Policy Advisor Clark Princell, Deputy Chief of Staff Tim Valencia, Education Manager
Sahuarita	Tom Murphy	
Tempe	Corey Woods	Marie Raymond, Human Services Manager Leslie Totten, Tempe PRE Supervisor
Tolleson	Anna Tovar	
<b>AZ Community Foundation</b>	Glenn Wike, Vice President for Strategy and External Affairs	
<b>Collaborative Communications</b>	Ian Hickox, Editorial Director Kris Kurtenbach, Founding Partner	
<b>Helios Education Foundation</b>	Janice Palmer, Vice President – Public Policy and Government Affairs	
<b>WestEd</b>	Sheila Arredondo, Senior Program Associate Paul Koehler, Director of Leadership and Outreach Charlie Levin, UX and Visual Designer - Information Technology	

## NOTES

City/Town	Challenges & Responses
<b>Casa Grande</b>	Digital divide – 2,500 students lack internet access; working with schools to address this issue
<b>Flagstaff</b>	LAUNCH Flagstaff – new preschool program available in August; modeled after Tempe PRE ( <a href="http://launchflagstaff.org/">http://launchflagstaff.org/</a> ) Internet access – partnership with Alliance on virtual internet grid to increase access for low-income students/families
<b>Goodyear</b>	Student attendance a concern Want to keep learning exciting for individual students More school counselors and caring adults to support and mentor students
<b>Mesa</b>	Four school districts in Mesa; cities need to be supportive partners Distance learning is the new normal and will continue. Superintendent interviews – all four superintendents said they need devices, particularly in elementary schools Digital divide – Mesa priority has been devices and internet access for online learning, particularly at the elementary level; Cox internet program for low-income families Masks – district wants face coverings for back-to-school; seek mandates to take burden off the district as well as state guidance and/or ground rules for when kids show up to school
<b>Miami</b>	Technology Internet access Local provider placed hot spots in parks and recreational facilities
<b>Phoenix</b>	Early childhood learning a priority Devices – distributed 800 tablets with two-years of built-in WiFi to housing residents through HUD’s ConnectHomeUSA program ( <a href="https://connecthome.hud.gov/">https://connecthome.hud.gov/</a> ) PPE – teachers willing to give up raises to purchase; allocated \$2.5M for PPE, including clear masks for teachers; partnership with Honeywell to purchase one million masks, will allocate funds based on enrollment, and expect delivery by August 1; gowns also needed at school sites Working to close the digital divide through partnerships
<b>Sahuarita</b>	Digital divide – greater in the unincorporated area; funding rural communities is a challenge; devices and internet connectivity lacking; county purchased hot spots at library Masks – Seek consistent guidance from state superintendent and/or governor rather than leaving to local municipalities; need guidelines on how to implement mask requirements for young students

City/Town	Challenges & Responses
<b>Tolleson</b>	Preschool – invested \$400,000 each year for the past four years Meal delivery assistance Technology and internet accessibility being supported Afterschool programming Jobs for Arizona Graduates – 97% graduation rate, JAG coordinator at parks and recreation center ( <a href="https://jagaz.org/about-us/">https://jagaz.org/about-us/</a> ) PPE – gowns, clear masks Superintendent check-ins – standing Wednesday meetings

**Superintendent Hoffman’s Remarks**

- Asked to share insights about further state guidance and mask mandates.
- Masks were included as a strategy in the Reopening Roadmap released in June.
- Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) has a reopening schools taskforce with ADE staff involved. Superintendent Hoffman will elevate the mask issue with this group. ADE intends to release an updated Roadmap.
- She has heard similar concerns from educators in cities without mask requirements. Her stance is to follow the science; a community responsibility to decrease the spread so schools can reopen safely.
- Digital divide – Technology, devices, internet a high priority for state and schools, along with high-quality instruction; another area in which ADE seeks partnerships with cities/towns. Goal is to have free public WiFi and increase broadband access in rural communities.

**Next Convening**

- Fall 2020 – WestEd to reach out to members later this month to identify a date.
- Topics – Early childhood education and reflections on reopening; how mayors worked with their superintendents to reopen schools successfully
- Speakers – Marilee Dal Pra, First Things First; Lisa Roy, Buffett Early Childhood Institute

**Reminders**

- Headshots and bios – New mayors please forward these items to WestEd ([sarredo@wested.org](mailto:sarredo@wested.org)) for the website.
- Initiatives – Please review the website initiatives for your city/town and let us know whether edits and additions are needed.

**Thank You!**