

# SERVING ON YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD



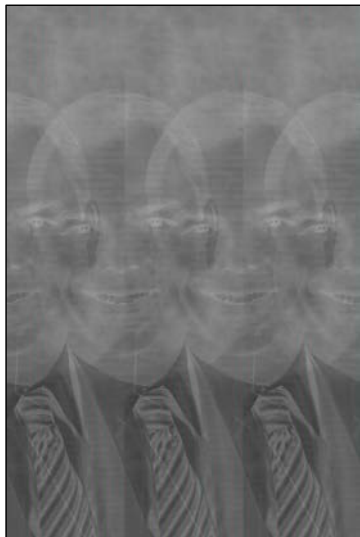
Presented by the Arizona School Boards Association

# Your Presenters Today



**Julie Bacon**

Leadership Development Specialist



**Chris Thomas**

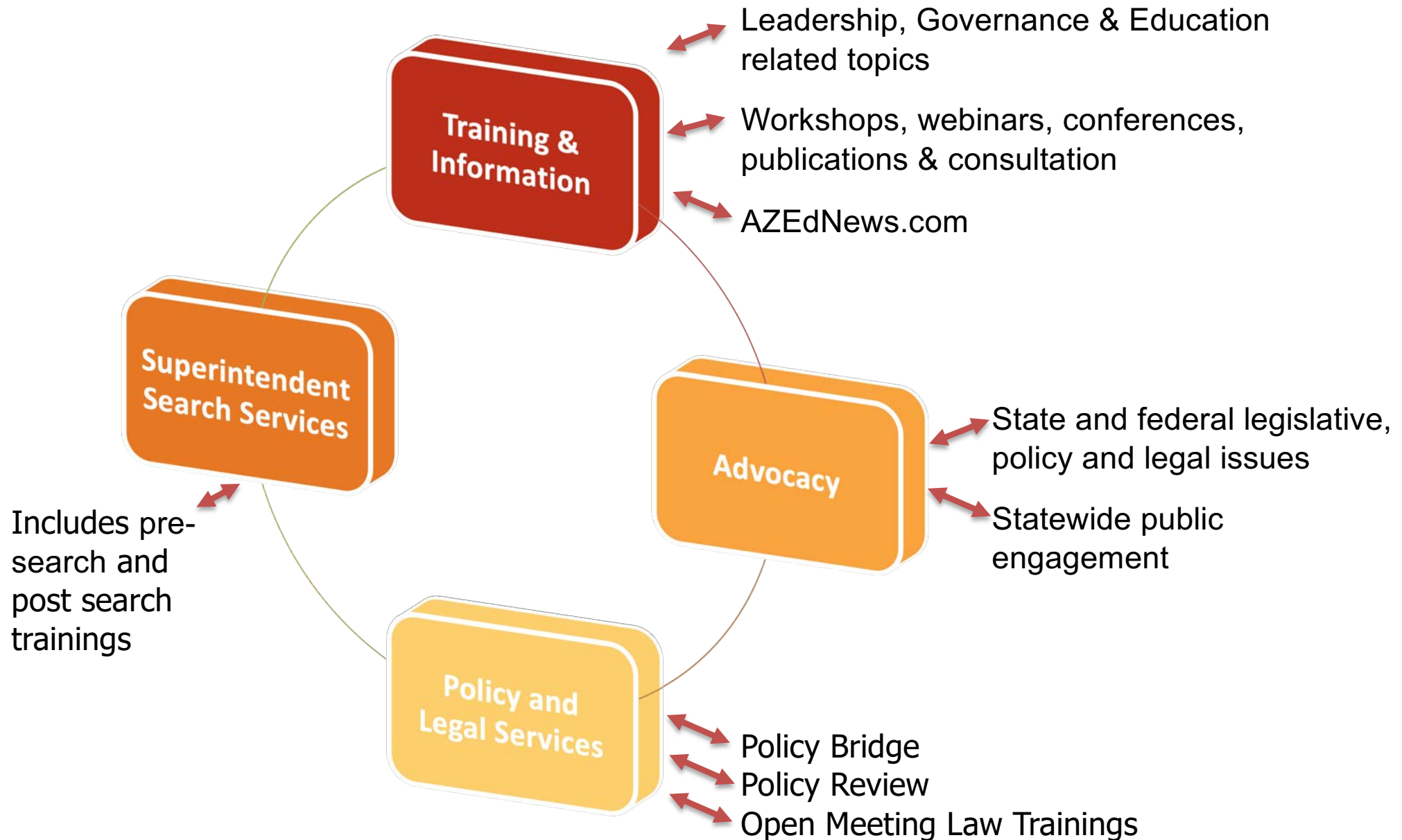
General Counsel & Associate Executive Director

# About ASBA



- Non-partisan, non-profit organization.
- Provide leadership and assistance to public school governing boards statewide.
- Promote excellence in locally governed school districts
- Serving Arizona for 70 years and counting.
- More than 223 school boards are members.
- Represent more than 1,200 school board members and 1.2 million school children.

# About ASBA



Learn more at [www.azsba.org](http://www.azsba.org)

Do you have  
a **vision** and  
**goals** for  
high  
academic  
achievement  
for all  
students?



# Legal Basis for Governing Boards



- School districts are political subdivisions of the state possessing only the authority granted to them in statute by the legislature
- Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) give certain powers to the **governing board as a body**.
- No authority is given to individual board members by statute.
- **A board's power is through majority votes at the board table.**
- A.R.S. § 15-341 outlines general powers and duties.
- A.R.S. § 15-342 outlines discretionary powers.

# Eligibility to Run



Board members must be:

- A resident of district (at least one year prior to the date of the election)
- A registered voter

Board members cannot:

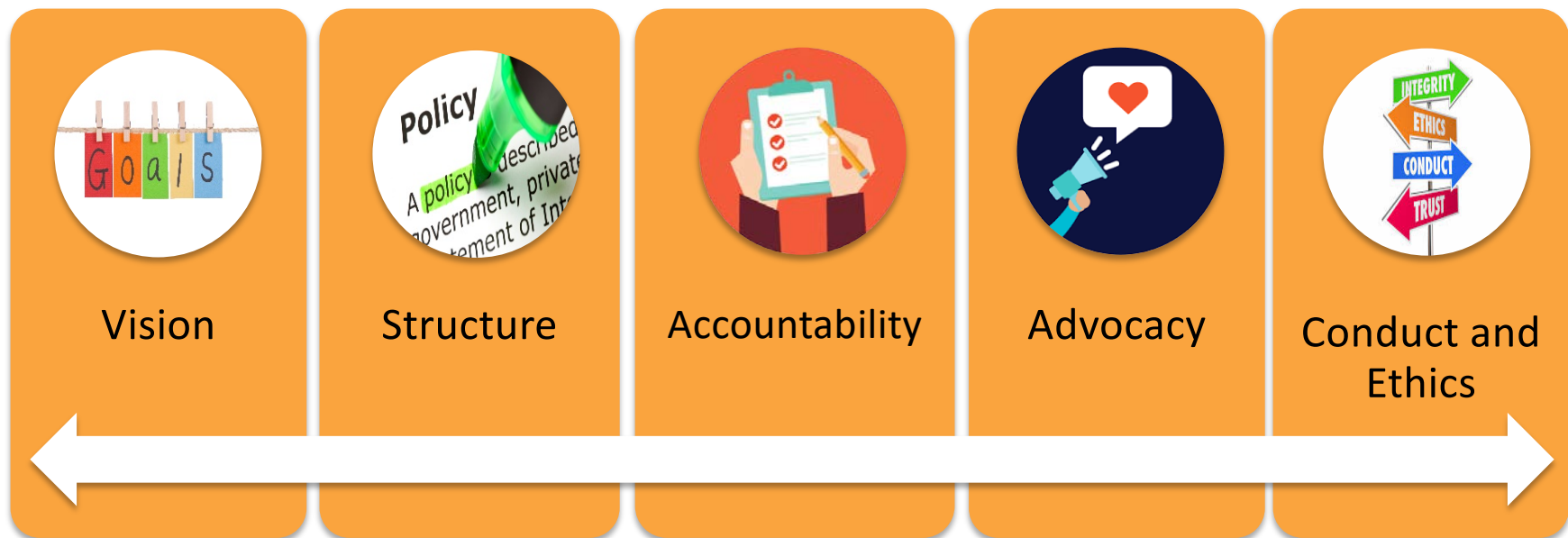
- Be employed by the district (or have spouse employed by district)
- Serve simultaneously on more than one school board
- If serving on a five member board, have lived with an immediate family member within the last four years
- In Maricopa and Pima counties with districts of more than 250 students, have more than two related (within third degree) members serve on the same board

# The Basics of Board Service



- Four-year terms (unless running to fill a vacancy of term)
- Elections in even-numbered years
- Non-partisan = no primaries
- Service begins in January following election  
(unless running to fill a vacancy of term)
- All volunteer
- Appointments by County Superintendent  
to fill vacancies

# The Five Pillars of Effective Boards



# School Board Candidate Evaluation Rubric



## SCORING RUBRIC:

- 5 – Outstanding
- 4 – Very Good
- 3 – Acceptable but not a strength
- 2 – Needs additional work
- 1 – Deficit

| CRITERIA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | SCORE | COMMENTS |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| <b>BACKGROUND:</b> Has knowledge of public schools in Arizona, and the district. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active at school or district level</li> <li>Has attended school board meetings</li> <li>Service to community</li> </ul>                                   |       |          |
| <b>Attitude toward public education, ability to be a positive ambassador for the district</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment to improving ed. in dist.</li> <li>Willing to accept policy role, not mgr.</li> <li>Respectful of different viewpoints</li> </ul> |       |          |
| <b>Work Ethic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Willing to attend all meetings</li> <li>Willing to “do homework” before mtgs</li> <li>Willing to learn how to be a great board member</li> </ul>                                                                         |       |          |
| <b>Commitment to Team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Willing to work as part of team</li> <li>Support majority position</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                    |       |          |
| <b>Communication skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to express ideas to others</li> <li>Good listener</li> <li>Analyze and draw conclusions</li> </ul>                                                                                                        |       |          |
| <b>Represents entire community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not carry the flag for special groups</li> <li>Looks out for best interests of all stakeholders, especially the children</li> </ul>                                                                |       |          |
| <b>TOTAL SCORE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |       |          |

Will you actively work to  
**inspire** parents and  
other stakeholders  
to have  
**confidence**  
in the local  
public schools?



# Why School Boards Matter



Your local school board makes decisions that...

- Affect virtually every important aspect of the local schools.
- Determine how your community's children are educated.
- Support teaching and learning, and ensure student achievement.
- Determine how tax dollars are spent.

# Why School Boards Matter



Behavior and attitude of board members affects the reputation of the entire school system.

The board's decisions impact:

- Children and their parents
- The livelihood of school system employees
- The economic well-being of the community and the quality of life in its neighborhoods.



# Do you have what it takes?

Do you understand your focus will be on **“the big picture”** ...



and not day-to-day operations  
of the district?

# Team Member Roles



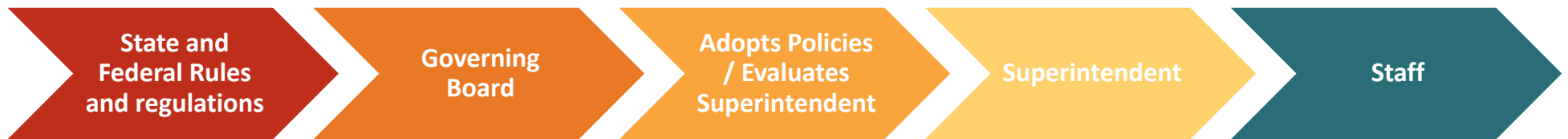
## BOARD

- Role is to **Govern**
  - Hires, evaluates and may fire the superintendent (the only employee the board directly oversees)
  - Sets direction and policy
  - Allocates resources
  - Monitors progress toward set goals
- Accountable to the community

## SUPERINTENDENT

- Role is to **Manage**
  - Oversees the day-to-day operations of the district
  - Implements policies and goals set by the board
- Accountable to the board

# Legal Authority / Chain of Command





Are you  
committed to  
focusing on a  
**broad range** of  
district concerns,  
rather than a  
single issue?

# Senior Leadership Team



The governing board and superintendent:

- Understand and respect each others' roles
- Partnership based on trust and respect
  - ✓ Frequent two-way communication
  - ✓ Support, not surprises!
  - ✓ Clear roles and responsibilities
  - ✓ Professional growth
  - ✓ Regular evaluation

**TEAM SUCCESS = DISTRICT SUCCESS**

# Rewards



- Working to continually improve student learning
- Building a better future for our youth, our communities and our state
- Strengthening our democracy through an educated citizenry

Are you  
good at  
**working**  
**collaboratively**  
to get things  
done?

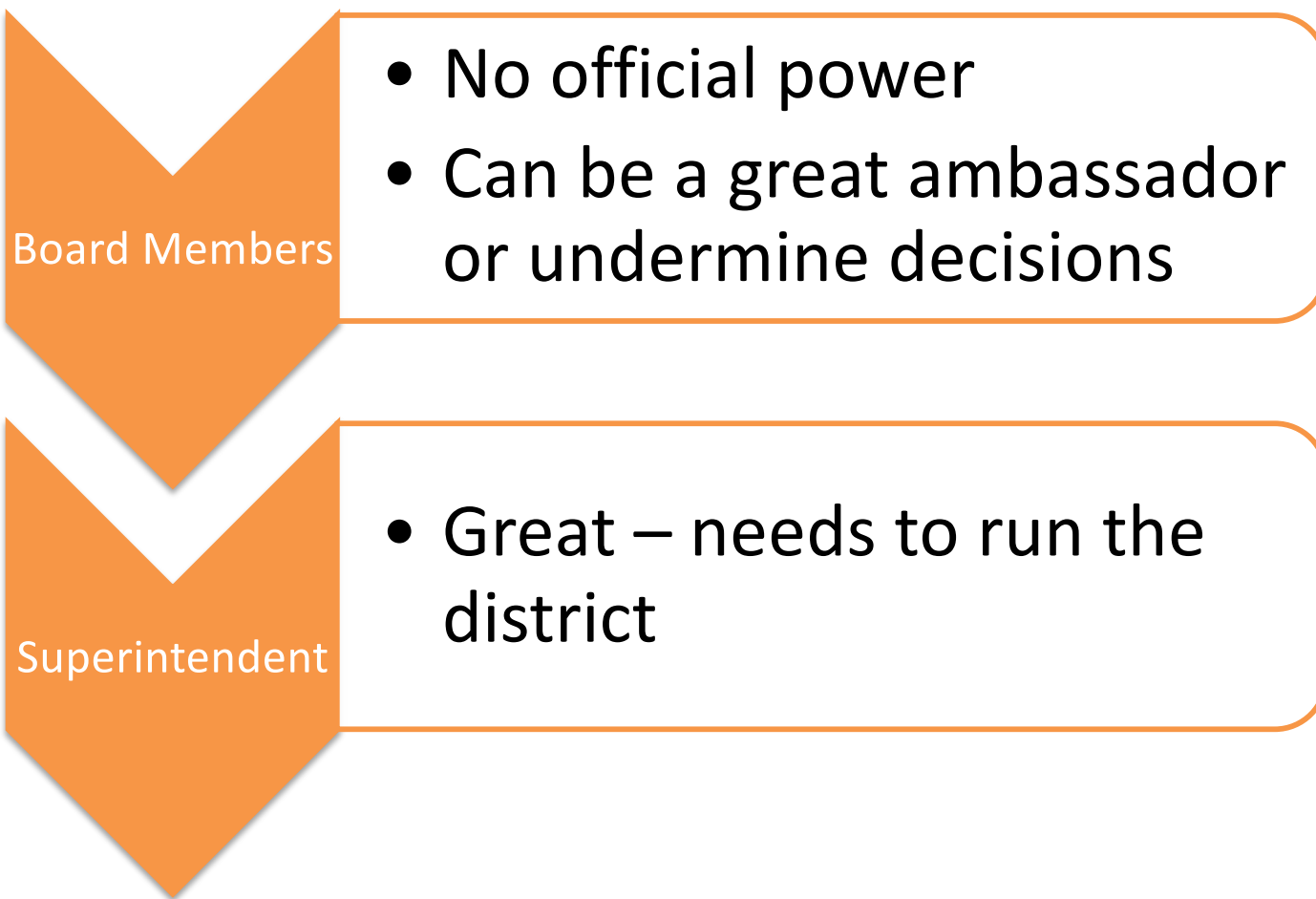




## In the Board Room

- Use discussion at the board table to build support for decisions.
- Make all decisions in an open meeting in accordance with Arizona's Open Meeting Law.
- Support the final vote of the board.

## Power and authority of...



Are you  
committed to  
doing what's  
right for **ALL**  
**children,**  
even in the  
face of  
opposition?



# Ethics for Effective Board Members



## Follow the Code of Conduct

- Make decisions based on facts and independent judgment in the best interest of all students
- Take no private action that will compromise the district; avoid conflicts of interest
- Be objective; keep an open mind
- Keep your promises; don't make ones you can't keep
- Keep your sense of humor
- Remember that change comes slowly
- Use the chain of command
- LISTEN to others

# Remember the Commitment!



Do your  
homework  
before  
meetings.

Attend every  
board  
meeting.

Participate  
in training.

Share your  
thoughts  
before the  
decision is  
made.

Stay current on  
local, state,  
and federal  
education  
issues.

Attend district  
events.

Advocate for  
your  
students.

# How Do I Get Started?



1. File a Statement of Interest with the county superintendent (A.R.S. §16-311H)
2. Pick up an information packet from the county superintendent of schools. (<http://www.azsba.org/becoming-a-board-member/>)
3. Collect signatures.  
(signature requirements can be found on your county school superintendent website)
4. File a campaign committee organization statement with the county elections office when combined revenue and expenses reach \$1200.00.
5. File signatures pages and forms with the county superintendent of schools.
6. Run your campaign.

*Decision is made by the voters in your district.*

# NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020  
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
JW Marriott Desert Ridge



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

# QUESTIONS?



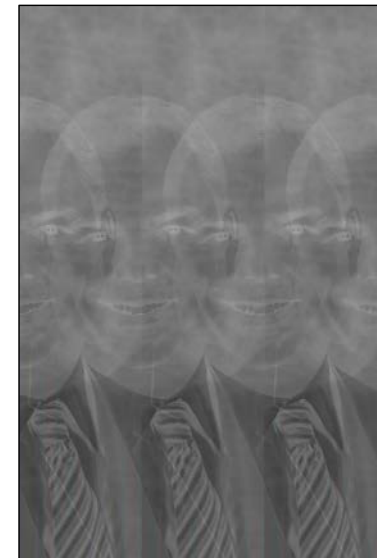
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# Contact Us



## Arizona School Boards Association

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### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

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