

Office of the Maricopa County
School Superintendent
Steve Watson

**Superintendent Steve Watson Appoints Two Members to Liberty Elementary
School District Governing Board**

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(Phoenix, AZ) - Today Maricopa County School Superintendent Steve Watson announced the appointment of two members to the Liberty Elementary School District Governing Board. Mr. Jamie Miller replaces Mr. Paul Jensen who resigned on January 8th, and Ms. Suzanne McEvoy fills the vacancy of Mr. Jeffrey Turbitt who resigned January 30th.

"I have three criteria for appointing governing board members in case of a vacancy. First, candidates must be fully committed to the success of their local traditional public school district; second, they must be even-tempered, reasonable and respectful; and third, must be fiscally responsible with a focus of getting dollars to teachers and into the classroom," said Superintendent Watson.

Jamie Miller is a Program and Grants Specialist at the Arizona Department of Education and a resident of Buckeye, Arizona. He has a child enrolled at Liberty Elementary, and is a member of the school's Site Council. He was previously Chair of Construction Technologies in the Career and Technical Education Department in the Peoria Unified School District in Glendale, Arizona. He is also currently an Adjunct Faculty member in the Maricopa County Community College District.

"I see the district through several lenses: as a community member, a parent, and member of Liberty Elementary's Site Council, so I have a strong desire to ensure our youth develop into strong contributors to our society. I've also learned to appreciate parent concerns for their children and work together to overcome obstacles," said Miller.

Suzanne McEvoy is a certified elementary education teacher and holds a Masters Degree from Arizona State University. She lives in Goodyear and has one child, and soon a second, enrolled in the district's schools. She previously taught first and second grade at Desert Horizon Elementary School in the Pendergast School District, and has served as a PTA Vice President and Secretary.

"My role now as a new school governing board member is to act as a liaison between the district and the community. I am excited as a board member to connect our community of stakeholders, teachers and students to achieve our shared vision of creating curious, creative problem solvers. I'm well-prepared for this based on my experience as an educator, volunteer and advocate for public education on the local and state level," said McEvoy.

"I'm confident in the proven abilities of these two individuals and their commitment to education and public service, and grateful for their willingness to serve as governing board members," Watson said.

In accordance with ARS 15-302, County School Superintendents have the statutory authority to appoint qualified individuals to fill vacancies on a school governing boards or, if appropriate, call for a special election in the district.

Liberty Elementary School District was founded in 1908 and is located in the far southwest valley and includes parts of Buckeye, Goodyear and Avondale. The district covers 285 square miles and is comprised of both rural agriculture and suburban settings. There are six elementary schools in the district.

Maricopa County contains 58 public school districts of which there are 276 governing board positions.

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For more information on the governing board appointment process, contact Shane Wikfors at (602) 885-0499.