

## More Questions\_Committee Member

1. The district has to have financials reviewed quarterly correct ? as for all not for profits , by a " 3rd party CPA firm " right ? Which firm has been doing these reviews over the years ?

By statute, school districts must have an annual audit by a third party. Our auditing firm is CliftonLarsonAllen. The district has won the Association of School Business Officials International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award for 20 plus consecutive years. This award recognizes entities who have achieved a high level of professional financial proficiency.

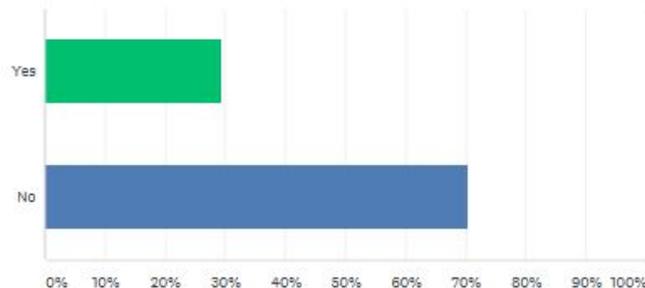
It has been suggested in the past the need to change the name of the School District and High School--- Goldfield High School , Goldfield Unified School District? No need to make vote just make the change. Goldfield Prospectors. make sense? This is a must !!!!!

In April 2018, a survey went out to the community asking them if they felt that AJUSD should change their name.

Here are the results:

Over the past year, AJUSD has heard from several parents and community groups that our district's name Apache Junction Unified School District does not reflect the community that it serves. AJUSD includes Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, Queen Valley and several unincorporated areas surrounding the foothills of the Superstition Mountains. Do you think that AJUSD should change their name to be more inclusive of all children attending our schools?

Answered: 555 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	29.55%	164
No	70.45%	391
TOTAL		555

The next question on the survey asked if the respondent answered yes to question 3 to share their thoughts on what the name of the school district should be changed to in order to be more inclusive of the whole community. The number one suggestion from the respondents was to rename the school district to Superstition Mountain Unified School District. At this time, the district does not think that a name change is an avenue to explore at this time. Time to calm the waters and focus on improving the internal systems (i.e., quality of instruction, student supports, and accountability) in the district.

2. Why were these specific consultants chosen to complete the reviews and analysis ? perhaps I missed this somewhere ?

Dr. Anderson was provided Skip Brown's name as a possible resource to assist in examining the potential of going out for a Bond or an Override in November 2019. Skip Brown works for Valley Schools Insurance Trust and is a former Asst. Superintendent. Valley Schools Insurance Trust is an organization that we use for our Health Insurance and associated benefits. VSIT reached out to ADM on our behalf to assist us to verify AJUSD facility needs. ADM facilitated ten different contract companies to come out to our district to assess needs and to give us current costs to repair, replace or modernize, the results were shared with the committee on April 29th.

AJUSD has worked with Stifel for many years. They are the organization that we use to manage the Bonds from the 2004 election.

AJUSD hired Paul Ulan, from Primary Consultants, to provide voter information and to assist with facilitating data and survey results obtained from our community stakeholders. Primary Consultants assisted the district five years ago in its quest for an M&O Override approval.

3. We do not see any solar or partnerships for solar in the district assessments Why ? When Solar is the future. Shade structures with solar on top. ie parking for example . Let's get a solar farm to run the district. Have students involved. in the project collaborate with CAC they have a 1 and 2 yr solar program . I'm pretty sure.

The district did look at solar in 2016. It was based on a 20 years performance contract. At the end of 20 years the cost was projected to be 2,539,060.92 with the district paying 1,899,150.28 and with a saving of 639,910.64 over 20 years. With the district's responsibility of the maintenance and upkeep of the structures the district decided there wasn't a big enough saving to move forward.

4. As for programs we hope to see FFA back in the school and HOSA . These Programs have so much to offer youth, as well very structured and time tested. Funding is available through the FDA. / FFA. Which make them easier to implement. The High school had these programs before We are constantly surveying the students to offer our programs that they are requesting and the choices for electives. Our students are encouraged to explore their passions through multiple offerings at EVIT. Ms. Wallace's team will look at both programs to see if they are areas that should be explored at this time.

5. I have heard over time the dire need for a IB program . Have discussed this with many parents since we've been here 8 yrs now. . A must , and yes our students are very capable. Apparently there is funding to help set up this program ? correct ?

About four years ago the board directed district personnel to do research on a few programs and IB was one of them. At the time, we found that IB would not be cost effective (very expensive!) for the size of our district and we decided at that time that we would bring AVID into the district. To give some perspective, Mesa as large of a district as it is-- sends their IB group to Westwood. We also felt at the time that our honors and advanced placement classes met the needs of the students we have.

6. Running empty buses!! are there any prospective plans for smaller ones and vans . Instead. ?  
Our buses, in some areas, end up having less students. Gold Canyon is an example. We have tried to add a stop or two in town before heading out but we have to be careful because the route is already long. We don't want to extend a student's time on the bus. Smaller buses aren't necessarily cost effective unless they are special needs buses. They become only usable in certain situations (ie not interchangeable with the rest of the fleet in the event of a breakdown) and if the area expands and more students move in, we have to limit it to capacity of the bus. Part of this issue is the driver not keeping accurate rosters of actual students riding. This is something that will change in the coming year allowing us to keep routes condensed as possible. We have 6 vans and plans to purchase no more at this time. These are mainly used to transport out of district McKinney Vento students and special needs students who cannot be transported with others. A school bus is always the safest mode of transportation for a student.

Additionally, the district will be looking at adding micro buses to the fleet to assist with transporting students to athletic competitions and student events.