



The Tolleson Quarterly

A Message from Your Superintendent



Dr. Lupita Hightower
Superintendent

Dear Tolleson ESD Families & Community;

Happy New Year!

2024 is starting off strong in our school district as we celebrated our amazing Governing Board at our January Board Meeting and look forward to Kindergarten Roundup in February. Please take a look at all the details inside this edition of The Tolleson Quarterly.

Reflecting back on 2023, at our October Governing Board meeting, we reviewed the status of projects made possible by our successful requests to sell Bonds, and for our Maintenance & Operations and Capital Overrides. In fact, this review takes place at our October meeting every year. We are grateful to our community for supporting us in these elections, and I want to highlight the importance of these here.

Bonds can be used to raise money for capital needs including acquiring land, building or renovating schools, supplying schools with furniture, equipment and technology, improving school ground and purchasing student transportation vehicles.

Overrides provide critical funding beyond what the state funding formula can provide to maintain teaching positions or provide capital.

Both Bonds and Overrides play a significant role in our operations and capital plans. I hope you will consider joining us each fall as we review the status of projects made possible by Bonds and Overrides. You can also review the annual presentations for our bond and override projects at www.tollesonschools.com/Elections.

Although the 2023 calendar year is behind us, it is not too late to send us your tax credit donations before April 15th for the 2023 calendar year. For all the details, please visit www.tollesonschools.com/Tax-Credits.

Thank you for being part of our education community where – All Children are Capable of Success: NO EXCEPTIONS!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lupita Hightower
Treasure Hunter & Superintendent
Tolleson Elementary School District



STRONG STUDENT ATTENDANCE

It is important for us all to work together to ensure our students have strong attendance because research shows that school absences take a toll on grades and performance on standardized tests. Beyond test scores, irregular attendance can be a predictor of high school drop-out, which has been linked to poor labor market prospects, diminished health, and increased involvement in the criminal justice system. Students who are chronically absent are at higher risk for these adverse outcomes.

Important Dates

February 2024

- 7th, Wednesday
 - Governing Board Meeting.
- 16th, Friday
 - In-Service Day. No School.
- 19th, Monday
 - Presidents' Day. No School.

March 2024

- 6th, Wednesday
 - Governing Board Meeting.
- 7th-8th, Thursday-Friday
 - Parent Teacher Conferences. Early Release.
- 11th-15th, Monday-Friday
 - Spring Break. No School.
- 29th, Friday
 - Spring Recess. No School.

April 2024

- 1st, Monday
 - Spring Recess. No School.
- 3rd, Wednesday
 - Governing Board Meeting.

May 2024

- 8th, Wednesday
 - Governing Board Meeting.
- 24th, Friday
 - Last Day of School. Early Dismissal.

July 2024

- 31st, Wednesday
 - First Day New School Year.

For more detailed and up-to-date information, visit TollesonSchools.com. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.

TollesonSchools.com
623-533-3980

CONGRATULATIONS 1ST & 2ND QUARTER EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

We are grateful for the dedication and service of these amazing team members honored in the first and second quarters of the 2023 – 2024 school year!



FIRST QUARTER EMPLOYEES HONORED

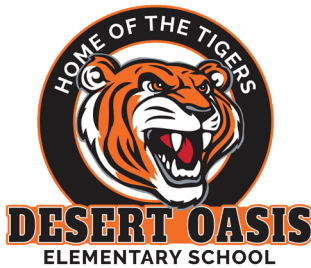
Arizona Desert Elementary School:

- Mrs. Marieka Michaud, English Language / Structured English Immersion Teacher
- Mrs. Corine Dilts, Reading Interventionist
- Mrs. Diana Kauffman, Instructional Coach

SECOND QUARTER EMPLOYEES HONORED

Arizona Desert Elementary School

- Ms. Sharon Stanley, Special Education Teacher



FIRST QUARTER EMPLOYEES HONORED

Desert Oasis Elementary School:

- Ms. Anabel Ramos-Zarate, Kindergarten Teacher

SECOND QUARTER EMPLOYEES HONORED

Desert Oasis Elementary School:

- Ms. Dianne Mostiero, 6th Grade Science Teacher



FIRST QUARTER EMPLOYEES HONORED

Porfirio H. Gonzales Elementary School:

- Ms. Melissa Acosta, Dining Services Director
- Ms. Cecilia Fraijo de Deras, Manager
- Ms. Marbella Garza, School Office Clerk & Cafeteria Monitor
- Mr. Armando Mejia, Grounds, Maintenance & Custodian

- Ms. Sarahi Felix
- Ms. Rosa Guillen
- Ms. Brenda Martinez
- Ms. Sonia Martinez
- Ms. Sandra Montgomery
- Ms. Rosalie Reed
- Ms. Linda Rubalcava
- Ms. Naomi Ruelas
- Ms. Lupita Salinas

Food Services Workers:

- Ms. Jessica Carranza
- Ms. Elida Felix

SECOND QUARTER EMPLOYEES HONORED

Porfirio H. Gonzales Elementary School

- Ms. Mar Bella Garza, School Office Clerk



FIRST QUARTER EMPLOYEES HONORED

Sheely Farms Elementary School:

- Ms. Mary Helen Salgado, Administrative Secretary

SECOND QUARTER EMPLOYEES HONORED

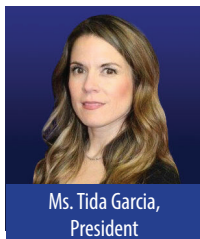
Sheely Farms Elementary School:

- Ms. Alejandra Hernandez, 5th Grade Science Teacher



JANUARY IS GOVERNING BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

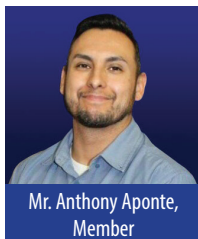
At Tolleson ESD we are incredibly grateful for each member of our Governing Board. They are five elected officials who set the policies, goals and priorities for our district. They are highly committed to ensuring every policy focuses on what is right for our students, families, teachers, staff and community. They volunteer their time and expertise as there is no salary or compensation for school district governing board members. Please join me in thanking our board members when you see them in our community. We celebrated them at our January meeting. Their leadership is priceless!



Ms. Tida Garcia,
President



Ms. Roberta Garcia,
Vice President



Mr. Anthony Aponte,
Member

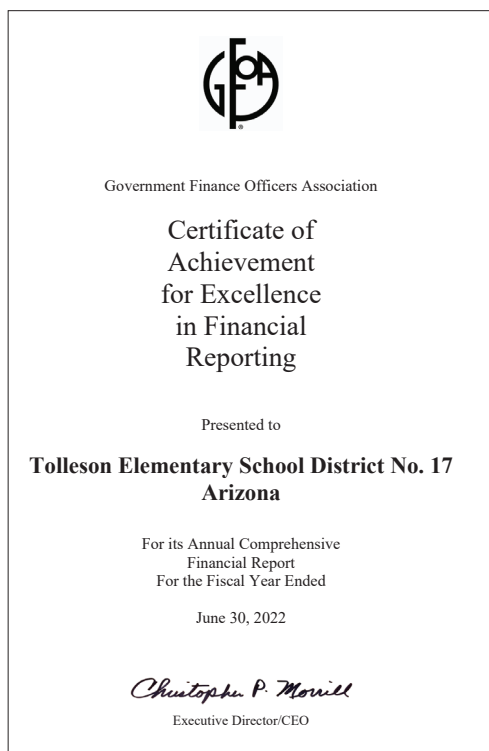


Ms. Belinda Quezada,
Member



Mr. Samuel Quezada, Jr.,
Member

AWARDED HIGHEST RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING



(Chicago, Illinois)—Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to **Tolleson Elementary School District No. 17** for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.

District Governing Board

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Tida Garcia, President
tgarcia@tesd17.org
Roberta Garcia, Vice President
rgarcia@tesd17.org
Anthony Aponte, Member
aaponte@tesd17.org
Belinda Quezada, Member
bquezada@tesd17.org
Samuel Quezada, Jr., Member
squezada@tesd17.org



Copia en Español

Si desea una copia de este boletín en español, por favor llame al 623-533-3980 o visite nuestro sitio web en TollesonSchools.com.



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Tolleson, AZ 85353

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Elementary Schools

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Porfirio H. Gonzales
Sheely Farms
Tolleson Virtual Academy

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POSTAL CUSTOMER



Join us for Kindergarten Roundup

Enroll your kindergarten student today for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Enroll Your Child
- Receive a Kinder Readiness Kit

Questions?

Please call
623-533-3980



We Are Building The Next Generation of Heroes

Visit www.TollesonSchools.com/Welcome-Center if you would like to complete the enrollment forms and bring them to Kinder Roundup.

Who should enroll?

Children five years-of-age by August 31st who live within or outside our boundaries. We welcome all! If your child turns 5 between September 1st and December 31st, please ask about our Kinder Early Entrance Program (KEEP).

*As defined by Arizona Department of Education

<p>Arizona Desert</p> <p>February 20th 4:30-6:30PM</p> <p>A* RATING</p> <p> ARIZONA DESERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 8803 West Van Buren Street PreKindergarten - Grade 8 623-907-5260 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. azd.tollesonschools.com</p>	<p>Desert Oasis</p> <p>February 21st 4:30-6:30PM</p> <p>B* RATING</p> <p> DESERT OASIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 8802 West McDowell Road PreKindergarten - Grade 8 623-533-3901 7:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. does.tollesonschools.com</p>	<p>Porfirio H. Gonzales</p> <p>February 22nd 4:30-6:30PM</p> <p>B* RATING</p> <p> PORFIRIO H. GONZALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 9401 West Garfield Street PreKindergarten - Grade 8 623-907-5181 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. phg.tollesonschools.com</p>	<p>Sheely Farms</p> <p>February 26th 4:30-6:30PM</p> <p>B* RATING</p> <p> SHEELY FARMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 9450 West Encanto Boulevard PreKindergarten - Grade 8 623-907-5270 7:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. sfe.tollesonschools.com</p>
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TollesonSchools.com 623-533-3980