Dear SUSD Families and Staff:

I hope you all had an enjoyable Halloween weekend and are looking forward to the upcoming holidays. As this is the last board update until December, I want to wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving.

**Looking Back**

In October, our board remained focused on its work providing advice and oversight on key district matters. This included:

- Reviewing student academic performance on standardized exams taken during the 2020/21 school year, including AZ Merit II (for English language arts and math in grades 3 through 8, and 10), Arizona Science (grades 5, 8, and 11), and the ACT (grade 10). Student performance was commendable, given the learning disruptions caused by COVID-19, and SUSD was a top-performing district among our peer districts in most tested areas. That said, there is room for improvement. The board and administration are fully committed to improved academic performance on key standardized exams. As part of this work, the administration is developing meaningful key performance indicators and a data dashboard that will assist teachers in quickly identifying students’ individual support needs.

- Meeting with the City of Scottsdale’s auditors to review SUSD’s first internal audit. The Audit Committee reviewed the report before the final report was brought to the full board for discussion. The audit identified ways that SUSD can improve its construction contracts and projects. The administration has already implemented a number of the recommendations in our current construction projects, and our auditors will conduct a follow-up on their recommendations once the Hohokam rebuild project is complete.

- Approving the board’s new goals for the 2021/22 school year. The board desires to expand its committee structure beyond auditing. Suggested committees include nomination, compensation, policy, and risk committees. These committees would meet in public and follow OML guidelines. The board also wants to refocus its work on improving stakeholder communication.

**Moving Forward**

In November, the board will review and vote on a number of district policy updates to comply with new Arizona and federal laws. The board will also conduct its informal, quarterly review of the superintendent’s performance since July 1, 2021.

Yours very truly,

Jann-Michael Greenburg