

Governing Board Resolution Dr. Gary and Annette Auxier Elementary School

In admiration of the decades of selfless service to the Chandler Unified School District and the community, we are proud to name the elementary school on Power and Brooks Farm Roads in honor of Dr. Gary and Annette Auxier.

Annette Van Bibber Auxier was born in Newton, Kansas. As one of three children, she had an older sister, Janet, and a brother, Bobby. When Annette was just five years old, her mother left the family. Annette's father, Rex, knew that he would need support while raising the children on his own, so he moved his family to Arizona where relatives could help. Rex, a WWII veteran, lived up to that descriptor, "the greatest generation," and, through him, Annette learned the importance of religion, strong moral values, hard work and unwavering commitment. She learned the important life lesson that you can do anything if you just put your mind to it.

Meanwhile, in the state of Arizona, Gary Gordon Auxier was born to Lois and Richard Auxier joining an older brother and sister, Allen and Patty, and later, a younger brother, Rick. The four children were raised in a joyous household where their talents were nurtured and celebrated.

Annette and Gary eventually ended up in the same theater class at Coronado High School, fell deeply in love and got married after receiving permission from their parents.

Married for 43 years, Gary and Annette have endeavored to make their family, faith and community their life's priorities. And so they have. They have five children: Laura, Dan, Bethany, Patricia and Annie, thirteen grandchildren and share Sunday dinners in a close and loving environment.

Annette and Gary are the embodiment of civic mindedness. Gary, a highly respected pediatrician, practiced in Colorado for ten years before moving his family back to Arizona. He has practiced in the valley since 1990. Dr. Auxier has been presented with the National Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics; the Achievement Award from the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; and the Coy Payne Lifetime Achievement Award from the Valley of the Sun United Way.

Dr. Auxier has been volunteering for community causes all of his adult life. While in practice in Colorado he organized the Montrose County Public Health Department's Free Well-Child Clinic and served as a consultant for both the Montrose and Delta County Department of Social Services. After the family moved to Arizona, he volunteered at a free clinic in the Wilson School District until 1999 and has also volunteered for the Flying Samaritans and the Boy Scouts of America for over thirty years.

Most significant and notable to Chandler Unified School District is Dr. Auxier's service and care for our uninsured and underinsured students at the Chandler CARE Center since 1999. In addition to sick visits, he provides sports physicals for CUSD student athletes and well-child preventive care.

When he uncovers serious problems, he recruits the appropriate medical specialists in the community to provide lab tests, x-rays and other medical imaging for diagnostic confirmation and treatment at little or no cost to the family. Dr. Auxier's commitment to Chandler youth extends beyond his office hours. During the capital campaign required to raise the funds for completion of the CARE Center building, Gary sponsored fund-raising activities to assure that the goal was met. Dr. Auxier has earned the unprecedented appreciation for all the time and expertise he has generously given to our most disadvantaged youth.

Mrs. Auxier has also made an enormous contributions to her church, the community and to the Chandler School District. Her school district volunteer work began long ago as she held various offices for her children's schools PTO and booster clubs. In a special project that melded her church and school district volunteer work, Annette served for eight years as the co-chair for the "Helping Hands, Caring Hearts" project that provided new back-to-school clothing for 2,000-3,000 children annually. Annette stepped up to serve as the co-chair of Project Kids in 1995 and again in 1998 to support financial campaigns for CUSD. She is so widely respected in the community that she was recruited to be a member of the City of Chandler's delegation that traveled to Kansas City in 2010 to make a presentation that would earn Chandler All-America City status. Annette was a charter member of the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation Board of Directors and has served on the Arizona Interscholastic Association Legislative Committee for eight years.

Mrs. Auxier was appointed to the Chandler School District Governing Board in 1998. The first time the public voted her into office was in November 1998 and, in an affirmation of their approval of the work she has done, Annette has been re-elected four additional times. She is the longest tenured board member in Chandler Unified history, now serving her 17th year. Her leadership has helped assure that CUSD prospered through a decade of hyper growth, but more importantly, was well positioned to sustain the massive budget cuts that marred public school districts in Arizona. She has been willing to make difficult decisions and face criticism for issues that are in the best interest of the district overall. This includes the repurposing of two schools and multiple boundary changes to respond to growth in the southern portion of the district and declining enrollments in the northern portion of the district.

Mrs. Auxier has served as board president four times and earned a reputation for intelligent, insightful and compassionate leadership. She truly listens to people and empathizes with them regardless of whether she will vote in the direction they advocate. She has mastered the art of compromise and is skilled at bringing about consensus. Annette does not micromanage; she provides a vision and allows flexibility for the administration and staff members to accomplish the board's goals, while holding administrators accountable.

Annette is known for her tender heart, but equally for her courage and ethical uprightness. She has earned the respect, admiration and confidence of district staff members, parents, students and the community.

Therefore, in appreciation of this couple's extraordinary work, it is with great honor that Chandler Unified School District names the elementary school at Power and Brooks Farm Roads, which will open in 2015, in honor of Dr. Gary and Annette Auxier.

As presented to Superintendent Dr. Camille Casteel and signed this 25th day of February 2015.

Karen M. McGee, President

David Evans, Vice President

Annette Auxier, Member

Barbara Mozdzen, Member

Robert Rice, Member