

**Office of the Maricopa County**  
**School Superintendent**  
*Steve Watson*

**Superintendent Watson Appoints Dr. Tara Armstead to Litchfield Elementary  
School District Governing Board**

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(Phoenix, AZ) - Today Maricopa County School Superintendent Steve Watson announced the appointment of Dr. Tara Armstead to the Governing Board of Litchfield Elementary School District in the West Valley. Armstead, who took her oath of office at a ceremony today at the Superintendent's office in Phoenix, replaces Alayne Weathersby who resigned in January.

"I believe education is the greatest contribution we can provide for the next generation, and I deeply appreciate Dr. Armstead's willingness to serve our students in the Litchfield Elementary School District. She has over a decade of experience working in education at all levels, so she has a deep understanding of our environment and what our children need to succeed. Her proven dedication and impressive expertise will serve the district very well," said Watson.

Watson interviewed more than a dozen applicants for the position.

Armstead holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership and Development from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix.

"As a young student I realized that through my personal experiences, I needed to become an educator that did more than teach to the academic side of the student. Every time that I step into a classroom or have an opportunity to speak to other educators, my intention and my mission is to leave the environment helping others to see the power that exists within them. As a professional serving on the Litchfield Elementary School Board, I will take this same insight and passion to parents, students, staff, and other stakeholders as the foundation of every decision that I make. School systems thrive and operate at their highest capacity when all parties involved understand that it is not just about grades or fiscal decisions, but a holistic focus on the success of all students starting at the district office and flowing through to each individual classroom and social interaction in the community," said Armstead.

"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 Watson.

Armstead's selection marks the 50th time a school board vacancy in Maricopa County has been filled by appointment during Watson's tenure, which began in January of 2017. There are 58 public school districts in

the county with a total of 276 board members serving four year terms and educating nearly 575,000 students enrolled in district schools.

Litchfield Elementary School District enrolls 11,500 students and includes Barbara Robey, Corte Sierra, Dreaming Summit, Litchfield, Mabel Padgett, Palm Valley, Rancho Santa Fe, Scott L. Libby, Verrado Elementary, L. Thomas Heck Middle School, Verrado Middle, Western Sky Middle School, Western Sky Middle School, Wigwam Creek Middle School, Belen Soto, and Verrado Heritage School. Regular board meetings are held on Tuesdays twice each month in the District Board Room at 272 E. Sagebrush St., Litchfield Park, AZ.

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