



Apache Junction Unified School District

Serving Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, Queen Valley and Unincorporated Pinal County

1575 W. Southern Ave., Apache Junction, AZ 85120 ~ Phone: 480-982-1110 ~ www.ajusd.org

September 5, 2017

For Immediate Release:

The letter below was sent home with students at Four Peaks Elementary School today (9/5/17).

Dear Parents,

There is some information that I would like to share with you as our partner in education. Early this morning, Karl Waggoner, the Principal at Four Peaks Elementary School, was arrested by the Pinal County Sheriff's Office as part of a criminal investigation.

The Apache Junction Unified School District is cooperating with law enforcement agencies as they investigate the matter. In Mr. Waggoner's absence, Chad Cantrell, the Assistant Principal at Cactus Canyon Junior High, and the District's Athletic Director, will serve as the acting Principal. Mr. Cantrell is a well-respected educator, administrator, and member of the community and will provide excellent leadership to students and staff.

Mr. Waggoner is a recent hire who relocated from Texas. Prior to offering Mr. Waggoner his position the District conducted all background checks required by law and found no prior arrests or criminal history.

The District is committed to the safety and well-being of our students. Each school has a behavior coach/counselor onsite that is available to students, and we encourage students to reach out to their counselor as needed. Although we have no reason to believe that Mr. Waggoner engaged in any improper conduct with District students, should you or your child have any information that you believe will assist the Pinal County Sheriff's office with its investigation, please directly contact the Sheriff's office, at (520) 866-5111.

If you have other questions regarding this letter, please contact Sally Marks, Public Relations Specialist, at (480) 982-1110 or email smarks@goaj.org.

Sincerely,

Sally Marks
Public Relations Specialist,
Apache Junction Unified School District

Additional Information:

- Mr. Waggoner's employment with AJUSD began July 18, 2017.
- The first day of school for students was August 7, 2017

- He is an employee at the current time, but not performing any job duties for the District. To our knowledge, he is in the custody of the Pinal County Sheriff's Department.
- He relocated to Arizona from Texas.
- The school district complied with all legal requirements for conducting a background check prior to recommending for hire.

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