

**Notice of Public Meeting
Sedona-Oak Creek Joint Unified School District #9**

**Strategic Development Team Committee
Community Forum
Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 5:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. Welcome Darrin Karuzas
Mr. Karuzas and Mr. Litwicki welcomed the audience of citizens, and introduced Mr. Groves as the facilitator for our third community forum.

2. Call to Order Don Groves
Mr. Groves called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

3. Members Present

Don Groves	Carolyn Fisher	Cindy Hauserman
Jennifer Chilton	Deana Dewitt	Melissa Cristallo
Randy Hawley	Cindy Ramirez	Katie Chorlton
Debbie Jones	Heather Isom	Jay Litwicki
Darrin Karuzas	Clair Ramos	Kate Furnish
Shalimar Rodgers		

Members Excused	Susan McQuire	Scott Keller	Kathy Featherstone
	Karl Wiseman	Heather Minter	

Board Members Present Randy Hawley Heather Hermen Karen McClelland

4. Approval of Minutes from November 29, 2017 Don Groves
Motion made by Deana Dewitt/Seconded by Jay Litwicki: A motion to approve the minutes from November 29, 2017 carried unanimously.

5. Overview of the Strategic Planning Process Don Groves
Mr. Groves noted he was impressed with our AdvancED goals and our commitment to elevating student success. He explained that the governing board wants feedback from all stakeholders and will work collaboratively to develop a plan to insure a better future for all students. The strategic planning process has a tremendous potential to be a unifying force in the district.

Mr. Groves explained the process, stages, and subgroups that will evaluate community input, general demographic data, and education future forecasting. In stage one, goals and objectives will be identified and brought to the board for review. Stage two will involve making any necessary adjustments, and stage three will involve the new superintendent developing and implementing an action plan. Mr. Groves explained the SWOT process that will be used to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

6. Public Input and Discussion

All

Results of the SWOT process were summarized, and common themes have emerged. Examples of threats were: staff morale, low salaries, decreased enrollment, employee burnout, mistrust and fear of the school board, unprofessionalism, competitiveness, divisiveness, and lack of continuity among the schools. Opportunities included: passing the override, increasing tax credit, restructuring the salary schedule, and attracting out of district students. Weaknesses were: low salary schedule, difficulty in recruiting and retaining teachers, multi-grade level classes, falling AzMerit scores, communication, divisive school board, fiscal responsibility of two elementary schools, maintenance, and lack of opportunities for our students. Strengths were: great staff and students, beautiful facilities, middle school joined with the high school, and great sports.

A brief discussion ensued on ongoing curricular mapping, rationale for keeping two elementary schools in operation, and how we can better create a culture that values education while promoting academic excellence.

7. Summary Remarks

Don Groves

Mr. Groves thanked those in attendance for their commitment to our students and district. A Hispanic Community Forum is scheduled for next week. After that, the SDT Committee will evaluate the accumulated data, and make recommendations on goals and objectives to the board at the January meeting.

8. Adjournment

Don Groves

Mr. Groves adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Submitted by:
Sally Cadigan