



Sedona-Oak Creek Joint Unified School District #9

Tuesday, March 5, 2024
MINUTES

- I. Call to Order** Randy Hawley
Mr. Hawley called the meeting to order at 4:00.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance** Randy Hawley
- III. Roll Call of Members**
Randy Hawley, Present
Lauren Robinson, Present
Karen McClelland, Present at 4:08
April Payne, Attended Virtually
David Price, Present
Emily Frey, Present at 4:13.
- IV. Statement of Welcome** Randy Hawley
- V. Call to the Public** Randy Hawley
Public comments all relate to the Big Park agenda item and will be heard later in the meeting.
- VI. Governing Board Member Comments** Board Members
Board Member David Price recently attended the career fair at the school. It was well organized and included a lot community support and engagement.
- VII. Student Representative Update** Emily Frey
The student representative update was moved to later in the agenda.
- VIII. Superintendent's Update** Tom Swaninger
Dr. Swaninger also noted that the high school's career fair was very successful. He appreciated the support and engagement from the community. Dr. Swaninger also highlighted upcoming reading events at West Sedona School, including a literary themed spirit week, door decorating contest, and student reading contest. The event and prizes are sponsored by the PTA. The superintendent highlighted English classes organized by Heather Isom and offered to parents of our EL students. He feels this is a great sign of the District's diversity and will help include all families in our school communities. The superintendent also discussed the upcoming Future Scorpion Night; an evening event that will highlight a wide range of academic options, honors programs, and athletics for prospective students. Dr. Swaninger also gave an overview of growing spring athletic programs including softball, track, golf, and tennis.
- IX. Approve Order of the Agenda Including the Consent Agenda and Minutes** Randy Hawley
The consent portion of the agenda is to expedite routine matters that must be acted on by the Governing Board of Education. All items approved will be done by one non-debatable motion passed

unanimously. Any item may be removed for debate on request of any member of the board, staff, or public. Items removed from the consent portion of the agenda become the first item of business on the regular agenda.

ATTACHMENT- Consent Agenda

1. Minutes for Governing Board meetings: February 13, 2024
2. Payroll vouchers – 17
3. Accounts Payable vouchers – 2478, 2429
4. Gifts and donations – N/A
5. Fund balance statements
6. Personnel
7. Approved Fundraisers

Motion made by Lauren Robinson/Karen McClelland to approve the order of the agenda including the consent agenda and minutes carried by a vote of 5-0.

X. Business Items and Presentations

A. First Reading of ASBA Policy Advisory 763-786

Tom Swaninger

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Effective Use of Resources
- Attachment: PA 763-782
- Dr. Swaninger gave an overview of recent policy updates from ASBA. These updates are needed to keep District policies compliant after recent changes from the State Legislature. The updates cover a range of updates in many categories including emergencies, maintenance, bus safety, staff use of digital communications, and graduation requirements (full list and detail posted online). There were no comments or questions from board members. The second reading of this policy advisory will occur at the April board meeting.

B. Employment Non-Renewal

Tom Swaninger

- **ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible action item to rescind the February 13, 2024 approved non-renewal of an FY25 contract for Loretta Donovan in lieu of and to accept her resignation effective June 30, 2024.
- **Motion made by Karen McClelland/Lauren Robinson** to approve to change in resignation of this employee as presented change as presented carried by a vote of 5-0.

VII. Student Representative's Update

Emily Frey

This item was moved from earlier in the agenda. Student Representative Emily Frey explained that students are busy with SAT testing and prom preparations. The High School Interact Club is helping to start Junior RYLA with students at SRRJHS.

C. Big Park Property Options

Tom Swaninger

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Effective Communication
- **ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible action to explore the feasibility of the possible sale of the Big Park School property and to authorize the Superintendent to take necessary and appropriate action to investigate the feasibility of a sale and the requirements for a sale.
- Superintendent Swaninger gave an overview of the action. Dr. Swaninger and Mr. Hawley noted that this discussion will not determine if a potential sale of the Big Park property goes on the ballot. The board is currently discussing the possibility of investigating the process in greater detail. Both stated that public comments and engagement are welcomed in this process.
- Public Comments from Heather Hermen who spoke as a parent of a student in the district.

She expressed appreciation that the district is considering a sale of the property. She feels it would benefit the district and students.

- Public Comments from Marlene Macek who expressed her desire that the district sell the property to the county for the provision of needed services to residents of the Village of Oak Creek. In response, Mr. Hawley noted that the board was excited by the proposal from Yavapai County Supervisor Donna Michaels, but that the proposal has not moved forward. Mr. Hawley and Dr. Swaninger both noted that the measure before the board does not preclude the District from continuing to work with the county. It does open additional options for the property and district.
- Public comments from Tom Binnings who is happy the process is moving forward in this manner. He feels that there are many options for purchase including to the county, a Special District, or a private entity. There are options that could benefit all parties.
- Public comments from Carolyn Fisher who has been an active school and community volunteer for many years. She hopes that the district will honor all of the volunteers who have supported the District in the past by including them as active participants in this process. The community plan calls for a community center. Many options should be considered, including splitting the property and community fundraising. She hopes that the district allows time for planning and input throughout the process. Mr. Hawley reiterated that the board will continue to evaluate all possibilities.
- Public comments from Linda Allen, a resident of the Village of Oak Creek, who feels it is imperative that residents of the VOC have a say in decisions regarding the Big Park campus. She asked that the board and district keep residents informed of the process and legal requirements of the school board.
- Board members thanked all attendees for their input and participation in the meeting.
- Board Member Lauren Robinson noted that she appreciates the community space and doesn't want to do anything to negatively impact it. However, high maintenance costs at BPCS take away from programs and services the District is able to provide to students. Because a deal with the county looks unlikely, she feels it is imperative that we move forward investigating a sale that will potentially benefit all parties.
- Board Member David Price stated that the board welcomes engagement with the community. Discussions regarding the property must be held at scheduled Board Meetings. Participation in these meetings is the best way for the community to provide input and discuss their concerns.
- Board Member Karen McClelland noted that she has had a long history with the district and has been very involved with BPCS. The district cannot continue to spend its resources on maintenance for an unoccupied building. She hopes that a sale or long-term lease preserving community space can be negotiated.
- Public comments from Jane Peck who noted that community members may be willing to assist with property maintenance if they are able to use the space. President Hawley noted that this could be investigated.
- Public Comments from Dave Norton who feels that it is unrealistic for VOC residents to attend board meetings. He encouraged Board Members and District administrators to attend VOC meetings and events to engage with the community, provide information, and hear comments from VOC residents.
- Superintendent Swaninger expressed appreciation for ideas including volunteer maintenance from the community. He noted that this would need to be investigated from a legal liability standpoint. He also noted that while this could be a wonderful opportunity, it could also be difficult to sustain. As a resident of the VOC, he agrees that it is very important to engage with community members and recognizes the importance of the space to many

area residents. He noted while the primary responsibility is to our students, he hopes a solution will benefit all parties. He welcomes engagement with residents and feels that the best solutions are achieved with input from multiple parties.

- Board President Hawley outlined the action item and noted that the vote is to allow the Superintendent and district to investigate the options and process of a potential sale.
- Board member Lauren Robinson verified that lawyers and other experts will provide guidance throughout the process.
- **Motion made by Lauren Robinson/Karen McClelland:** A motion to explore the feasibility of the possible sale of the Big Park School property and to authorize the Superintendent to take necessary and appropriate action to investigate the feasibility of a sale and the requirements for a sale carried by a vote of 5-0.

D. SPAC Presentation

Stacy Saravo/Jennifer Chilton

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Effective Use of Resources
- Finance Director Stacy Saravo noted that this presentation is a follow up to the SPAC presentation given to the Board in February. She outlined expenses and revenue associated with the SPAC (detail posted online). She would like to review rental rates and bring an updated rate schedule to the board for consideration at a future meeting.
- Board member Lauren Robinson noted that additional expenditures that were not included in the analysis should be considered in any rate changes. Jennifer Chilton agreed and noted that these costs could be significant.
- Board member Karen McClelland verified that rates have not been changed since 2009. Jennifer Chilton clarified that while base rates have not changed, the rate charged for hourly custodial staff has increased.
- Board member David Price noted that the deficit is around 5%, which is significant considering the school's budget and priorities.
- Board member April Payne stated that the rate system seems unfair and hopes that the size and profitability of groups will be taken into account when determine new rates.
- Superintendent Swaninger noted that it would be very difficult to determine a system that would be fair across all categories. Board members stated that developing a system could be difficult and time consuming for District staff, potentially diverting resources from serving students. Board members also agreed that seems unrealistic to lower rates when the SPAC is not consistently breaking even and that outside fundraising efforts may be necessary for smaller groups.
- Board member David Price noted that we should focus on activities that directly benefit the education of our students.
- A revised rate structure will be developed and proposed at a future board meeting.

E. Review of SummitLife lease at West Sedona Campus

Jennifer Chilton

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Effective Use of Resources
- Attachment: SummitLife Lease
- **ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible action to approve a lease to SummitLife at the West Sedona Campus.
- Jennifer Chilton noted that all of the leases on the agenda are renewals and unchanged. She feels comfortable renewing all leases, even at Big Park Campus, since any sale of the property would be a lengthy process. Board Member Lauren Robinson verified that the proposed leases cover district costs.
- **Motion made by Lauren Robinson/David Price:** A motion to approve a lease to Summit Life at the West Sedona Campus carried by a vote of 5-0.

F. Review of Science of the Soul lease at West Sedona Campus

Jennifer Chilton

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Effective Use of Resources
- Attachment: Science of the Soul Lease
- **ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible action to approve a lease to Science of the Soul at the West Sedona Campus
- **Motion made by Lauren Robinson/Karen McClelland:** A motion to approve a lease to Science of the Soul at the West Sedona Campus carried by a vote of 5-0.

G. Review of Christian Faith Fellowship lease at Big Park Campus

Jennifer Chilton

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Effective Use of Resources
- Attachment: Christian Faith Fellowship Lease
- **ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible action to approve a lease to Christian Faith Fellowship Lease at the Big Park Campus
- **Motion made by Lauren Robinson/David Price:** A motion to approve a lease to Christian Faith Fellowship at the Big Park Campus carried by a vote of 5-0.

XI. Other Business

Randy Hawley

Future board meeting dates and agenda items: The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2 at 4:00 in the SPAC. Board members discussed options for holding a regular board meeting or special meeting at the Big Park Campus to facilitate communication with the community regarding a possible sale of the property. A decision will be announced at a future board meeting.

XII. Adjournment

Randy Hawley

A motion made by Lauren Robinson/David Price to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 carried by a vote of 5-0.

Submitted by: Amanda Stanfield

Signature of Attendees:

Randy Hawley

Lauren Robinson

Karen McClelland

April Payne

David Price