



**SEDONA-OAK CREEK  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Sedona-Oak Creek Joint Unified School District #9**

**February 7, 2023  
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  
April Payne, Present  
David Price, Attended Virtually

**IV. Statement of Welcome**

Randy Hawley

Mr. Hawley welcomed the audience and explained that Assistant Superintendent Deana Dewitt will be filling in for Superintendent Dearden who is ill.

**V. Call to the Public**

Heather Hermen gave information regarding the Scorpion Booster Club's Casino Night fundraiser this Saturday night. Proceeds will benefit Sedona Red Rock Junior/Senior High School.

**VI. Governing Board Member Comments**

Board Members

There were no comments from Governing Board Members.

**VII. Superintendent's Update**

Deana Dewitt

Assistant Superintendent Deana Dewitt gave the Superintendent's Update. Ms. Dewitt gave an overview of events Mr. Dearden's participation in an upcoming Superintendent's conference, the search for a student representative to the Governing Board, and an upcoming middle school dance. Three teachers at West Sedona School have been chosen for a prestigious STEM residency program. Events including a blood drive, CPR training for all students in grades 6-12, and a walk-a-thon are being held during February in recognition of Heart Health Awareness month.

**VIII. Approve Order of the Agenda Including the  
Consent Agenda and Minutes**

Randy Hawley

**Motion made by Lauren Robinson/Karen McClelland:** A motion to approve the Order of the Agenda Including the Consent Agenda and Minutes carried by a vote of 5-0.

**IX. Business Items and Presentations**

**A. YCEF Grant Presentation**

Janice Goimarac

Yavapai County Education Foundation board member Stephanie Jones is here representing the foundation and the grant presented to WSS teacher Janice Goimarac. Ms. Goimarac gave an overview of materials purchased with her grant, including library organization and phonics materials.

**B. Academic Calendar for the 2023-24 School Year**

Deana Dewitt

Assistant Superintendent Dewitt gave an overview of the proposed 2023-24 Academic Calendar, which meets state instructional requirements, aligns with area schools, and incorporates stakeholder feedback. Board Member Karen McClelland asked about daily school hours, which have not been determined at this point. Board Member Lauren Robinson asked about the potential need to make up snow/weather days and whether buffer dates have been built into the calendar. Ms. Dewitt explained that no snow days have to be made up as long as minimum instructional hour requirements are met.

**Motion made by Lauren Robinson/Karen McClelland:** A motion to approve the 2023-24 Academic Calendar as presented passed by a vote of 5-0.

**C. First reading of proposed update to SOCUSD Board Policy GCQC:**

Stacy Saravo

**Resignation of Professional Staff Members**

Finance Director gave an overview of proposed revisions to Policy GCQC, which would include a more detailed explanation on the resignation process. The proposed changes would provide detailed guidance to staff and consistent procedures for administrators and board members. Proposed change include an increased liquidated damages fee (\$1,000 for the period between signing the contract and the beginning of the new fiscal year and \$2,500 during the fiscal year), a process for requesting a waiver of this fee, and reporting of unapproved releases during the year to ADE. These changes would be included in contracts when issued. Board members questioned whether the fee should be level. Board Member Price asked about a potential appeal process, which is not currently outlined in the policy. However, staff members would have a chance to impact administrator recommendations and board decisions regarding their resignation at multiple points during the process. The second reading of Policy GCQC will be in March.

**D. First reading of proposed update to SOCUSD Board Policy GCBA:**

Stacy Saravo

**Professional Staff Salary Schedules**

Finance Director Stacy Saravo gave an overview of proposed policy changes, which would grant additional years of service on the initial salary placement scale to experienced teachers. Currently, our policy is to grant a maximum of 5 years of service. The proposed changes would increase the maximum to 10 years. Current staff members who were capped at five years would be given additional years of service to align with this policy. Changes would also grant years of service to teachers with certified teaching experience at private and charter schools. Board Members asked about the cost of bringing current teachers into alignment, which would equate to approximately \$50,000. Board Members verified that these changes will be impactful in the recruiting process and that stipends may also be available for hard to fill positions. Board members verified that college professors would not qualify for additional steps on the salary scale, but that starting salaries may be impacted if the educator has earned an advanced degree. The second reading of Policy GCBA will be in March.

**E. Overview of Employment Contracts for the 2023-24 School Year**

Stacy Saravo

Finance Director Stacy Saravo gave an overview of proposed contracts. District leadership is proposing a 3 step increase for all employees. These raises will allow the district to remain competitive in staff retention and recruitment while preserving funds to add academic enhancements including dedicated ELL teachers at both campuses. Board members verified that these raises should comply with state minimum wage requirements and proposed increases. Projected raises are approximately

6%, which is slightly lower than current inflation rates. Raises to coaching stipends will be considered by the leadership team. Funds for coaching stipends typically come from a different source, so these approvals would not impact a potential raise for coaches. The proposed contract lists cover all current staff members.

**ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible action to approve SY24 Certified Contracts (A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) – Personnel).

**Motion made by Lauren Robinson/Karen McClelland:** A motion to approve the SY24 Certified Contracts carried by a vote of 5-0.

**ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible action to approve SY24 Classified Letters of Employment. (A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) – Personnel).

**Motion made by Lauren Robinson/April Payne:** A motion to approve the SY24 Classified Letters of Employment carried by a vote of 5-0.

**ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible action to approve SY24 Administrative Contracts. (A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) – Personnel).

**Motion made by Lauren Robinson/Karen McClelland:** A motion to approve the SY24 Administrative Contracts carried by a vote of 5-0.

**X. Other Business**

Randy Hawley

Future board meeting dates and agenda items: The next meeting will be on March 7 at West Sedona School.

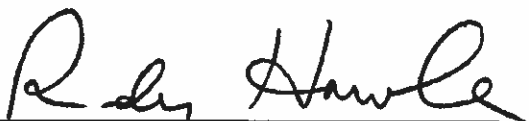
**XI. Adjournment**

Randy Hawley

A motion to adjourn at 5:14 made by Karen McClelland/April Payne carried by a vote of 5-0.

Submitted by: Amanda Stanfield

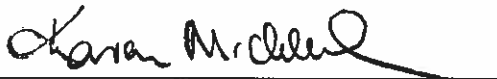
Signature of Attendees:



Randy Hawley



Lauren Robinson



Karen McClelland



April Payne



David Price