



Sedona-Oak Creek Joint Unified School District #9

November 1, 2022
Regular Public Meeting

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order** Randy Hawley
Board President Hawley called the meeting to order at 5:00.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance** Randy Hawley
Mr. Hawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Roll Call of Members**
Randy Hawley, Present
Lauren Robinson, Present
Karen McClelland, Present David Price, Present
Hunter White, Present
- IV. Statement of Welcome** Randy Hawley
Mr. Hawley welcomed attendees. The order of the agenda will be changed to accommodate guest presenters who must travel back to Phoenix.

Model Policy Program Overview

Barbara Uren & Jim Walker, The Trust
Barbara Uren and Jim Walker provided an overview of the Trust's model policy program. This program could replace our current policy platform through ASBA. The Trust's platform includes regular policy updates, policy review services, educational services for staff and board members, and coordination with prepaid legal services to help with the transition. District policies are housed on MicroScribe, an online platform with search and translation capabilities. Board Member David Price asked about the level of service provided with the Trust. Barbara Uren reiterated that there is assistance in creating policies with significant opportunities for customization according to district culture. Board Member Lauren Robinson asked about feedback from other districts, which has been positive. Board Member Karen McClelland asked about model forms, which are not currently available. Board President Randy Hawley verified that recommendations are provided by the Trust. Superintendent Dearden suggested that a full discussion and decision on the policy service should be made with the new board in January.

- V. Call to the Public** Randy Hawley
Comments regarding the affordable housing project will be heard before presentation C.
- VI. Governing Board Member Comments** Board Members
- Board Member Karen McClelland thanked SOCUSD staff members Alex Ramirez, John Parks, and SFE for their assistance at a recent Yavapai County School Board Member meeting.
 - Board Member Lauren Robinson is researching Superintendent Evaluation Options. Board members expressed interest in discussing those options at an upcoming board retreat.
 - Board Member David Price and President Randy Hawley both attended and were impressed with the Wildcat Carnival.
 - Board Member David Price thanked Jennifer Chilton for taking him on a tour of the Big Park campus.

- Board President Randy Hawley congratulated Superintendent Dearden on the Cognia Excellence in Education Award.

VII. Student Representative Update

Hunter White

Student Representative Hunter White congratulated Superintendent Dearden on his recent award. He also gave an overview of events at the high school including successful fundraising by Interact Club at the Wildcat Carnival, the blood drive, and homecoming week events. Hunter is spending a significant amount of time working with the Governor's office and Superintendent. As a result, he will be stepping down from his leadership role with the Student Council. Civics classes with Ms. Hill have had many visits from city officials and will investigate an opportunity for a student advisory group for city council.

VIII. Superintendent's Update

Dennis Dearden

Superintendent Dearden gave an update on district events. He attended and was very impressed with the Wildcat Carnival. The boys' soccer team had a great showing at the state championship where they finished in second place. The state has given letter grades to our schools. The junior high had challenges which impacted the grade given to SRRJH/SH. Although the high school outscored other area schools, they hybrid model scoring resulted in a C. West Sedona School received a B. Superintendent Dearden believes a strong culture will help drive student achievement and higher test scores in the future. Mr. Dearden has been working with Principal Tavasci and Deana Dewitt to address parent concerns regarding an aide for our kindergarten classroom. Our new behavioral coach is working closely with our kindergarten classes. Interviews are ongoing for an aide. Student Corps will be talking to community groups about the things going on in the District.

IX. Approve Order of the Agenda Including the Consent Agenda and Minutes

Motion made by Karen McClelland/Lauren Robinson. A motion to approve the order of the agenda including the consent agenda and minutes carried by a vote of 4-0.

X. Business Items and Presentations

A. Model Policy Program

Barbara Uren & Jim Walker, The Trust

This item was moved to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate the presenters' schedule.

B. Update on partnership with Yavapai County to develop community service use at the District's 25 W. Saddlehorn property in the Village of Oak Creek, including general information on current use and property status.

Jennifer Chilton

Director of Facilities Jennifer Chilton discussed proposed improvements at the Big Park Campus, including rentals from the County Sheriff, Search and Rescue, and the Public Library in the B building. ASDB's lease is ending. Proper maintenance of grounds and buildings continues to be challenging.

C. Letter of intent concerning a proposed housing project at the Big Park School Building C at 25 W. Saddlehorn Road

Dennis Dearden

Public Comments:

- Parent and community member Heather Hermen discussed the need for affordable housing. She believes the affordable housing project at the Big Park Campus will help attract and retain quality teachers and make our district a model for creating teacher housing solutions.
- Staff member Joe Falsetto discussed experiences with affordable housing and expressed appreciation to the district for looking for creative solutions.

Superintendent Dearden believes the key to a good education is good teachers. Each year, strong teachers decline contracts because they cannot find affordable housing in the area. Due to the efforts of the Mahers, we have an opportunity to build housing for teachers at no interest or cost to the district. Superintendent Dearden believes this is an excellent opportunity to set the district up for financial and recruiting success.

Additional comments and discussion:

- Board Member Karen McClelland asked about the number of proposed units. Heather Hermen indicated current plans are for between eight and eleven units, including studio, 1 and 2 bedroom options. A shared laundry facility and patio spaces will also be included.
- Board President Hawley feels that we are extremely fortunate to have donors to help with this project. Many other districts have the need, but not the money to undertake this type of project.
- Superintendent Dearden and Heather Hermen are both committed to applying for grants.
- Board Member Lauren Robinson mentioned that having teachers live near the schools would increase opportunities for teachers to volunteer and be involved with activities and families after school hours.
- Board Member David Price stated that although there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the project, we need to spend more time discussing potential risks. He stated that the emphasis is on building transition housing, not housing for families or more experienced teachers. He also suggested that this small number of units will not fix our housing shortage. Mr. Price also asked about cost estimates for the projects and the length of the potential repayment process.
- Heather Hermen stated that a concrete estimate cannot be given at this stage. Estimates are in the \$3-4 million range. Once the letter of intent is signed, more concrete estimates can be generated.
- Superintendent Dearden reiterated that this is not a binding agreement. Before anything is finalized, more details and greater guidance from our attorney will be presented to the board.

ACTION ITEM: Discussion and possible action to approve the letter of intent concerning a proposed housing project at Big Park School Building C at 25 W. Saddlehorn Rd, Parcel No. 405-27-006C.

Motion made by Lauren Robinson/Karen McClelland. A motion to approve the letter of intent concerning a proposed housing project at Big Park School Building C at 25 W. Saddlehorn Rd, Parcel No. 405-27-006C carried by a vote of 4-0.

XI. Other Business

Randy Hawley

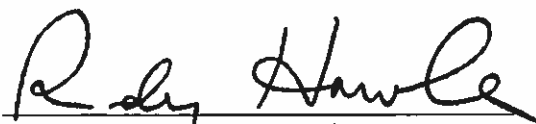
Future board meeting dates and agenda items: Next board meeting Monday, December 5. An executive session for the superintendent's review will be held at 3:00. The general meeting will follow at 4:00.

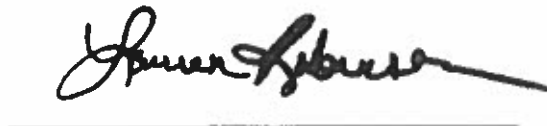
XII. Adjournment


Randy Hawley


A motion made by Lauren Robinson/David Price to adjourn at 6:35 PM carried by a vote of 4-0.

Submitted by: Amanda Stanfield


Randy Hawley


Lauren Robinson


Karen McClelland


David Price