

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

## **GOVERNING BOARD WORK SESSION**

**January 25, 2022, 4:00 PM**

### **NOTES**

#### **Budgeting for the 2022-23 school year.**

Randy Hawley began the work session at 4:00.

Present: Randy Hawley, Lauren Robinson, Maria Husted, Denny Dearden, Deana DeWitt, John Parks, Stacy Saravo, John Parks, Aaron Coleman, Jennifer Chilton, Kent Johnson.

Superintendent Dearden explained that this is a work session to give preliminary information before budget is finalized and approved later in the year. Mr. Dearden also gave an overview of aggregate spending level discussions at state level. If threshold is not raised by the legislature, school district could lose nearly \$1,000,000 from the current school year's budget. The impact would be devastating for schools across the state. A decision will be made by the state legislature by March 1. His goal will be to focus on the positive, building strong programs and a good school environment for the future.

Budget presentation by Stacy Saravo (see attached PowerPoint).

Ms. Saravo gave a detailed presentation regarding the budget for the 2022-23 school year, including information on pay, staffing, insurance and funding.

Discussion regarding Covid: Mr. Dearden feels that the district has been ahead of the curve on contact tracing/quarantine, testing supplies, technology and other mitigation strategies. These team efforts have helped to keep the schools open.

#### **Board member questions:**

- Lauren Robinson asked if additional staffing has been built into the budget, especially at the junior high level. Mr. Dearden explained that those plans have been made/budgeted. He is committed to making sure staff levels are appropriate and sustainable.
- Lauren Robinson asked about energy expenses and potential emergency expenses. Stacy Saravo said that we have budgeted for those expenses. Funds may be reallocated in the second half of the year if no expenses are incurred.
- Karen McClelland asked if salaries are competitive enough to attract top talent. Mr. Dearden expressed that salaries are competitive, but high housing prices, Covid and teacher shortages create recruiting problems. District staff expects a tough recruiting year and will begin recruiting early to get top candidates.

The work session ended at 5:05.