



Sonoita Elementary School District # 25

Elgin School

*23 Elgin Road
Elgin, Arizona 85611
(520) 455-5514 Fax (520) 455-5516*

Mary Faley, Superintendent

Melissa Paul, Executive Secretary

SONOITA GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021 @ 6:30 PM
ELGIN SCHOOL GYMNASIUM, ELGIN SCHOOL

MINUTES

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Ginny Cosby – President
Anthony Fennell – Member
Nancy Webster – Member

DISTRICT ATTENDANCE:

Mary Faley – Superintendent
Leonard Sadorf – IT Director
Heidi Gonzales – Board Secretary

OPENING

- A. Call to Order – Ginny Cosby called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- Pledge of Allegiance – All in attendance stood to recite The Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Adoption of the Agenda – Ginny Cosby made a motion to Adopt the Agenda with “a change in the order of Item E – Public Comments to follow Item F - The Fiber Project and again after Item G – The Final Mile Project. We want this modification to reflect our desire for an open dialogue and questions from our school families and our community. Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 3/0

INFORMATION ITEMS

C. BOARD MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORTS - None

D. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - None

E. PUBLIC COMMENT Individuals wishing to address the Board must complete a request to address the Board. The purpose of the “Call to the Public” section is for the Governing Board to hear statements from constituents. Persons speaking shall observe the rules of propriety and refrain from slanderous remarks.

- Each speaker is limited to two minutes
- Each speaker must be recognized by the Board President

NOTE: At the conclusion of public comment, individual members of the public body may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the public body, may ask staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, the Governing Board is prohibited by law from addressing topics, which do not appear on the Agenda.

**BY MOTION PASSING 3/0 PUBLIC COMMENT MOVED TO AFTER ITEM F
AND AFTER ITEM G.**

ACTION ITEMS

- F. DISCUSS- Fiber Project – Milan Eaton and Greg West to present. – Mary Faley started by introducing the guest speakers, Greg West from ZAYO and Milan Eaton from e-Rate. Mary Faley also introduced Leonard Sadorf, IT Director for the school district. Mary Faley gave a background on the Fiber Project. The project is underway, it will be bringing highspeed internet to the school. Our current internet is not adequate for distanced learning, should the situation arise in the future where distanced earning would be necessary, we will be ready. Originally, the district was going to be required to pay \$160,000 for the project in which case we denied participation. Milan Eaton from e-Rate worked with Mary Faley and Leonard Sadorf to put project

out for bid after assuring funding for the project would be found. The district chose Zayo based on a number of factors. The Final Mile Project will come later to provide commercial internet to the community through a third-party vendor. Milan Eaton reviewed the Fiber Project, stating the total project cost was \$782, 015, the stated funded \$156,403 and e-Rate funding for the remaining \$625,612. The district will not pay anything for the project but will gain the internet required at current and future educational levels. Milan Eaton also commended the district for choosing to work with Zayo, they are fantastic to work with and have long history and experience with fiber working throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. Greg West shared his screen for the group with mapping of the project and the route it will be placed. Some fiber will be over head on the power poles and some will be laid 40 inches underground. There is an easement that permission from the property owners will be needed for a section of the fiber, that is being worked on currently. Greg also stated the timeline for the project to be completed will be late quarter 1, early quarter 2 of 2022. The materials have been received, the plans for the construction have been submitted to ADOT. The goal is to start underground within the next couple weeks. Anthony Fennell stated another plus to working Zayo is an American company based out of Colorado and has very positive reviews across the board. Essentially with this project every family is receiving about \$600 a person of internet for free. Ginny Cosbey opened the floor for questions and discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT – B.J. Hinstala came to the podium to ask a question. “Where the fiber is going runs directly across and in front of my house, will it mess up my power or anything?” Greg West answered; no, the power is overhead and in that section the fiber will be underground and the power is overhead in the powerlines.

Kathryn Schrag from the Patagonia Regional Times asked what impacts will bringing fiber to the school have for the school, students and families? Will the quality be better? Mary Faley stated absolutely, the quality will bring opportunities to the students that we do not have access to currently. Our portion of the fiber project is bringing highspeed internet capable of handling the challenges of distanced learning to our families. Milan Eaton stated that with this fiber, the school will have abilities to provide real time educational content from anywhere in the world. One school, for instance, is now providing Mandarin language lessons directly from China with an instructor fluent. These are the types of programs that can enhance education and it will be at our fingertips with fiber.

Kathryn Schrag asked Greg West if the highways at the intersection will be torn up during the construction period of laying the fiber across HWY 83. Greg West replied No, there will be use of a directional drill for that, it will go under the highway with no above ground disruption.

- G. DISCUSS- The Final Mile Project – Milan Eaton to present. – Milan Eaton stated once fiber is brought to the school The Final Mile Project will focus on bringing commercial highspeed internet to the community. There is \$1.5million for this portion of the project. This will provide \$10 a month educational level highspeed internet. This is educational level, there will not be Netflix streaming etc., once the educational level is set, the school district and e-Rate will work to find a third-party vendor to utilize the fiber to provide commercial level internet to the community. Mary Faley stated we surveyed our families and staff asking if they have adequate internet, 36 families did not for reasons of cost, location and availability. Milan Eaton stated so much of education, especially since the pandemic, is done online. Students suffered greatly during the pandemic because the internet they had was not sufficient, especially in rural areas. This is our opportunity to level up so to speak so that we are ready if it happens again. Ginny Cosbey stated this is a real miracle for our community and children, the opportunities it will be opening up for us are huge. Ginny Cosbey opened the floor for questions and discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Kathryn Schrag asked if this internet would be available to all of Sonoita/Elgin areas. Milan Eaton replied yes, at first it will be educational only then once the vendor is chosen to provide it to the community it will be up to them to provide the commercial side to the community. Ginny Cosbey asked what the timeline on The Final Mile Project is. Milan Eaton stated once the fiber is a month or two away from being complete, we will then start going out for bids with third-party vendors, then it is up to the chosen vendor to set their end up. Kathryn Schrag asked if existing towers can be used. Milan Eaton stated yes, there may be need of an additional tower to reach the families further out but they are expecting to have a range of 7 to 14 miles from the towers in place now. Milan also stated that this opportunity would not be here for the community without the school. The goal of providing highspeed educational quality internet for our students is what is making it possible for the community.

CONSENT AGENDA** - NONE

**A Board member may request any item listed under the consent agenda be removed from the consent agenda. If an item is removed from the consent agenda, it will be discussed and voted upon separately immediately following the consent agenda. Specific information regarding the matters being approved under the consent agenda is available in the Board packet and may be reviewed during normal business hours.

STUDY ITEMS - None

A Board member or the Superintendent may request items be added for future study sessions.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

A Board member may request items be added for future agendas

ADJOURNMENT – Ginny Cosby made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm, Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 3/0.

Information regarding the Governing Board's Agenda for the meeting may be obtained by calling 455-5514.

PURSUANT TO TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, QUALIFIED DISABLED INDIVIDUAL (S) WHO REQUIRE SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS MAY CONTACT MARY FALEY OR HEIDI GONZALES AT 455-5514 AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.

IF AN INDIVIDUAL WISHES TO HAVE AN INTERPRETER PRESENT AT A BOARD MEETING, THE PERSON MUST REQUEST AN INTERPRETER BY CONTACTING MARY FALEY OR HEIDI GONZALES AT 455-5514 AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING."

Posted 11/16/2021 10:00 am Sonoita Post Office, Elgin School, Elgin School Web Site

I, Heidi Gonzales, certify that this notice of public meeting, prepared pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, was posted at Sonoita Post Office and Elgin School on the 16th day of November 2021 at. 10:00 am.

/s/ 
