



*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 MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021 @ 5:00 PM  
ELGIN SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM, ELGIN SCHOOL

**MINUTES**

**BOARD ATTENDENCE:**

Ginny Cosby, President  
Harry Dotson, Member  
Anthony Fennell, Member  
Nancy Webster, Member  
Megan Thomas, Clerk ~ Arrived 5:29pm

**DISTRICT ATTENDENCE:**

Mary Faley, Superintendent  
Heidi Gonzales, Board Secretary

OPENING

- A. Call to Order – Ginny Cosby called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
- 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, Nancy Webster 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 4/0.
- B. Approve Minutes
- Meeting Minutes October 5, 2021 – Anthony Fennell noted that his last name had been misspelled in the minutes, Heidi Gonzales stated corrections will be made. Ginny Cosby made a motion to approve the minutes, Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 4/0.
  - Special Meeting Minutes October 12, 2021 – Ginny Cosby made a motion to approve the minutes, Nancy Webster 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 4/0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- C. BOARD MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORTS – Ginny Cosby urged all members to read the board packets prior to Board Meeting to be as prepared for each meeting as possible. Anthony Fennell reported that he came to the school on 10/29/21 to spread “Holiday Cheer”. Spoke with some middle school students about 3D printing and how he was able to make his costume. Many kids were very interested and he had a lot of fun.
- D. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
- Enrollment (121)
  - 301 Presentation – Anna Coleman – Mary Faley introduced Anna Coleman to explain the 21/22 301 Plan. Anna went over the different components and duties to be completed this year.
  - Covid-19 – Mary Faley reviewed the number of cases within our zip codes has gone up to a total of 133. Mary continues to work closely with the local health department.
  - Purple Truck – Heidi Gonzales discussed the option of selling the truck to Patagonia because it is also based on the recommendations of The Trust Lawyer. Can sell the truck for less than the value according to Hagerty Vehicle Valuation. The Board can set a price to ask for the truck that is less than the estimated value as long as it is within a reasonable amount. This will be placed on the next agenda as DISCUSS/ACTION item.
  - ESSER III Grant – Mary Faley reported the majority of our ESSER moneys are being used to maintain current staff and programs. ESSER III requires 20% of funds be used for summer programs and can be utilized through 2024.
  - Emergency Connectivity Grant – The district was awarded funds from the Emergency Connectivity Grant to upgrade any outdated devices. The “definition” of outdated is any device over 3 years old is considered outdated. The grant will cover up to \$400.00 per device, so iPads are covered 100%, macs are covered about half. The remaining cost of the macs will be paid out of the REAP grant (about \$14,000.00) and the district will pick up the rest, about \$13,000.00. Harry Dotson asked if we were “married” to Apple products, Mary Faley stated at this point we are because that what was quoted to

the grant. Anthony Fennell stated that it is great to get the majority of the cost covered outside district funds on products we would be purchasing the relatively near future.

- Final Mile Project – Mary went over the Final Mile Project, Zayo will bring fiber out to the area and school, The Final Mile Project regards getting internet out to the community through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor at a later date. Fiber is expected to be in by later Qtr 1, early Qtr 2 2022. A survey was sent to families and staff in regards to the internet availability and quality. There were 63 responses. 29 have internet 34 do not because of either the cost, quality or availability. Addresses were provided to Mylon Eaton for an RFP and he will put the project out for bid, get proposals to get educational internet out to families for about \$10.00/mo. There have been two sets of 5 districts each involved in the project, we are part of the second group of 5, the first group of 5 districts had great success.
- Sports / Extracurricular Activity Participation – Terrell Harper discussed the extracurricular activity and sports participation by outside students, we have a number of homeschool students that participate. We had a request by a parent for a student to participate in basketball who is enrolled in Benson High School’s Online Program. Per the AIA rules and regulations, we cannot allow the child to participate because the Benson Online Program is still part of a public school therefor it is against the AIA regulations. The parents of the child were understanding. We currently have 21 students playing softball, and 17 playing basketball.
- Eagle Tales – Eagle Tales are now going out to the community by paper copies distributed by staff to local businesses. The newsletter is quarterly, hoping to reach the part of the community that does not use digital media for updates.
- Veterans Day Program 11/10/21 – We are very excited to have the event back on campus and open to the public.
- Calendar/Events

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.

Tim Faulkner – Requested and audience with the board in regards to the ASBA Proposed Bylaw Amendment. Mr. Faulkner started by thanking the Board for their hard work and involvement with the school and the community. Mr. Faulkner urged the board to vote no on the bylaw proposal or refrain from voting on the issue, Mr. Faulkner feels adding a seat to the board is not the problem, it is adding a seat to the board that would be represented by a single particular race or group. Feels that a seat on the board should be granted by merit not because the member is part of a race, ethnicity, etc. Mr. Faulkner also requested that the Board consider becoming affiliated with a different school board association.

#### ACTION ITEMS

- F. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE- 20/21 Classroom Site Fund Narrative Results. – Heidi Gonzales reviewed the narrative results, no discussion or questions. Ginny Cosby made a motion to approve the Classroom Site Fund Narrative, Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0
- G. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE- 21/22 Certified Classroom Site Fund (301) Plan. – As described by Anna Coleman in the Superintendent’s Report. Ginny Cosby made a motion to approve the 21/22 CSF Plan, Megan Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion Carried 5/0.
- H. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE- Certified Classroom Site Fund (301) Pay, First Semester of \$1,344.97, to be paid on P12.1, 12/09/2021. Second and final payment to be made in May. – Ginny Cosby made a motion to approve the first 301 pay, Nancy Webster 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.
- I. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE- Classified Extra Duty Pay of \$500.00, to be paid on P12.5 pay period, 12/09/2021. – Ginny Cosby made a motion to approve the classified staff extra duty pay, Megan Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.
- J. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Special Board Meeting regarding the Fiber Project to be held November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 6:30pm. – Mary Faley would like to have a Special Board Meeting to

introduce the Final Mile Project to the community. Mylon Eaton is available remotely to give explain and answer questions to the community in regards to the project. The Board discussed dates, decided the 17<sup>th</sup> of November @ 6:30 pm would be the best date. Ginny Cosby made a motion to hold a Special Board Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 6:30pm to review Final Mile Project with the community, Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

- K. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE- Proposed Substitute pay increase from \$100.000 a day to \$125.00 a day. – Megan Thomas asked if the rate increas4e can be maintained and where the funds come from. Heidi Gonzales stated it is sustainable and will be paid from M & O. Ginny Cosby made a motion to approve the sub pay increase from \$100.00 a day to \$125.00 a day, Harry Dotson 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.
- L. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY20/21 School Level Reporting. – Heidi reviewed the School Level Reporting Expenditure document provided in the Board packet. Ginny Cosby made a motion to approve the 21/22 School Level Reporting, Harry Dotson 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.
- M. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – ASBA/ASBAIT, Letter of Support to AZ School Board Association Board of Directors. – Mary Faley reviewed the letters provided in the Board Packet in regards to a letter of support requested by Santa Cruz Valley Superintendent and Business Manager. It was stated that Little Red School district is not supporting the cause, Nancy Webster asked if we knew why, Mary Faley stated that their Board did not want to get involved in the politics of the matter. Harry Dotson stated he is unsure why the action of the ASBA/ASBAIT leader is being contested, feels that the letters sent out for support are more of a complaint of unfair treatment. Harry also stated we are only seeing one side of a story and tends to lean toward not getting involved. Anthony Fennell and Megan Thomas both state they agree that they do not feel it is Sonoita SD place to get involved and there is not enough information to make an informed decision to support the request. Ginny Cosby made a motion to write a letter of support to the AZ School Board Association per the information provided in the Board Packet, there was not a 2<sup>nd</sup> by any Board Member.
- N. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE - ASBA Bylaw Change Proposal Consideration and Voting. With unanimous approval of the ASBA Hispanic Native America Indian Caucus and ASBA Board of Directors, this change is being sought by the Hispanic-Native American Indian Caucus (HNAIC). It would create a seat on the ASBA Board of Directors so that Hispanic and Native American interests can be represented simultaneously on the board. Currently, there is one seat on the ASBA Board of Directors designated for a representative of the HNAIC and it alternates every two years between Hispanic representation and Native American representation, creating gaps in representation. By contrast, the Black Alliance has a seat on the ASBA Board of Directors, ensuring representation on the board at all times. This proposed bylaw change also provides the flexibility for the HNAIC to split into two distinct groups if its members so choose and allows those groups to change their names and be recognized under the new names. – Ginny Cosby started by noting in order to cast a yes vote on this matter 2/3 of the Board must agree and vote on that yes vote. Anthony Fennell stated he agrees with Tim Faulkner’s statement. Feels the way the amendment is being proposed conflicts the Policy Advisory in regards to segregation based on race, ethnicity, sex etc. He feels adding a seat to the Board/Council is not an issue, the issue is that it is being added to represent a particular race/ethnic group. Ginny Cosby stated the Native American and Hispanic cultures deserve to have a representative at the table. Anthony Fennell stated he completely agrees but feels the representative should be chosen by merit not race. Megan Thomas agrees, does not feel can back the decision based on race/ethnicity. Nancy Webster stated agrees that the situation as it stands with seats being represented by race/ethnicity is unfortunate, however, it is and she feels a yes vote should be made to allow both the Hispanic and Native American cultures should be able to have a representative present every year rather than having to alternate each year. Harry Dotson and Ginny Cosby both agree, they feel a yes vote should be placed. Megan Thomas asked why an additional seat was needed if all representatives were chosen based on merit it would be a non-issue. All Members agree that there should be equality in the representation and the main focus should be helping the children. Anthony Fennell stated his feeling is that if a yes vote is cast it would be moving in the direction of further segregation by adding a seat reserved for a single race representation rather than having representation no matter what race/ethnicity based on merit. Megan Thomas stated she feels if a yes vote is cast then we are condoning the behavior of segregation being discussed. Nancy Webster added that sometimes getting equality means supporting something we may not agree with but is in place already such as in this case, we may not agree with what it is but if a yes vote brings equality to the seats, then a yes vote should be cast. Ginny Cosby made a motion to place a yes vote on the ASBA Proposed Bylaw Amendment, Nancy Webster 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carries 3/2. Ginny Cosby – Aye, Harry Dotson - Aye, Nancy Webster - Aye, Megan Thomas - Nay, Anthony Fennell – Nay. Ginny Cosby to cast a yes vote online.
- O. DISCUSS- July 2021 Policy Advisory first reading. Volume 33, Number 3. Policy Advisory Numbers 680 through 711. Second reading and adoption will be on December. - No discussion.

- P. DISCUSS- October 2021 Policy Advisory first reading. Volume 33, Number 4. Policy Advisory Numbers 712 through 715. Affected Policies by HB2898: Policy Advisory No. 687, 690, 700, 708. – No Discussion.
- Q. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE- Consideration to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ (board member) to represent Sonoita Elementary School District as the district delegate to The Annual Business Meeting on December 16-17, 2021. Conference will be held at JW Marriot Desert Ridge Resort, 5350 E. Marriott Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85054. – All Board Members have other commitments for the dates of the Annual Business Meeting in December and can not attend. Ginny Cosby made a motion to have a representative at the Annual Business Meeting in December, there was not a 2<sup>nd</sup> by any Board Member due to availability.
- R. DISCUSS– Superintendent’s Evaluation- The Governing Board may vote to convene in Executive Session, which will not be open to Public, Regarding this item. Pursuant to A.R.S §38-431.03 (A) (1): Employment.  
- Mary Faley stated she is happy to provide the Board with her Self- Evaluation so they can review it a prior to making a decision on items R, S and T. Would be ok to table these items until the December meeting. Mary handed out the Self-Evaluation to each Member. Ginny Cosby made a motion to table Items R, S and T until the December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board Meeting, Harry Dotson 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.
- S. DISCUSS – Superintendent’s performance, progress towards established goals. The Governing Board may vote to convene in Executive Session, which will not be open to Public, Regarding this item. Pursuant to A.R.S §38-431.03 (A) (1): Employment. – Tabled until December 7<sup>th</sup> , 2021 Meeting.
- T. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE - Superintendent’s mid-year performance payment as stated per contract, Exhibit A – at \_\_\_\_\_% (1-10% of Superintendent’s base salary). – Tabled until December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting. - Tabled until December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting

#### CONSENT AGENDA\*\*

\*\*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.

U. Expense Vouchers 1007, 1009 (Visions did not generate a 1008 voucher)

V. Payroll Vouchers 8, 9

- No discussion. Ginny Cosby made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

#### STUDY ITEMS

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

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A Board member may request items be added for future agendas

- Fiber Project RFP
- Items R, S and T from November 2, 2021 meeting.
- Sale of purple truck
- Results of state assessments broken down by grade level.

ADJOURNMENT – Ginny Cosby made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm, Megan Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

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 11/1/2021 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 1st day of November 2021 at 10:00 am.

/s/  \_\_\_\_\_