Scottsdale Unified School District

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MINUTES OF SUSD Sex Ed Advisory Committee
SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48
SUSD Mohave District Annex 8500 E. Jackrabbit Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85250

Date: March 27, 2024 Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Attendance

Committee Members Present:

- In Person: Steve Struzyk, Ashley Katikos, Susan Leonard, Joe Olney, Dr. Elizabeth Schmied, Colleen Abrams, Leslie Sharp, Shannon Wall, Dr. Kaveh Najafi, Renee Tosto, Amy Carney, Julie Cieniawski, Dr. Karen Benson

Supporting team members in attendance: Michelle Irvin, Dede Johnston, Susan Aguayo and Nicholas Buzan

1. Welcome

- Dr. Karen Benson welcomed all to the third meeting of the Sex Ed Advisory Committee.

2. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.

3. Roll call

- Committee members introduced themselves again by name and role and shared either their favorite app, restaurant/food, hike/local attraction, or NCAA team as a team builder.

4. Approval of Agenda

- **Action** – Dr. Karen Benson motioned to approve the agenda with an amendment to remove item 8A: Approve Recommended Course of Study at all Grade Level Bands – Action. She explained the committee needs more time to develop the initial course of study (clarifying that the course of study needs to be complete and included with resources during the 60 day public review period).
  The motion was seconded by Susan Leonard and approved with a vote of 10-0.

5. Approval of Minutes

- Dr. Benson shared the Attorney General's counsel for committee meeting minutes: "though the minutes do not need to be a verbatim transcript of the meeting to satisfy this requirement, they must summarize the discussion, including the topics addressed, and

identify all speakers who participated in the discussion, including members of the public body." She invited committee members to review the minutes of the previous meeting for accuracy. No revisions were requested.

- **Action** -- Dr. Elizabeth Schmied motioned to approve the meeting minutes from March 6, 2024. Colleen Abrams seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 10-0.

6. Brief Review Committee Norms

- Dr. Benson asked the committee to review the recommended norms to guide successful committee work.

7. Review and Discussion: Legal Authority Impacting Recommendations of Committee

- Committee members were provided a "table of contents" to organize materials previously shared as hard copies or links including AZ State Statutes, Admin Code from the AZ State Board of Education, the Sex Ed Committee Charter approved by the SUSD Governing Board, Governing Board policy and regulation, and the initial draft Course of Study and draft rubric to review resources distributed at this meeting.

8. Review and discussion: Chair will present Draft Course of Study for Committee Review: Grades 5, 6-8, 9

- Dr. Benson reminded committee members of the Growth and Development and Sex Ed courses of study, lessons, and resources used by other Valley school districts linked into the slide deck at the last meeting – highlighting the variations in "courses of study" across districts.
- Committee members reviewed a very preliminary/initial draft of a Proposed Course of Study -- based on AZ legal authority impacting Growth and Development/Sex Ed and initial ideas shared by committee members at the previous meeting. Dr. Benson shared she added the importance of involving parents as partners and a rationale for the work of this committee – referencing research on the benefits of students having access to factual information on growth and development and sex ed as part of a comprehensive health program.
- Committee members were provided time to review the initial draft in small groups and identify what questions they have on the initial draft. Each group was asked to share out a summary of their conversations:
    - 5th Grade Group (Renee Tosto and Dr. Kaveh Najafi) indicated they reviewed resources previously used by SUSD. Renee shared information she learned about resources available with the Maricopa County Health Department. Dr. Najafi asked a clarifying question about exact language used in R7-2-303 specific to abstinence.
    - 7th Grade Group (Susan Leonard, Dr. Elizabeth Schmied, Joe Olney, and Leslie Sharp) indicated the need for the course of study to include information on peer pressure, social media/internet, and texting. Group members asked if a "question can" can/will be used in our course of study. Dr. Benson indicated the committee can recommend that structure and shared that resources posted by other Valley districts have clear guidance and examples of how nurses, teachers or other facilitators can respond to questions posed beyond the course of study.
    - 9th Grade Group (Steve Struzyk, Colleen Abrams, Ashley Katikos, and Shannon Wall) recommended that information on the use of drugs or alcohol influencing

risk behaviors be included in the course of study and posed questions about the exact language used in A.R.S. 15-115.

9. Review and discussion: Chair will present Criteria for Reviewing Resources

- Committee members reviewed a draft rubric for use when evaluating resources that includes all AZ legal authority specific to growth and development and sex ed – organized into 3 main sections typically used by SUSD curriculum adoption committees (Accuracy and Alignment, Ease of Use and Support, and Engaging for Students). Dr. Benson shared that the draft rubric includes criteria recommended by HECAT (Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool - 2021).
- Committee members were invited to review the rubric for a several minutes.
- Dr. Benson asked the committee for recommendations for revision or areas to prioritize (or weight heaviest) in the draft rubric. Feedback from committee members included: Dr. Elizabeth Schmied recommended prioritizing the need for resources to follow all AZ legal authority. Joe Olney recommended that the rubric and resources reflect a priority to include information on social media/internet use. Dr. Kaveh Najafi emphasized the need for resources to include medically accurate terms and information.
- Rene Tosto asked if the committee can recommend consideration for after school learning opportunities for parents – and if so, would the committee need to review the content/materials prior to recommending the learning opportunity? Dr. Benson clarified the committee can include parent (and/or parent/student) learning opportunities outside of the school day in the recommended course of study. (Dr. Benson will consult with Legal Counsel and clarify expectations for committee review for this type of learning experience at the next committee meeting.)

10. Review and discussion: Timeline and Process for Reviewing Materials/Resources to Support Course of Study -- All Grade Level Bands

- Dr. Benson indicated committee members will begin to review resources at the next committee meeting – using the rubric that will reflect adjustments suggested by committee members this afternoon. Committee members will have access to links for all resources and will be asked to continue reviewing the resources between the next meeting and meeting 5, with the goal of completing all evaluations prior to committee meeting five. Susan Leonard asked if review of resources can be done with teams or small groups or if evaluations must be completed independently. (Dr. Benson will consult with Legal Counsel and clarify at the start of the next meeting.)

11. Public Input: Clarify Dates and Structures for Public Input

- Given the need for the course of study to be complete prior to initiating the 60 day public review of resources, Dr. Benson shared the following adjustments to the timeline:
    - 60 day review period originally planned for April 1 – June 1 will be postponed until the committee completes the recommended course of study.
    - Public hearings tentatively scheduled during that 60 day period (April 9 and May 14) will be rescheduled during the 60 day period that will follow the work of this committee.
    - First read tentatively scheduled for the Governing Board meeting on May 14 will be postponed and rescheduled at a later date (anticipated fall 2024).
    - Second read tentatively scheduled for the Governing Board meeting on June 11 will instead be an Informational Item/Update to share the progress of the committee.
    - Goal: Advisory committee completes course of study and identifies resources to support the course of study as planned during this second semester, 23-24 SY. District will hold 60 day public review and bring forward recommended course of

study and resources to support the course of study for Board review and approval fall of 2024 – with opportunities for families to opt students into learning experiences late first semester or during the second semester of 2024-25 school year.

12. Next Meeting:

- April 17, 2024 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM, MDA 8500 E Jackrabbit Rd., Scottsdale AZ 85250
- Tentative Topics: Review any communications received in Committee email account, clarify answers to questions posed by committee members during meeting 3, initiate committee members review of resources, and discuss/further develop course of study.

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 PM was made by Dr. Karen Benson. The motion was seconded by Joe Olney and approved by a vote of 10 to 0.

Dated Posted: March 29, 2024