



DRAFT
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: June 10, 2024 Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Attendance

Committee Members Present:

- In Person: Dr. Karen Benson, Joe Olney, Colleen Abrams, Leslie Sharp, Shannon Wall, Amy Carney, Julie Cieniawski.
- Participated via Teams: Susan Leonard, Dr. Kaveh Najafi, Renee Tosto, Steve Strzyk
- Not in attendance: Ashley Katikos, Dr. Elizabeth Schmied

Supporting team members in attendance: Michelle Irvin, Susan Aguayo

1. Welcome

- Dr. Karen Benson welcomed everyone back to the sixth and final meeting of the year – and reminded all that the materials for the meeting are accessible on SUSD’s website on the Committee Hub.

2. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.

3. Roll call

- Committee members introduced themselves again by name and were asked to respond to their best summer experience so far, as a team builder.

4. Approval of Agenda

- **Action** – Leslie Sharp motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Colleen Abrams. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0.

5. Approval of Minutes

- **Action** – Dr. Karen Benson shared the Attorney General’s counsel for committee meeting minutes: “though the minutes do not need to be 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. Dr. Karen Benson motioned to approve the May 8 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Shannon Wall and approved by a vote of 8-0.

6. Brief Review Committee Norms

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

7. Review Communications Received from Public

- Dr. Benson shared one communication received at the Advisory Committee email address since the last meeting -- from community member Mike Bengert, suggesting the committee develop a compliance matrix with applicable laws prior to submitting the final proposed course of study to the Governing Board.

8. Review and discussion: Evaluation/Rubrics submitted by Committee members at May 8 meeting

- Dr. Benson shared averaged scores from rubrics/evaluations from the last meeting. The *Choosing the Best* resource had the highest scores for MS and HS levels. She added that comments committee members made about the resource included that it is clear and that it allowed ease of access to select or delete content or lessons from the resource.
- A typo was identified on the slide deck – in that 67 should have read “57.” Dr. Benson confirmed the number was in error and clarified the correction with the committee. (The error was corrected on the slide deck and reposted to committee hub on June 11, 2024.)
- Dr. Benson shared that committee members evaluating the elementary resources scored two resources higher than the other resources – but consensus has not been reached yet, noting that committee members requested additional conversation or consideration of resources.

9. Review and Discussion: Consider an Additional Resource just made available for Elementary/Grade 5

- Dr. Benson shared that based on feedback from committee members, she asked a member of the leadership team at *Choosing the Best* if they had any resources at the elementary level. CTB indicated they were just wrapping up a resource for grade five entitled “Choosing the Best – Intro to Puberty and Reproductive Anatomy” – and that the vendor shared it with SUSD for consideration (and welcomed feedback from our Committee members).
- The resource was shared with all committee members and members were invited to score the resource using our Grade 5 rubric. Dr. Benson clarified that the resource has also been added to the public SUSD website developed for these purposes (accessible at the MDA entrance), and welcomed public review.

- Committee members reviewed the additional resource from CTB. 4 committee members completed and submitted rubrics (in person). Dr. Benson totalled and averaged the scores, indicating this resource scored high – along with the other two top rated resources. Given the closeness of the scores and lack of clear consensus, Dr. Benson asked the two members of the elementary subgroup, Renee Tosto and Dr. Kaveh Najafi, to convene by cell phone to talk through the top 3 resources, and report back to the large group.
- Committee member Renee Tosto indicated that the content from *Always Changing and Growing* was separated for boys and girls – and that from experience, elementary students prefer this separation. Committee member Dr. Najafi indicated the *Positive Prevention Plus* resource includes a lesson on unsafe touch and bullying at the elementary level – which could support the healthy decision making and respect for self and others content in our recommended Elementary Course of study. Both shared that the top 3 resources seem to lack information on respect for self and others when texting and using social media. Renee shared a concern that some of the content in *Positive Prevention Plus* may be concerning to families or those facilitating lessons. Both shared that the content reviewed in the new resource for consideration from CTB appears to be age appropriate and that if it could be separated for boys and girls, the resource would be a top choice.
- Other committee member feedback on the CTB resource at grade five included that it is: “very straight forward and informative,” “medical based facts on puberty,” “easy to cover in few classes,” and “will be easy for kids and teachers.”

10. Approve Resource(s) at all levels of Course Study of Study: Elementary, Middle, High School – Action

- Dr. Benson indicated she will share the feedback from the committee with *Choosing the Best* – and asked that if the content is separated for boys and girls, does the committee support adopting CTB at all three levels. Committee members shared agreement. Dr. Benson asked for a motion.
- Shannon Wall motioned to approve *Choosing the Best*, at all levels, contingent on separating the content for boys and girls at the elementary level. Leslie Sharp seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0.
- Dr. Benson shared that *Choosing the Best* is working on creating an asynchronous option for the content at the middle level – which, if the course of study is approved by the Board, may allow families the option to access at home and/or allow for easier facilitation of the content at the middle level.
- Dr. Benson shared that *Choosing the Best* initially submitted quotes for their resource – noting teacher licenses or district kits are available. Prices vary based on the number purchased (i.e. \$75 – \$395 dollars). And that costs will be negotiated and brought forward to the Board with the proposed course of study in the months ahead.

11. Review and Discussion: SUSD Proposed Course of Study

- Dr. Benson reminded all that the initial draft of the proposed course of study is based on all legislative authority and initial ideas proposed by committee members. She shared that at the May 8 meeting, subgroups added clarifying information to each level – (indicated on slide 10 of the slide deck from June 10). Committee members were asked

to review the proposed course of study once more and to identify any other information to add, clarify or remove.

- Discussion included:
 - Joe Olney recommended that facilitators at the middle level be consistent to ensure consistent messaging.
 - Susan Leonard shared a reminder to be mindful of staffing needs for facilitation -- given boys and girls receive instruction separately, and inquired to be sure that meeting the needs of exceptional students at the elementary level has been included in the course of study. (Note: Addressing the needs of exceptional students is included at each level in our proposed course of study: grades 5, 7 and 9.)
 - Dr. Kaveh Najafi recommended adding content for consent and unsafe touch and bullying to the ES level course of study. Renee Tosto shared that the content on consent and bullying previously reviewed appeared to be a YouTube video, and may be a free resource we can add for these purposes.

12. Approve SUSD Proposed Course of Study – Action

- Committee member Joe Olney reiterated the request that all content be reviewed prior to bringing forward a final, proposed course of study to ensure lessons comply with all legal authority.
- Dr. Benson clarified that next steps include working with the vendor to align lessons/content with the course of study – and creating a detailed course of study and table of contents for final approval by the committee, fall 2024.
- Dr. Benson asked for a motion to approved the proposed course of study at each of the levels (grades 5, 7 and 9) – to include all additions/clarifications requested from committee members. Joe Olney motioned to approve the proposed course of study at all levels with the additions/clarifications included. Shannon Wall seconded the motion and the motion was approved 8-0.

13. Review and Discussion: Finalize dates for 2 Public Hearings, 60-day Public Review of Recommended Resources and Course of Study, and First and second Reads at Governing Board meetings.

- Dr. Benson reminded all that staff, parents and community members can give feedback on all resources submitted for consideration at the MDA, building A, in the public review area. And that the committee's recommended resource will be indicated on the list of resources in the event persons would only like to review this resource.
- Dr. Benson clarified that an update on the work of the Advisory Committee will be shared with the Governing Board on or before the June 25, 2024 meeting – either as an informational item at the board meeting or as a B memo. Content for the update will include: progress/work of the committee, next steps 24-25 (review/finalize lessons in the course of study), and suggested dates for 60 day review, two public hearings during the 60 day review period, and first and second reads at Governing Board meetings. This information will also be shared on the Committee Hub website.

14. Review and Discussion: Update to SUSD Governing Board

- Review and Discussion agenda items 13 and 14 overlapped. *Dr. Benson clarified that an update on the work of the Advisory Committee will be shared with the Governing Board*

on or before the June 25, 2024 meeting – either as an informational item at the board meeting or as a B memo. Content for the update will include: progress/work of the committee, next steps 24-25 (review/finalize lessons in the course of study), and suggested dates for 60 day review, two public hearings during the 60 day review period, and first and second reads at Governing Board meetings. This information will also be shared on the Committee Hub website.

15. Committee Evaluation: Feedback on the Committee Process and Indicate Preference to continue/reconvene 2024-25 school year

- Dr. Benson again thanked committee members for their commitment to the work of the advisory committee. She clarified that the scope of work of the committee will be much less intensive next year, anticipating 2-3 meetings to review final course of study, feedback from public comment/hearings and on the resources -- and reflecting on the course of study and implementation in the spring if approved by the Board next fall.
- Committee members were provided a google link and asked to share feedback on the committee process and their preference to continue on the committee next year. Dr. Benson clarified that if members do not want to continue, other persons could be identified to serve on the committee next year.

Adjournment

- Shannon Wall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 PM. The motion was seconded by Colleen Abrams and approved by a vote of 8-0.

Dated Posted: June 13, 2024