



**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 6, 2024 Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Attendance

Committee Members Present:

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

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

1. Welcome

- Dr. Karen Benson welcomed everyone back to the second meeting.

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.

4. Approval of Agenda

- **Action** – Elizabeth Schmied motioned to approve the agenda. Susan Leonard seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 10 to 0.

5. Approval of Minutes

- **Action** - Elizabeth Schmied motioned to approve the minutes from February 14, 2024. Leslie Sharp seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 10 to 0.

6. Review Committee Norms-

- Dr. Karen Benson asked the committee to review the norms and the definition of consensus that were presented at the February 14, 2024 meeting - clarifying that the consensus definition is used for all curriculum adoption work in SUSD. Given this

committee has an additional layer of an approved charter to guide its work - decision making will be made by vote as indicated in the charter.

7. Review and discussion: Applicable ADE standards (Physical education, Science, Health).

- Dr. Benson provided links for committee members to review ADE standards in areas most closely aligned to Sex Ed/Human Growth and Development, including physical education, health and science – clarifying that SUSD does not offer a course specific to health at this time and that few science standards at the middle and high school levels offer a relevant connection to HGD/Sex Ed. Physical Education teachers Susan Leonard and Steve Struzyk shared that Arizona Physical Education standards do not include information on sex education.
- Dr. Benson shared that while there are national organizations that offer guidance when developing a comprehensive sex ed course of study, the scope of our committee work is much smaller (given sex ed is not required in Arizona).

8. Review and discussion: Previous SUSD Sex Ed/HGD materials and those used by other AZ Districts-

- Dr. Benson shared links to HGD/Sex Ed materials from the previous adoption in SUSD (2011-2012) – and links to resources currently used by other Valley districts. Committee members were given about 20 minutes to review previous resources and online materials that other districts are using. During discussion, committee members shared what they noticed and recommend we consider from the examples – and posed questions about the courses of study and resources currently used by other districts. Committee members noted that the Maricopa County site has a broad scope of resources and information for consideration.

9. Introduction and discussion: The advisory committee will begin to consider initial course of study to recommend a lesson(s) content per grade level band. The Chair will propose course of study options for committee consideration.

- Committee members reviewed a graphic organizer that reflects the scope of options and recommendations the committee will influence, including recommendations for: 1) What/Content, 2) When/ # of lessons, 3) Where, 4) How/Modality, and 5) Who will lead the lessons at each level.

10. Introduction and discussion: The advisory committee will begin to consider options in modality for opt in learning experiences - Grades 5, 6-8, and 9. The Chair will propose modality options for committee consideration.

- Dr. Benson indicated the committee can choose to recommend options for a course of study to include elective/during the day learning experiences and/or vetted resources for parents to access to discuss with their student. She invited committee members to consider being a thought partner to develop course of study and modality options, at each level, to bring back to the committee for information and discussion at the next meeting. Legal Counsel indicated these conversations would likely be in violation of OML. Committee member Susan Leonard asked if members could begin to discuss this agenda item. Legal Counsel agreed this would be allowed. Committee members indicated their preferred grade level(s) to discuss at this meeting and divided into small groups to initiate ideas on course of study and modality options at 5th grade, 6th - 8th grade, and 9th grade.

- **Initial ideas proposed included: 5th Grade Group** (Renee Tosto and Dr. Kaveh Najafi) identified the Proctor and Gamble and *Positive Prevention Plus* program as resources to further explore, moving forward. Initial thoughts on course of study included a possible 2-3 lessons 45 minutes each, offered during school as parental opt-in for student participation (with boys & girls taught separately) and videos/resources made available to parents. Initial content/topics recommended include information on puberty and health - with a recommendation to not address human reproduction nor diseases and transmission at this level. School nurses were initially recommended as likely best resource to facilitate at grade 5. **6-8 Grade Group** (Susan Leonard, Dr. Elizabeth Schmied, Joe Olney, and Leslie Sharp) Initial thoughts on course of study included a suggestion that lessons offered as parental opt-in for student participation during the school day be created for 7th grade students (only) – with a possible connection to science classes given the 7th grade standards on body systems. Key topics initially identified included: body systems, understanding change, bullying, prevention of sexual diseases, media and peer pressure, and preventing unplanned pregnancies. Initial idea on scope included a recommendation not to exceed 5 lessons in some format. The group recommended that resources and materials be made available to all middle level parents. **9th Grade Group** (Steve Struzyk, Colleen Abrams, Ashley Katikos, and Shannon Wall) Initial thoughts on course of study recommended a scope of 5 days for the course of study taught by high school PE teachers – with supplemental resources available for parents.
- Committee member Steve Struzyk posed a question about whether 9th grade sex ed/HGD can be taught co-ed. Dr. Benson clarified legislation requires that if Sex Ed/ HGD lessons are offered by schools or districts, grades 5-8 must be offered with boys and girls separated but at grade 9 classes can be offered co-ed. Dr. Benson clarified that the committee will continue to review all legislation in future meetings to ensure any proposed recommendations from this committee stay in step with legal authority.
- Committee members discussed the complexity of identifying or recommending “who” is best to lead the sex ed/HGD learning experiences – given passed and pending legislation. Initial ideas and recommendations suggested by committee members include:
 - ensuring no teacher or nurse is “required” to teach recommended lessons if uncomfortable doing so.
 - exploring the possibility of outside consultants/health experts (i.e. from County Health Departments) to facilitate lessons.
 - exploring the option of paying a stipend to lead nurses or teachers/facilitators interested in facilitating/teaching the lessons.
 - ensuring training is provided to any facilitators.
 - ensuring any recommendations the committee puts forward are equitable and sustainable (so all students have similar access and opportunities across the district).
 - Pre-recorded videos, while maximizing “standardization” of content – may not be very engaging to students (especially without a trained facilitator).

11. Public Input:

- Legislation requires the District to have a process for receiving public input specific to the course of study and any resources recommended by this committee. Dr. Benson shared the following:
 - Materials will be available for Public Review April 1, 2024 - June 1, 2024.
 - Public Hearings will be held on April 9, 2024 and May 14, 2024.
- The goal for this committee is to bring any recommended course of study and resources forward for a first read at the SUSD Governing Board Meeting on May 14, 2024. And a

potential second read (and possible action item) at the SUSD Governing Board Meeting on June 11, 2024.

12. Next Meeting:

- March 27, 2024 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM, MDA 8500 E Jackrabbit Rd., Scottsdale AZ 85250

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 PM was made by Renee Tosto. Motion seconded by Joe Olney. Approved by a vote of 10 to 0.

Dated Posted: March 8, 2024