

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD  
SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48**

April 9, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Scottsdale Unified School District, #48, Maricopa County, was called to order at 6:01 PM, at the Scottsdale Unified School District Coronado High School, 7501 E. Virginia Avenue, Scottsdale Arizona. Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice was hereby given to the members of the Scottsdale Governing Board and to the general public that the Governing Board would hold a public meeting open to the public on April 9, 2024. Members of the Governing Board and non-Board member participants participated in the meeting in-person.

Board Members in attendance were Dr. Libby Hart- Wells, President; Zach Lindsay, Vice President; Julie Cieniawski; Amy Carney; and Carine Werner. Superintendent Dr. Scott A. Menzel was also present. A quorum was present. Chaparral High School's Gold Dust Avenue A Capella Group performed the Star-Spangled Banner. Dr. Hart-Wells lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following amendments to the agenda were made:

- Table for a future agenda item, Action Item 8.D. Second Read and Approval – Governing Board Policy BDE – Board Committee.
- Pull Consent Agenda Item 7.H. Personnel Action Items, 03/05/2024 to 04/09/2024, specifically and only Ms. Amy Palatucci's resignation, for further discussion.
- Pull Consent Agenda Item 7.I. Recommend Approval of Revised Job Description of District Athletic Director for further discussion.
- Pull Consent Agenda Item 7.K. Approval of Salary Schedule for All Employee Groups Including Classified, Certified, Special Service Providers, and Administration for further discussion.

Dr. Hart-Wells moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Mr. Lindsay seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

**STUDENTS AND STAFF RECOGNITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS**

Acknowledgement of some outstanding celebrations:

- Congratulations to Desert Canyon Elementary School for being named a 2024 Arizona Educational Foundation A+ School of Excellence! Kim Mills, Desert Canyon Elementary School Principal and Erin Scagnelli, Assistant Principal received challenge coins.
- Margaret Serna, Executive Director of Elementary Education, celebrated Jose Hernandez Salgado, Yavapai Elementary School, who won the Arizona Historical Society 2024 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Postcard Design Contest winner. Jose received a challenge coin. Ms. Serna also celebrated Matt Patzlaff, Navajo Elementary School Principal for winning the 2023 Spirit of Scottsdale Award. Mr. Patzlaff received a challenge coin. Congratulations, Jose and Mr. Patzlaff!
- Dr. David Priniski, Director of State and Federal Programs, celebrated SUSD Innovation StartUp Grant recipients: Redfield Elementary School and Principal Dr. Amanda Rand and Echo Canyon School and Principal Kat Hughes. Challenge coins were awarded to each of the recipients. Congratulations!
- Fine Arts Coordinator, Michelle Irvin, Fine Arts Coordinator, celebrated Chaparral High School's Gold Dust Avenue and Dr. Sammy Brauer for placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Sing Strong NY 2024 International A Cappella Vocal Competition. Each member received a challenge coin.
- SUSD has been named one of the Best Communities for Music Education by NAMM Foundation.
- Dr. Milissa Sackos, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, celebrated the many accomplishments of the Sabercat Robotics team, Chris Brandt and Susan Lindberg. The team has qualified to compete in the annual FIRST Robotics World Championship in Houston, Texas. Each member received a challenge coin.
- Noah Shoup, Sabercat Robotics, received the Steve Sanghi Scholarship - Congratulations!
- Congratulations to Nathan Slater, District Athletic Director, will be inducted into the AAAIA (Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association) Hall of Fame (2024 Hall of Fame Inductee). Nathan received a challenge coin.
- Brian Wilder and Kyle Backus from the Scottsdale Charros organization presented a first-ever, new celebration. Margaret Serna, Executive Director of Elementary Education is the inaugural winner of the Scottsdale Charros Dr. John Kriekard Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations, Margaret! Our deepest appreciation to the Scottsdale Charros, whose commitment to SUSD goes far and wide. We are so grateful for the support and thoughtful consideration the Charros bring to the work of our school district. Thank you, Charros.

Motion  
Approval of  
Agenda as  
Amended

Students and  
Staff  
Recognitions and  
Celebrations

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. Menzel highlighted the following:

- April 4<sup>th</sup> we celebrated National School Librarian Day.
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> was Paraprofessionals Day.
- Last week was Assistant Principal's week.
- April is Autism awareness month and the month of the young child and this week is the week of the young child.
- April 5<sup>th</sup> we launched our new podcast, SUSD Spotlights.
- Had the joy of celebrating the partial solar eclipse with the students at Laguna STEAM Elementary School and did a podcast on site with the students.
- Had the opportunity to participate and listen to a presentation by Holocaust survivor, Rise Stillman, with Cochise Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda, Non-Agenda, Information/Discussion, and Consent Agenda Items  
Fifteen (15) Digital Public Comment forms were submitted:

- Patricia Pellett – Commented on the agenda.
- Jeff Jordan – Commented on general District concern, our students' matter.
- Jill Dunican – Commented on resignation of Amy Palatucci.
- Mike Peabody – Commented on Amy Palatucci.
- Jeff Rattay – Personal comment.
- Dana Fuller – Commented on Dr. Menzel's contract and academic calendars.
- Robert Vodicka – Commented on support for Desert Canyon Elementary School/Mandarin Program and support of Dr. Menzel.
- Laura Weeshoff – Commented on support of DCES Mandarin and support of Dr. Menzel.
- Kim McClure – Commented on support of extending Dr. Menzel's contract.
- Arlene M Patruno – Commented on Coronado High School and Amy Palatucci.
- Mike Bengert – Commented on counselors, behavioral health workers.
- Tamra Farah – Commented on Second Step Middle School Project.
- Emmie Cardella – Commented on the March 26<sup>th</sup> Special meeting and support of renewing Dr. Menzel's contract.
- Shea Najafi – Commented on support of extending Dr. Menzel's contract.
- Liane Breckling – Commented on support of extending the Superintendent's contract.

#### 6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### *6. A. Presentation of Audits and Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year 2022-2023*

Heinfeld Meech presented the annual financial statement audit, compliance audit, and self-insurance trust audit for the District for fiscal year 2022-2023. Representatives were available to answer questions.

##### *6. B. First Read – Cheyenne K-5 Math Adoption*

Dr. Kim Dodds Keran, Director of Teaching and Learning; Mrs. Donna Dempsey, Academic Coach; and the Cheyenne K-5 Math Curriculum Adoption Committee presented recommendations for approval and purchase of curriculum for use at Cheyenne Traditional School beginning the 2024-2025 school year.

##### *6. C. First Read – Governing Board Policy KJA re Relations with Booster Organizations*

The District administration proposed a new policy, KJA (Relations with Booster Organizations). The policy is a model policy from ASBA that requires the Superintendent to develop procedures as necessary for the guidance of school personnel who are involved with booster organizations. The Superintendent's procedures will be codified in Board regulation KJA-R. The impetus for this policy is that there is currently no Governing Board policy covering booster organizations. Nicholas Buzan, General Counsel, was available to answer questions.

##### *6. D. Joint Education Subcommittee Report*

At the request of a Board member, the Joint Subcommittee on Education's accomplishments and goals was presented in supporting materials for the Board members and the community to read at their leisure. This was prepared by the Mayor's office and any questions or concerns are to be directed to that office.

Superintendent's  
Comments

Public Comments

Information/  
Discussion



7. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Acceptance of Gifts \$191,386.05
- B. Accounts Payable Vouchers (630 Bond Fund) Processed from February 22, through March 7, 2024
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers Processed from February 22, through March 21, 2024
- D. Payroll Vouchers Processed from February 15 through March 12, 2024
- E. Approve the Award of Invitation for Bid (IFB) No 24013 for the Central Plant Upgrade at Desert Mountain High School
- F. Approval the use of the Mohave Educational Services Cooperative Contract for the Purchase of Arcadia High School Stage Dimmer Rack Replacement
- G. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement ("IGA") with the Maricopa County School Superintendent for Elections Services
- H. Personnel Action Items, 03/05/2024 to 04/09/2024
- I. Recommend Approval of Revised Job Description of District Athletic Director
- J. Reassignment of Permanent Substitute Teachers to Positions as Daily Substitute Teachers
- K. Approval of Salary Schedule for All Employee Groups Including Classified, Certified, Special Service Providers, and Administration
- L. SUSD 2024-2025 Work Calendars– Administrative, Certified, and Classified
- M. Approval of Minutes of March 5, 2024 Regular Governing Board Meeting
- N. Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2024 Special Governing Board Meeting
- O. Approval of Tuition Increase for High School Summer School
- P. Authorization of Expenditure Amer-X Security Saguaro and Chaparral HS Access Control System
- Q. Authorization of Expenditure Herc Rentals Light Towers
- R. Approve the use of the State of Arizona Cooperative Contract for the Purchase of Student and Staff Devices - Dell Refresh
- S. Approval for Readmission Case #2223004

Dr. Hart-Wells moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Mr. Lindsay seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Congratulations to Brittany Walker, new Principal of Copper Ridge Middle School!  
Congratulations to John Andrews, new Principal of Desert Mountain High School!

At 8:21 PM The Governing Board paused for a break

At 8:28 PM the Regular Meeting reconvened

A request was made to pull Consent Agenda Item 7.H. Personnel Action Items, 03/05/2024 to 04/09/2024 for further discussion.

Mrs. Werner moved to table Consent Agenda Item 7.H. Personnel Action Items, 03/05/2024 to 04/09/2024, specifically and only Ms. Amy Palatucci's resignation. Mrs. Carney seconded the motion. Mrs. Cieniawski, Mr. Lindsay, and Dr. Hart-Wells voted No. The motion failed with a vote of 2 – 3.

Dr. Hart-Wells requested a roll call vote:

Mrs. Werner - Yes  
Mrs. Carney – Yes\*  
Mrs. Cieniawski – No\*  
Mr. Lindsay - No  
Dr. Hart-Wells - No

Dr. Hart-Wells moved to approve the line item to accept Ms. Amy Palatucci's resignation under Consent Agenda Item 7.H. Personnel Action Items, 03/05/2024 to 04/09/2024. No second to the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – 2.

Dr. Hart-Wells requested a roll call vote:

Mrs. Werner - No  
Mrs. Carney – No  
Mrs. Cieniawski – Yes  
Mr. Lindsay - Yes  
Dr. Hart-Wells - Yes

Consent Agenda

Motion  
Approval of  
Consent Agenda  
as Amended

Motion  
Table Consent  
Agenda Item 7.H.  
Personnel Action  
Items,  
03/05/2024 to  
04/09/2024,  
specifically and  
only Ms. Amy  
Palatucci's  
resignation –  
Motion Failed

Motion  
Approval of line  
item to accept  
Ms. Amy  
Palatucci's  
resignation under  
Consent Agenda  
Item 7.H.  
Personnel Action  
Items,  
03/05/2024 to  
04/09/2024

A request was made to pull Consent Agenda Item 7.I. Recommend Approval of Revised Job Description of District Athletic Director for further discussion.

Dr. Hart-Wells moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 7.I. Recommend Approval of Revised Job Description of District Athletic Director as presented. Mr. Lindsay seconded the motion. Mrs. Cieniawski voted No. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – 1.

Dr. Hart-Wells requested a roll call vote:

Mrs. Werner - Yes  
Mrs. Carney - Yes  
Mrs. Cieniawski - No  
Mr. Lindsay - Yes  
Dr. Hart-Wells - Yes

Mrs. Carney and Mrs. Cieniawski requested to pull Consent Agenda Item 7.K. Approval of Salary Schedule for All Employee Groups Including Classified, Certified, Special Service Providers, and Administration for further discussion.

Dr. Hart-Wells moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 7.K. Approval of Salary Schedule for All Employee Groups Including Classified, Certified, Special Service Providers, and Administration as presented. Mrs. Cieniawski seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Dr. Hart-Wells requested a roll call vote:

Mrs. Werner - Yes  
Mrs. Carney - Yes  
Mrs. Cieniawski - Yes  
Mr. Lindsay - Yes  
Dr. Hart-Wells - Yes

#### 8. ACTION ITEMS – BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

##### 8. A. Acceptance of Audits and Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

It was recommended that the Governing Board accept the fiscal year 2022-2023 audits and compliance questionnaire by roll call vote as required by A.R.S. § 15-914. Shannon Crosier, Chief Financial Officer, was available to answer questions.

Dr. Hart-Wells moved to approve the Acceptance of Audits and Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Mrs. Cieniawski seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Dr. Hart-Wells requested a roll call vote:

Mrs. Werner - Yes  
Mrs. Carney - Yes  
Mrs. Cieniawski - Yes  
Mr. Lindsay - Yes  
Dr. Hart-Wells - Yes

##### 8. B. Second Read and Approval of Secondary World Languages and Elementary DLI (Dual Language Immersion) Curriculum Adoption for 2024-2025 School Year

It was recommended that the Governing Board approve the purchase of curriculum for use in High School World Languages Classrooms and Elementary School Spanish DLI beginning the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Kim Dodds Keran, Director of Teaching and Learning, was available to answer questions.

Dr. Hart-Wells moved to approve the Second Read of the Secondary World Languages and Elementary DLI (Dual Language Immersion) Curriculum Adoption for 2024-2025 School Year. Mr. Lindsay seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

##### 8. C. Second Read and Approval of Secondary Science Curriculum Adoption for 2024-2025 School Year

#### Motion

Approval of Consent Agenda Item 7.I. Recommend Approval of Revised Job Description of District Athletic Director as presented

#### Motion

Approval of Consent Agenda Item 7.K. Approval of Salary Schedule for All Employee Groups Including Classified, Certified, Special Service Providers, and Administration as presented

#### Action Items

#### Motion

Approval of the Acceptance of Audits and Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

#### Motion

Approval of Second Read and Approval of Secondary World Languages and Elementary DLI (Dual Language Immersion) Curriculum Adoption for 2024-2025 School Year



It was recommended that the Governing Board approve the purchase of curriculum for use in High School science classrooms beginning the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Kim Dodds Keran, Director of Teaching and Learning, was available to answer questions.

Dr. Hart-Wells moved to approve the Second Read of the Secondary Science Curriculum Adoption for 2024-2025 School Year. Mr. Lindsay seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

*8. D. Second Read and Approval – Governing Board Policy BDE re Board Committees*

It was recommended that the Governing Board approve the revisions presented in supporting materials and listed below in Background.

*Dr. Hart-Wells requested to table for a future agenda item, Action Item 8.D. Second Read and Approval – Governing Board Policy BDE – Board Committee.*

*8. E. Second Read and Approval - Governing Board Policy: HA – Negotiation Goals and Priority Objectives*

District administration recommended revisions to Governing Board Policy HA Negotiation Goals and Priority Objectives regarding recognition of a fourth group, Scottsdale District Administrators Association and employment agreement(s). Nicholas Buzan, General Counsel, was available to answer questions.

Dr. Hart-Wells moved to approve the Second Read of Governing Board Policy: HA – Negotiation Goals and Priority Objectives. Mrs. Cieniawski seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

*8. F. Approval of Second Step Middle School Project*

It was recommended that the Governing Board approve SUSD to participate in the Second Step Middle School Project. Shannon Cronn, Director of Support Services, was available to answer questions.

Dr. Hart-Wells moved to approve the acceptance of participation in the Second Step Middle School Project with the condition that the District's curriculum approval process be followed and that the inclusion at the Ingleside campus/or campus that Second Step would be used also use the parent opt-in process that is available for other programs on all of our campuses. Mrs. Cieniawski seconded the motion as amended from the original agenda item. Mrs. Carney and Mrs. Werner voted No. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – 2.

GOVERNING BOARD REPORTS

Mrs. Cieniawski

- Attended the Sex Ed Advisory Committee meetings
- Attended the community meeting for the 68<sup>th</sup> Street proposal at Coronado
- Attended SPC meeting on volunteers and chaperone engagement on our campuses
- Attended Cochise during their Young Authors Day
- Attended the Scottsdale Family Arts Festival at SkySong
- Attended and recognized Echo Canyon Staff and students for earning the AEF award
- Visited Cocopah Middle School
- Attended Desert Mountain High School baseball senior night

Dr. Hart-Wells

- Congratulated to all the honorees this evening – very proud of everyone's accomplishments
- Attended FIRST Robotics Regional competition at Chaparral High School
- Attended the first Blue Zones school sector committee meeting – thank you Patti Bilbrey and Team Awesome for hosting
- Attended the Joint Education Subcommittee Meeting, City of Scottsdale

FUTURE ITEMS

Mrs. Carney

- Requested a discussion on continued years of service vs total years of service
- Requested an Executive Session to discuss/review the General Counsel's evaluation at the April 30<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting

Motion

Approval of Second Read of the Secondary Science Curriculum Adoption for 2024-2025 School Year

Motion

Approval of Second Read of Governing Board Policy: HA – Negotiation Goals and Priority Objectives

Motion

Approval of the acceptance of participation in the Second Step Middle School Project with the condition that the District's curriculum approval process be followed and that the inclusion at the Ingleside campus/or campus that Second Step would be used also use the parent opt-in process that is available for other programs on all of our campuses

Governing Board Reports

Future Items

Mrs. Cieniawski

- Requested a discussion on the extension/renewal of Dr. Menzel's contract at the next meeting agenda

Mrs. Werner

- Requested a full report on the status of the visitor check in system, how many are up and running and in use, and results/feedback from staff and parents
- Requested Dr. Menzel to present to the Board (printed out) his calendar from the last 14 months to review time spent away from the District
- Requested a full investigation into the Human Resources Department, their investigations in particular with the Assistant Superintendent, full investigation – all that have resigned or were given the choice to resign over being non-renewed or terminated

DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 - 6:00 PM - Special Governing Board Meeting - MDA; Tuesday, May 14, 2024 - 6:00 PM - Regular Governing Board Meeting - Coronado High School

At 9:39 PM, Dr. Hart-Wells moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Cieniawski seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024

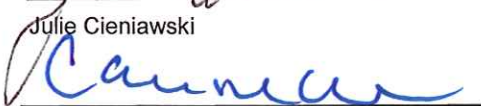
\* Comment/Statement Made

**The Governing Board of the Scottsdale Unified School District #48**

Dr. Libby Hart-Wells, President



Julie Cieniawski



Carine Werner

Zach Lindsay, Vice President



Amy Carney

Dates of  
Upcoming  
Meetings

Motion  
Adjournment