



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: February 14, 2024 Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Attendance

Committee Members Present:

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

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

Information/Discussion and Possible Action

1. Welcome

- Dr. Karen Benson introduced herself and welcomed all attending in person or virtually to the first meeting of this committee. She clarified that all documents and slide decks referenced at the meeting can be found on SUSD's Committee Hub by going to www.susd.org and then "Departments" > "Committees" > Sex Ed Advisory Committee.

2. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM.

3. Roll Call and Introductions

- Committee members introduced themselves by name, role and either their "why" for joining the committee, a question they have about the committee, or their "why" they choose SUSD.

4. Approval of Agenda

- **Action** - Dr. Benson motioned to approve the agenda. Susan Leonard seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 10 to 0.
- It was noted that Governing Board members and Committee chair (Dr. Benson) serving on the committee are situated as non-voting committee members in the proposed charter.

5. Open Meeting Laws and Public Records

- Nicholas Buzan, General Counsel presented (via Teams) committee members with an overview of applicable Arizona law, pertaining to open meeting law (A.R.S. 38-431.01), Conflicts of Interest (A.R.S. 38-503) and public records (A.R.S. § 39-121).

6. Committee Norms

- Dr. Karen Benson shared proposed norms to guide the work and discussions of the committee and the definition of consensus adhered to by SUSD curriculum committees.

7. Legislation impacting committee

- Dr. Benson and Mr. Buzan instructed on the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements of sex ed adoption in Arizona school districts. The committee members were given printed copies of all applicable laws stated below, and board policies.
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- The committee reviewed the following, affording attention to A.R.S. § 15-711 and R7-2-303.
 - 15-711 Sex education instruction; minimum grade: parental review of curricula: sexual conduct with a minor: review and approval of course of study: public hearings and input
 - 15-102 Parental involvement in the school: definition
 - 15-341 General powers and duties: delegation
 - 15-115 Preference for childbirth and adoption over elective abortion
 - 15-712.01 Instruction on dating abuse: definitions
 - 15-716 Instruction on acquired immune deficiency syndrome: department assistance
 - AZ State Board of Education Regulation - R7-2-303 Sex Education
 - SUSD Governing Board policy – IHAMB
 - BDE Board Committees

Committee members were provided an opportunity to ask questions about applicable law and policy. Board Member Carney asked whether under policy BGD the regulation IHAMB-R was properly updated. Mr. Buzan explained that it is out of date and needs to conform with applicable law. IHAMB-R is a Governing Board regulation that should mirror what is in R7-2-303 but at present moment does not.

8. Adoption of a committee charter that includes: mission, authority, responsibilities, composition, frequency of meetings, requirements for minutes and compliance with Arizona's Open Meeting Laws, and description of findings as reported to the board.

- General counsel, Nick Buzan, and Dr. Benson proposed a draft charter for the Sex Ed Advisory Committee – intended to guide the work of the committee. Dr. Benson shared that an email address for the committee is being developed and will be available yet this week. Committee members will have access to review all emails addressed to the committee and do not need to reply to any emails received individually.
- Revisions requested from committee members include clarifying the membership at 13 members throughout the document, clarifying the statement about the revised regulation included within the charter, clarifying that the charter needs 6 members to form a quorum because only voting members are counted to make a quorum, and changing the title to include “advisory.”
- **Action** – Dr. Kaveh Najafi motioned to approve the charter with those revisions included. Dr. Elizabeth Schmied seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 10 to 0.

9. Vendor Criteria Letter

- Dr. Benson proposed a bullet list of criteria from legislative authority (previously reviewed during the meeting) to use to invite vendors to submit resources for the committee to consider. (She clarified that the committee is not required to select a resource from a vendor and may elect to identify open source/free resources or create their own materials for any proposed course of study to submit to the Governing Board for final approval. By requesting vendors to submit, the committee would simply have more choices to consider.)
- There was discussion as to whether a vote to “send a letter” would need to be made or whether approving the criteria would be made. Mr. Buzan suggested that approving the criteria would be sufficient and that Dr. Benson would provide the committee members the letter by e-mail once drafted.
- **Action** – Joe Olney motioned to approve the vendor criteria for input into the vendor letter. Shannon Wall seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 10 to 0.

10. Next Meeting Agenda

- Dr. Benson shared a draft list of agenda items for the committee’s next meeting, scheduled for March 6, 2024. An agenda for the meeting will be posted to the SUSD website (in Committee Hub) two weeks prior to the meeting and communicated via email to the committee. Resources will be posted no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting and also emailed to the committee.

11. Adjournment

- Leslie Sharp motioned to adjourn. Susan Leonard seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 10 to 0.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM.

Dated this day 14th day of February, 2024