



***DRAFT***

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

**Date: October 2, 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, Leslie Sharp, Renee Tosto, Shannon Wall, Dr. Ashley Katikos, Julie Cieniawski.

Participated via Teams: Colleen Abrams

Supporting team members in attendance: Michelle Irvin, Diane Johnston, and Yazan Alalfi.

**1. Welcome**

- Dr. Benson welcomed all 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 4:03 PM.

**3. Roll Call**

- Committee members in attendance introduced themselves again by name and were asked to share a best first quarter or "fall" experience so far, to get started on a positive note.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

- **Action** - Steve Struzyk motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Susan Leonard. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

- **Action** - Dr. Benson again 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. Dr. Benson motioned to approve the minutes of the June 10 meeting. The motion was seconded by Leslie Sharp and approved by a vote of 9-0.

## **6. Brief Review Committee Norms**

- Dr. Benson celebrated the positivity of the committee work thus far and asked the committee to again review and agree to adhere to the recommended norms to guide successful committee work.

## **7. Review and Discussion: Organization of Materials/Course of Study – 60 Day Review Period**

- Dr. Benson shared highlights on how the Proposed Course of Study and materials from *Choosing the Best* are organized at the public viewing stations at the MDA – for the purposes of inviting feedback from community and staff members during the required 60 day review period.

## **8. Review and Discussion: 60 Day Review Period**

### **Review Presentations Shared at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearings:**

- Dr. Benson highlighted information that was presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearings on August 22 and October 1, 2024 – including a recognition and acknowledgement of the commitment of committee members.
- Specific highlights from the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing included the following budget information:
  - Projected costs to adopt *Choosing the Best* at grades 5, 7 and 9 for a typical 7 year curricular resource agreement are \$54,113 over 7 years -- or \$7,730 per year.
  - Resources and services delineated in the agreement include access to annual licenses for the Teacher Tool and Leader Guides for grades 5, 7 and 9, final customization to reduce content at grades 7 and 9 and package/polish the resource at grade 5, an asynchronous option at grade 7, at home access for parents, and in person training from *Choosing the Best* for all facilitators identified in SUSDB.

### **Review Feedback Received from Public and Responses to that Feedback:**

- The committee reviewed written feedback received thus far during the 60 Public Review period and follow up communications from District staff members.
- Four community members reviewed the materials at the MDA and 3 shared written feedback. Those submitting written feedback include Kortney Hohle, Mike Bengert, and Amy Carney. A summary of suggestions/feedback received includes:
  - A request for an introduction to the short video on personal boundaries and consent at grade 5.
  - A request to create a slide deck to share additional “legislated” content at grades 7 and 9.
  - Clarification on content included in the appendix – *Choosing The Best* (CTB)

- Request for clarification on bullying content at grade 5
  - Notification that a QR code wasn't working on posters in the proposed course of study.
  - Clarification on student workbooks available from CTB.
  - Clarification on the use of "draft" at grade 5 and "finished product" at grades 7 and 9.
  - Request to remind/share content with principals.
  - Clarification on whether boys and girls will be separated for instruction at each grade level, and
  - Questions on the structure of public hearings.
- In response to the feedback received, Dr. Benson shared a draft, short introduction that could be used to introduce the content of the personal boundaries video at grade 5 -- and a slide deck to better present the required content at Grades 7 & 9. Dr. Benson clarified that neither the introduction nor slides add or change content to the proposed Course of Study. They are simply responses to feedback from community members to better introduce or show content in the Course of Study. Committee members reviewed both the introduction and the slide deck and collectively indicated affirmations of support. No revisions were suggested. Pending Board approval of the Course of Study, Dr. Benson will share both with teachers/nurses that will be facilitating the course of study and include both in the resources parents will have the opportunity to review prior to determining whether to opt students in to the lessons.
  - Committee member Susan Leonard posed a clarifying question about what formats parents have had opportunities to share feedback or ask questions about the proposed course of study. Dr. Benson clarified that parents and community members have had the opportunity to email the committee through the Advisory Committee email address provided on Committee Hub, send their feedback through Let's Talk, or they can email Dr. Benson directly.

## **9. Review and Discussion: Second Read at Governing Board Meeting- Tentatively Scheduled for October 22, 2024**

- Dr. Benson clarified that Advisory Committee members are not expected to be at the October 22 Governing Board meeting, but all are welcome to attend in person or watch live, as meetings are live-streamed. The agenda item is planned to be an "Action Item" -- and Action items typically take place in the second half of scheduled Governing Board meetings. Dr. Benson indicated she will email committee members after the Board meeting to share the outcome of this agenda item.
- Dr. Benson reminded all that the 60 day Public Review period remains open through October 15 at the MDA. Any additional feedback submitted during the review period will be shared with the Board and the Committee, prior to the action item on October 22.

## **10. Review and Discussion: Next Steps after Second Read**

- Dr. Benson clarified that the main work of the Advisory committee -- creating a proposed course of study and identifying curricular resources to support that course of study -- is complete. And that, pending Governing Board approval, the responsibility for executing and implementing the proposed Course of Study rests with Site and District leaders.

- Again, pending Board Approval, next steps include working with site principals, teachers, nurses, District team members and with those at *Choosing the Best* to finalize implementation and execution plans to allow parents/families the choice to opt students in to the course of study at grades 5, 7 and 9.
- Committee member Renee Tosto noted that school nurses can't facilitate this alone at grade 5 and that additional support will be needed to cover nurse offices or when providing instruction separately for boys and girls. Dr. Benson shared that facilitators of lesson content will be included in conversations to finalize implementation plans, if the Course of Study is approved.
- Leslie Sharp asked if *Choosing the Best* provides permission slips. Dr. Benson indicated she will work with SUSD legal counsel to create permission slips for these purposes – in keeping with all required legal authority.
- Dr. Benson wrapped up the meeting by again thanking committee members for their commitment and service to bring forward a proposed course of study for Governing Board consideration as an option for parents/families to opt students in to lesson content in support of the well-being of SUSD students.

#### **11. Adjournment:**

Renee Tosto motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Leslie Sharp and approved by a vote of 9-0.

Dated Posted: October 8, 2024