

Vail School District #20, Vail, Arizona
Sycamore Elementary School
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
4:00 p.m.

Present:

Ken Graff, Principal

Jen Jepson, Assistant to the Principal

Frank Hecht, Community Rep, Chair

Elisha Caywood, Parent Rep

Dani Vulgamott, Parent Rep

Olsen Hancock, Certified Rep

Megan McGowan, Classified Rep

- I. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Mr. Hecht at 4:05 p.m.
- A. Pledge of Allegiance** at 4:05 p.m.
- B. Approval of Minutes**—Mr. Hancock moved to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Vulgamott seconded.
- C. Reports**
 1. Administrative Report: Mr. Graff, Principal
 - PTA report on behalf Ms. Barrett
 - Dine out night at Panda Express in Green Valley
 - Mathathon is ongoing with a \$20,000 goal and approximately \$11 earned so far. Friday, November 18, is the scheduled mathathon test. The mathathon assembly is scheduled for December 2nd. The net earned amount will be announced then and prizes given.
 - Saturday, December 3 at 1100 a.m., is the PTA Pancake Breakfast in the MPR. Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, milk/juice, coffee for \$5.00 a plate. The Craft Fair, organized by Melanie Eastman, will also be on Saturday, December 3rd. Sycamore's choir is scheduled to perform as well. The Book Fair will be open during this time. Proceeds from this event will go to the general fund to help pay for the shade structures, classroom grants, etc.
 - Impact Aid is complete. The school achieved 100% participation, with the majority of reporting being electronic. An estimated \$15-16000 will be earned.
 - Progress reports will go home on Friday, November 18th. Benchmarks are approaching.
 - After school tutoring is ongoing. COPE is also assisting with therapy and social skills group sessions after school.
 - Musical performances are scheduled:
 - Second Grade—Thursday 11/17 at 6:30 p.m.
 - First Grade—Thursday 12/8 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Kindergarten—Thursday 12/13 at 6:00 p.m.
 - Family Reading Night is 11/16 at 5:30 p.m. with a Harry Potter theme.
- D. Call to the Public**

No members of the public present.
- E. Recognitions**
 1. Ms. Jepson:
 - Michelle Arrieta, a Kindergarten parapro, for modeling gentle and kind behavior to students and staff, as well as for being a teamplayer.
 - Louisa Coulter for embracing the SPED parapro position. She also models good behavior with her actions and is gentle with her words and approach.
 2. Mr. Hancock:

- The 4th grade team for their teamwork, support, and understanding during a challenging time for him.
 - Megan McGowan for doing a fantastic job of managing students and teachers with health visits. He is very proud and impressed by her work. Ms. Jepson seconded this recognition and how Ms. McGowan has identified patterns with student behavior and visits. Mr. Hecht noted Ms. McGowan's calm and controlled demeanor when dealing with an emergency situation. Mr. Graff noted that she is a leader in meeting the medical challenges of students.
3. Mr Graff:
- Melanie Eastman for her efforts with the Impact Aid and organizing the Craft Fair.
 - Tammy Porter for organizing Red Ribbon Week, especially since it was her first time organizing this event. Her efforts in providing support for families were noted as well.
 - Rachel Brozeman for continuing to teaching the general music classes in addition to teaching band, choir, and preparing for musical performances.
 - Katie Savage for co-teaching choir and band.
 - Shayla Merrill for teaching orchestra.

II. Consent Agenda

None.

III. Old Business

A. 2022-2023 Staffing and Enrollment

1. Currently have 706 students. Projected 705.
2. K-3 are great, under capacity. 4th-5th are over capacity.
3. Staffing:
 - Melissa Wright is the current PE teacher.
 - Rachel Brozeman is the long-term music substitute.
 - Classroom teachers are relatively stable.
 - Kacie Casey is scheduled for maternity leave in December. She is expected to return at the end of January.
 - Rene Frijoles, the new inclusion specialist, has been hired but is still awaiting for visa clearance.
 - Paraprofessionals
 - Joshua Binjour, expected to start November 28.
 - Cindy Wood, transferred from paraprofessional to SPED paraprofessional.
 - Elise Hart as a 1st grade paraprofessional, expected to start November 28.

B. Facilities Update

1. Make A Difference Day went well. Ms. Guagliardo did a great job.
2. Shade Structure: The deadline to get procurement in March was missed. However, it is now projected for April. Mr. Graff said that a weekend installation is preferred; however, a weekday/weekend installation may be likely. The shade structures are 12ft tall with an 8 ft entrance height. Ms. McGowan asked whether the structures are insured against damage or vandalism. Mr. Graff stated that they were.

IV. New Business

A. School Label

- Sycamore received an "A" label.
- Labels are generated by data from 3rd-5th grade test scores (proficiency points) and growth points.
- Proficiency Points: Tests have four scores: Minimally proficient, partially proficient, proficient, and highly proficient. The school gets points based on each student's scores.
- Growth points are given if a student improves in each category over time. If no growth is shown, no points are given. More points are given if a student is moved out of a minimally proficient category or if a student shows more than 33% growth.

- English-Language Learners, students whose home language is not English, receive additional services from the school. EL students are given the AZELLA test to measure their ability to understand English.
- Acceleration and Readiness scores are from cohorts (a group with 10+ kids) from diverse categories (race, ethnicity, military, SPED, etc.). Students can be in more than one category.
- Bonus points can be earned from other categories such as lower rates of chronic absenteeism (18+ missed days of school). Sycamore received no points for this
- Overall the A-label score was comprised of:
 - A. Growth 50%
 - B. Proficiency 30%
 - C. EL 10%
 - D. Acceleration/Readiness 10%
- No testing was done since 2019 due to COVID-19. Sycamore carried its previous label for two years. This new label is for the 2022 school year.
- It was noted that only the students who were enrolled during the first 10 days of school and beyond count toward the scores. Any students enrolled after that time were not counted toward the label score.
- Mr. Graff noted that a Data Dig was done with the district to identify any students who did not show growth so that they could provide reteach and enrich services for them.
- Mr. Hecht recognized the hard work done by teachers and staff to receive this label.

B. Student and Family Support

1. Food baskets for low income students provided every Friday in partnership with Vail Resources. They are also providing Thanksgiving dinner vouchers to families.
 - Tammy Porter also assisting 14 additional families to receive Thanksgiving food baskets, as well as baskets for December. Families will receive their Thanksgiving baskets on 11/21.
 - Canned food drive currently underway for Thanksgiving baskets. Any leftover canned food will be sent to Vail Resources or kept in the school pantry to provide to families throughout the year.
2. Angel Tree being organized by Tammy Porter as well.
 - 34 children on the Angel Tree list.
3. Mental Health Services
 - Grant funded counseling services provided by La Frontera and COPE.
 - Coping Cats meets on Monday .
 - Tu Nudito provides grief and loss support services for families and children.
 - Mr. Hecht asked if any utility assistance services were in place. Mr. Graff said that Jill Wells coordinates with utility companies to provide assistance.
 - McKinney-Vento group provides assistance to homeless students so that they can continue to attend their same school.

C. Campus Safety

1. SRO Vacancy
 - PCSD will continue to support schools within their jurisdiction. The vacancy is for an officer to assist within Tucson city limits.
 - Mr. Hecht noted that the district is specifically looking for recently retired officers with an active AZPOST certification.
2. Parent Volunteers
 - The volunteers for playground activity will act in a mentorship capacity to reinforce positive behavior on campus. They are not intended to act as a law enforcement or security monitor replacement.
3. Mr Graff: No update on the new fencing for the school grounds. Quotes have been provided but there is no further information.
4. Mrs. Caywood asked about the “lockdown” on 11/8. Mr. Graff explained that at about 7:20 a.m. that day, a loud bang was heard in the community. Staff contacted Deputy Slattery, who reported that there were no 911 calls in reference to it. Students were returned to class a precaution, but Dep.

Slattery did advise that a lockdown was unnecessary at that time. In the event of a lockdown, Mr. Graff said parents and the community will be notified.

V. Next Meeting

Tuesday, 01/10/23 at 4:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Hancock moved to adjourn. Mrs. McGowan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.