

Vail School District #20 Vail, Arizona
Sycamore Elementary School
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 18, 2022
4:00 p.m.

Present:

Ken Graff, Principal

Jen Jepson, Assistant to the Principal

Frank Hecht, Community Rep, Chair

Jennifer Shioya, Parent Rep, Clerk

Elisha Caywood, Parent Rep

Dani Vulgamott, Parent Rep

Kayla Rangel, Certified Rep

Megan McGowan, Classified Rep

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Mr. Hecht at 4:06pm.

A. Pledge of Allegiance at 4:06pm.

B. Approval of Minutes – Ms. Rangel moved to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Vulgamott seconded.

C. Reports

1. Administrative Report: Mr. Graff, Principal

- PTA report on behalf of Ms. Barrett
 - Coupon book sales – Ms. Barrett, Mr. Hancock, Ms. Middendorf winners. Half sales went directly to the teachers (~\$375 for Ms. Barrett, over \$100 for Mr. Hancock and Ms. Middendorf). Teachers also have an opportunity to turn in grants for up to \$200 to the PTA, and PTA will support.
 - Spooky Run 5K this Saturday, 10/22 @8am. Still looking for parent volunteers.
 - Make a Difference Day, Saturday, 10/22 from 10-12. Vail Church members and CdT alliance will also help trim back foliage on campus and along paths.
 - CFMS Fall Festival Friday, 10/21 from 5-9pm. Games, food trucks, Trick-or-Treating, inflatables, costume contest. NEHS will have a fundraising booth.
 - PTA mtg 10/19, @3pm. Helping fund shade structure for front of school.
 - Math-a-thon fundraiser preparation. November 4th will be kickoff assembly. Theme is “Harry Potter.” Goal: \$15,000.
 - Dine out night: Mod Pizza 10/31.
 - Lego Night: 11/10 – tentative.
- Intersession went well (2nd-5th graders), about 60 kids. Ms. Pangle organized.
- Over break, Ms. Krup worked on Engineering is Elementary (EiE) presentations for kits. Kits available by grade level with updated science standards.
- Impact Aid: Parents should get the district email tomorrow. Communities get money from feds for the impact federal employees make on a community; districts get some of that. Sycamore got \$15k last year – can be used on things like stipends for teachers, maintenance, etc. Forms will be all online through PowerSchool.
- Honor Roll: Teachers will do it in classrooms, grades 3rd-5th. Honor Roll: 3.0-3.4 GPA, High Honor Roll: 3.5-3.9, Principal’s Award: 4.0.
- Red Ribbon Week: week of 10/24. Border Patrol will bring the helicopter on Tuesday, drug dog come out Friday. Spirit Week.
- Halloween, Monday, 10/31: Kids can wear costumes.
- Sycamore will be an A school! Letter grades should be released early November.

- AEL (Aggregate Expenditure Limit): Should be enough votes in the legislature to renew it for another year and bring back to a vote so we don't have to decide every year.

D. Call to the Public

No members of the public present.

E. Recognitions

1. Mr. Hecht recognized Mr. Carruth and team for the Joint District Site Council – so well presented, concise, thorough information, intelligent. Great team of people, great meeting.
2. Mr. Graff:
 - All teachers who taught over intersession: Ms. Dekoshak, Ms. Dorgan, Ms. Breinlinger, Ms. Cordova, Ms. Krup. Ms. Pangle oversaw intersession with Ms. Jepson.
 - Natasha Tepper: Provided all new K-2 teachers in district Spalding training.
 - Ms. Jepson: 1st month went so well, oversaw Intersession
 - Entire staff: 1Q went so well, great start to 2Q.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Ms. Krup: StuCo Holiday Grams

Pencils, notes as a fundraiser. Selling at lunch. Ms. Vulgamott moved to approve. Ms. McGowan seconded.

III. Old Business

A. 2022-2023 Staffing and Enrollment

- Currently have 696 students enrolled – lost 8 students over Fall Break, gained 3. Projected 705.
- K-3 are great, under capacity. 4th-5th staying pretty stable, if over capacity.
- Staffing changes:
 - PE: Mr. Soto resigned over break. Ms. Melissa Wright will take over for the rest of the year with Ms. Elizabeth Chesbro (teacher at Acacia) as a mentor/support.
 - Music: Ms. Rachel Brozeman LTSUB will stay for the duration. Will move forward with music performances – 2nd grade perf next in November. 1st is in December. Doing well with general music classes.
 - Orchestra/Band/Choir staffing:
 - Orchestra: Ms. Shayla Merrill, Mondays after school.
 - Choir: Ms. Brozeman/Ms. Katie Savage (SpNeeds para), Fridays (during the day as an elective).
 - Band: Brozeman/Katie Savage, Fridays after school.
 - Inclusion specialist filled: Mr. Rene Frijoles. Former SpEd teacher from Acacia.

B. Facilities Update

- **Shade for front of school**
 - Four large burgundy umbrellas to provide shade for 1st and 5th grade pickup areas (2 in each area) targeting March, 2023.
 - Same fabric as the structures over playground – durable sunshade fabric.
 - Steel can handle windspeed up to 100mph. To be permanent structures.
 - \$38K for the 4 umbrellas. PTA can provide \$20K, district will cover the rest.

- **Field**

- School facilities board approved the project, but not the whole scope. Likely will get the tiered hillside but will not approve the artificial turf – will ask PTA if they would be willing to pick up the latter. “Can’t eat an elephant in one bite.” – Mr. Hecht. ☺

IV. New Business

A. Dress Code

New, updated dress code provided to the Council. Mr. Graff asked for the Council’s approval of the dress code as presented. A couple of very minor changes in wording suggested.

Ms. Rangel moved to approve the dress code as amended. Ms. Caywood seconded. New updated version will be sent out to Council and Ms. Rangel will update the webpage.

B. 2022-2023 301 School Goals

301 Goals are a way for teachers to earn a bit more. There is a 0.5cent sales tax that goes toward education. Certain amount goes to teachers and toward school goals. Teachers are setting up 301 Goals – must be academic, measurable, and can say met or not met at end of year. Amount for compensation bumped up to \$700/goal, \$1400 max if both are successfully met. Teachers would receive May or early June.

1. Goal #1: Academic Achievement

75% of 1st-5th grade students (cumulative) will be P/HP in ELA/Math measured by formative and/or benchmark. 80% of Kindergarteners will master all Spalding phonograms A-Z and sight words, write/identify numbers 1-100.

- Last year’s 1st-5th data shows 79% ELA and 85% Math; Kindergarten had 90% for Spalding phonograms, sight words 86%, 1-100 88%.

2. Goal #2: Beyond Textbooks

BT is a warehouse of curriculum and assessments, instructional supports for teachers. One of 6 different ways this goal can be met (this is also a district goal):

- Allow BT to come to class and film an instructional video uploaded to website.
- Upload 1 fully packaged lesson and accompanying resources (Essential Elements of Instruction [EEI] – from introduction to closure).
- Upload 4 resources to BT (lesson plans, worksheets, websites, videos that aren’t copyrighted, etc.).
- Assist other BT teachers during the school year (w/principal approval). Could be collaboration with other districts, supporting another teacher with resources, etc.
- Attend a BT training (w/principal approval) with a partner org to help with the training.
- Attend a BT super conference during breaks. Teachers can present during the conference.

Mr. Graff asked for the Council’s approval of goals. Ms. Shioya moved to approve the 301 Goals as presented. Ms. McGowan seconded.

C. Campus Safety

Mr. Graff reported. This Thursday, 10/20 will be an Active Shooter training for all staff except a couple of office staff. Deputy Slattery (school resource officer) will be presenting training to

the staff from about 2:45-4:15. Covers everything in the training aside from the scenarios. Run/Hide/Fight, “if you see something, say something,” response to trauma, some triage for after an incident. Triage kit: packing gauze, adult tourniquet, some details about that.

Completed first lockdown during 1Q, one more lockdown/shelter in place before end of year. Lockdown kits have been distributed to each classroom. May get more trauma kits. 13 radios still backordered (every pod will eventually have one).

Also met with a parent who is a liaison with PCHD who wants to help promote student safety in any way (writing grants, etc.). Invited Matt Beem (VSD Safety Director) to attend the training. Sycamore/CFMS still has the older 5’ fencing around educational perimeter – will be next on the list to get 8’ fencing, then crash bar gates.

Encouraging parents who want to come on site to help support and be an extra set of eyes. Council had discussion regarding background checks if not parents (would be vetted by volunteer affidavit), some training on rules of the playground, etc. so they are on the same page with teachers. Ms. Rangel suggested also ensuring teachers know the parents are there to help, not to watch teachers, also to let teachers know when they’re there to help.

Working with outside orgs to provide counseling for kids, buddy program with CFMS, therapy dogs, etc. A lot of work still going into this to try to provide everything kids and their families need.

This will remain on the agenda as a running item.

D. Next Meeting

Wednesday, 11/16/2022 at 4:00pm.

E. Adjournment

Ms. Caywood moved to adjourn. Ms. Rangel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:56pm.