

Vail School District #20 Vail, Arizona
Sycamore Elementary School
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
4:00 p.m.

Present:

Ken Graff, Principal

Jen Jepson, Assistant to the Principal

Frank Hecht, Community Rep, Chair - absent

Jennifer Shioya, Parent Rep, Clerk

Elisha Caywood, Parent Rep

Dani Vulgamott, Parent Rep

Kayla Rangel, Certified Rep

Olsen Hancock, Certified Rep

Megan McGowan, Classified Rep

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Ms. Caywood at 4:02pm.

A. Pledge of Allegiance at 4:02pm.

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

C. Reports

1. Member Report: Amber Barrett, PTA President

- Father-Daughter dance successful, almost 500 people. Hollywood theme.
- Family Movie Night coming up the Friday after break.
- Will provide snacks for AASA testing 3rd through 5th grades.
- 04/14: Mother/Son night with a magician.
- Teacher Appreciation Week in May.
- 05/12: Community Fair, Silent Auction. If any donations or know of people who are willing to donate, please let PTA know. Write-offable, advertising on page.
- Brand new PTA board for next year, nominations in April, elections in May, take over July 1st.

2. Administrative Report: Ken Graff, Principal

- 03/01 Kinder Roundup at 5:30pm-7:00pm starting in MPR, then in classrooms. Paraprofessionals, Kinder specialists, PTA will be available, library and Community Programs will be open. Goal is 100 kinders for next year, hoping for at least 80 tomorrow night.
- 4th Grade Music performance coming up.
- Report cards going home Friday, end of 3rd Quarter.
- Intersession first week of break M 03/06 through Th 03/09, all day. Reading 8-11, 30min lunch, 11:30-2:30 math. 1st through 5th grade offered. Primary and Intermediate Special Education intersession, AM only. 3rd grade group will be split into two sections.
- 4Q 1st week back: Friday Honor Roll and Awards Ceremony. 3rd-4th grade combined, then 5th separate. 4th-5th will get honor roll certs and ribbons/plaques/trophies for performance on last year's state tests. Testing will start the following week.
- Last week of school: Monday Field Day, Wednesday 05/24: Kinder promotions (9am, 12:30pm), Friday 05/26: 5th grade promotion 8:30am.
- Planning on summer school: Kinder bridge camp for incoming Kinders. Current K-5th graders. 2 weeks starting Tuesday after Memorial day through Friday, then the following week M-Th. State money *may* not be available, in which case we can't have summer school. Waiting to hear from Governor.

D. Call to the Public

Annie in attendance ☺ : Requests Mrs. G's class receive a pajama party for Annie being a regular student rep of Site Council. All in favor.

E. Recognitions

1. Mr. Hancock
 - Ms. Gau doing great at being calm and collected with big groups, parking, after school pickup, great addition to culture.
2. Ms. Shioya
 - PTA for super-fun Father Daughter Dance.
 - Roby and staff/volunteers for all the amazing work on VPD.
3. Ms. Jepson
 - Kim Moore: wombats, warm hugs, morning greetings makes all the difference for kids.
 - Ms. Pangle/Mr. Turner: Love of Reading week, coordinating guest readers, etc.
 - Ms. Pangle: Testing that's been done so far and still coming up. All of the coordination, behind the scenes stuff for teachers, small groups, etc.
4. Mr. Graff
 - VPD: Seeing the parents and families. A lot of work goes into it.
 - Ms. Pangle: working with teachers and kids for Academic Jeopardy. Also attended for each grade level competition, being supportive.
 - Ms. Laye: Math Bowl, selects kids, works with kids.
 - Ms. Savage, Ms. Brozeman, Ms. Merrill: Preparing the kids with less time for performances. One more performance (04/25?) Spring Concert.
 - Parade: Mr. Hancock, Ms. Rangel, Ms. Cordova, Ms. Wallace, Ms. Roby.
 - Ms. Opela: Helped with STEM showcase w/Ms. Tankersley. Ms. Jepson for being there all day, visiting various VPD events.
 - Ms. Roby: Amazing work on the art showcase. Kids are taught real techniques.
 - Ms. Opela: Really cool hands-on stuff in SUMS like hot air balloons. Does cool fun things even with 1st graders, keeps children engaged.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Fundraiser for NEHS:

Selling glowsticks for \$1 each at Family Movie Night. Ms. Shioya moved to approve. Ms. Caywood seconded.

III. Old Business

A. 2022-2023 Staffing and Enrollment

- Currently have 703 students enrolled (0 in Vail Virtual Learning). Projected 705.
- Difference between 5th and Kinder is 27 = declining enrollment.
- Currently fully staffed. Ms. Payne on leave for family matter, coming back after Spring Break. Ms. O'Dell subbing.
- Ms. Rangel has a student teacher Jenna Baye. See if she may work out for a future opening.
- Ms. Brozeman will be on regular contract instead of LT sub.
- Ms. Kershner to be full time next year.
- Fully staffed in SpEd department. Ms. Wettstein is only for this year, not coming back next year.

B. Facilities Update

- Ms. Jepson reported that there is now lighting on the walkway by the greenhouse and library. Also have updated toilets in the front office. A work order has been placed to repaint crossing areas in the parking lot.
- Ms. McGowan reported that signs around the parking lot and circle are weathered. Mr. Graff had just talked with Tori to have new signs installed.
- Ms. Shioya mentioned there are branches that hang into the right pickup lane that are unavoidable on cars.
- Mr. Graff reported that 8ft wrought iron fencing (with crash bars) around the outer perimeter of the school (including between 400 and 500 bldgs) will be installed in the next month. CFMS will be starting next week, then move on to Sycamore. The interior playground fencing will stay 5ft for now. Preschool buildings (700 building) will also be updated to 8ft. The wall by the library will have fencing added to the top to match the 8ft height. Will no longer be blue, now a sand color to blend in.
- Front shade structure still planned for end of April. Two by 1st grade, two by 5th grade.
- Down the road with next year's budget, work on repairing more water fountains.

IV. New Business

A. 2023-2024 Staffing and Enrollment

Mr. Graff reports that current January projection is 682 students. Sycamore will be moving to an all-day Kindergarten model, which changes the FTE enrollment divisor to 20.5 students (used to be 21.9), district-wide. Currently working on staff placements and hiring.

Planning 5 Kinder, 4 first grade (would be a little above cap), 5 second grade, 5 third grade, 4 fourth grade, 4 fifth grade, 2 resource teachers (not inclusion), achievement teachers (Ms. Pangle) district takes all but 0.8, Adv math (district budgets for half), PE, Music, SUMS, Art. ELP picks up half – next year, moving to cluster model (more next mtg), district incentivizes by paying for full-time ELP. We're 0.2 over with this model.

Grant funded positions have ended so need to absorb that. 27 classroom teachers currently. Next, go over the support budget for the support positions.

Most teachers have signed contracts, others on delay list (due end of March). Kinder: 2 new teachers needed, 1 in mind. 1st: All staying but one may need to move. 2nd: Ms. Payne retiring end of this year, so need new teacher. 3rd: If move to 4 classes, can move someone around, but all are returning. 4th: All returning. 5th: Ms. Rangel leaving Sycamore, so Ms. Wright will move to 5th grade. Also may have another leaving Sycamore. Need new PE teacher, other Specials still here. Resource staying. Ms. Porter will be Behavioral and student services. Waiting to see if grant for social worker/counselor gets approved. Ms. Hahn unsure. May need 2 SpEd positions but for now, they're staying. Staffed but waiting to see what shakes out with Kinder enrollment, people coming back, etc.

This will remain on the agenda as a running item through the end of the year.

B. AASA: Arizona Academic Standards Assessments

Mr. Graff: Testing to begin the week of March 27th and continue through April. Students will be assessed in math, writing, and ELA standards. 5th graders will also take a science assessment.

C. Campus Safety

No updates.

This will remain on the agenda as a running item.

D. Next Meeting

Tuesday, 03/28/2022 at 4:00pm.

E. Adjournment

Ms. Rangel moved to adjourn. Ms. Caywood seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.