



**MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING OF THE
GOVERNING BOARDS OF DAISY EDUCATION CORPORATION dba
SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-PEORIA,
SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-PHOENIX AND
PARAGON SCIENCE ACADEMY**

The joint meeting of the Governing Boards of *Daisy Education Corporation dba Sonoran Science Academy-Peoria, Sonoran Science Academy-Phoenix and Paragon Science Academy* was held at Paragon Science Academy, 2975 West Linda Lane, Chandler, AZ 85224, on *December 9th, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.*

The following matters were discussed, considered and/or decided at the meeting. Items that were applicable to all of the schools are indicated with “**ALL**” following the agenda items; items that are applicable to fewer than all of the schools will include the name of the school or schools to which they are applicable in **BOLD CAPITAL LETTERS** following the agenda item.

I. Call to order—ALL

The joint meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call—ALL

The following members of the governing boards of each of the schools were present:

- Dr. Ali Unver, *Board Chair*
- Mrs. Kimmie Nguyen, *Vice Chair*
- Mr. Omer Guvener, *joined remotely*
- Mr. Regi Adams, *joined remotely*
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The following members of the governing boards of each of the schools were absent:

- Dr. Adem Aktas

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Dr. Unver led everyone present in the Pledge.

IV. Call to the Public—ALL

Board Chair Dr. Unver asked if any members of the public wished to address the Boards. No members of the public responded.

V. Approval of Minutes—Action Items

- Approval of Minutes of October 14th, 2021 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-PEORIA**

The minutes of the October 14th, 2021, governing board meeting for Sonoran Science



- Academy-Peoria were reviewed. *Dr. Unver* motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. *Mrs. Nguyen* seconded. The motion to approve was. *Dr. Unver: Aye; Mrs. Nguyen: Aye; Mr. Adams: Aye; Mr. Guvener: Aye.*
- Approval of Minutes of October 14th, 2021 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-PHOENIX**
The minutes of the October 14th, 2021, governing board meeting for Sonoran Science Academy-Phoenix were reviewed. *Dr. Unver* motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. *Mrs. Nguyen* seconded. The motion to approve was. *Dr. Unver: Aye; Mrs. Nguyen: Aye; Mr. Adams: Aye; Mr. Guvener: Aye.*
 - Approval of Minutes of October 14th, 2021 Meeting—**PARAGON SCIENCE ACADEMY**
The minutes of the October 14th, 2021, governing board meeting for Paragon Science Academy were reviewed. *Dr. Unver* motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. *Mrs. Nguyen* seconded. The motion to approve was. *Dr. Unver: Aye; Mrs. Nguyen: Aye; Mr. Adams: Aye; Mr. Guvener: Aye.*

VI. Summary of Current Events—Discussion Only

Mr. Fatih Karatas, Chief Executive Officer, share the following with the Board:

- At the central office, there have been three staff changes. Chief Academic Officer, *Dr. Gregory McFann*, resigned, effective November 26, 2021. The IT Director and the Payroll and Procurement Manager also resigned. The Chief Executive Officer has assumed the duties of Chief Academic Officer until such time as an appropriate candidate is selected for the position. The Payroll/Procurement position has been posted and we hope to fill this position very soon. A new IT Director was hired today and will start in two weeks. —**ALL**
- Paragon Science Academy is due to renew its charter with the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools in 2022. The initial request for documentation has been received from ASBCS and we have begun working on the submission, which we plan to make in early July—**PARAGON SCIENCE ACADEMY**

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked the Chief Executive Officer for his presentation.

Mr. Chris Felton, Chief Operating Officer, shared the following with the Board:

- Our COVID-19 Mitigation Plan continues to function extremely well. The majority of the students we have had to quarantine have been quarantined as a result of the student's parent(s) having COVID. At this time, we have no spread at any campus and the number of COVID cases has not increased at our schools, despite the overall increases in the infection rates among the general population.
- We continue to see increased mask use at all campuses.
- We have no big concerns at this time and are pleased with the efficacy of our mitigation measures.



The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked the Chief Operating Officer for his presentation.

Mrs. Deb Hofmeier, Principal, Sonoran Science Academy-Peoria, joined the meeting remotely and shared the following with the Board:

- I am pleased to say that we are currently fully staffed and we have two regular substitutes who are filling in when needed. We have used ESSER III grant funds to add a counselor to our schedule one and a half days a week. She sees students on a weekly basis and has helped add a new sense of calm to our campus.
- Our COVID numbers continue to be low. Our parents have been very cautious about sending sick students to school and our teachers and maintenance staff are strictly following the Mitigation Plan, which is really helping keep the numbers low.
- iReady and MAP testing have taken place during the last two weeks. Our students have made good progress in reading and math and science knowledge. Teachers will spend the day on December 16th looking at data trends and making plans for the next semester to help our students meet all of the state standards.
- Ms. Marcella Seesholtz, our PE teacher, hosted a Turkey Trot for all of our students in November. The students collected \$850 in lap pledges to be used to put in a MS Weight Room to help our students get, and stay, in shape. We will have it in place in January.
- Ms. Halonna Brown, our music teacher, will be putting our children back on the stage next week. Our K-1, 2-3, 4-5, and 6-8 students will perform two winter songs using the instruments and voices to raise the roof.
- Our NJHS students will be working on a playground improvement project over Winter Break. They have plans to make our inner courtyard more entertaining for our primary students and will change up the outer play area to appeal to the MS interests. Ms. Cat Louth is to be commended for her leadership for this group.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked *Mrs. Hofmeier* for her presentation.

Mrs. Courtney Martin, Principal, Sonoran Science Academy-Phoenix, shared the following with the Board:

- SSA-Phoenix is building, and has implemented some great things this year to, focus on community engagement. We have class dojo school wide and have 70% parent engagement so far with a goal of 100%.
- Our robotics team qualified for state and earned the Connect Award for their documentation on their work reaching out to engineers and STEM professionals.
- Currently we have 398 students enrolled and are focusing both on retention and marketing for next school year. At this time, we have completed our re-enrollment survey for the next school year with parents and we will have 367 students returning so, minus the 18 seniors that makes a retention rate of 95%! We are full capacity in K,



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1st, 2nd, 7th, and 9th grade. We have waitlist students for this current year and already have applications for next year.

- In staffing, we are focused on having professional and productive staff and I am very proud of the new staff that have joined our team. Mr. Cihan Dalkilic, who had been serving our students so well as College Counselor, has moved up into the position of K-12 Dean of Academics. While interviewing potential new College Counselors, we selected four candidates to move into the second round interviews and they each had to create a school-wide initiative and plan for our community. All four candidates were outstanding and we are pleased to have Ms. Cynthia Hernandez join us as our new College Counselor.
- I am pleased to share with the Board that all 18 of our seniors have been accepted to one or more of the universities they applied to.
- We are implementing the ACE program in high school. High school sophomores are recruited to participate in ACE during their junior and senior years. Once accepted into the program, ACE students are concurrently enrolled in high school and college courses, attending college classes during the summer and on Saturdays during the school year. ACE students can earn up to 24 college credits by the time they graduate from high school and can transfer to a university to earn their bachelor's degree. We have 80% of our students working on the application and have a deadline of December 15.
- All faculty will be assessing student data with their peers across our organization prior to going to winter break. I am excited for us to meet upon return to campus in January to determine our reteach methods and celebrate our program successes.
- In the areas of Positive Behavior Intervention Supports and Character Strong, we have a dodgeball tournament tomorrow (December 10) with the entire school and are hosting our PBIS reward day on December 15th. We just had our PBIS rep come out to evaluate us and we received a 90% on expectation implementation and have a plan to continue our positive movement. We are establishing our PBIS team so that every member is represented.
- I have been sending out my weekly newsletter in 5 languages and believe this has really supported our community. I have been individually emailing and calling families to highlight students and teachers to build connections. We hosted a parent focus group night in November and received great feedback on how to better support our parents. We asked 6 questions relating to quality, academics, social and emotional, and why SSA-Phoenix. Our admin team discussed the data and have implemented strategies to ensure we are improving our school community by focusing on the expectations of our families.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked *Mrs. Martin* for her presentation.

Mr. Naci Karadeniz, Principal, Paragon Science Academy, shared the following with the Board:

- We currently have 524 students.



- In staffing, one of our math teachers is leaving so we have one position open for the second semester. We hired a full-time school Assistant Dean of Students who will support discipline and conduct.
- In the area of achievements, we recently ranked as the #3 Most Diverse Public Middle and High School in Arizona by Niche.com and our Elementary school was ranked #5.
- We also just received the winter science invitational results. Our students received 1st place in 3 different categories, 2nd place in 3 different categories, and 3rd place in one category.
- We have also been successful in art. One of our students is the winner in the Valley Metro Cool Transit STUFF Art Contest. Her artwork and our school name will be displayed on the 2022 Valley Metro Calendar.
- We continue to have great collaboration with our parents. They follow our COVID protocols and come and help support our events and programs.
- In extracurriculars, our basketball team is in the charter league and they are doing their best. Teamwork and engagement are high among students.
- We continue to follow the Mitigation Plan, providing a safe environment for our students and staff. We have good communication with our stakeholders to mitigate any spread by quarantining students as needed.
- We have a great connection with our graduated students. Staff and grads meet on a regular basis over Zoom and some alumni are giving back to our community by mentoring Science Olympiad, Sonoran Schools Mentorship Program, and Robotics. We have an Alumni breakfast in January that we are looking forward to.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked *Mr. Karadeniz* for her presentation.

VII. Financials: FY21 Unaudited Financial Report Summary—Discussion Item ALL

Mr. Andrew Phelan (Director of Accounting and Finance) gave a brief presentation to the Board and notified the Board that the FY21 Audit Report would be presented at the next meeting.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked the Director of Accounting and Finance for his presentation.

VIII. Consent Agenda—Action Item

Dr. Unver asked Board members if they wished to remove any items from the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, *Dr. Unver* motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. *Mrs. Nguyen* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Unver: Aye; Mrs. Nguyen: Aye; Mr. Adams: Aye; Mr. Guvener: Aye.*

- 1) Accounting Manual (*revised*)—ALL
- 2) 22-23 SY Calendar—ALL
- 3) Policy re Suspension or Expulsion of K-4 Students under HB2123—ALL



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IX. Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Agendas—Discussion Only—ALL

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17th, 2022; location to be determined.

IX. Adjournment—ALL

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made by *Dr. Unver*, seconded by *Mrs. Nguyen*, and unanimously carried, the joint meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m. *Dr. Unver: Aye; Mrs. Nguyen: Aye; Mr. Adams: Aye; Mr. Guvener: Aye.*

Respectfully submitted,

Crissie Rowley, Secretary to the Governing Boards