



**MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF  
DAISY EDUCATION CORPORATION dba  
SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY DAVIS-MONTHAN  
SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-EAST AND  
SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY**

The joint meeting of the Governing Boards of *Daisy Education Corporation dba Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan, Sonoran Science Academy-East and Sonoran Science Academy* was held at Sonoran Science Academy-East, 7450 East Stella Road, Tucson, AZ 8573, on *December 8th, 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:

- Mrs. Linda Lopez, *Chair*
- Dr. Abdullah Yilmaz
- Mrs. Becky Kirkpatrick, *Vice Chair (joined meeting remotely)*
- Ms. Lesly Baca Ruiz (*joined the meeting after the Principal’s Report for Sonoran Science Academy-East*)

**III. Pledge of Allegiance—ALL**

*Mrs. Lopez, Board Chair*, led all present in the Pledge.

**IV. Call to the Public—ALL**

*Board Chair Mrs. Lopez* 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY DAVIS-MONTHAN**  
The minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, governing board meeting for Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan were reviewed. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick* motioned to approve the



- minutes, as presented. *Dr. Yilmaz* seconded. The motion to approve was unanimous with *Mrs. Lopez* abstaining as she was not present at the previous meeting. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Abstain.*
- Approval of Minutes of October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-EAST**  
The minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, governing board meeting for Sonoran Science Academy-East were reviewed. *Dr. Yilmaz* motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick* seconded. The motion to approve was unanimous with *Mrs. Lopez* abstaining as she was not present at the previous meeting. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Abstain.*
  - Approval of Minutes of October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY**  
The minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, governing board meeting for Sonoran Science Academy were reviewed. *Dr. Yilmaz* motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick* seconded. The motion to approve was unanimous with *Mrs. Lopez* abstaining as she was not present at the previous meeting. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Abstain.*

#### 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 IT and Payroll/Procurement positions have also been posted and we hope to fill those two positions very soon. —**ALL**
- Sonoran Science Academy-East 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—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-EAST**

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.



# Daisy Education Corporation

## STEM EDUCATION, COLLEGE PREPARATION



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

*Ms. Cristela Cardenas, Principal, Sonoran Science Academy-East*, shared the following with the Board:

- I am proud to say SSA-East is doing well! Our teachers are working hard with students each and every day. Last Friday was wonderful as students and staff all participated in our first PBIS assembly of the year. Students earned over 40,000 tickets for quarter 2! They will be awarded with a movie, hot chocolate, and popcorn the day before winter break. We will also be “pieing” some staff members as well. This was a huge incentive!
- Currently we have 453 students enrolled with students on our current year waitlist and applications for next school year.
- In staffing, we are currently in need of one paraprofessional. SSA-East is staffed with outstanding teachers, paraprofessionals, office staff personnel, and other support staff. Everyone does such a phenomenal job stepping up to support our school community. Each and every staff member spends countless hours coaching, tutoring, and volunteering at many of our afterschool events! They deserve a tremendous amount of recognition. We are truly fortunate to have such outstanding educators at East.
- In academics, we are in the midst of testing K-8 and the scores are moving! Data with our standards are matching. Teachers are celebrating their students like crazy! We are looking forward to digging into our data next Friday. Every teacher and paraprofessional, in grades 2-8, supports students, instructionally, to gain mastery in language arts and math standards every day. K-2 will begin in January. During our bi-weekly data teams, I-Steep data, and formative assessment data is reviewed to ensure student growth is going in the right direction. It is happening!
- In Character Strong/PBIS implementation, staff is teaching 20 minutes of social-emotional learning (SEL) every morning, using Character Strong. Ideas are discussed during our collaboration meetings on Friday. Inclusive Schools Week is also happening and students are working diligently on sharing what that means and looks like.
- What an amazing group of dedicated parents we have. Our PTO President and Vice President have truly outdone themselves! They began with Boo grams in October, our Fall Festival in November which made over \$2900 in profit for our school, and now selling Christmas Candy grams along with working our Book Fair! They also decorated our school for the holidays. We are so lucky to have their support.
- Our wonderful families are also sending beautiful gifts to our Admin and office just to say thank you!
- Looking forward to finishing quarter 2 with a bang and begin quarter 3 with our outstanding SSA-East community!

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked *Ms. Cardenas* for her presentation.

*Mr. Vince Kelly, Principal, Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan*, joined the meeting



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remotely and shared the following with the Board:

- Since we last met, in staffing, we had a goal to hire a few paraprofessionals. As of now, we have hired one incredible paraprofessional, who is actually a parent of a student who has been with Sonoran for several years. Mr. Prutsman came to us with multiple years of experience as a math interventionist. As a result, we have not only improved our middle school math program, but have now begun developing intervention supports at the high school level.
- We very recently lost our school nurse who opted to become a traveling nurse now that her daughter graduated, but we were fortunate enough to hire a replacement, Ms. Gutierrez, who is training with us as we speak.
- Our school is still actively looking for a special education teacher, a position that is not easy to fill even during hiring season. We continue to use our network of finding a qualified candidate but do have a long term substitute teacher in place with a plan for now.
- In academics, we recently had our Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) trainer visit our school to evaluate where we are at as a school. Part of the visit consisted of visiting with teachers and students, asking them what the school values are, and how recently they have been recognized. While we do not have our formal report finalized from our trainer, the general discussion we had before his departure was that we have demonstrated lots of progress and that we are in fact on track to begin our Tier 3 training which is the final step in the PBIS training process.
- Also in academics, what started out as a potential science class field trip, turned into a school-wide field trip when we invited all of our students to participate in the DMAFB STEM Day for students on November 4th, the day before the air show. Base officials bussed all of our students to the event, where students not only got to see some of the pilots practicing for the show, but most importantly, they got a chance to interact with many base officials involved with the flight programs and ask many questions without large crowds.
- I am happy to report that our school clubs have been very active in working with our community.
  - Middle School Student Council partnered with Security Forces Alpha Flight on a PB & J Drive to support the homeless community. Students donated supplies for sandwiches and then after making the sandwiches, the Security Forces squadron bundled them with chips and bottled water and delivered them to the homeless community.
  - High School Student Council partnered with the International Rescue Committee to provide hygiene kits for Afghan refugees. Students throughout high school had donation contests between grade levels bringing in supplies such as soap, wash cloths, toothbrushes, etc. The students were able to assemble 235 kits and had many additional supplies.
  - High School Student Council is also partnering with Project Linus to make fleece blankets for local children in need, particularly in hospitals. The students are staying after school and working through their free time after lunch to make as many blankets as possible to donate before we go to break.



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- We recently completed a school lettering project where we have put the name of our school above the entrance! Previous to this, we had only had our marquee for the past few years while we waited for base approval of the lettering, font, and colors. After initially requiring bids from base-approved vendors, we ended up receiving approval to have our Facilities Manager, Star Sullivan, do the installation and it looks wonderful! In addition to this the district facilities team has recoated all of the roofs this year, as well as replacing the main backflow, and all paper supply dispensers throughout the building.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked *Mr. Kelly* for his presentation.

*Dr. Adnan Doyuran, Principal, Sonoran Science Academy 6-12 and Sonoran Virtual Academy*, shared the following with the Board:

- The start of semester 2 will see the middle/high school of Sonoran Virtual Academy separate completely from Sonoran Science Academy's bricks and mortar middle/high school and operate exclusively with online teachers and online courses. Middle school and high school core courses will be taught online by SVA teachers. SVA will utilize an online platform for non-core classes which will allow SVA to better serve middle and high school online students by offering a robust selection of course options, including higher level courses.
- Sonoran Science Academy's CRUSH robotics team recently collected 315 cans of food for the Community Food Bank.
- Senior Jamie Ledbetter was announced as one of 80 semi-finalist Flinn Scholars.
- Thanksgiving dinner brought elementary, middle, and high school staff together in the gym.
- We have restarted our PBIS initiatives, which had gone dormant due to the pandemic.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked *Dr. Doyuran* for his presentation.

*Mr. Erdal Kocak, Principal, Sonoran Science Academy K-5*, shared the following with the Board:

- We currently have 280 students enrolled. We had our first Enrollment Information Session last night and this morning we had 6 applications. We are getting requests to attend information sessions. We set up 10 information sessions, half of which are online and the other half are in person. We will also have 2 information sessions for kindergarteners.
- In staff news, we are enjoying having a reading specialist this year and are approved for a math interventionist so that we can support more students. We will also hire a counsellor for our increasing needs in that area.
- We have a great PBIS Team, assigned job duties to successfully implement PBIS. We meet monthly. Student of the Week has now started, recognizing students for exemplifying our core values of being Safe, Respectful, and Responsible. These core values also reinforce the Character Ed Program. Teachers use PBIS tickets for positive reinforcement of the core values. Teachers also use pompoms for classroom party



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incentives. Our goal is for students to also recognize within each other these values.

- We have buddy classes between grade levels: Kinder and 5th grade, 1st grade and 3rd grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. All students recently made Gratitude Placemats for their assigned buddy. Students really enjoy their buddy classes.
- SWIS Training will happen January 3rd for all teachers. We will be able to start tracking behaviors and move into the Tier 2 and Tier 3 levels. *\*Secretary's note: **School-Wide Information System (SWIS)** is a reliable, confidential, web-based information system to collect, summarize, and use student behavior data for decision making.* We are excited with the Team's ideas to create a school environment where all students are successful and supportive of each other. Our goal is for students to achieve improved social and academic outcomes. We want the students to be aware that this is a team effort, that as a community we work together and help each other to achieve these goals.
- The team is also looking at continuing to build our community by looking at outside activities with students and teachers. We celebrate teacher birthdays each month as well. Wish lists are supplying classrooms with PBIS incentives and help with classroom parties.
- As well as PBIS, our CharacterEd team meets once a month and, on January 5<sup>th</sup>, we will meet with a representative from CharacterED to get a better understanding as to what is needed for us to apply to become a "School of Character". We are planning to apply for this next November.
- Our teachers are implementing the PurposeFULL people curriculum into their classrooms. Each teacher is given a folder every month to fill with "evidence". We are also creating bulletin board displays in both classroom buildings that are filled with items relevant to the character trait of each month.
- We had our first assembly last month to recognize our Students of the Month (character trait of each month) and we also recognized the Students of the Week (PBIS). We will be starting announcements in January so we can recognize the Student of the Week that way also.
- We have also piloted our own unique program, Lunch CHAMPS. This was created by Ms. Campbell, one of our teachers, and addresses that we were seeing a lot of students struggling with not knowing (or remembering) how to behave appropriately, after returning to campus following so many months of learning remotely. The class that follows the CHAMP motto earns it for the week. The overall CHAMP (per grade) will earn a party at the end of the semester. We also have individual Lunch CHAMPS. These students in upper elementary earn free dress passes and the lower elementary students earn lunch boxes and a small party. We have seen a tremendous improvement in behavior and overall etiquette in the lunchroom. The students get very excited on Friday and Monday when we announce the CHAMPS. We have a diner-themed display with the class trophies, lunch menu, character trait of the month, individual winners, etc. This has been a big positive for students and staff.
- My last item is to share with you that we are holding winter concerts again. Due to the pandemic, parents are not able to attend in person so we are recording the concerts and sending the link to parents. The students have been doing a really great job and are excited and nervous to perform on stage.



The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked *Mr. Kocak* for his 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**

*Mrs. Lopez* asked Board members if they wished to remove any items from the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, *Dr. Yilmaz* motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. *Ms. Ruiz* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Ms. Ruiz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: 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**
- 4) Removal of 1 credit of Physical Education from high school graduation requirement (does not reduce minimum number of credits required to graduate)  
—**SONORAN VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022; location to be determined.

**X. Adjournment—ALL**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made by *Mrs. Kirkpatrick*, seconded by *Ms. Ruiz*, and unanimously carried, the joint meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Ms. Ruiz: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Aye.*

Respectfully submitted,

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*Crissie Rowley*, Secretary to the Governing Boards