



**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 *Sonoran Science Academy-Phoenix, 3535 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85008, on September 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, *by video*

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

- Dr. Adem Aktas
- Mr. Regi Adams

III. 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.

IV. Approval of Minutes—Action Items

- Approval of Minutes of July 8th, 2021 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-PEORIA**

The minutes could not be approved due to only one Board member being present who had been present at the July 8th meeting. The July 8th minutes will be brought to the Board’s next meeting for approval.

- Approval of Minutes of July 8th, 2021 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE**



ACADEMY-PHOENIX

The minutes could not be approved due to only one Board member being present who had been present at the July 8th meeting. The July 8th minutes will be brought to the Board's next meeting for approval.

- Approval of Minutes of July 8th, 2021 Meeting—**PARAGON SCIENCE ACADEMY**

The minutes could not be approved due to only one Board member being present who had been present at the July 8th meeting. The July 8th minutes will be brought to the Board's next meeting for approval.

V. Summary of Current Events—Discussion Only

Mr. Fatih Karatas (Chief Executive Officer) shared the following with the Board:

❖ District Leadership change —**ALL**

Our Chief Financial Officer, *Mr. Clint Farlinger*, is leaving Sonoran Schools after two years of dedicated service to take on a new challenge. I know the Board will join with me in thanking him for his valuable contribution to our organization and in wishing him well.

Mr. Andrew Phelan has been hired as our new Director of Finance and he and *Mr. Farlinger* will be working closely together over the next few weeks to ensure a seamless transition.

Mr. Phelan holds a Bachelors in Business and Accounting and an MBA in Executive Management. For the last five years, *Mr. Phelan* has been the Finance Director at Antelope Union High School District in the Yuma area.

❖ School Leadership change —**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-PHOENIX**

As I recently shared with you, in mid-August, *Mr. Dogan* decided to step down as Principal of SSA-Phoenix, due to ongoing health issues. *Mr. Dogan* dedicated more than thirteen years of his career to Sonoran Schools and I know you will join with me in thanking him for his dedicated service and in wishing him well.

At this time, I would like to introduce you to the new Principal for SSA-Phoenix, *Mrs. Courtney Martin*. *Mrs. Martin* has more than fifteen years of experience in school administration in Arizona and has extensive, pertinent knowledge, including in the areas of data-driven instruction, college counseling, staff evaluation and professional development, extracurricular opportunities for students, and student behavior management. She is an excellent communicator and truly has a love for education. *Mrs. Martin* holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology. I know you will join with me in congratulating and welcoming *Mrs. Martin*.

❖ HB 2862: Instructional Time Models —**ALL**

As you are aware, House Bill 2862 allows schools to deliver instructional time to students through any combination of in-person instruction and remote instruction, subject to a list of conditions. While we are currently not planning to adopt a different instructional model for our schools at this time, the Board should be aware that if students start losing significant instructional time due to COVID-19 (including



quarantining), we may need to consider this option to continue to meet the academic needs of our students this school year.

❖ **ASBCS Financial Performance for FY 20 —ALL**

I am pleased to share with you that, based on the Annual Audit for FY2020 that was submitted to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (ASBCS) in March, all of our schools met the ASBCS financial framework requirements.

❖ **Charter Renewal Application —PARAGON SCIENCE ACADEMY**

Although the charter school contract for Paragon Science Academy will expire in 2023, the renewal application is due March, 2022. We will be working with school leaders on the renewal application in the coming months and plan to submit the renewal application this December.

❖ **ESSER II & III applications —ALL**

One of our top priorities for September is to complete the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant applications. As you are aware, ESSER grants were made available to schools starting last spring, in three ‘buckets’ – ESSER I, II, and III. ESSER grants allowed us to make investments in instructional materials, technology, curriculum, facilities, and staffing. ESSER III differs from the first two ESSER buckets, in that it contains new requirements. School and district administrators are working hard to ensure each school’s ESSER II and ESSER III applications are submitted by the end of this month.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked the CEO for his presentation.

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

❖ **COVID-19 Updates—ALL:**

I am pleased to share with you that our schools have all been doing well, as it pertains to COVID-19 and our Mitigation Plan. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have had zero ‘outbreaks’ at our Phoenix schools and no classes have had to be closed. We have a robust Mitigation Plan and we are diligently following it, including quickly identifying and quarantining any individuals with potential exposure, and tracking absence rates.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked the CEO for his presentation.

Due to a bereavement, the Chief Academic Officer was not in attendance and the agenda items for the Chief Academic Officer were not presented.

Mr. Naci Karadeniz (Principal) shared the following with the Board —**PARAGON SCIENCE ACADEMY:**

- ❖ I am pleased to report that all staff positions are filled and the staff retention rate, from last year to this year, was very high. We have hired a full-time school guidance



Daisy Education Corporation

STEM EDUCATION, COLLEGE PREPARATION



1489 W. Elliot Road, Suite D103 | Gilbert, AZ 85233 | T: (480) 940-5440 | F: (480) 940-5458 | www.sonoranschools.org

- counselor who will support our students in academics, college counseling, and social-emotional learning.
- ❖ In academics, students and parents are happy to see that PSA is providing students more opportunities to grow. We increased the number of Advanced Placement (AP) courses by 45% this year. We have also added online Dual Enrollment (DE) courses in partnership with Grand Canyon University.
 - ❖ Please join with me in congratulating *Baraa Abdelsalam* in 12th grade! Her artwork, "Inner Development" has been selected for publication through the Celebrating Art Contest. She is in the top 35% for publication. This puts her in the semi-final round of the competition which will be announced in October. Way to go!
 - ❖ Please also join with me in congratulating *Leena*, in 11th grade, who has earned her Bronze Medal from the U.S. Congressional Award for Youth program, which is a cornerstone of the Sonoran Schools Mentorship Program (SSMP).
 - ❖ I am grateful for the great collaboration we have with our parents. They follow the COVID mitigation protocols and volunteer in various capacities around the campus.
 - ❖ Clubs have started! I am happy we are able to provide more opportunities to our students to increase their academic, social, and leadership skills. For this school year, we have 30 STEM-related clubs and extracurricular activities, including a Cyber Security club, for high school students, led by one of our parents.
 - ❖ We continue to follow the Mitigation Plan to provide a safe environment for our students and staff. We have good communication with stakeholders to mitigate and quarantine students as needed.
 - ❖ In fundraising news, we just received \$6000 from Sunflower Bank and Guardian Mortgage. One of my friends, a former staff member at SSA-Phoenix, started a drive to upgrade smartboards in our English Learner (EL) and Exceptional Student Services (ESS) classrooms and we are happy that those classrooms will be receiving four new smartboards.
 - ❖ We continue to 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 in Science Olympiad, SSMP, and Robotics.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked the Principal for his presentation.

Mrs. Deb Hofmeier (Principal) shared the following with the Board —**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-PEORIA:**

- ❖ I am pleased to share with the Board that all of our positions are filled. We are working on the ESSER III grant to be able add a counselor to our schedule one day a week. This will be a great help to students who have anxiety issues due to the COVID pandemic.
- ❖ Regarding COVID: We don't have any students who have reported testing positive and the number of individuals we have preemptively quarantined since the beginning of the school year is also super low. Our parents have been very cautious about



Daisy Education Corporation

STEM EDUCATION, COLLEGE PREPARATION



1489 W. Elliot Road, Suite D103 | Gilbert, AZ 85233 | T: (480) 940-5440 | F: (480) 940-5458 | www.sonoranschools.org

sending sick students to school and our teachers and maintenance staff have been diligent in their compliance with our mitigation measures.

- ❖ I am thrilled to be able to tell you about our Great Cereal Challenge. Our students collected 763 boxes of cereal to donate to St. Mary's Food Bank. Our National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) students spearheaded the project hoping to collect 200 boxes. Our students and parents actually crushed that number, donating a total of 763 boxes! We had so many boxes of cereal, we set them up like a Dominoes cascade in our courtyard. Kudos to *Mr. Brown's* class who led the donations with 243 boxes! Tomorrow our NJHS students will take one of our school buses to the Food Bank to deliver the cereal and work on packing food boxes, as part of their community service. SSA-Peoria teacher *Ms. Cat Louth*, is truly to be commended for her leadership for this group.
- ❖ We continue to work towards our goal of applying to be a School of Character next year.
- ❖ In curriculum news, implementation of our new reading program is going well. We will start working with a coach next week. Our Amplify Science implementation is on hold until we receive *all* of the curriculum materials.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked the Principal for her presentation.

Mrs. Courtney Martin (Principal) shared the following with the Board —**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-PHOENIX:**

- ❖ 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 52% parent engagement so far with a goal of 100%. We just started 2 weeks ago and we are adding more parents every day. *Class Dojo* provides parents with 32 language options so it is a great way for us to easily engage parents with limited English proficiency in their students' education and in our school community.
- ❖ We hosted a professional development with a week-long orientation that allowed our 6-12 students to create achievement goals for the year. Some goals were STEM and college focused and some goals were related to community involvement. Our administration team was very impressed with our students' drive and passions.
- ❖ We have sent our club sign ups and are very excited to offer our students activities relating to various STEM skills.
- ❖ In staffing, we are currently in need of substitute teachers and one paraprofessional. Our paras have done a phenomenal job working and stepping up to sub for our teachers when they are absent. It has been tough, but they have done great! SSA-Phoenix has many new teachers that are inspiring students and helping to foster a positive school culture. Our returning teachers are involved in mentoring, team leads, PBIS team, and so much more. We are headed in the right direction!



- ❖ We are providing training to teachers on concept mastery and re-teaching gaps to support growth in all grades. Every teacher and paraprofessional, in grades 2-8, supports students instructionally, to gain mastery in language arts and math standards. We have set intervention time for these grades and supporting teachers to build in these skills. K-2 will begin in January. We are working on building our bi-weekly data teams, in order for teachers to review AZM2 and formative assessment data to ensure student growth is going in the right direction.
- ❖ I am so happy to announce we have filled the Dean of Students position and we will effectively implement Character Strong school-wide within the next two weeks by building Character Strong lessons for every day implementation. We have implemented DOJO as an additional reward system and have aligned our monthly reward events and ceremonies. We will host academic awards and character awards each semester, as well as, student of the month awards in every grade!
- ❖ SSA-Phoenix is hosting a Meet the Admin night on September 22nd to directly engage in dialog with our families and help our families get to know our team. We know our families are eager to be engaged and we want to hear from them how we can partner with them to provide opportunities and support to nurture that engagement.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked the Principal for her presentation.

VI. **Financials: FY22 Budgets Revision 1—Action Item**

Mr. Clint Farlinger (Chief Financial Officer) gave a brief presentation to the Board, and answered questions, prior to requesting Board approval of the following FY22 Revised Budgets:

- **FY22 Budget Revision 1 —SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-PEORIA**
Dr. Unver motioned to adopt the FY22 Budget Revision 1, as presented. *Mrs. Nguyen* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Unver: Aye; Mrs. Nguyen: Aye; Mr. Guvener: Aye.*
- **FY22 Budget Revision 1 —SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-PHOENIX**
Dr. Unver motioned to adopt the FY22 Budget Revision 1, as presented. *Mrs. Nguyen* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Unver: Aye; Mrs. Nguyen: Aye; Mr. Guvener: Aye.*
- **FY22 Budget Revision 1 —PARAGON SCIENCE ACADEMY**
Dr. Unver motioned to adopt the FY22 Budget revision 1, as presented. *Mrs. Nguyen* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Unver: Aye; Mrs. Nguyen: Aye; Mr. Guvener: Aye.*

VII. **Approval of New Principal—Action Item — SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-PHOENIX**



The Board was asked for its approval of *Mrs. Courtney Martin* as Principal of Sonoran Science Academy-Phoenix. *Dr. Unver* motioned to approve *Mrs. Martin* as School Principal. *Mrs. Nguyen* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Unver: Aye; Mrs. Nguyen: Aye; Mr. Guvener: Aye.*

VIII. Extracurricular Fees Policy—Action Item—ALL

The Board was asked to approve activity fees, as presented (document on file), for activities that wish to be eligible to collect Arizona School Tax Credit contributions. Said Board approval shall automatically include a requirement that the Principal waive said fee(s) for any student(s) for whom the fee(s) would create an economic hardship. *Dr. Unver* motioned to approve the fees, as presented, with the stipulation that the Principal waive said fee(s) for any student(s) for whom the fee(s) would create an economic hardship. *Mrs. Nguyen* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Unver: Aye; Mrs. Nguyen: Aye; Mr. Guvener: Aye.*

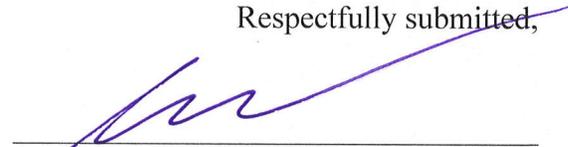
IX. Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Agendas—Discussion Only

- Proposed meeting schedule for the 21-22 school year —ALL
 - October 14;
 - December 9;
 - February 17;
 - May 5;
 - June 23;
 - July 7 (FY23 SY)

X. 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 6:35 p.m. *Dr. Unver: Aye; Mrs. Nguyen: Aye; Mr. Guvener: Aye.*

Respectfully submitted,



Crissie Rowley, Secretary to the Governing Boards