



**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 E. Stella Road, Tucson, AZ 85730, on September 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 6:00 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
- Ms. Lesly Baca Ruiz

**III. 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.

**IV. Approval of Minutes—Action Items**

- Approval of Minutes of July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY DAVIS-MONTHAN**  
The minutes of the July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, governing board meeting for Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan were reviewed. *Dr. Yilmaz* motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. *Ms. Ruiz* seconded. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Aye; Ms. Ruiz: Aye.*
- Approval of Minutes of July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-EAST**



The minutes of the July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, governing board meeting for Sonoran Science Academy-East were reviewed. *Dr. Yilmaz* motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. *Ms. Ruiz* seconded. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Aye; Ms. Ruiz: Aye.*

- Approval of Minutes of July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY**

The minutes of the July 7<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. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Aye; Ms. Ruiz: Aye.*

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.

- ❖ 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 —**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-EAST**

Although the charter school contract for SSA-East 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



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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 had had just one ‘outbreak’ at one of our schools and, due to our Mitigation Plan protocols, there was no spread outside the identified group (of four). The class in question was closed for ten days and students were moved to remote learning for that 10 day period. Pima County Health Department has shared with me on more than one occasion that our schools are doing a really great job and I agree with them. We have a robust Mitigation Plan and we are diligently following it.

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. Mustafa Boyar (Dean of Academics)* shared the following with the Board —

**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY DAVIS-MONTHAN:**

- ❖ We started the school year fully staffed. We are currently looking to add an additional paraprofessional to assist us with supervision and working with students with identified academic needs in small groups.  
Both of our new teachers that were hired for math and science have been welcome additions to our campus. *Mr. Stachowiak* and *Ms. Lindsey* are enjoying working at our school and the students and parents have been very happy with having them join the team.
- ❖ This school year we have added an additional period in our school day to be in alignment with our other high schools. In doing so, we have created unique elective opportunities for our students, including Drama, Film & TV, World Religions, Publication Productions, Video Game Design, Lego Robotics, Team Sports, Legendary Leadership, Dance and Character Strong.
- ❖ Character Strong continues this year as a semester based class for middle school and an elective course for high school. Additionally, all students receive weekly dares and discussions during their first period class.



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- ❖ PBIS underwent some changes at our campus including the use of a ticket system. Students who are recognized for modeling one of our desired values now write their name and the value they were praised for on the ticket. We hold weekly drawings where students can earn free dress passes, spirit shirts or even lunch with a staff member of their choice.
- ❖ Clubs have officially started and this year we will continue to offer a variety of clubs to our students throughout the week. Our sports seasons have also begun and we currently have girls' volleyball and boys flag football. The girls won their first game last night and the boys will have their first game next week.
- ❖ With slightly cooler weather, we are finally able to take advantage of the grass, which is really, really green, and the outdoor areas. Students are now enjoying kickball, tetherball, volleyball, basketball, soccer, or football during recess and free time.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked the Dean of Academics for his presentation.

*Ms. Cristela Cardenas (Principal)* shared the following with the Board —**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-EAST:**

- ❖ I am proud to say SSA-East is doing well! Our teachers are working hard with students each and every day. Last week was wonderful, as students and staff all participated in our first PBIS assembly of the year. Students earned over 10,700 tickets! They will be awarded with a Field Day and Eege's right before fall break.
- ❖ 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-East is staffed with outstanding teachers, paraprofessionals, office staff personnel, and other support staff working diligently to ensure student success! I have such admiration for all they do and all of SSA-East's administration is grateful for their continued dedication and commitment.
- ❖ We continue to focus on Student Mastery and Reteach and Enrich. Every teacher and paraprofessional, in grades 2-8, is supporting students, instructionally, to gain mastery in language arts and math standards. K-2 will begin in January. During our bi-weekly data teams, teachers review AZM2, I-Steep data, and formative assessment data to ensure student growth is going in the right direction.
- ❖ **In Character Strong/PBIS implementation** - *Mr. Trejo*, Dean of Students, works with each of our Tier teams. Our wonderful Art teacher, Ms. K., also leads our Tier I committee on Friday's. Each day, every class has 20 minutes set aside first thing each morning, for social-emotional learning (SEL) instruction using Character Strong.
- ❖ SSA-East teachers held grade level Curriculum Nights at the beginning of the year. Each grade level shared their syllabi, curriculum, online support extensions, and student activities happening in class! Parents were very supportive, caring with their words, and expressed great thanks towards each teacher.
- ❖ Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held September 27-30. *Mr. Aksoy*, Dean of Academics, created a Sign-Up Genius calendar for each teacher. As administrators,



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we look forward to reviewing data and being a part of conferences, supporting our teachers and families.

- ❖ Looking forward to finishing quarter one with a bang and beginning quarter 2 with our outstanding SSA-East community!

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

*Mr. Erdal Kocak (Principal)* shared the following with the Board —**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-TUCSON (K-5)**:

- ❖ We had a very busy start to the school year but were pleased to welcome students back to campus. Everyone is enjoying being back on campus and with their friends and peers. The return of students to the campus has also been a challenge with many students having to relearn how to be a student in the classroom.
- ❖ With regard to COVID, we are pleased that many of our staff and students are voluntarily wearing masks. We did close a class for ten days due to more than one positive case in that group but, as of yesterday, everyone has returned to school and all are glad to be back.
- ❖ In staffing news, we have four new classroom teachers this year (1<sup>st</sup> grade; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; and two 4<sup>th</sup> grade). They are a great addition to our school and are quickly fitting in. We also hired a full-time reading specialist who is so excited to be working with our students who are struggling in reading, as well as a second ESS teacher. We need just one more paraprofessional to be fully staffed.
- ❖ Our PBIS and CharacterEd committee had a meeting with all teachers and are leading the school to implement the programs.
- ❖ Our RtI team is tirelessly working on the implementation of interventions as we help our students get caught up. We have set aside Wednesday afternoons for teachers to review their student data to drive effective interventions.
- ❖ This year, we are working on raising funds to replace some of our older playground equipment.
- ❖ As you know, Daisy Early Learning Academy (DELA) is housed on our campus. In addition to being a preschool, DELA also runs a Before and After Care program for our K-5 families. This program is approved by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the facilities that DELA uses have to be approved by ADHS. I am pleased to share with you that ADHS recently approved our gym for use by DELA, so our Before and After Care students will be able to benefit from using the gym outside of school hours.

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

*Dr. Adnan Doyuran (Principal)* shared the following with the Board —**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-TUCSON (6-12)**:



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- ❖ It has been a challenging beginning to the year, with the pandemic still affecting our school, staff shortages, and Sonoran Virtual Academy opening. However, we are persistent and we are working hard tackling the challenges day by day.
- ❖ I am pleased to share that *Andy Bian* and *Sana Elaloosy* have both been awarded a Silver Medal by the U.S. Congressional Award for Youth program.
- ❖ I am also pleased to share that our athletic programs have resumed. We are currently in volleyball and flag football season. We will have six sports for middle school and six sports for high school this year.
- ❖ We currently have ten clubs running at SSA-Tucson and two clubs running in Sonoran Virtual Academy.
- ❖ I am pleased to introduce you to *Dr. Kaitlin Lira*, Vice Principal of Sonoran Virtual Academy, who supervises operations and instructions. *Dr. Lira* will present the Board report for SVA.

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

*Dr. Kaitlin Lira (Vice Principal)* shared the following with the Board —**SONORAN SCIENCE VIRTUAL ACADEMY:**

- ❖ SVA is currently serving 84 students in grades K-5 and 68 students in grades 6-12 for a total enrollment of 152 students.
- ❖ Our K-5 teachers have excelled with engaging their students in online learning since day one. They have also created positive and caring classroom cultures in the first month of school.
- ❖ We have been focusing on rolling out a new curriculum in ELA and science, and ensuring that the instructional materials are tailored for online teaching and learning.
- ❖ During our first half day, K-5 teachers held parent conferences where they shared beginning of year iReady diagnostic data with parents, along with our plan to address academic gaps and unfinished learning from the last two years. They also shared strategies that parents can use at home to reinforce student learning.
- ❖ The bulk of the core instruction happens in the mornings between 8am - 11am, and afternoons are spent in small group rotations where each student gets an extra 20 - 30 minutes with their teacher in both ELA and math to learn pre-requisite skills needed to access grade level content, or time with their teacher for enrichment.
- ❖ Our 6-12 teachers are housed at the SSA-Tucson Middle/High Campus, and teach both in-person and online students. Teachers typically teach one or two sections per day on Zoom, at the same time that they are teaching their in-person courses at the TMH campus. In the first month, we have focused on improving the SVA student experience by ensuring the teachers have the appropriate technology (high quality external microphones, cameras that have a wide view of the classroom) and administrative support to adjust their teaching practices for a hybrid classroom. Teachers have been very receptive to feedback and proactive with seeking out support with SVA courses.



- ❖ We also have a full time special education teacher who serves SVA students in grades K-12. He primarily uses a pull-out model, but does push into 9th grade Algebra 1 and 9th grade ELA to support.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked the Vice 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 DAVIS-MONTHAN**  
*Dr. Yilmaz* motioned to adopt the FY22 Budget Revision 1, as presented. *Ms. Ruiz* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Ms. Ruiz: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Aye.*
- **FY22 Budget Revision 1 —SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-EAST**  
*Dr. Yilmaz* motioned to adopt the FY22 Budget Revision 1, as presented. *Ms. Ruiz* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Ms. Ruiz: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Aye.*
- **FY22 Budget Revision 1 —SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY**  
*Dr. Yilmaz* motioned to adopt the FY22 Budget revision 1, as presented. *Ms. Ruiz* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Ms. Ruiz: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Aye.*

**VII. 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. *Ms. Ruiz* 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. *Dr. Yilmaz* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Ms. Ruiz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Aye.*

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

- Proposed meeting schedule for the 21-22 school year —**ALL**
  - October 13;
  - December 8;
  - February 16;
  - May 4;



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- June 22;
- July 6 (FY23 SY)

### IX. **Adjournment—ALL**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made by *Dr. Yilmaz*, seconded by *Ms. Ruiz*, and unanimously carried, the joint meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. *Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Ms. Ruiz: Aye; Mrs. Lopez: Aye.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Crissie Rowley', written over a horizontal line.

*Crissie Rowley*, Secretary to the Governing Boards