



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

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 *ONLINE* on *February 8, 2023* at 6:00 p.m. A link to the Zoom meeting was published in the notice/agenda, enabling any member of the public to join the meeting.

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 6:11 p.m.

II. **Roll Call—ALL**

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

- Mrs. Becky Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair
- Ms. Lesly Baca Ruiz
- Dr. Abdullah Yilmaz

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

- Mrs. Linda Lopez, Chair

III. **Call to the Public—ALL**

Vice Chair Mrs. Kirkpatrick 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 December 7, 2022 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY DAVIS-MONTHAN**

Dr. Yilmaz motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. *Ms. Baca Ruiz* seconded. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Ms. Baca Ruiz: Aye; Dr. Yilmaz: Aye.*

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- Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2022 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-EAST**
Dr. Yilmaz motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. *Ms. Baca Ruiz* seconded. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Ms. Baca Ruiz: Aye; Dr. Yilmaz: Aye.*
- Approval of Minutes of December, 2022 Meeting—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY**
Ms. Baca Ruiz motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. *Dr. Yilmaz* seconded. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Ms. Baca Ruiz: Aye; Dr. Yilmaz: Aye.*

V. Summary of Current Events—Discussion Only

- *Dr. Adnan Doyuran*, Chief Academic Officer (CAO), reported to the Board on the following items:
 - Accreditation Update—**ALL**
Accreditation preparation is going well. We developed an action plan working with the Accreditation Committee. Schools have started implementing the plan by studying the Standards with their admin and staff and doing walkthroughs using the ELEOT observations tool. As part of accreditation prep, we formed a Technology Plan Committee and held our first meeting this week.
 - Standards-Based Instruction and Grading—**ALL**
Standards-Based Instruction is being implemented with Beyond Textbooks and student mastery levels are being tracked with common formative assessments. Some schools have already implemented reteach/enrich programs and some are making plans to create these programs for next year. We have decided to transition to Standards-Based Grading for K-2 grades affective with the start of the 23-24 school year. We are preparing training for that as well as working on setting up the Student Information System to accommodate this different grading scale,
 - AVID—**ALL**
AVID is also going well. Approximately 30 teachers will be going to the AVID Summer Institute in San Diego, in June. Last summer, approximately 50 teachers attended the Summer Institute in Dallas. In December, we also held an AVID program training for all our teachers. Some of our schools have already started offering AVID electives and others are making plans to do so starting with the 23-24 school year.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked the CAO for his report.

- *Mr. Joshua De Weerd*, Principal, SSA-Tucson Elementary, reported to the Board on the following items:

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- **Academic Excellence:** Our students have demonstrated their dedication to learning and academic success. Recently, we hosted the Noetic Math Competition and nine of our students scored in the top 50% in the country. Additionally, we had 13 team winners in the competition. We also hosted the Sonoran Science Academy Spelling Bee with students from SSA-East and SSA-Tucson Elementary participating.
- **STEM Opportunities:** Our teachers are offering 15 STEM-oriented clubs after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, providing students with hands-on learning experiences and the opportunity to explore their interests in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- **Sports Program:** Our school has started a sports program this winter with 72 student-athletes in grades K-5 participating in the Southern Arizona YMCA league, providing a supportive and inclusive environment for students to develop their physical abilities and teamwork skills.
- **International Feast:** This year, we brought back the International Feast, which had 63 parents volunteer and who brought cultural dishes for all students to try. This event highlighted the diverse backgrounds of our students and encouraged cultural awareness and understanding.
- **Migrating Eagles Program:** Through the Migrating Eagles Initiative, our fifth graders have partnered with SSA-Tucson high school juniors in STEM challenges. The program also includes high school juniors volunteering during lower elementary lunches and spending time at recess with the elementary students, serving as positive role models for our younger students.
- **Eagle Buddy Program:** The Eagle Buddy program has partnered upper elementary classes with lower elementary classes for integrated STEM challenges in school, promoting collaboration and hands-on learning experiences.
- **Recycling Program:** Our student council, led by teacher Ms. O'Brien, has started a battery-recycling program for our community, promoting environmental sustainability and civic engagement.
- **Community Partnerships:** We have formed a partnership with the University of Arizona's Materials Science and Engineering department who are engaging our 2nd-grade students in STEM activities.
- **Culture and Climate:** We have "Meet at the Flag" events on the first Friday of each quarter and lead assemblies on the last Friday of each month, promoting school spirit and recognizing student achievements through the Character Strong Awards and the Golden Eagle of the Month award for modeling being safe, respectful and responsible.
- **Upcoming Events:** We have a few exciting events coming up, including the SSA Science Fair on February 10, 2023, the Safety Day on February 22, 2023, and a Spring Conferences Bake Sale and Parents Night Out organized by our PTO on February 17, 2023.

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- In conclusion, I am proud of the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, and parents. Our programs and initiatives promote academic excellence, provide hands-on learning experiences, and encourage positive community involvement. Thank you for your continued support of our school and students.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked *Mr. De Weerd* for his report.

- *Mr. De Weerd* also read the Board report for SSA-Tucson Middle-High on behalf of school Principal, *Dr. Francis*, who sent his apologies for not being able to attend.
 - Firstly, Dr. Francis asked me to apologize to you for not being able to be present to you in person tonight, due to a family matter. Here are the updates for his campus.
 - **Enrollment:** Enrollment continues to remain consistent and is still in a growth stage, with 418 students currently enrolled.
 - **Staffing:** We are pleased to share that, as of this week, SSA is currently fully staffed, with the arrival of Mrs. Maria Masouraki, a highly qualified Physics teacher. Mrs. Masouraki holds Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Physics and has prior experience teaching Physics.
 - Fall teacher evaluations were completed and we are beginning preparations to begin the second round of teacher evaluations in March.
 - **Academics:** Parent teacher conferences are currently scheduled for this Friday. This will be the second round of conferences done in person, and we are happy to report that the first one went very smoothly.
 - **Achievements:** We have three fantastic achievements to report! The first is success in the Scholastic Regional Art Awards. Art teacher Mrs. Turpin submitted the artwork and student Marisa Hum received two Gold Key awards and one Silver Key award. Her Gold Key pieces have now advanced to the national level of judging which will take place in March.
 - The second success is Academic Decathlon. Mrs. Helena Boosamra has been working hard with our students and our team took home the Rookie Team of the Year at the Regional Academic Decathlon Competition while senior Oden Dryden took home a Bronze medal for the music category as well!
 - The third is our new recycling initiative. As a collaboration between students, parents, and the school, we have begun a new battery-recycling program. The program is called Recycle My Battery, and involves the collection and safe disposal of batteries. This program was created by and for students across the country.
 - **Parent involvement:** We are happy to hear from the elementary school that we have parents who have re-activated the PTO and we will be working with PTO members and Mr. De Weerd to have the PTO active at both campuses.

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- **Extracurriculars:** Since COVID, our school has been continuing to rebuild and re-imagine the CRUSH 1011 robotics program. The robotics mentor, teacher Marissa Dellomo, has been working hard with this year's team to prepare them for competition this semester. They are currently in build season and gearing up for competition in the next few weeks!
- **Campus collaboration:** We continue our collaboration and cooperation with the elementary campus. Many of our high school students have begun volunteering at the elementary school and students from our National Honor Society will be judging at the elementary school's science fair this Friday!

The Board thanked *Mr. De Weerd* for sharing the report.

- *Dr. Kaitlin Lira*, Principal, Sonoran Virtual Academy, reported to the Board on the following items:
 - **Enrollment:** Our school continues to enroll students in all grade levels. We currently have 80 students enrolled, with 46 in elementary grades and 24 in middle school grades. We are especially appreciative of the collaboration with our Sonoran Science Academy sister schools who continue to refer families to SVV when they are on a waiting list for the brick and mortar school, or when there is some challenge with the student attending school in person.
 - **Staffing:** We have thirteen staff members: nine full time teachers, three part time teachers, and one part time office/paraprofessional. The three part time teachers are middle school staff who each teach 3-4 middle school classes per day. We do not have any teacher vacancies and all positions have been full since late August.
 - **Academics:** We are excited about the implementation of our district AVID initiative. This year, all 6th grade students are taking the AVID elective class. The students have reported a positive experience and they seem to really enjoy the class. We have also seen a positive impact on the sixth graders' success, both academically reflected in their grades this year, and in terms of having a smooth transition between elementary and middle school. As you all know, promoting from fifth to 6th grade can be a rocky time, and AVID has provided them with strategies to be successful in their classes and stay organized with five different teachers and classes. We are hoping to open a 7th grade section of AVID elective next year so that our current 6th graders can continue with the AVID curriculum, and so that our rising 6th graders can benefit. Lastly, we are excited to send two staff members to AVID Summer Institute - our AVID elective teacher/Site Coordinator and our Math Intervention/RTI teacher.
 - As math achievement is a focus area school-wide, I want to share what we have been doing differently this year. One great addition to our staff is our full time math intervention teacher. She has been able to support struggling teachers, as well as grade levels with a larger percentage of students with math achievement

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gaps. She does math push-in support (co-teaching) in 5th and 7th grades, where she will go into the regular class period during the last half of the class period to pull small groups of students to work on the grade level math standards / daily assignments. This push-in support is in addition to twice-weekly small group intervention sessions / classes in grades 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8. Lastly, one of our teachers was able to obtain a grant for two elementary math technology programs, Reflex Math (math fact fluency) and Frax Math (fraction fluency). Students work on this adaptive software three times per week for 15 minutes until they reach their goal of 100% fluency.

- **Climate and Culture:** As a school, we have been working hard on building a positive school culture and encouraging school pride in all of our students, not just in individual classrooms, but also across grade levels. As you can imagine, as an online school this requires some outside of the box planning. We have successfully held monthly elementary and middle school assemblies where we spend an hour together at the end of the day on the first or second Friday of the month. We also invite parents to join, as our assemblies are all virtual. During the meetings, we recognize our students of the month at each grade level, our PBIS core value award recipients from the prior month, and showcase student work samples. This allows students to encourage each other for academic effort and achievement, and allows students to get to know what students at other grade levels are working on. It also helps students to get to know our entire teaching staff. We also plan a fun activity for each assembly, such as last month's "pet parade" and fun games like a virtual multiplication capture the flag or virtual trivia snowball fight.
- **Extracurriculars:** Finally, I want to highlight our new extracurricular clubs this year. We have two language clubs that meet at lunch or after school - ASL Club and Spanish Club, as well as an after school art club. These are open to any student who takes an interest in these subjects.
- Thank you to the board members for your time and support of our schools.

The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked *Dr. Lira* for her report.

- *Mr. Vince Kelly*, Principal, SSA Davis-Monthan, reported to the Board on the following items:
 - **Enrollment:** We currently have 197 students enrolled.
 - **Staffing:** I am pleased to report that our school is fully staffed. We had a recent internal promotion for Mr. Woolsey who is now serving as our Dean of Students (previously high school ELA teacher). The move was a positive one, well received by staff, students and parents. We were fortunate to find a wonderful replacement for him, Ms. Fojtik, who has taught English the previous four plus years, and is a military spouse. We also hired Mr. Mutcali as our Engineering and Computer Science teacher. He comes to us from a top

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performing charter school in Georgia and has immediately made an impact with our students. Lastly, we hired a new PE teacher/Athletic Director, Mr. Navarro, who relocated with his family from California. In a short period of time, he has put in the structure needed for our program and is helping prep our kids for having soccer for the first time in many years at DM.

- **Academics:** Our Engineering 102 and AP Computer Science Principles students are planning to participate in the annual Racing the Sun career day sponsored by SARSEF next Tuesday. In addition to being an education and career fair, the students will also participate in a career tour to three different local sites. This is something we have done over the years and this is the first time we will be taking underclassmen. The goal is to build curiosity and interest in technology and engineering fields early, so that they can take the necessary courses in high school to be ready in college.
- AVID is alive and well on our campus. In addition to the seven staff members who were trained last summer at the conference, we had another six staff members participate in the two-day path training conference in December, including our entire middle school team. The buy-in from staff is very high and teachers are collaborating on ways to infuse the AVID strategies in all classes.
- Our middle school team started the second semester having all students complete vision boards. The students focused on goal setting and the project will be semester long as they bring them back periodically to reflect on goal progress, identify setbacks and come up with solutions.
- Our entire school is using part of our advisory period for binder and planner checks, as well as reviewing grades and coming up with plans to improve in grades where appropriate. Students communicate these plans to parents and advisory teachers weekly via email along with providing a report with their grades via email.
- We also held our first round of student led conferences last November. As we are now in our second year, we saw improvements not only in parent participation, but also in the quality of the student presentations. Students not only reported on their successes and discussed their challenges, but they also discussed which AVID WICOR strategies they found particularly helpful during the semester. Parent feedback has been very strong in support of this, noting they have seen an improvement in their children's confidence, presentation skills and accountability. Students will have their second round of student led conferences in early March.
- Just a few weeks back, we held our new performing arts program held their first winter concert. This was a culmination of a semester worth of work in our drama class and musical theater classes. The play consisted of both middle and high school students. The name of it was "In Remembrance of the 80s", and the full script was written by students. The play was acted out by a number of students who also performed many 80s hits including "Girls just want to have

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fun”, “Sweet Dreams”, “Tainted Love”, and “Last Christmas”, just to name a few. With nearly 200 people in attendance, the crowd sang along and some even danced! This was a wonderful start to our fine arts program that we are looking to continue to grow. Many students who were not part of it quickly asked how they could be in for the next show.

- Our National Honor Society induction ceremony took place last week. Our chapter proudly inducted nine new members in front of their parents and the high school student body.
- PBIS continues to be alive and well. Students are liking the PBIS Rewards app and teachers have responded to the ease and convenience of being able to award points directly on their phones. Gathering data has never been easier and just as we recognize and reinforce students meeting our school values, our leadership team is also recognizing our staff for the number of PBIS rewards they are giving out to our students.
- **Achievements:** For the second year in a row, we have been awarded College Board’s AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding access to females in AP computer science courses
- Several students competed and placed in the Mathleague.org competition at Sahuarita High School. We had multiple students place in grades 9-11 including 1st place in all 3 grades. Our students qualified for the state competition that will be held later this semester.
- **Parent Involvement:** Our school leadership continued to hold Coffee and Donuts sessions with our families last quarter and had another strong turnout. School leaders talked with families about the school’s Integrated Action Plan and we collected feedback from them to help us consider all stakeholder feedback as we build our plan for the coming school year. In addition, we reflected on our student led conferences and took down feedback on how it they went and how they can be improved.
- **Community/Outreach:** The National Honor Society hosted a blood drive at our school for our families and the base community. It was a success and the club has already scheduled a second one before spring break.
- Our counselor reached out to several local businesses to help support our programs and we were awarded several gift certificates and food rewards to recognize student achievements and for staff appreciation.
- **Extracurriculars:** We are wrapping up our second season of sports with both boys and girls basketball. As mentioned earlier, we are now preparing for spring sports with co-ed soccer and boys volleyball, both of which DM has not formed in many years.
- **Fundraising:** I am pleased to report that we have had an influx of tax credit donations this year. Our school has seen a slight increase over the past few years and we are still continuing to receive more donations from staff, parents, and even former parents.

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

- *Ms. Cristela Cardenas*, Principal, SSA-East, reported to the Board on the following items:
 - **Staffing:** All staff members, with one exception, have signed their intent letters for the coming year. This demonstrates the commitment of our staff to our students and our school.
 - **Teacher Training:** Our teachers have been trained on the ELEOT Classroom Observation Tool, ensuring that they have the skills and knowledge to provide the best possible education to our students. Our focus is on minute-to-minute learning, strong engagement practices, and inquiry based question stems modeled by them and within student collaboration.
 - **Monthly Assembly:** We held our monthly assembly in January and awarded more than 80 certificates to our students. This recognition of their hard work and achievements is an important part of our school culture.
 - **Spelling Bee:** Our students won the Sonoran Science Academy Spelling Bee competition and will represent our schools at the Pima County Spelling Bee. This is a great achievement for our students and a testament to the quality of our education program.
 - **Congressional Recognition:** Three of our students have received Special Congressional Recognition from the office of congressman for Arizona's 2nd District (formerly Ann Kirkpatrick, now Juan Ciscomani). This is a significant honor and reflects the hard work and dedication of our students. We are hopeful Congressman Ciscomani may be able to come to the school and present the students with their certificates.
 - **Valentine's Day Celebrations:** SSA East will be holding a Valentine's Day breakfast to honor grandparents next week and the Student Council is holding a Valentine's Day dance next Friday. These events bring our school community together and create a positive, supportive atmosphere.
 - **Cheer Program:** We are proud to have a full middle school cheer program, which is the only one of its kind in the Tucson area. This provides a great opportunity for our students to develop their leadership and teamwork skills.
 - **Esports Program:** Our Esports program is recognized by the Western Regional Middle School Esports Conference and currently has 30 student athletes enrolled. This program provides a great outlet for our students' competitive spirit and helps them develop important skills such as teamwork and strategy.
 - **Chess Club:** Our chess team now competes in the same league as Esports and this evening we had one of our 2nd graders competing at the middle school level and win the competition. These programs provide a great opportunity for our students to develop their skills and teamwork while representing our school in a positive light.

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- **Sports Teams:** Our boys' basketball team continues to build their skills and our girls' soccer team is currently in the playoff position, ranked 5th in their league.
- We are proud of our students, staff, and our community! Next year enrollment looks strong and promising! We have parents accepting offers daily for current placement as well as for next year! We are currently at 450 and steadily growing!

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

VI. Financials—Discussion only

- The Director of Accounting and Finance, *Mr. Andrew Phelan*, presented the FY23 Financial Report Summary through December 31, 2022—**ALL**

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

VII. Financials—Action Items

- The Director of Accounting and Finance, *Mr. Andrew Phelan*, presented the following documents for acceptance by the Board:
 - 1) FY22 Daisy Education Corporation Single Audit Report—**ALL**
Dr. Yilmaz motioned to accept the FY22 Daisy Education Corporation Single Audit Report. *Ms. Baca Ruiz* seconded. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick* directed the Board Secretary to take a Roll Call Vote: *Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Ms. Baca Ruiz: Aye.*
 - 2) FY22 Arizona State Board for Charter Schools Legal Compliance Questionnaire—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY DAVIS-MONTHAN**
Dr. Yilmaz motioned to accept the FY22 Arizona State Board for Charter Schools Legal Compliance Questionnaire for Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan. *Ms. Baca Ruiz* seconded. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick* directed the Board Secretary to take a Roll Call Vote: *Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Ms. Baca Ruiz: Aye.*
 - 3) FY22 Arizona State Board for Charter Schools legal Compliance Questionnaire—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-EAST**
Dr. Yilmaz motioned to accept the FY22 Arizona State Board for Charter Schools Legal Compliance Questionnaire for Sonoran Science Academy-East. *Ms. Baca Ruiz* seconded. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick* directed the Board Secretary to take a Roll Call Vote: *Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Ms. Baca Ruiz: Aye.*
 - 4) FY22 Arizona State Board for Charter Schools legal Compliance Questionnaire—**SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY**

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Dr. Yilmaz motioned to accept the FY22 Arizona State Board for Charter Schools Legal Compliance Questionnaire for Sonoran Science Academy. *Ms. Baca Ruiz* seconded. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick* directed the Board Secretary to take a Roll Call Vote: *Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Dr. Yilmaz: Aye; Ms. Baca Ruiz: Aye.*

VIII. Consent Agenda—Action Item

- *Mrs. Kirkpatrick* asked if any Board member wanted to remove any item(s) from the Consent Agenda. Hearing no such requests, *Ms. Baca Ruiz* motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. *Dr. Yilmaz* seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Ms. Baca Ruiz: Aye; Dr. Yilmaz: Aye.*

- 1) FY24 Administrator, Teacher, and Non-Exempt Staff Agreements—**ALL**
- 2) Principal Evaluation Tool (*revised policy*)—**ALL**

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

- Confirmation of the next meeting date: March 8, 2023. This meeting is scheduled to be held online.—**ALL**

X. Adjournment—ALL

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made by *Dr. Yilmaz*, seconded by *Ms. Baca Ruiz*, and unanimously carried, the joint meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m. *Mrs. Kirkpatrick: Aye; Ms. Baca Ruiz: Aye; Dr. Yilmaz: Aye.*

Respectfully submitted,

Crissie Rowley, Secretary to the Governing Boards

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