

Meeting type: General Monthly Meeting

Date: 2/16/2022

Time: 6:00:00 PM

Location: Mohave District Annex, 8500 E. Jackrabbit, Scottsdale, AZ 85250

Meeting called to order at: 6:03:00 PM

Executive Board Members Present: Emmie Cardella, Deborah Tait, Jane Trapp, Kathy Samuels, Kim McClure

Executive Board Members Absent: Lulu Faraj, Alexandra Young, Tina Drews, Brad Duell

Quorum Present? Yes

Names of guests in attendance: Dr. Scott Menzel, Lori Bird

Q & A with Dr. Menzel, SUSD Superintendent – There were no questions for Dr. Menzel.

TITLE with Lori Bird, SUSD General Counsel - Ms. Bird introduced herself as the general counsel for SUSD. Her job responsibilities include any legal matter involving the district such as contract review, HR matters, communications, etc. Her presentation addressed questions submitted by parents, such as:

- public records requests
 - records are reviewed for anything confidential by the public records staff person or Lori Bird herself
 - they work hard to return records promptly, rarely exceed two weeks (or so)
 - currently the district is not charging for public records request
 - not everything is a public record, such as a draft document
 - SUSD is a busy district relative to other peer districts
 - they have to employ a staff member (40 hours/week) dedicated to public records requests
 - in any given month, they can have 30 requests
 - law allows to charge for staff time in processing, collecting, and redacting; currently SUSD does not do this
 - parents can watch security camera footage from schools (ask principal); this footage is unredacted
 - if you want a copy all the other kids' faces have to be redacted
 - this is expensive and the district charges for copies of videos
 - examples of abuse were given:
 - custody case disagreements
 - community members are seeking information about other community members
- discipline
 - new state law is in district policy JK (goal is intervene in way helpful to student before remove from campus)
 - ASBA website, click policy bridge, which shows policies for all school district

- cannot expel or long-term suspend a child under 7 years old, unless they have a firearm or are selling drugs
- Kinder-4th grade students can be long-term suspended or expelled if meet criteria, such as behavior that is severe and pervasive and interventions have been tried (exceptions include firearms and selling/possessing drugs)
- parent's rights
 - policy KB: parent involvement in schools, parent's rights bill
 - summary: you have the right to ask questions about curriculum, what clubs are available and what clubs do, right to know whether teachers are highly qualified
 - right now in AZ your right to direct the education of your child is to choose a public school, charter school, private school, private religious school, or to homeschool
 - have a right to opt your child out of assignments that are harmful to your child
 - harmful is defined by statute: something that is against the parents' religious or moral beliefs or is lewd or sexual
 - policy IMB: teaching controversial or sensitive issues (set in 2009)
- clubs
 - parents have a right to ask which clubs are on a campus and to decide whether their child can join a club
 - parents do not have the right to say other kids cannot join clubs
 - there is a district policy saying that clubs cannot engage in activities discriminatory, dangerous, or disruptive to the campus
 - clubs have to have an adult advisor but clubs in SUSD are student formed, led and directed (club advisors are not supposed to teach)
 - clubs protected under Equal Access Act and AZ statute that applied Equal Access Act to high school and middle schools
 - clubs give students a place to belong
 - club membership is voluntary; as a parent you can tell your child they are not allowed to attend
- HB2112 bill was discussed
 - SUSD policy IMB covers teaching controversial or sensitive topics
- Afghan refugee students are here legally and are protected by FERPA laws and anti-discrimination laws
 - refugee families are like any other family moving into SUSD
 - SUSD has a great team in place to support staff and students
- rights of special ed parents with regards to state testing
 - in AZ, all children get tested and there is no opt out provision for testing in AZ for any student, no matter how disabled
 - IEP team can determine a child can take an alternative assessment
 - districts are only allowed to have 1% of students not take the test

Executive Board Updates-

Treasurer's Report - Jane Trapp presented recent budget transactions:

- spending and revenue are on target
- Encouraged members to make a small donation to SPC. All donations are tax deductible.

President - Emmie Cardella discussed the Aggregate Expenditure Limit and mentioned upcoming SPC events:

Special Event, March 2, 5-7 pm on zoom on news literacy with ROSAmerica (parents and older kids)

Gifted Education Committee, Feb 22 6-7:30 pm on 2E

General Meeting, March 9th @ 9-10:30 am, school safety, threat assessment, SROs on campus

EDI committee has new Instagram and Twitter accounts (@SPCxEDI) and Black History month content on FaceBook

SPC Rep Announcements- None

Member Agenda Items: None

Board Action(s) taken (including consent agenda): None

Other: N/A

Next Meeting (Location, Date & Time): Mohave District Annex, October 20 @ 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Minutes submitted by: Kim McClure

Minutes recorded into record: 3/3/2022