



Sonoita Elementary School District  
 Elgin Elementary School  
 23 Elgin Rd  
 Elgin, AZ 85611  
 (520) 455-5514

Daniel R. Erickson, Superintendent

Successfully Empowering Students Diversely Every Eagle Shines

REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
 Tuesday, January 7, 2025 @ 5:00 PM  
 Elgin School Conference Room

MINUTES

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Harry Dotson, President  
 Nancy Webster, Vice President  
 Anthony Fennell, Member  
 David Naugle, Member  
 Aaron Thomas, Member

DISTRICT ATTENDANCE:

Dan Erickson, Superintendent  
 Heidi Gonzales, Business Manager

OPENING

A. Call to Order ~ Harry Dotson called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

- Pledge of Allegiance ~ All in attendance stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Adoption of the Agenda ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to adopt the agenda, Nancy Webster 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

B. Approve Minutes

- December 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

INFORMATION ITEMS

C. BOARD MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORTS

~ Anthony Fennell, Aaron Thomas and Dave Naugle attended the swearing in ceremony in Nogales in December to be sworn in for their terms.

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Students of the Month ~ Harley Navarrete and Ana Giselle Quiroz-Gastelum
- Spelling Bee Winners ~ Winner Miranda Cass and Runner Up James Phelps
- Enrollment (114)
- Calendar/Events
- Budget Update ~ December 2024

- Student Account/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fund Activity ~ December 2024

PUBLIC COMMENT

~ None

ACTION ITEMS

- E. DISCUSS – Welcome New Board Members.  
~ Harry Dotson and Dan Erickson welcomed new Board Members and thanked all Board Members for their service and dedication.
- F. DISCUSS – Board Member Conflict of Interest and Oath of Office.  
~ The Board reviewed and discussed the Board Member Conflict of Interest Policies. All members signed 2025 Conflict of Interest forms and Oath of Office forms. Anthony Fennell has a possible conflict of interest with his company Patriot Printing as a possible vendor for the district and the possibility of a family member or himself becoming a substitute teacher in the future. Mr. Fennell will recuse himself from any items on the agenda for vote regarding these items. Aaron Thomas has conflict of interest as he will be volunteering as the baseball coach this year, there will be no stipend paid and Mr. Thomas will recuse himself from all coaching votes.
- G. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Reorganization of Board – A.R.S §15-321 (A) and (B). Election of Board President and Vice President.  
~ Nancy Webster nominated Harry Dotson as President, Harry Dotson accepted the nomination, Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

~ Anthony Fennell nominated Nancy Webster as Vice President, Nancy Webster accepted the nomination, Harry Dotson 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

- H. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Current meeting days, times, and locations of the regular monthly School Board Meetings.  
~ Harry Dotson made a motion to conduct the 2025 regular board meetings on the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of the September meeting which will be held on September 3, 2025, Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

- I. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Locations of Public Notice of Meetings and Agendas. Sonoita Post Office notice box and Elgin School notice box.  
~ Harry Dotson made a motion to keep the locations of Public Notice of Meetings and Agendas the same, the Sonoita Post Office notice box and the Elgin School notice box, Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		

N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

- J. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE - Ratification of expense and payroll vouchers between board meetings. A.R.S § 15-321(G)– Board may choose to pass a resolution allowing signing salary and expense vouchers between board meetings. ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to allow ratification of expense and payroll vouchers between board meetings. A.R.S § 15-321(G), Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

- K. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE - The Board will discuss and may take action to authorize a designated board member(s) to be the liaison(s) with the District Legal Counsel and the District Superintendent in negotiation of the District Superintendent contract. ~ Anthony Fennell nominated Harry Dotson as the liaison with the District Legal Counsel and the District Superintendent in negotiation of the District Superintendent contract, Harry Dotson accepted the nomination, Nancy Webster 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

- L. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Creating and posting, up to four internal Tutor positions at \$30 an hour, effective January 8, 2025.

- M. ~ The Board discussed the Tutoring positions and what the program would look like. Harry Dotson made a motion to approve creating and posting, up to four internal Tutor positions at \$30 an hour, effective January 8, 2025, Nancy Webster 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

- N. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Hiring Benjamin Beal as Substitute Teacher, upon receipt of ADE Substitute Certification.

- ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve hiring Benjamin Beal as Substitute Teacher, upon receipt of ADE Substitute Certification, Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

- O. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Hiring Eric Cartier as Substitute Custodian effective January 8, 2025.  
 ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve hiring Eric Cartier as Substitute Custodian effective January 8, 2025, Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

- P. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Amanda Leavitt’s resignation of Full-Time Paraprofessional position and transition to Substitute Paraprofessional.  
 ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve Amanda Leavitt’s resignation of Full-Time Paraprofessional position and transition to Substitute Paraprofessional, Nancy Webster 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

- Q. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY 24/25 Early Spring Sports Coaches  
 • Kyndra Ortiz – Head Girls Basketball Coach  
 • Jayci Whittington – Assistant Girls Basketball Coach  
 ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the FY 24/25 Early Spring Sports Coaches  
 • Kyndra Ortiz – Head Girls Basketball Coach  
 • Jayci Whittington – Assistant Girls Basketball Coach  
 ~ Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 4/0/1.

Member	Aye	Nay	Recused
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.			X

- R. DISCUSS – Creating an additional Administrative Position.  
 ~ Mr. Erickson and the Board discussed the possibility of an additional administration position. Mr. Erickson does not recommend adding another administrative position for multiple reasons. Examples are: administrative costs taking away from instructional programs, student enrollment does not justify another administrator and Mr. Erickson has 4 years prior experience in a dual position as Superintendent/Principal and does not believe it would benefit the district. It was discussed and the Board Members agree, an additional administrative position will not be considered at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA\*\*

\*\*A Board member may request any item listed under the consent agenda be removed from the consent agenda. If an item is removed from the consent agenda, it will be discussed and voted upon separately immediately following the consent agenda. Specific information regarding the matters being approved under the consent agenda is available in the Board packet and may be reviewed during normal business hours.

- Expense Vouchers ~ 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022
- Payroll Vouchers ~ 12, 12.1, 12.5, 13, 14  
 ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

STUDY ITEMS

- FY26 Employee Benefit Options
- AI

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Student Achievement

ADJOURNMENT

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 pm, Anthony Fennell 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
D.N.	X		
A.T.	X		

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