



Sonoita Elementary School District
 Elgin School
 23 Elgin Rd
 Elgin, AZ 85611
 (520) 455-5514 Fax (520) 455-5516
 Daniel R. Erickson, Superintendent

SONOITA GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR BOARD MEETING
 TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 @ 5:00 PM
 ELGIN SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM, ELGIN SCHOOL

MINUTES

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Harry Dotson, President
 Nancy Webster, Vice President
 Aaron Thomas, Member
 Anne Przybyla, Member
 Anthony Fennell, Member

DISTRICT ATTENDANCE:

Daniel Erickson, Superintendent
 Heidi Gonzlaes, 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 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

B. Approve Minutes

- Meeting Minutes February 3, 2026.
 ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 3, 2026, Anne Przybyla 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

C. BOARD MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORTS

~ Anne Przybyla attended the ASBA BOLTS workshop in Tucson.

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Students of the Month ~ Jubilee Aiello, 4th grade, Henry Krizan, 7th grade.
- Spelling Bee Champion ~ Miranda Cass, 6th grade.
- Mr. Erickson recognized Ms. Mattus for being awarded an aquaponics grant from Donors Choose.
- Enrollment (112)

- Calendar/Events
- Budget Update ~ February 2026
- Student Account/8th Grade Fund Activity ~ February 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT

~ None

ACTION ITEMS

F. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Late Spring Sports Coaches

- Boys Baseball ~ Terrell Harper, Head Coach
- Track and Field ~ Lindsey Beal, Head Coach
~ Jaimee Cass, Assistant Coach
- Girls Basketball ~ Jayci Whittington, Head Coach
~ Kerry Newberry, Assistant Coach

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the Late Spring Sports as listed, Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 4/0/1. Aaron Thomas recused himself as he and a family member are volunteer coaches.

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

G. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – New 8th Grade/CIMI fundraiser. “\$2 Taco Tuesdays”.

~ The Board discussed the new fundraiser; tacos will be made on site in the Elgin School kitchen.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the new 8th Grade/CIMI fundraiser. “\$2 Taco Tuesdays”, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

H. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Signing an IGA with Patagonia Union High School District #20, Use of Equipment/Property for high needs student transitioning from middle school to high school.

~ The Board discussed the IGA.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to sign an IGA with Patagonia Union High School District #20, Use of Equipment/Property for high needs student transitioning from middle school to high school, Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

I. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Adoption and pre-payment of FY27 Professional development for instructional staff through NAU, “AI in the Classroom”.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the adoption and pre-payment of FY27 Professional development for instructional staff through NAU, “AI in the Classroom”, Anne Przybyla 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		
N.W.	X		

A.F.	X		
A.T.	X		
A.P.	X		

- J. DISCUSS / ACTION TO ACCEPT – Valerie Etchart’s resignation effective 6/30/2026.
 ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve Valerie Etchart’s resignation effective 6/30/2026, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

- K. DISCUSS / ACTION TO ACCEPT – Lisa Lopez’s resignation effective 6/30/26.
 ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to accept Lisa Lopez’s resignation effective 6/30/26, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

- L. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Posting Full Time Kitchen Manager position. Will hire to train as soon as possible.
 ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve posting the Full Time Kitchen Manager position and hire to train as soon as possible. Position will be posted internally first. Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

- M. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Re-opening part time paraprofessional position due to new enrollment.
 ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve re-opening part time paraprofessional position due to new enrollment, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

- N. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Re-hiring Jessica Orona as Part Time Paraprofessional, 2 days a week for the remaining portion of FY26.
 ~ Harry Dotson made a motion to re-hire Jessica Orona as Part Time Paraprofessional, 2 days a week for the remaining portion of FY26, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

A.T.	X		
A.P.	X		

- O. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Hiring Francisco Ruiz as Full Time Grounds, Facilities and Maintenance Assistant, effective March 4, 2026.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve hiring Francisco Ruiz as Full Time Grounds, Facilities and Maintenance Assistant, effective March 4, 2026, Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

- P. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Superintendent Conference Travel, AZ School Administrators Summer Conference, June 2026, Tucson.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the Superintendent Conference Travel, AZ School Administrators Summer Conference, June 2026, Tucson, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

- Q. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY27 Teacher Contract Documents.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the FY27 Teacher Contracts, Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

- R. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY27 Notice of Appointment Document.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the FY27 Notice of Appointment Document, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

- S. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY27 Nurse Contract Document.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the FY27 Nurse Contract Document, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

T. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY27 Facilities Manager Contract Document.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the FY27 Facilities Manager Contract, Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

U. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY27 Business Manager/Human Resources Contract Document.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the FY27 Business Manager/Human resources Contract Document, Anne Przybyla 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

V. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY27 Administrative Assistant/Food Service Manager Contract Document.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the FY27 Administrative Assistant/Food Service Manager Contract Document, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

W. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY27 Certified Step Increases.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the FY27 Certified Step Increases, Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

X. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY27 Classified Step Increases.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the FY27 Classified Step Increases, Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

Y. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY27 Nurse Step Increase.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve FY27 Nurse Step Increase, Anne Przybyla 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		

N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
A.T.	X		
A.P.	X		

Z. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – FY27 Classified Exempt Step Increases.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the FY27 Classified Exempt Step Increases, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

AA. DISCUSS / ACTION TO ACCEPT – Written FY26 Superintendent Goals Report.

~ Mr. Erickson reviewed the written report with the Board.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to accept the written FY26 Superintendent Goals Report, Anne Przybyla 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

~ Harry Dotson suggested the consent agenda be moved up to this time due to item BB. and CC. being lengthy discussion items. The Board discussed.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to move the consent agenda items up to this time in the agenda, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

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 -1017, 1018
- Payroll Vouchers – 17, 18
- Rehire Certified Teachers FY27:
 - Christine Clouse
 - Anna Coleman
 - Jennifer Cranston
 - Kimberly Crawford
 - Aisel Gaviola
 - Richard Graeme
 - Sheree Gronlund
 - Darrold Harper

- Rachel Lyman
- Callie Mattus
- Kerry Newberry
- Kyndra Ortiz
- Jerome Ramirez

- Rehire School Nurse FY27:
 - Kathe Prentice

- Rehire Classified Staff FY27:
 - Lindsey Beal
 - Jessica Carter
 - Yana Carter
 - Jaimee Cass
 - Heidi Gonzales
 - Jayci Madrasso-Whittington
 - Jessica Orona
 - Regina Padilla
 - Melissa Paul
 - Lucy Reyes
 - Markos Rodriguez
 - Francisco Ruiz

- Rehire Substitute Teachers FY27:
 - Anita Barkley
 - Benjamin Beal
 - Tina Bockstahler
 - Yana Carter
 - Lynne Cox
 - Randy Frieman
 - Annette Koweek
 - Jayci Madrasso-Whittington
 - Marguerite Whitaker
 - Hunter Williams

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Anthony Fennell 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

BB. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Op-Ed discussion regarding Empowerment Scholarship Accountability. Letter from SESD School Board.

~ The Board reviewed and discussed the draft letter from the School Board regarding Empowerment Scholarship Accountability. Discussion was had regarding the purpose of the letter, public education on the Empowerment Scholarships, the effects on public schools and accountability concerns. Outlets the Board discussed and agreed upon for the letter to be sent to are the Nogales International, Patagonia Regional Times, Elgin School families, Elgin School staff, local legislators, AZ Administrators Association, AZ Daily Star, AZ Republic, Tom Horne, Sierra Vista Herald, Arizona Association of School Business Officials, Association of School Business Officials International.

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to approve the letter from the SESD School Board regarding Empowerment Scholarship Accountability with the edits discussed and made at this meeting, and that it be sent to the outlets discussed and as listed above, Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
H.D.	X		

N.W.	X		
A.F.	X		
A.T.	X		
A.P.	X		

CC. DISCUSS / ACTION TO APPROVE – Approval and Ratification of a Notice of Claim filed against the State of Arizona.
 ~ Mr. Ericson reviewed and discussed the Notice of Claim with the Board.
 ~ Harry Dotson made a motion for approval and ratification of a Notice of Claim filed against the State of Arizona, Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 5/0.

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

~ Aaron Thomas had to leave for the evening at 6:38pm

STUDY ITEMS

A Board member or the Superintendent may request items be added for future study sessions.

- Step Schedules
- Building a High School

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A Board member may request items be added for future agendas

- Student Achievement
- AI
- Field Project ~ May 2026
- Khanmigo Update ~ Possibly May 2026
- Friday Academy Update ~ May 2026
- Step Schedules ~ Board Retreat
- Building a High School ~ Board Retreat

ADJOURNMENT

~ Harry Dotson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 pm, Nancy Webster 2nd, motion carried 4/0.

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