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November 2, 2015

Yavapai Community College District Governing Board Members
Yavapai College President Dr. Penny Wills
1100 E. Sheldon St
Prescott, AZ 86301

RE: Yavapai Governing Board Verde Valley Advisory Committee

Dear Chairman McCarver, Governing Board Members, and Dr. Wills:

On behalf of the Sedona City Council I would like to extend our appreciation for recent efforts to engage in discussions about how to extend college services throughout the Verde Valley and at the Sedona Campus. President Wills and members of her team attended a recent Sedona City Council meeting and provided reasons for hope that we may reverse the trend of diminishing college presence in Sedona. In that regard, I want to emphasize again the importance of the Verde Valley Advisory Committee (VVCA).

I realize the VVCA reports directly to the Governing Board. I also realize the carver model of governance used by the college calls for strict separation of policy and administrative functions. However, it appears as though we are missing an opportunity to use the VVCA in the most productive and effective way possible. Simply put, the VVCA is a vital voice for residents in the Verde Valley. As such, the VVCA provides perhaps the best forum for collecting ideas and making positive suggestions on ways to create viable college programming in the Verde Valley. There is confusion as to why the Governing Board has not more fully considered and opined on the 16 recommendations made by VVCA to date. There is similar confusion about whether or not there is an effort to disband the VVCA, combine it with another administrative committee or keep it from fully integrating with the strategic planning process. In recognition that the VVCA plays a vital role representing the Verde and provides a real opportunity for positive progress, I urge the Governing Board and the College Administration to consider the following:

1. Dispel any notion that the VVCA may be disbanded or diluted through consolidation with another committee
2. Preserve the VVCA as a committee of the Governing Board while encouraging the college administration to engage the VVCA as a resource to aid in strategic planning
3. At the Governing Board level: fully consider any and all of the 16 recommendations within the purview of the Governing Board
4. At the administrative level: fully consider and address any and all of the 16 recommendations within the purview of the administration

I remain optimistic that we may be headed in the right direction repairing relationships and moving beyond the acrimony of recent years. However, the window of opportunity is small and timely progress is of the utmost importance. The VVCA is vital to that continued progress and should be engaged as the representative voice of the Verde Valley.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Moriarty".

Sandy Moriarty
Mayor
City of Sedona