

# Meeting Summary SCPC

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## School Community Partnership Council – District Council General Meeting

**Date:** 12/16/2013

**Location:** Tucson High Magnet School Cafeteria, 400 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

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**Call to Order: Dr Adrian Vega, Deputy Superintendent Teaching and Learning 6:05pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Joan Dawson-Werner**

**Attendance:** Michelle Simon (Moderator), Dr. Adrian Vega (Deputy Superintendent Teaching and Learning), Steven Holmes (Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction), Adelita Grijalva (TUSD Governing Board President), Dr. Mark Stegeman (TUSD Governing Board Member) Monica Sanchez (Student Equity), Joan Dawson-Werner (Secretary), Leo Masursky (School Board Liaison), Julie Versluis, (Student Finance Supervisor), Jodie Lesch (Student Finance Department), Matt Munger, (Sabino High School Principal), Moses Thompson (Manzo Elementary School Counselor) Designated SCPC representatives (see attendance record).

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### 1. District Report: Dr. Adrian Vega, Deputy Superintendent Teaching and Learning

**Notes:** Mr. Fish is not feeling well today so Dr. Vega welcomed the group and gave an overview on current district activities.

- TUSD had a booth at the recent street fair in which they interacted with the public. They signed up students on site. TUSD now has “Ask Me” about TUSD buttons to try and engage people to ask questions. TUSD is getting the word out that we provide options for our students.
- The last board meeting the ILT and BLT presented to the board. They are working to stay focused and organize work. Next semester they will focus on community input, strategic planning district wide.

### 2. Guest Presentation: Julie Versluis, Student Finance Supervisor

**Notes:** Ms. Versluis presented information on how tax credit is used. She also answered questions from the group.

- There are state requirements on how tax credit money is used.
- Site/School councils meet with principal and decides how to spend undesignated tax credit money. (Within state requirements)
- Extra curricular activity must be school sponsored, have a board approved participation fee, must be open to all students, must be optional not required for a class.
- There is procedure to go to the board to use tax credit money or get board approval for a participation fee.
- Tax credit money can be designated to a specific child for a specific activity with the tax credit guidelines.
- Some before and after school programs can use tax credit money if approved by the site/school council. However community schools cannot mix funds for these programs.
- Group member asked if “all the school office managers have the same information?” TUSD legal counsel interpreted the state law and came up with the rules and so some may not have the correct information but it is available online or they can call student finance for the answer to any question about tax credit.
- Anyone can contribute online
- Tax credit money can be used to cover student participation fees using a student waiver form if the funds are available and approved by the site/school council.
- If someone makes a specific donation but the program to which they donated goes away then they revert to the undesignated funds.

# Meeting Summary SCPC

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- The wording used is important on the tax credit eligibility form to meet state requirements.
- Undesignated tax credit can be used for student council advisor and track coaches if approved by site/school councils.
- Student council tax credit can be used for workshops and/or conferences.
- Tax credit money may be used on capitol depending on the primary purpose.
- Participation fees were decided two years ago with community input which is \$3.00 for elementary, \$10.00 for Middle School and High School activities other than sports and fine arts.
- Tax credit money is non-refundable per state law.

Participation fee website: <http://www.tusd1.org/contents/depart/interscholastics/fees.asp>

Tax Credit link: <http://tusd1.org/contents/distinfo/aztaxcredit/index.asp>

### 3. Matt Munger, Sabino High School Principal

**Notes:** Mr. Munger spoke about Sabino High School, which has received the National Blue Ribbon School Designation. This status is positive reflection of TUSD and what our schools are doing. The award is for academic excellence and occurs over several years. The Arizona Department of Education nominated Sabino. This award was required participation of students, staff, and parents along with help from TUSD with data collection, support from the TUSD Administration and the Governing Board.

Please read the complete story: [http://www.tusd1.org/contents/events\\_blueribbon.html](http://www.tusd1.org/contents/events_blueribbon.html)

Sabino's Campus Culture and Ideas for School Promotion:

- Parents, students, teachers and staff work together to achieve academic excellence.
- 21<sup>st</sup> century relevance is important- Sabino has a Facebook page, they have redesigned their website to make it easier to view, and redesigned their online newsletter.
- They have community service Saturdays
- Working with leadership promoting and recognizing student successes, identifying what are the students doing above and beyond.
- Through student recognition/reward it creates a culture of positivity and student success.
- Group question: How is the newsletter payed for? Mr. Munger does the newsletter and it is online.
- Question: Given privacy rules who can get parent e-mail information to get parents information on what is happening at the school? Mr. Munger stated that only two people have access to that information.
- Question: Competition is great for the winner but what about the loser? The kids who don't make it?. Mr. Munger responded that first he would change the verbage and not use the word loser. They use the 6 traits of citizenship. They honor hard work even if not victorious.

Dr. Vega stated that they are looking into consistency of information and that all TUSD websites are user friendly. Teachers should keep grades up to date in making the grade which should be more user friendly also. These issues are part of the overall direction the district is going.

### 4. Moses Thompson, Manzo Elementary School Counselor

**Notes:** Manzo Elementary school has partnered with the University of Arizona and Biosphere 2 on the LEO Project (Landscape Evolution Observatory). They have 3 artificial landscapes in

# Meeting Summary SCPC

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which they try and grow different plant species in conditions specified by the research scientists. The U of A built the model parts and the students put it together. This project allows the students to do real life science and math. Manzo is working with teachers to integrate the project into literacy blocks as well as math concepts using the real world data being collected. The U of A is putting resource into Manzo as the flagship so that other schools could benefit from these kinds of programs. Manzo also has a greenhouse with vegetable garden that produces vegetables sold to the local community. This is a hands on learning school.

For more information on Manzo Elementary School: <http://www.gomanzo.com/about>

## 5. Steven Holmes, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

**Notes:** Mr. Holmes spoke about Core Curriculum and answered questions.

- TUSD is exploring resources for Core Curriculum. Most companies are doing realignment instead of building it up.
- Common core uses specific ways of introducing concepts
- Common Core standards come from governors wanting an education that would cross state lines. There are fewer standards that require a deeper understanding of the information.
- There are 2 state consortiums that are split by assessment company.
- It changes sequence and depth of understanding of information.

Resources for Common Core:

Engage New York <http://www.engageny.org/common-core-curriculum>

Georgia State Department of Education: <http://www.gpb.org/education/common-core>

## 6. Review of Recruitment and Retention of Students: Michelle Simon, Moderator

**Notes:** Group members voiced their concerns:

- Smaller class size
- Some parents feel they are being weaned out of being involved in school but in charter schools parents are encouraged to be part of the school
- Parents feel middle schools are too big and its scary for parents of incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Exceptional Education schools are not meeting the student's needs.
- Need Middle school open house.
- How do we go back to our schools and get our parents the information they need.
- Need to do tangible things, be there 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- Freshmen Academy needed for all incoming freshmen.
- Need another middle school on the southwest side of town.
- What are our individual schools doing to actively recruit students? Ask your principals
- Websites need to be dynamic not static.

We have a Planning meeting on January 15, 2013

Our next meeting is on January 27, 2013 due to the Martin Luther King Holiday.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:550pm (Michelle Simon)**

**Summary prepared by:** Joan Dawson-Werner 1/7/2014

**Summary Approved:** Michelle Simon, 1/7/2014