

Meeting Summary SCPC

School Community Partnership Council – Leadership Planning Team meeting

Date: 12/17/2012

Location: TUSD Board Room, 1010 E. Tenth St. Tucson, AZ

Call to Order: Kathy Sutherland, 5:40pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Kathy Sutherland

Attendance: Kathy Sutherland (Moderator), Michelle Simon (Secretary), Gary Fowler (Co-Moderator), and Richard Johnson (SCPC Representative -), Mr. Fish (District Representative)

I. **General Welcome:**

Kathy provided an overview of the priorities for the Leadership Planning meeting. Based on SCPC representative input in September, October, and November, the Leadership Planning Team (LPT) reviewed topics by order of importance and created a rough outline for the upcoming meetings in January, February, and March.

II. **Planning Topics:**

A. **Leo Masursky/Tulley topics** – Kathy shared three (3) topics and questions forwarded by Leo Masursky to be discussed (even though he was not able to attend).

1. **Desegregation Funding** – Using Tulley elementary desegregation funding cuts of 90% as an example, Leo is requesting clarification about TUSD's criteria for distribution of desegregation funds. The LPT agreed this could be asked in January at the general meeting.
2. **SCPC Role and communication process** – Leo inquired about the role of SCPC and the communication process between the Board, the district, and SCPC and the Board's view of this relationship and communication process. Leo cited the letter drafted by the SCPC in August 2012 to be provided to the Board (that has yet to be presented) as a clear example of the breakdown in the system and communication process. The leadership team agreed to present the letter from SCPC to the Board during the January 2013 meeting as part of the report to the Board. Mr. Fish agreed to have the letter printed for SCPC on TUSD letterhead and suggested SCPC create a logo and he would ensure the district would create the letterhead and provide for future correspondence from SCPC. The LPT also discussed that clarification is needed as to the input/feedback process between SCPC and the Board. What topics or issues would the Board and District like to have SCPC address? How would the Board and District like the information to be communicated?
3. **Mexican American Studies (MAS)** – Leo has requested that SCPC inquire about the facts of the recent vote by the Board in regard to the MAS as "core classes" and if Dr. Pedicone objected to including the MAS program as satisfying "core classes" for the Unitary Plan. If he did object, what was the reason for objecting? Mr. Fish shared that some of the voting was redone and that the information was not necessarily accurate. Mr. Fish indicated that the district had to object because the MAS program was in violation of State Laws, and the state has jurisdiction over TUSD funds. The LPT felt this question could be asked of Dr. Pedicone directly at the January or February meeting.

B. **School Safety** – The LPT discussed the recent tragedy at Newton and took some time to share and reflect about the situation. The LPT felt that SCPC representatives may want information or may want to provide feedback to the Board about what they feel would help them feel confident their children are safe at school.

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- C. **Budget** – During the previous SCPC meetings and specifically in November, SCPC representatives requested more information about the budget. The LPT discussed how the School Master Plan (SMP) and Unitary Status Plan (USP) directly influence the budget for the 2013-2014 year. The LPT had many questions regarding additional budget cuts that are required above and beyond school closures to meet the \$17 deficit. How are the District and the Board addressing these cuts? An explanation of the complete financial plan would be ideal. Pending decisions to be made by the Board and the District make it difficult to discuss budget items in January. The LPT identified February as the month for the State of the District address and would like to consolidate all budgetary concerns and questions into that meeting. The February meeting would lay the foundation for upcoming meetings regarding resources for underperforming schools and the implementation of district-sponsored charter schools.
 - D. **School Closures** - Since school closures will be fresh in the minds of community members, the SCPC leadership team wants to know if TUSD has a specific plan to **support** students, parents, staff, and community members prior to, during, and after the school closure. If the district has a Support Plan, the leadership team would like to know how the Support Plan compares or aligns with research based “best practices” for supporting school closures. Mr. Fish identified Candy Egbert as the District representative who could best speak about typical concerns raised by students, parents, staff, and community members when a school closure is impending in a community. Mr. Fish identified that school closing happen beyond TUSD and there is plenty of data about how to handle the closure and achieve positive results. The team felt that the SCPC representatives might have additional thoughts or ideas about a support plan and the SCPC could provide as feedback to the Board during the report to the Board.
- I. **Meeting Agendas for January, February, and March 2013**
 - A. January 2013: Unitary Status Plan update, school safety, and school closure support plan.
 - B. February 2013: State of the District and budgetary issues to include the School Master Plan and Unitary Status Plan. Dr. Pedicone will be asked to address the SCPC and greater community during this address. Information will be provided by SCPC to Dr. Pedicone regarding specific areas of concern.
 - C. March 2013: Charter Schools, Staffing for Underperforming Schools, and SCPC Leadership nominations for the 2013-2014 school year
 - II. **Follow up Activities for January 2013 meeting:**
 - A. Mr. Fish will invite Sam Brown to give a brief update of Unitary Status Plan decisions.
 - B. Mr. Fish will invite Candy Egbert to present information during the January 2013 General Meeting regarding best practices for supporting school closures (local, regional, or national level strategies).
 - C. Gary Fowler will contact principal, Jon Ben-Asher in regards to discussing school closures from a principal’s point of view. Gary will also work with Mr. Ben-Asher to identify a parent or parents who would be willing to talk about their experience with school closures.
 - D. Mr. Fish identify and invite a School Safety representative to present information to the SCPC regarding TUSD safety measures and to answer questions regarding parent concerns.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30pm (Kathy Sutherland)

Summary prepared by: Michelle Simon, 12/19/2012, modifications by K. Sutherland

Summary Approved: 12/21/2012