

Meeting Summary SCPC

School Community Partnership Council – General Meeting

Date: 12/15/2014

Location: Lee Instructional Resource Center, 2025 E. Winsett

Call to Order: Michelle Simon, 6:05pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Michelle Simon

Attendance: Michelle Simon (Moderator), Bonnie Klahr (Co-Moderator), Kristen Bury (School Board Liaison), Eugene Butler Jr. (Asst. Superintendent of Student Services) Dr. Clarice Clash (Senior Director of Curriculum Development), Dr. Halley Freitas (Senior Director of Assessment and Program Evaluation), Joan Gilbert (LIRC Science Coordinator), Christine Seliga (LIRC Librarian), and Designated SCPC representatives (see attendance record).

1. District Update, Eugene Butler Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

- a. Quarterly parent meetings continue to happen across the district. These meetings are facilitated by Mexican American Student Services. The most recent meeting occurred at Cholla High School. Information about tutoring, college and career services, and scholarships was presented to the parents. The folklorico students performed and students were given awards.
- b. Steps to Success 2.0 is happening on January 9. The goal of the initiative is to get young adults back in school who are only 1-2 credits shy of graduating. The last outing resulted in 39 students returning to school with 8 graduating this month. This is a true community effort with support from the Mayor and Pima Community College.
- c. Strategic Plan Updates provided the progress during the second quarter of the newly implemented effort by the district. TUSD was awarded the 1st place Common Ground Award by the Metropolitan Pima Alliance. This award was given to the organization with the project that exemplifies collaboration for the overall benefit of the community. The press release can be found here: <http://www.tusd1.org/contents/news/press1415/12-09-14t.html>

2. Joan Gilbert, LIRC Science Coordinator and Christine Seliga, Educational Materials Center Librarian

- a. Ms. Gilbert provided an overview of the Lee Instructional Resource Center and the Educational Materials Collection (EMC). The EMC boasts more than 30,000 items available for use by educators. The collection includes books, artifacts, exhibits, sculptures, art prints, library panels, life-size costumed figures, textiles and videos. All items (with the exception of videos) can be checked out for up to 30 days. Additional information and

Meeting Summary SCPC

the online calendar and borrower agreement can be found here:

<http://www.tusd1.org/contents/depart/emc/aboutus.asp>

- b. Ms. Gilbert also discussed the Science Center including the science kits, curriculum, and resources available to teachers. The Science Department serves over 60,000 K-8 students with curriculum and materials. Over 4,000 science kits are refurbished, picked up and delivered to approximately 135 middle and elementary schools. 2,500 different items are bought in bulk to refurbish the kits each year. Additional information can be found here:

<http://www.tusd1.org/contents/depart/science/index.asp>

- c. SCPC members took a tour of the Lee Instructional Resource Center including the Educational Materials Center and Science Department.

3. Dr. Clarice Clash, Senior Director of Curriculum Development and Dr. Halley Freitas, Senior Director of Assessment and Evaluation

- a. Dr. Clash reviewed the information from the November 15, 2014 Strategic Plan Update session related to curriculum development. She provided a succinct explanation of the project management timeline, showing the group examples of how the iterative process was implemented. The curriculum is evolving as the district continues to evaluate the implementation of the new standards and train all stakeholders.
- b. The curriculum training is performed in a feed back loop as follows (with continuous communication between all levels):
 - i. Administration is trained
 - ii. Principals are trained
 - iii. Curriculum Facilitators are trained
 - iv. Teachers are trained
- c. Some aspects of the curriculum and assessment are evolving as the district waits for information from the Arizona Department of Education regarding standards and testing. Teachers will be provided with myriad resources in order to implement the curriculum effectively. The district is evaluating how textbooks will be appropriated. Many of the resources related to the College and Career Readiness Standards are digital.
- d. Dr. Freitas reviewed the evaluation and assessment process related to our current curriculum. New quarterly benchmarks will help the district to understand what a student has learned and what are the next steps. Also new is the student wiring evaluation that encourages collaborative conversation between teacher teams (all disciplines). The norming of test scores has helped to eliminate outliers and provides a more efficient method for evaluation.
- e. The curriculum is equal to the roadmap (how to we get there) and the assessment helps us to evaluate if we arrived or were off course. The rubric used for the wiring assessment helps teachers to make student level decisions related to the mastery of skills and can be used with different writing prompts. Teachers will receive specific professional development on writing and the use of the rubric.

Meeting Summary SCPC

- f. The state assessment will be AZ Merit and will be given at the end of course for high school students. Grades 3-8 will be given standardized testing comparable to AIMS, but with different content. The testing now aligns better with what the student has learned most recently. The testing is aligned to data and the first round will have a learning curve. There will be adjustments based on teacher groups as well as multiple iterations that will include all teacher feedback.
 - g. Benchmarks are given at the end of each quarter and the district is still waiting for the state to determine the end of year testing window. The ATI Benchmarks and AZ Merit work together because they are based on similar sample exams and CCR standards. The test will be offered electronically and on paper. The paper test is different from the electronic test. This is something the state is still working out and definitive answers regarding how the test will be given are forthcoming.
 - h. Additional information related to the curriculum, scope and sequence can be found here: <http://tusd1.org/resources/curriculum/index.asp>. Assessment data can be found here: <https://tusdstats.tusd1.org/>
- 4. Anna Maiden, Chief Human Resources Officer and Janet Rico Uhrig, Director of Talent Acquisition, Recruitment & Retention**
- a. Ms. Maiden and Ms. Rico Uhrig attended the meeting to provide a follow up to the questions asked by SCPC members during the November meeting. The following is an overview of their report back to the group:
 - i. Exit interviews: HR is working on a process and instrument to implement in Spring 2015.
 - ii. Retention: Teachers received a raise on 12/9. The Make the Move program encourages teachers to pursue a position in Special Education through tuition reimbursement and stipends.
 - iii. Recruitment at other colleges: TUSD currently has interns from UA, NAU, GCU, ASU, and Prescott College.
 - iv. Temp Hourly positions were notified of their return to work in June.
 - v. Additional Professional Development Days: This falls under Title 1 funding and does not fall under the purview of the Human Resources Department.
 - vi. Administration "Check-in" with teachers: Currently happens on an annual basis, but is being increased to biannually at the end of semester 1.
 - vii. Long-term Subs in the South and Southwest: Difficult to staff schools have a daily rate of \$125 per day for subs. Current openings (filled by long-term subs) are as follows:
 - 1. NE part of town: 38
 - 2. NW part of town: 2 (TUSD has fewer schools in this area)
 - 3. SE part of town: 42
 - 4. SW part of town: 37
 - 5. Exceptional Ed: 4

Meeting Summary SCPC

- viii. The number of long-term subs is lower now as compared to the 2011-2012 school year. The following is a breakdown of long-term subs in positions for each school year:
 - 1. 2011-2013: 166
 - 2. 2012-2013: 158
 - 3. 2013-2014: 149
 - 4. 2014-2015: 75 (as of end of October 2014)
- ix. Teaching Assistant New Hire Costs: The district currently has no plan in place to assist with the approximate \$150.00 cost (fingerprints and lifting test) to begin work as a teaching assistant. The group offered suggestions of reimbursement for individuals after probation, a sliding scale, or possible payroll deduction. Ms. Maiden and Ms. Rio Uhrig will research the possibility of providing assistance.
- x. The group posed additional questions including:
 - 1. Can returning subs receive a stipend for “continued service?” This will be researched.
 - 2. Can Long-term sub positions be put on the HR page as well as on HRfinder? This possibility will be researched. The new Applitrack system should make it easier to find positions.
 - 3. Where does the state stand on using volunteers or Americorps, specifically related to fingerprints? Schools with no money for volunteer fingerprint cards are subsidized by the district. The process is long and drawn out due to the current fingerprint law and legislation.

5. Announcements, New Business, Questions

- a. The next SCPC meeting will be held at Central Food Service at 2150 E. 15th St. The meeting date is January 26, 2015 and will convene at 6:00pm. We will receive a tour of the facility, sample some of the menu items, and hear about specific programs occurring in the Food Services Department.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45pm (Michelle Simon)

Summary prepared by: Michelle Simon, 1/6/2015

Summary Approved: MS, 1/9/2015