

Meeting Summary SCPC

School Community Partnership Council – District Council General Meeting

Date: December 14, 2015

Location: Tucson High Magnet School Cafeteria, 400 N. 2nd Ave

Call to Order: Michelle Simon at 6:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance: Michelle Simon (Moderator)

Attendance: Michelle Simon (Moderator), Trinidad Tester (Co-Moderator), Joan Dawson-Werner (Secretary), Kristen Bury (School Board Liaison), Eugene Butler Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Teresa Guerrero, Title 1, Dr. Kristina Allen, E.D. Title 1 Director, Michael Konrad, Interim Director of Advance Learning Experiences, Mr. Hicks Member (TUSD School Board Member), and Designated SCPC representatives (see attendance record).

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

- Mr. Butler thanked everyone for coming and noted the increase in attendance including principals to the SCPC meeting.
- Communication back to the our schools has been difficult for some members so the problem was taken back to SLT (Superintendent Leadership Team) meeting and what came from back from that is the SCPC update information be given at site council meetings and any parent involvement group by making them a standing agenda item on their agendas.
- Friday some of the different TUSD equity directors, School Safety and faith based community partners are going out to deliver gift baskets to some of families in need.
- First deadline for Magnet lottery is January 4, 2016. The process starts on January 11, 2016
- Our clothing bank is in need of items such as new and used items such as jackets, shoes, uniform tops, new socks and underwear. These items can be dropped off at the Wakefield Family Center (101 West 44th Street) or the Duffy Center (655 Magnolia Drive).
- Winter Break will be December 21st through January 3, 2016 with district offices closed during the break.

2. Presentations:

TUSD Title 1: Teresa Guerrero and Dr. Kristina Allen, E.D.

- Where does Title I money go? Most of the money goes to the schools. 1% goes to family engagement. Every child has the same opportunity to meet the state standards.
- TUSD uses Joyce Epstein's Family Engagement Program. The Book is called School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action.
- There are six types of engagement:
 - Type 1 Parenting: Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students. Also assist schools to better understand families. Finding time or place to do their homework.
 - Type 2 Communication: Conduct effective communications from school-to-home and home-to-school about school programs and student progress.
 - Type 3 Volunteering: Organize volunteers and audience to support the school and students. Provide volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times.

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Type 4 Learning at Home: Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.

Type 5 Decision-making: Include families as participants in school decisions, and develop parent leaders and representatives.

Type 6 Collaborating with the Community: Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, and provide services to the community.

National Network of Partnership Schools, www.partnershipschools.org

If you have an idea for a parent workshop please contact Teresa Guerrero.

The newest Family Engagement Center has its grand opening for the community on January 21, 2016 from 10-11:30 at Palo Verde High School.

Advance Learning Experiences in TUSD: Michael Konrad, Interim Director of Advance Learning Experiences

- Director of Middle Schools and acting director of the Advance Learning Experiences within TUSD. This is done by helping to support those programs at the various schools and help students be successful in those programs.
- PowerPoint available at this address:
- There are many reasons for these programs with a wide variety of learners.
- Different programs focus on different grade levels and different types of programs.
- Various types of GATE programs including self-contained at select schools, GATE pull out services at all elementary schools, GATE resource Acts an elective program for student to receive extension work at all middle school sites.
- Dual Language program at Hollinger elementary and Pistor middle school levels.
- Tully GATE Magnet Elementary
- All first and fifth graders will take the GATE test so that no student misses the opportunity.
- Advance Learning Website: <http://www.tusd1.org/contents/distinfo/ale/index.asp>
- IB (International Baccalaureate) programs at Robison Magnet Elementary School, Safford Middle School, and Cholla Magnet High School
- Advanced Placement courses are taught by a high school certified teacher with the curriculum certified by a college board. An exam is taken at the end of the year for college credit and the student pays for the test. No testing requirement to take these courses.
- Honors course are at both Middle and High Schools. No testing requirements to get into these courses
- Advanced math track for student tot take math for high school credit class in middle school as well as Spanish for High School credit.
- Parent asked why he had not heard about these programs at his school (Pistor Middle School). It should be in the course selection guide sent out each year for students to register for the following year. Mr. Konrad will follow up at Pistor to find out why this not happening the way it should be.
- University High School with the focus if the students taking the highest number of AP courses of at least 8 AP courses. Its focus is to get all of it student into college/University. They take an exam to get in and this is done by all 7th grade students within TUSD and a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- College Board rated TUSD as one of 3 high schools in Arizona and the only one to be named to the AP honor roll. This is due tot the student taking AP classes and those who

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received college credit from taking the exam and the increase in Hispanic and African American student staking AP exams

- Provide college scholarship opportunities for students to take the tests.
- Desert Summer Institute provides an opportunity to train teachers from across the country and world. It is free to TUSD teachers who want to be GATE certified
- AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is at 10 schools. The program works by targeting students who would not otherwise be targeted for advanced learning opportunities. Students are supported and trained to move into advanced learning courses. They are taught study skills and build study habits tutoring to help advance their learning and learn to tutor themselves.
- Mr. Konrad answered questions.
- Parent raised concern that it is not easy to find accurate information regarding what is offered at what school sites.
- GATE testing is done during the student's regular school day. Parents can ask their school what date the testing will be done at your school.
- Is there a percentage difference in those that passed the AP test with the increase number of those testing. Mr. Konrad will get the answer to us.
- If a student moves into TUSD after 7th grade GATE testing what happened to them? They can take the GATE test if they want too.
- Are there not enough teachers that want to be certified as GATE teachers? The self-contained classes are covered by GATE Certified Teachers. All teachers can become GATE trained and certified if they choose this.
- The reason the GATE testing is done at 1st and 5th grade is due to the fact that is where the beginning GATE programs start in elementary and middle school. Students can always take the test
- Dual credit is available at most high schools including Santa Rite High School. The credits may or may not be transferable.
- Differences explained about what the differences between the IB certificate and IB diploma by Katherine Jensen. International Baccalaureate Program at Cholla High School: <http://edweb.tusd.k12.az.us/cholla/InternationalBaccalaureate.php>

3. Communication with TUSD School Board: Michelle Simon Moderator

- There will be difference in the way in which SCPC communicates with the school board. There will be members of administration and school board members present. There will be meeting set up with the board to answer our questions. Our information will be given to the school board and we will get our answers from the board.

4. Comments, Action Items, Future Agenda Items

- Parent concern that when budget cuts are made the programs cut are fine arts and music, which is not in the best interest of our students. We need to find a different way to cut the budget.
- Creation of a check list so that students coming into our district can see the different tests they can take within our district for advanced learning opportunities
- What services for behavioral counseling are available at the schools? We are identifying the student's needs and then reaching out to community agencies. Every school has someone who is responsible for this task. The concern is that the former model that the kids received services on campus and they still are.
- Services for skill versus will of students who can do the work but won't versus those that can't do the work.

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Our next meeting location Tucson Magnet High School Cafeteria on January 25, 2016

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 PM (Michelle Simon)

Summary prepared by: Joan Dawson-Werner 1/4/2016

Summary Approved: Michelle Simon, 1/6/2016