

REPORT TO THE BOARD

PLAYGROUNDS
(OPEN AND CLOSED)

Open Playgrounds

- ▣ *Arizona Daily Star* article from 2/8/15
 - The headline and the article itself significantly misrepresent the data we provided
 - Article misleads the public and unfairly risks worrying TUSD families
 - Reporter made no effort to contact the Arizona School Risk Retention Trust (the Trust) to get their side of the story
 - If Trust inspectors had found imminently dangerous conditions, the Trust per its regular protocol would have called for an immediate closure of the playground

Open Playgrounds

- ▣ We are asking for a Correction
- ▣ We want parents to know active playgrounds are safe and well maintained and have been since the first day of school
- ▣ Any parent, teacher or staff member who sees unsafe or broken equipment should report it immediately
- ▣ Keeping kids safe is our first priority

Trust and Risk Response

- ▣ Describes the findings as “not uncommon”
- ▣ Inspections were six months ago and resulted in repair and maintenance punch list
- ▣ The lawyer for the Trust, has stated that “The headline and tone does mischaracterize the inspection reports and ascribes to the inspectors terms never used in the reports. Further, it makes it sound as though the reports portray the current condition of playgrounds at open schools, which they do not.”

Statement from Trust and Risk

- Trust and Risk Response to *Arizona Daily Star* article dated 2/8/15
- Property inspections were conducted at Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) in the course of the district's change of insurance carriers. A portion of each inspection focused on both playground equipment and surface areas to verify compliance with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) safety standards. Inspection reports, in part, catalog and gauge the condition of playground equipment, signage, surfacing, and layout.
- The *Arizona Daily Star's* recent article mentions that many of TUSD's playgrounds have "significant safety hazards" and "dangerous conditions." But these are not terms used in any of the inspection reports. Rather, the inspection reports list the findings as either "immediate concerns" or items of "concern." Immediate concerns are those items that the inspectors identified as priority items to address when corrections are being completed.
- TUSD welcomes the assistance of its maintenance staff, teachers, and insurance providers to identify concerns and help remedy unsafe conditions on its playgrounds.

History of closed sites

- ▣ Some closures go as far back as 2003 (Keen)
- ▣ 6 Superintendents since then
- ▣ Past agreements were to allow access to the community
- ▣ No plan to maintain or remove equipment left behind by any administration
- ▣ Current administration and board left to clean up the past while under tight budgets and impending cuts from the state

Locks and Chains Cut

- ▣ Discovered on 1/14/15 during inspections
- ▣ Van Horne (closed in 2010)
- ▣ Chain cut, TUSD lock gone
- ▣ Non-TUSD lock locked around the fencing, not securing access



Locks and Chains Cut

- ▣ School Safety Reports
 - 2011-today
 - 12 documented cases of finding gates open
 - 21 documented cases of locks and chains cut or missing after being installed

Repurposed Equipment

- ▣ Ft. Lowell/Townsend playset removed on January 28th
- ▣ Requested on November 20th, 2014
- ▣ New home: Bonillas Elementary



Removal Progress

- ▣ Reynolds Elementary School
- ▣ Equipment removed/taped off Monday
- ▣ Gate found unsecure and relocked



What's next?

- ▣ Continued removal process
- ▣ Bids from vendor along with internal pricing
- ▣ Reminder: Closed campuses are off limits unless there are agreements in place