

Meeting Summary SCPC

School Community Partnership Council – District Council General Meeting

Date: January 27, 2014

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

Call to Order: James Fish at 6:20 PM

Attendance: Michelle Simon (Moderator), James Fish (District Liaison and Director of Student Equity & Intervention), Dr. Mark Stegeman (TUSD Governing Board Member), Joan Dawson-Werner (Secretary), Leo Masursky (School Board Liaison), Designated SCPC representatives (see attendance record).

Note: The curriculum audit preceded the SCPC meeting. The meeting began at 6:40pm after all SCPC representatives had a chance to participate in the audit process.

1. District Report: James Fish

Notes: Mr. Fish did a brief overview of the Curriculum Audit currently taking place with the interviewing of TUSD Administration, all department employees, parents and ethnic parent groups, visiting all TUSD schools and talking to teachers and staff and student groups as well as sitting in on classes at the various schools. There will be formal presentation of both the Efficiency Audit, which has been completed along with the results of the current Curriculum Audit.

- TUSD Superintendent Dr. Sanchez will be at the next SCPC meeting on February 10, 2014 to discuss various topics of interest to the SCPC group.
- Mr. Fish explained that the district was conducting an all day strategic planning meeting on February 25, 2014 from 8 am to 4 Pm at 88 East Broadway. He invited SCPC representatives to attend this meeting to have input into the future decisions and direction of TUSD.
- For anyone interested in having input into the audit can send an e-mail with there comments, concerns, tec. Cmsiaudit.tucson2013@gmail.com

2. Q & A Session

Notes: Michelle Simon facilitated the discussion with Mr. Fish answering most of the questions.

- Current concerns addressed by the district include class sizes. Dr. Sanchez is looking at well defined that includes looking at pre-registration as well as registration numbers for staffing of classrooms. The class sizes for 2013-2014 will be: High School and Middle School 1:27 and elementary 1:23/24.
- TUSD is working with a consultant to create a master scheduler position to create classes that will allow for appropriate staffing of teachers.
- It is unknown if the TUSD Governing Board has voted on the Master Scheduler yet.
- Co-Op teaching class sizes will depend on IEP's of the students. Mainstreamed students in general education classes will have the 1:27 unless otherwise dictated by IEPs.
- GATE classrooms will have the same 1:27.
- The projected number of teachers will be based on the actual number of students enrolling.
- TUSD wants well-rounded students so schools need a variety of electives.
- Electives are integral part of our schools.
- Some elementary teachers concerned that they will have to teach PE, Fine Arts, art, etc. Certified teachers in the area of the elective would teach these electives.
- Question regarding a letter Dr. Sanchez sent out that there would be a budget shortage next year so where will the cuts be? Mr. Fish responded that Dr. Sanchez has said there are no "sacred cows" and that money that needs to be cut should not come from the

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schools. The belief is that the services should be put in the building where the services are needed (the schools).

- One suggestion from and SCPC member is that TUSD look at possibly reopening closed schools.
- Concerns that there needs to be accountability and we have not yet been shown where the money from the closed schools went. Parents want transparency at the District.
- Concerns that there has been an increase in children with behavior, emotional and mental health issues in general education classes, which doesn't allow the general education students in the class to get an education. What is the plan for these children and classes?
- Special education is underfunded so how do we get the state and/or federal governments to give us the money to implement the federal mandates.
- There was discussion on seeking services for students with behavior, emotional and mental health issues and the inadequacies of the availability of services.
- Concerns regarding issues of food in the cafeteria at schools. The menus online are not accurate. Meal accommodations are not being made for health needs of students even when the appropriate paperwork is completed.

NOTE: Tonight's meeting was originally supposed to cover the USP, Magnet Schools and how they fit in. Since next meeting is already going to be a late meeting the SCPC group decided to have this topic at a separate meeting to give it the needed time for the subject.

3. Planning for Dr. Sanchez's presentation on February 10, 2014

NOTES: Michelle Simon and Leo Masursky discussed how to handle questions to Dr. Sanchez. This presentation will not be a PowerPoint, but a conversation. Last year's State of the district was monopolized by a couple of individuals and it is important that everyone have their questions addressed. So as a group, SCPC came up with some general topics for Dr. Sanchez and then discussion was done regarding writing questions on index cards and then all questions would be addressed.

- Concern questions may not be asked the way it was intended to be asked. Response: All questions will be asked as written.
- Questions can be submitted by Monday, February 3, 2014 to SCPC Secretary e-mail so that Dr. Sanchez has time to review them before his presentation the following Monday.
- Group agreed that for Dr. Sanchez's address that we would extend the meeting time until 8:30 PM.
- Topics for Dr. Sanchez: What has been done this year? What is the plan for next school year? And budget. Final list still to be finalized.
- Dr. Sanchez will address the group for 1 hour then he will answer questions.

Meeting agenda will be put out early so SCPC Representatives can suggest changes to reflect the group concerns.

Our next meeting is on February 10, 2014 with Dr. Sanchez.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:35pm (Michelle Simon)

Summary prepared by: Joan Dawson-Werner 2/2/14

Summary Approved: Michelle Simon, 2/5/2014