

Meeting Summary SCPC

School Community Partnership Council – District Council General Meeting

Date: 3/18/2013

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

Call to Order: Kathy Sutherland, 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Kathy Sutherland

Attendance: Kathy Sutherland (Moderator), Michelle Simon (Secretary), Gary Fowler (Co-Moderator), Leo Masursky (Board Liaison) and appointed SCPC members (see attendance record).

General Welcome – Kathy Sutherland discussed points to be covered at the meeting:

1. Presenters at SCPC Meetings
2. SCPC Nominations & Elections
3. SCPC Group Priorities: Input from Members
4. Role of the SCPC with regard to TUSD and the TUSD Board
5. Group Discussion

1. SCPC Presenters

Notes: Yosef Awwad, Chief Financial Officer for TUSD, was scheduled to present on the TUSD budget update. Mr. Awwad was unable to attend the meeting. This is the second time Mr. Awwad has canceled a presentation with the SCPC.

Adelita Grijalva, TUSD Board President, was also scheduled to present to the group, but was unable to attend. She has asked to reschedule for a future date.

Attendance of presenters is an issue. The SCPC group is a board-sanctioned entity and is viewed as a group that “watches over” the district. The SCPC should seek to improve the connection with the TUSD board members.

Questions:

What is the process for requesting presenters for the SCPC meeting?

Presenters are contacted by the SCPC district liaison, Mr. Fish, at least one month prior to the meeting. The State of the District address is coordinated at the end of the school year for the following February.

Why has Mr. Awwad canceled his presentation twice?

Mr. Awwad contacted the district liaison a few days before the meeting and indicated he had a scheduling conflict. He also had a scheduling conflict for the February State of the District address.

Can we invite Mr. Awwad again with the understanding that his presence here is very important to the school community?

Yes, we will invite Mr. Awwad to present to the group during the April meeting.

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2. SCPC Nominations & Elections

Notes: The group reviewed the SCPC bylaws regarding the process of nominating and electing the executive members of the group. Section 4 outlines the process for nomination by committee. Attendance issues have inhibited the creation of larger committees. Therefore, a request was put to the group as to how they wanted to proceed with nominations.

Group Response:

1. Nomination requests should be emailed to all current members, principals, and TUSD. Nominations will be accepted via email to the SCPC secretary. Nomination requests should include the job descriptions for each position (Moderator, Co-moderator, Board Liaison, Secretary). Nominations will be accepted until April 21, 2013 (The day before the SCPC meeting).
2. Nominations should be accepted from the floor during the April 22, 2013 meeting. The nominations and election can be held on the same day since all job descriptions for the positions will be emailed to the group.
3. Nomination request instructions could be posted on the SCPC web page. This would give others an opportunity to submit nominations. The SCPC members also requested that the nomination requests be sent to parent groups.

Action Items and Group Consensus:

1. Nomination requests including job descriptions will be emailed to all current members, principals, and TUSD by April 2, 2013.
2. The SCPC secretary will contact the TUSD web master to see if nomination request instructions can be posted to the website by April 2, 2013.
3. Nomination requests will be accepted from the floor at the April 22, 2013 meeting.
4. Election of new executive members will take place at the April 22, 2013 meeting.

The Role of SCPC:

Notes: Kathy Sutherland began the discussion about the SCPC and its role with the TUSD Board and Administration. The current bylaws do not accurately reflect the inner workings of the SCPC and the contributions made by the group. The current process and procedures for SCPC are broken and lacking district support. The SCPC was created to be the voice of the community to the TUSD board. It is necessary to identify the expectations of the Board and TUSD with regard to the SCPC for its future success. The group provided input in the form of questions that need to be answered.

Questions Regarding SCPC Role and Support from Board and TUSD:

1. What is the role of the SCPC and what is our mission?
2. What is the definition of our relationship with the Board and with TUSD administration?
3. What is the role of the SCPC as defined by the TUSD Board?
4. Why is there a lack of attendance by the TUSD Chief Financial Officer at SCPC meetings?
5. What should the SCPC's expectations be with regard to TUSD support?
6. TUSD administration only seems to want to hear about issues that they are willing to address. What do we, as a group, do with issues that the district does not want to hear about?
7. What is the role of the district liaison with the SCPC and what are the expectations for attendance?
8. What is the framework for operation to provide support to the SCPC?

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9. Where is the “partnership” in School Community Partnership Council (SCPC)? How do we create a dialogue with our partners?
10. Can the SCPC be provided with clear protocols as to the responsibilities of district personnel with regard to attendance at meetings?

SCPC Concerns Regarding TUSD:

Notes: The SCPC group members identified concerns and questions that have yet to be answered by the Board or TUSD administration. The SCPC would like to establish a framework for feedback regarding questions asked of the Board and TUSD.

Questions Regarding Specific District Issues:

1. What are the established criteria for the staffing allocation in the 2013-2014 TUSD budget?
2. What other departments are losing staff personnel?
3. How do we gain a clear understanding of the budget issues if the CFO does not attend the meeting?
4. How will TUSD comply with the Unitary Status plan with the current reduction in staff?
5. What are TUSD's plans for technology and state standardized testing?
6. How do we address parent questions and concerns regarding underachieving schools, loss of librarians and other qualified staff, and the use of long-term substitute teachers?
7. What are the final recommendations and supports for the transition of closing schools to receiving schools?
8. What framework for feedback will be most conducive to productive communication?

SCPC Goals and Priorities:

Notes: The group needs to create a greater focus with regard to issues. The SCPC needs to choose an appropriate issue and communicate questions, concerns, and recommendations in a smart and practical manner. The following is a list of expectations, goals, and priorities as set forth by the SCPC group.

Expectations, Goals, and Priorities:

1. Community interaction is needed. Attendance is low and needs to be bolstered. The group needs representation from individuals who can make decisions and present information to the Board.
2. The SCPC should be seen as an advocate group for the kids. The kids need to be the priority and the SCPC is the voice of the community.
3. Identify the partnership with the Board and TUSD. SCPC needs support in its work in order to be successful.
4. SCPC needs to be more focused and specific on issues. The group tends work in an informational capacity rather than an advocacy role. The role needs to be to make a change in the school community.
5. Communication between the Board, TUSD, and SCPC is of the utmost importance. Attendance and outcomes will improve as a result of increased communication.
6. The information gained from SCPC meetings is invaluable. Provide mechanisms to follow up on issues or concerns brought up at each meeting.
7. The lack of dissemination of information to parents results in low attendance. Many school sites do not understand the purpose of the SCPC. Cooperation with school principals and parent groups is integral to the success of SCPC.
8. Promotion of SCPC to parent groups and the greater community. Create flyers to explain what SCPC is and what it does.

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9. The SCPC is a vehicle for parent voices to the Board and TUSD. SCPC can play a role in providing verifiable information regarding district issues and the implementation of solutions. The SCPC needs to create a structure and framework to make the community voice heard.
10. Increase support from TUSD regarding SCPC activities.
11. SCPC needs to provide specific, focused questions to the Board in order to affect change. Defining the role of the SCPC will be the key to accomplishing this task.
12. Request that TUSD Board members attend SCPC meetings.
13. SCPC is responsible for being the two-way conduit for information from the schools to the Board. Report information to the school sites. Ask about their needs and concerns. Identify questions to be asked of the board.
14. Specific issues are of greatest concern. Identify the appropriate framework for communicating with the Board and build relationships with its members. Advocate for the SCPC and the importance of the group. Identify a current plan of action and implement the changes.
15. Existing members of the SCPC need to take action. Talk is great, but action is better. Invite new people, encourage participation from the school sites, and talk with parent groups.

Action Items:

1. Flyers will be made about the SCPC including the goal, mission, and vision of the group.
2. SCPC members will identify individuals to invite to upcoming meetings.
3. Provide specific questions to presenters so the group's concerns are addressed.
4. Create press releases for special guests and/or meetings.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00pm (Kathy Sutherland)

Summary prepared by: Michelle Simon, 3/25/2013

Summary Approved: 3/28/2013