

May 7, 2013

## Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) Report on May 1st, 2013

Good evening: Ms. President, Board Members, Dr. Pedicone, Ms. Durcan, and Guests. Our last SSAC meeting was held May 1st at Pueblo High School. We would like to thank Principal Ms. Vivi Watt and Learning Support Coordinator Ms. Veronica Vironet for being gracious hosts, but especially Juana and Ms. Vironet for waking up early to make us chilaquiles. This was the last meeting of the year so our objective was to elect the new SSAC officers for the 2013-2014 school year.

In this last meeting, we reflected upon what we accomplished for TUSD. When reflecting upon that, we had to look first at individual schools, then at the broader picture. Our high schools were given the opportunity to either continue the kindness campaign at full force, take on a college and career readiness campaign or really do anything that they saw fit for their high school. Some high schools decided that the kindness campaign was more needed because of high levels of animosity among student groups while others decided that they wanted to focus their efforts on student achievement. In reality, when lending a hand to others who need knowledge about college, their passions, their careers, that in itself was kind. Therefore, it is possible to say that our college readiness campaign was a kindness campaign. Even though we did not put up massive 10 by 10 murals this year, we did put up a fight to make our schools better places. Schools such as Palo Verde High School recognized how their exceptional educational students were being ostracized, and then they took the initiative to SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD. Tucson High School's SSAC, the one council I truly know, significantly increased levels of awareness regarding the importance of kindness and college-readiness. As a whole, TUSD SSAC members learned that our potential has no limits; we are capable of accomplishing grand things. It is just a matter of taking action. And that, we can do.

Now, for my personal story. I attended Tully Elementary School; a place which laid out my foundation for learning. Here, I can remember being entertained by my 3rd grade teacher Dr. Vanegas and I can remember being a competitive learner in class. In class we would play a quarter game that tested our knowledge on the state capitols and some rivers. I would always end up tying with my friend Marcos because my teacher would not let us get more than a certain amount. It was there I realized I was able to accomplish something if I had a purpose in mind. A couple years later I attended Mansfeld Middle School; the pink school! And now I will be graduating from Tucson High School. It seems very surreal yet it seems right. As I venture into the world, I will always carry a part of TUSD with me: the smiles caused by SSAC, Mr. McCollum, Mr. Burrola my LSC, Dr. Pedicone, Mr. Dudash my freshman English teacher, Madame Yonkers, Mr Schierer, my best friends, my art teacher, Mr. Smith the head of the lunch department, my math teachers, everyone; I will reflect, but not dwell upon instances in which I thought I failed that have made me a better person; I will remember the remarkable as well as the idle teachers; and I will tell everyone at Bowdoin I had a rewarding experience but that I look to the present and the future because those are the only moments which I have control over. I am extremely grateful for the efforts that TUSD had made to contribute to the person that I am today.

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As my TUSD story ends it continues for SSAC and our new leadership team. I would like to introduce to you our new President Madison Dodge and our Co-Vice Presidents Sarah Ridings and Ashley Feig. I know they will carry on the mission and tradition that SSAC has established.

Thank you, TUSD.