

# Meeting Summary SCPC

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## School Community Partnership Council – District Council General Meeting

**Date:** April 20, 2015

**Location:** Tucson Magnet High School Cafeteria, 400 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave

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**Call to Order:** Michelle Simon, 6:10pm

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Michelle Simon

**Attendance:** Michelle Simon (Moderator), Kristen Bury (School Board Liaison), Eugene Butler Jr. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Meigan Baldwin, Program Coordinator Manzo Elementary, Moses Thompson, LEO Project, Kristen & Marissa Bury, Drachman Montessori, and Designated SCPC representatives (see attendance record).

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

- African American Student Services Character & Leadership Development occurred at Catalina High School April 18-19. Differences in learning and the social divide were highlighted during the training.
- On April 10, TUSD had a “Support Borman” campaign. Families from this school were the hardest hit during the most recent deployment from DMAFB.
- Steps 2 Success program has reached out to approximately 200 students, helping them to re-engage with high school. The recent change in the AIMS testing requirement has allowed 58 students who have completed all credits for graduation to obtain their high school diploma.

### 2. Going Green at TUSD

- **Presentation: Blue Baldwin and Moses Thompson from Manzo Elementary**
  - Manzo is an incubator for program throughout TUSD.
  - The garden at Manzo actually started as a therapeutic model for students, shifting the relationship with children from “authoritative” to “collaborative.”
  - UA and TUSD are working toward greater K-12 student engagement for green initiatives.
  - Three things are needed to create a sustainable biodiversity/food production program:
    - Supportive Principal
    - Teachers willing to integrate the program with curriculum
    - Culturally relevant to the community
  - Manzo program is a result of collaborations with community partners such as:
    - University of Arizona
    - Tucson Audubon Society
    - Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
  - These types of programs would not be possible without the help of TUSD facilities and food service. These departments are on-board with green initiatives and work with school sites to facilitate programs.
  - Manzo houses the LEO project, a desert tortoise habitat, community garden, rain harvesting, and chicken coop.
  - Specialized programs include the use of iNaturalist app, planting of Mission Gardens fruit trees and Edible Baja will be doing a story in the next issue.

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- **Presentation: Kristen & Marissa Bury from Drachman Montessori**
  - Drachman's garden has been in existence since 1999, it started with a grant from the Educational Enrichment Foundation and Drachman teachers and community.
  - Since then, the Community Food Bank, the University of Arizona, and the TUSD Transitions program have assisted with the school ecology program. Drachman has also received school sponsorship and grants from Educational Enrichment Foundation, Home Depot, US Green Building Council, Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Program, and Western Growers Association.
  - Drachman has a compost system, chickens, aquaponics system, xeriscape and cultivation gardens, butterfly gardens, and a water cistern. Drachman is exploring permaculture and hugelkultur as a part of learning how to create nutrient rich soil beds in the desert environment.
  - Drachman will be working as a Western Growers Association grant site next year.
  - Drachman has a small school Farmers Market
- **General Discussion (Q & A) Going Green**
  - Coordination with Facilities is integral to the success of each program.
  - Green Planning Initiative is part of the Facilities component of the TUSD strategic plan. There is also discussion to work at multiple levels with Curriculum, Communications Department, and Facilities in order to create a district-wide model for agriculture, sustainability, and greening our district. Some of the ideas & topics include:
    - Creating a District Garden/Sustainability Frequently Asked Questions
    - How to get involved and tax credit information -
    - TUSD community & family engagement
    - Creating a district wide garden and sustainability focus and community action group.
    - Creation of a Sustainability website page with a garden area map, history, and contact information for schools.
    - Grant opportunities and fundraising help
    - How to talk with community and school site stakeholders

### 3. Election of SCPC Officers

- Nominations were received via email for the following offices:
  - Moderator: Michelle Simon
  - Secretary: Joan Dawson-Werner
- Nominations received from the floor for the following offices:
  - Board Liaison: Kristen Bury
  - Co-Moderator: Trinidad Tester
- Slate of officers was approved by a unanimous vote of attendees.
- Slate of officers was elected by a unanimous vote of attendees.

### 4. SCPC Bylaw Changes Approved and Passed

- Changes to bylaws as posted on TUSD website were approved by unanimous vote of attendees.

Next Planning Meeting: July 20, 2015 at TUSD District Offices at 1010 E. Tenth St..

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:00pm (Michelle Simon)**

**Summary prepared by:** Michelle Simon/Kristen Bury

**Summary Approved:** Michelle Simon