

Meeting Summary SCPC

School Community Partnership Council – District Council General Meeting

Date: 8/19/2013

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

Call to Order: James Fish, 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Gary Fowler

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

General Welcome – James Fish, TUSD Liaison to the SCPC, discussed points to be covered at the meeting:

1. Coordination and collaboration efforts between TUSD, SCPC, & community
2. The need for new leadership for SCPC
3. Role and future of the SCPC with TUSD
4. Topics of discussion for future meetings

1. Coordination and Collaboration Efforts Between TUSD, SCPC, & Community

Notes: Mr. Fish discussed the mission and vision of TUSD under the new administration. The Unitary Status Plan has a component for parent engagement that would be a great “fit” for the work between TUSD and the SCPC. Noreen Weidenfeld is the person in charge of the community engagement portion of the Unitary Status Plan. She was scheduled to be at the meeting, but was unable to attend.

Mr. Fish also discussed the importance of disseminating information throughout the community. He used the guidelines for student rights & responsibilities as an example. He discussed the significant changes regarding the discipline policy. Fighting is no longer an automatic suspendable offense. The new policies indicated the need to use interventions instead of suspensions. Some schools have been suspending students because they were unaware of the changes to the policy. This is the type of information that can be disseminated through the SCPC back to the school site councils and parent groups.

Action Items:

1. Ms. Weidenfeld will be rescheduled to meet the group.
2. The group will receive a greater explanation of the structure and mission of SCPC as it relates to the district and board at the orientation in September.
3. The new superintendent, administrative heads, and board members will be invited to the orientation meeting.

2. The Need for New Leadership for SCPC: Elections & Nominations

Notes: All members in the room introduced themselves. Mr. Fish explained the situation with open positions in the executive committee. The SCPC moderator resigned during the summer months. Since the August meeting was not an official public meeting, the process for nominations and elections was explained to the group. No voting or decisions were made at this meeting. Nominations will be accepted via email to the SCPC secretary between 8/19/2013 and 9/17/2013. Nominations for open positions will also be taken from the floor during the September meeting.

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Action Items and Group Consensus:

1. Nominations will be presented at the September 17, 2013 meeting. Designated SCPC members will vote on the open positions for the executive committee.
2. Ballots will be counted and the results read at the September 17, 2013 meeting.
3. Newly elected executive committee members will assume their positions immediately and perform the duties of that position.

3. The Role of SCPC and Future with TUSD:

Notes: Michelle Simon reviewed what should happen at the orientation meetings and the direction for the SCPC in upcoming months. The SCPC should be comprised of at least one designated member per school. Principals were asked to fill out a form with the information of the designated representative and an alternate. The meetings should not be solely comprised of designated members. All school staff, parents, students, and community members are invited to attend. The SCPC makes the greatest impact when more voices participate. Our upcoming meetings will be used to decide the topics of importance to the members and their schools.

The orientation will be held during the September SCPC meeting. The meeting will cover the bylaws, responsibilities, and expectations of SCPC members. The superintendent, administrative heads, and board members may be present at the meeting to introduce themselves and promote a sense of community.

Questions Regarding SCPC Role and Structure:

1. The representative from Oyama brought up that the school site council facilitator was paid to attend the SCPC meetings as part of their duties. She indicated that the designated member for SCPC, if they are a teacher, should be paid to attend. She believed they received a stipend.
 - a. Mr. Fish will investigate this statement and verify the bylaws of site council to confirm the validity of this claim.
2. Who is welcome at SCPC meetings? All people are welcome at SCPC meetings. Mr. Masursky pointed out that SCPC meetings are public. All community members can attend. Only those individuals designated by the representative school principals are authorized to vote during SCPC meetings.

4. Topics of Discussion for Upcoming Meetings:

Notes: The group covered tentative topics for upcoming meetings and reviewed the dates for planning meetings. The following is a list of potential topics.

Topics for Discussion:

1. Student rights & responsibilities
2. School closures: What happened? How were receiving schools affected? How has overcrowding affected the receiving schools?
3. What money was saved from the closures? Where is the final reporting?
4. What is happening with the closed properties? Safety and community concerns.
5. Class sizes are much larger. What is happening with this?
6. Overcrowded schools are having issues with long lunch lines and children not eating lunch.
7. School lunches are poor. What are the procedures? What are other school districts and schools doing? How are food allergies handled? What types of food are acceptable?
8. Who is our new superintendent? What was the process for hiring him?

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9. University/Rincon High School and the rumors regarding the campuses moving, etc...
10. Can we use portables for overcrowded schools?
11. What is being done about SPED resources and serving the students in our district? Why are the limits higher for TUSD with regard to qualification for SPED services?
12. Budgetary issues and the lack of coordination. Parents being asked for extensive school supplies and materials for schools.
13. Inadequate resources for specialized programs-bilingual education.
14. Excessive testing and the options for students and parents.
15. Overview of the Unitary Status Plan and requirements.
16. Overview of school safety and the implementation of evacuation plans. This is a follow up to last year's presentation.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45pm (Michelle Simon)

Summary prepared by: Michelle Simon, 8/19/2013

Summary Approved: 8/30/2013