

Meeting Summary SCPC

School Community Partnership Council – District Council General Meeting

Date: 9/16/2013

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

Call to Order: James Fish, 6:05pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Steve Holmes, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Attendance: Michelle Simon (Secretary), James Fish (District Liaison and Director of Student Equity & Intervention), Dr. H.T. Sanchez (Superintendent), Dr. Adrian Vega (Deputy Superintendent), Steve Holmes (Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction), Dr. Abel Morado (Asst. Superintendent of Secondary Leadership), Pam Palmo (Chief HR Officer), Candy Egbert (Chief Operations Officer), David Scott (Accountability & Research), Sam Brown (Desegregation), Julie Tolleson (Legal Services), Cam Juarez (School Board Member), Kristel Foster (School Board Member), Designated SCPC representatives (see attendance record).

1. Welcome and Announcements

Notes: Mr. Fish welcomed the group and spoke about the exciting direction of the school district this year. The energy of the current administrative team has rejuvenated the actions of the district. Mr. Fish then introduced Dr. Sanchez to briefly speak with the SCPC group.

2. Dr. H.T. Sanchez: Welcome and Introduction of Administrative Staff

Notes: Dr. Sanchez welcomed the group and introduced the administrative members in attendance at the meeting. He also introduced the school board members in attendance.

Points made by Dr. Sanchez:

1. Listening to the Community and Gathering Data:

- a. In the past 2-3 months, Dr. Sanchez has participated in community discussions at various places including South Tucson and a gathering put together by the NAACP.
- b. The community had many great comments and concerns. After listening to these individuals we have to address: How do we get out of the mode of cutting into a mode of growing? This is a complicated endeavor.
- c. Dr. Sanchez came from the Midland/Odessa area with a similar demographic to Tucson with one major difference. Midland/Odessa is growing because the funding system and tax rate are set by the local board. All monies remain in the local area. Here in Arizona, the tax rate is set locally, but monies are sent to Phoenix and then redistributed to communities around the state as they deem appropriate.
- d. The community asks how we can overcome our challenges to funding. The first thing would be to vote for people who support public education and then implement a plan of action with a growth focus. Each year, TUSD faces the loss of approximately 800 students that is equal to \$4 million. We must stop the conversations about cuts.

2. What Does the Positive, Growing TUSD Look Like?

- a. Schools will have a consistent profile with core subjects, music, art, and PE being offered at each site.
- b. Reinvestment in schools would result in a re-evaluation of student/teacher ratios and working with the teachers union to make a difference. This has already

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started with the restructuring of teacher pay, as authorized by the school board, so in-district teachers are paid as equitably as out-of-district teachers.

- c. As a community, we must wrap our minds around the positive. We must get rid of the bad: “bad service, long lines, closing locations.” How we talk about the district makes all the difference. We are only 2 points away from being a B graded district. Middle Schools made fabulous gains with many increasing by one letter grade. Good and positive things are happening.
- d. TUSD provides a superior education to others in the community. The district has enrollment increases in middle and high school levels. Our decreases in enrollment are in the elementary levels. We need to get the students into the district and then they stay because of what is great. We have to overcome the Best Buy scenario: People go in, check out the prices, but go elsewhere to buy because of bad service.
- e. We need to give the community the big picture of the real TUSD. The teachers, principals, and school sites are talked about positively, but as the picture becomes larger the vision of the district becomes bleak in the perception of the community. We need to overcome this gap. It’s up to us, not the media. We have great teachers & principals and we look forward to partnering for a positive future.

3. SCPC Elections

Notes: Mr. Fish introduced Michelle Simon, Secretary of SCPC, to facilitate the elections as indicated in the SCPC Bylaws. (<http://tusd1.org/contents/distinfo/scpc/bylaws.asp>)

1. Nomination and Election of SCPC Moderator

- a. 4 nominations were received via email for Michelle Simon as SCPC Moderator.
- b. Requests for nominations from the floor were entertained: 0 submitted.
- c. Vote taken from the existing SCPC members to replace the SCPC Moderator as indicated by the bylaws.
- d. Michelle Simon was elected to the position of SCPC Moderator by unanimous vote of the group.

2. Nomination and Election of SCPC Secretary

- a. Due to the election of Michelle Simon as SCPC Moderator, the group now has a vacancy in the secretary position.
- b. Requests for nominations from the floor were entertained: 2 submitted.
- c. Joan Dawson-Werner was nominated by James Fish and Michelle Simon.
- d. Vote taken from the existing SCPC members to replace the SCPC Secretary as indicated by the bylaws.
- e. Joan Dawson-Werner was elected to the position of SCPC Secretary by unanimous vote of the group.

4. SCPC Orientation

- a. Michelle Simon provided an overview of the SCPC, how it works with the School District and the School Board, who should attend, and the expectations of the school sites and representatives.
- b. The PowerPoint slides are included in the meeting summary for review by the group. Specific resources include the following:
SCPC Home Page: <http://tusd1.org/contents/distinfo/scpc/index.asp>
School Board Home Page: <http://tusd1.org/contents/govboard/govboard.html>
TUSD Home Page: www.tusd1.org
- c. School Board member, Cam Juarez indicated that the slide that indicated two-way communication should also include back and forth arrows between the board and the district. He believes that as a result of conversations with SCPC, the School Board and District have increased their communication. Betts Hidalgo-Putnam indicated the need

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- for us to not be “realistic” in the negative, but to find people in the administration and school board that are willing to be positive and work toward a great future for the district.
- d. Break-out sessions occurred with area councils meeting to discuss priorities for their areas. Groups were given instruction to come with ideas, via brainstorming, that could be presented to the larger group.
1. Area Council-Palo Verde/Santa Rita (members)
 - Pre-school within TUSD on sites with consistent curriculum at affordable pricing to encourage a matriculation pattern start.
 - Kindergarten start cut-off date is losing children to charter schools with less fixed policies.
 - Provide Evaluation Navigation assistance to parents confused by the process of advocating for their children.
 - Accountability within the district in order to retain & support excellent & enthusiastic employees. This should not be according to test results
 2. Area Council-Catalina/Tucson (members)
 - Enrollment blockage/difficulty trying to enroll (inconsistent response/get them and keep them), communications planning, shareholder management, quality control standards
 - Teacher vacancies/inconsistent principal leadership
 - Excessive testing: teaching to the test and testing standards
 - Community development and partnership models, community learning hubs (pre-schools, library, headstarts, YMCA's, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc...)
 - Strengthen after school programs & school partnerships
 - Site council trainings through SCPC trainings
 - Communicate the importance of the 100th day with communication and standard outreach.
 - Establish milestones/goals
 3. Area Council-Cholla/Pueblo (members)
 - Review of budget issues to include class sizes, lack of textbooks, addition of grade level classes without the addition of a teacher, and the use of long-term subs
 - Technology infrastructure and computers
 - Parent involvement-how do we get them to be involved
 4. Area Council-Rincon/Sabino/Sahuaro/University (members)
 - Outside audit of district
 - Class size
 - Administrative leadership
 - Not enough transportation
 - Loss of instruction coaches
 - Explain funding rations for High Schools for librarians
 - Provide update on safety and what has happened with empty schools, also the use of IDs at all schools
 - Follow up on cost savings from the closing of schools-where are the savings?
 - How to retain students & leadership in the district. How do we differentiate us from charter schools

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45pm (Michelle Simon)

Summary prepared by: Michelle Simon, 9/29/2013

Summary Approved: 9/29/2013