

Rincon/UHS Band

As you may have heard already as they made their way over to the meeting tonight, we have a special treat tonight to kick off the Superintendent's report. The Rincon/University High School marching band is here to entertain us with their award-winning performance! Could you please come up while I tell everyone about you?

Here's a little about the band and its amazing student musicians.

(PLAY VIDEO)

The RUHS band, under the direction of Mr. Jeff Marchant recently took first place at the Arizona Marching Band Association Championships. At the U of A Band Day in October, they took home the highest ranking possible--- Superior with Distinction and the Nunamaker award, which honors the most outstanding group. And on Nov. 14, they placed second at the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association State Marching Championship. What an amazing season!

President Grijalva, could we take this meeting outside to the courtyard to present the award to Mr. Marchant and his students, and watch the band?

(HEAD OUTSIDE)

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OMA Outstanding Volunteer---Dr. Nathaniel Bloomfield

Tucson Unified School District is blessed with amazing volunteer support across the district. But tonight we'll meet a volunteer who may be our best kept secret.

Dr. Nathaniel Bloomfield volunteers in our Instrumental Repair shop. Before I brag about him, let's go inside the shop. **(PLAY VIDEO)**

Dr. Bloomfield could you please come up along with Dr. Joan Ashcraft, Director of Opening Minds Through the Arts and any other OMA staff or supporters?

Here are a few stats for you about Dr. Bloomfield's volunteer work with Tucson Unified School District.

He has volunteered in TUSD's Instrumental Repair Shop for **17 years**, often giving 3 hours 5 days a week to the Instrumental Repair Shop.

He repairs **approximately 100 orchestral instruments a year.**

17,000 total!

This includes setting up the stringed instruments, repairing cracks, gluing necks into position so they are in good condition for students to play.

Dr. Bloomfield raised more than \$31,000 through personal outreach to his friends and community for instrumental supplies during the **2013-14** school year.

His three children attended TUSD schools.

He plays violin and viola, performing for many years in orchestras and chamber groups throughout the community.

Dr. Ashcraft tells us, "As a talented violinist and violist himself, Dr. Bloomfield knows the intrinsic value of musical experiences for the complete education of a child. His daily commitment to Fine Arts demonstrates his personal belief in the power of music to enrich lives. Our gratitude cannot be fully expressed. We think of him every time we hear our students perform on an instrument he has repaired."

Again if you have instruments you'd like to donate, OMA is holding an instrument drive December 14th and 15th at the Lee Instructional Resource Center, 2025 E. Winsett St, near Broadway and Kino. The information is on our website and Facebook.

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Doolen Track Team

The Doolen Middle School boys cross-country team recently took first place at a competition called the AZ Middle School Cross Country State Championship. The 3,000 meter race was held on October 31, 2015 in Anthem, Arizona.

The team members with their individual finishing place are:

Derrick Silva (2nd), Gabe Mogollon (11th), Kieran Douglas (15th), Brian Lopez (25th), Matthew Riccitello (29th), Hassan Mahamat (36th) and Samir Rein (38th). Also in the photo is Coach Juan Silva.

Congratulations to all of these outstanding athletes.

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National Board Certified teachers

National Board Certification is the most respected professional certification available in education and provides numerous benefits to teachers, students and schools. It was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools nationwide.

Today, three more of our teachers are National Board Certified.

Could the following teachers come up, along with their principals and supporters?

- Pam Shapiro, Communications teacher, Pueblo Magnet High School
- Michael Kennedy, 7th grade social studies, Roskrige Bilingual Magnet K-8 School
- Sheila Marquez, Tucson High Magnet School Science chair

In addition to being board certified, we recently learned that Ms. Marquez is also one of nine finalists in the 2015-16 University of Arizona/Circle K Outstanding High School Faculty Awards Programs!

Congratulations to all three of you and thank you for all you do for our students!

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Magee Middle School Grant

Congratulations and thank you to Magee Middle School Social Worker, Kathleen Gordon. Ms. Gordon was awarded a grant for Magee through the Arizona Diamondbacks. Magee was one of only 22 schools in the state to receive a grant out of more than 300 submissions.

Could Ms. Gordon come forward, along with Mr. Dan Erickson, Magee principal?

The \$5,000 grant will be used to support the HeartMath project, a technology program that helps improve learning performance and emotional health. Students will be able to see how emotions and attitudes affect their heart rhythm. Initially, the program will be used for students receiving counseling and speech services. The program will expand to include students referred for behavioral issues.

Great work Magee!

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AP College Board

Tucson Unified School District is one of 425 school districts in the U.S. and Canada honored by the College Board with placement on the 6th Annual AP District Honor Roll for increasing access to [AP](#) course work while also maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.

We are very excited to be placed on the Honor Roll and that our students are taking advantage of opportunities to challenge themselves and earn college credit. I'd like to recognize the hard work of those students and our teachers, counselors and principals, and all those who make achievement at this level possible.

I've always felt that if you want a true measure of high school excellence, you need to take a look at how many kids are taking AP classes and how many kids are scoring 3s, 4s and 5s in AP classes.

I'm very proud of all of our AP students.

Here's a video from our announcement [PLAY VIDEO](#)

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ASU/Helio Luncheon

I would like tell you about a great experience that some our high school seniors had over the weekend.

Arizona State University and the Helios Education Foundation have partnered to provide information about the Barret Honors College at ASU, and 62 of our Latino students who scored a composite score of 26 or high were invited to a special luncheon in Tempe.

This is a wonderful accomplishment, and we are thrilled that ASU and the Helios Education Foundation are supporting and celebrating our students.

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Adopt-a-School

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that Saturday our Adopt-A-School program will be working at Ford Elementary. Everyone is invited to come out and spruce up the campus from 9 a.m. to noon.

No experience is required. We'll have experts on hand to show everyone the ropes. All you need is a willingness to help!

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Board Meeting Report on Interscholastics

Next I'd like to introduce Mr. Herman House, Director of Interscholastics, with an update on athletics.

Mr House:

1. History- How We Got Here

In the spring of 2015, The AIA was operating as more of a business-focused organization than a membership-driven organization. Member schools began to feel left out of decisions that were affecting them financially, and the scheduling process had become unbalanced competitively. Through computerized scheduling and the formation of Divisions and Sections, schools were bound by their schedules without regard to financial impact, loss of class time or competitive balance.

Also in the spring of 2015, a decision by the Executive Board to name a replacement for the current Executive Director when his contract was completed was more than the membership could bear. The replacement was the person the membership believed was mostly responsible for the business model that was creating the aforementioned issues. As well, there was no competitive process or membership input on this very important decision. As a result, the member schools began a campaign to have the AIA change its course and return to the membership-driven organization that it was created to be or the member schools would form a new interscholastic organization to sanctioned athletics in Arizona.

All of the large school districts, including TUSD signed on to this campaign. The AIA listened. The Associate Executive Director resigned (The person slated to replace current Ex Dir.) and the process began that brought everyone to the table to discuss the future direction of the organization. From late spring throughout the summer meetings were held to revise the AIA Bylaws that would lend itself to more of a membership driven organization and set in motion a new structure for the AIA.

2. Results of the Legislative Council (Slide #1)

In September, an emergency Legislative Council Meeting was held, and the revisions to the AIA Bylaws were voted upon. Many were overwhelmingly approved by the membership. There are 45 members of the Legislative Council representing 286 high schools. Nine of the Legislative Council members represent the Arizona School Board Association. The most critical vote was to return to Conferences and Regions for competitive purposes to replace the divisions and sections, to create membership input and to create schedules that would best serve the membership. Currently the Conferences and regions are only used for legislative purposes.

3. Conference/ Region Development (Slides #2 & 3)

As a result of the Legislative Council vote and the Change of the Bylaws to return to Conferences and Regions for competitive purposes, the 5A Conference and the 4A conferences, which most of the Southern Arizona Schools belongs, scheduled meetings to develop the newly formed 6A conference. This conference will be comprised of the largest schools in the state. TUSD has two schools slated for the 6A; Tucson High Magnet School and Rincon/University High School. The charge for the regions was to work with member schools to accommodate their needs within the framework which was approved during Legislative Council.

TUSD expressed three priorities: Reduce the loss of class-time, Reduce travel, Create a Competitive balanced schedule.

4. 6A Conference Compromise with Yuma and Tucson (Slide # 4)

Southern Arizona has three schools whose enrollment placed them into the 6A Conference; THMS, Rincon/ University and Sunnyside. The prevailing thought was to appeal these schools to the 5A conference in order to prevent excessive travel. However, there were 15 other schools who appealed to move to the 5A, and many had similar concerns including the Yuma Schools. Because the Legislative Council's direction to work with each member school, the 5A and 4A conferences voted to deny 19 of the 20 appeals but vowed to address each schools concerns.

A compromise was reached with the Tucson and Yuma schools in the 6A to create sub-regions similar to the PAC 12's North and South conferences.

In this compromise, the Tucson and Yuma Schools would comprise a conference, but would play the majority of their games locally and then, based upon the competitive records, play a region championship at the end of the season to determine the automatic qualifier to the state tournament. These games would be held one year in Tucson and the other year in Yuma.

However, further discussion produced the idea that these region championship games could played at a neutral site at the halfway mark between Yuma and Tucson. further reducing travel for both Yuma and Tucson. Additionally these games could also be scheduled for a Saturday, which eliminates loss of class time for the students. The alternative would be to play in a Region comprised of Phoenix Schools, would undoubtedly be the Chandler Schools. Due to the highly competitive nature of the Chandler Schools, the conference felt that they would receive an unfair competitive advantage if allowed to operate under the compromise given to Tucson/Yuma.

That is where we stand now and the scheduling process has begun. By the end of February a full compliment of schedules will be ready for the AIA Executive Board's approval.

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