

Meeting Summary SCPC

School Community Partnership Council – District Council General Meeting

Date: 11/19/2012

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

Call to Order: Kathy Sutherland, 6:03pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Kathy Sutherland

Attendance: Kathy Sutherland (Moderator), Leo Masursky (Board Liason), Michelle Simon (Secretary), Gary Fowler (Co-Moderator), and appointed SCPC members and district representatives (see attendance record).

1. General Welcome and Introductions:

Notes: Kathy introduced the executive team members and handled housekeeping items. This is the first SCPC meeting since the November General Elections and we have some new school board members that will take office in January 2013. Kristel Ann Foster and Cam Juarez will join the TUSD school board, replacing Miguel Cuevas and Alexandre Sugiyama. TUSD will have to make some tough decisions in the near future because of Prop 204 not passing in the election. The TUSD school board will be discussing possible school closures at special board meetings, the first of which is this evening at 7pm.

Additional Discussion Points:

1. Betts Putnam-Hidalgo provided handouts in English and Spanish discussing the Unitary Status Plan from a parent perspective.
2. Members were encouraged to visit the TUSD website and review the information about the Unitary Status Plan.

2. Priority Topic: Quality of Education, Promotion & Retention Policy

Notes: Mr. Jimmy Hart, Director of African American Student Services and the Department of Student Equity and Intervention provided an overview of the current TUSD promotion and retention policy. The Promotion and Retention Committee is in the process of updating the current policy. This evening's meeting provides the SCPC with the opportunity to give valuable feedback regarding the work in progress. A break-out session was facilitated by Mr. Hart. 5 separate groups reviewed the current policy and compared it with the proposed policy. Mr. Hart asked that the groups examine the process and make recommendations for the P&R Committee.

1. The policy is meant to provide consistency (standardization), communication, specific outlining of consequences, proactive intervention processes, and engagement of families and students.
2. The P&R committee is made up of parents, principals, and district administrators.
3. Specific questions to address in the break-out session included: 1) What are our interventions?, 2) How are the standards implemented district wide?, 3) Is 8th grade promotion standards properly defined and consistent?, and 4) What is the long-term plan for implementation?
4. TUSD is seeking to create a promotion and retention policy that is clear and concise. Standards, assessments, and measurements as a deciding factor in promotion and retention should be identified.

Additional Discussion Points:

1. The Report Back part of the break-out session resulted in the generation of the following ideas:
 1. The need for "Phase In" of the new policy.

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2. Greater clarity in purpose, definition, and standards of measurement.
3. Greater clarity in the definition of intervention processes
4. Additional components for the social/emotional needs of the students.
5. Opportunity for additional public comment.

Decision(s):

1. Mr. Hart has provided the report back summaries to the group for further review. The information is posted on the TUSD/SCPC web page.
2. Mr. Hart will take SCPC feedback to the P&R committee for consideration.

3. Quality of Education: Discussion of Future Topics

Notes: Kathy addressed the group and requested input regarding meeting topics for the January, February, and March meetings. Topics should focus on the quality of education. Group members provided feedback regarding topics of interest. The group identified class size, resources for underperforming schools, food service, interventions, and school closures as some of the priority topics. The group agreed that follow up regarding the School Master Plan (budget) and the Unitary Status Plan would be appropriate given the decisions to be made between November and January. SCPC is able to affect the greater TUSD community by providing valuable feedback regarding policy and processes within the district. This evening's meeting was a great example of the good work that happens during SCPC meetings.

Additional Discussion Points:

1. Members were encouraged to attend the planning meeting on December 17 at the TUSD administrative building at 1010 E. Tenth St.
2. The planning meeting will be used to solidify the topics of discussion for the remaining meetings to include the "State of the District" address by Dr. Pedicone.
3. Additional discussion regarding attendance and notification of meetings was addressed. The process of notification will be updated.

Decision(s):

1. All members will receive an email to include the agenda for the upcoming meeting, the previous meeting summary, and additional paperwork as needed.
2. Outreach will occur to schools and members who have not attended to help remove barriers to attendance.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50pm (Kathy Sutherland)

Summary prepared by: Michelle Simon, 11/27/2012

Summary Approved: 12/1/2012