

Meeting Summary SCPC

School Community Partnership Council – District Council General Meeting

Date: 10/15/2012

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

Call to Order: Kathy Sutherland, 6:10pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Kathy Sutherland

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

General Welcome – Kathy Sutherland reminded participants of the upcoming meeting schedule and that the schedule is always listed at the bottom of the agenda. Meetings consist of general meetings and planning meetings. All participants are encouraged to attend planning meetings held at the district office. Also, Kathy Sutherland shared with participants the calendar survey available on the TUSD website and encouraged everyone to participate in the survey. Kathy shared that the survey was brief and focused on whether parents found the fall break helpful or as a hardship and if it should be one week or a few days. The same is asked for the Spring Break scheduled in March for one week. The information will be used by the Board to determine the 2013-2014 calendar.

1. Discussion of School Board Candidate Forum:

Notes: The School Board Candidate Forum was held at the YWCA by the League of Women Voters on October 1, 2012. SCPC co-moderator, Gary Fowler, attended the forum. He provided the members with his insight into the forum. He felt the forum was very valuable and that the candidates were very knowledgeable. The candidates responded to preset questions during the forum. The sheer number of candidates made it impossible for everyone to provide unique answers to the questions. Gary felt the process was important to the election and liked what he saw at the forum.

2. Discussion of SCPC Priorities for Upcoming Year:

Notes: Kathy Sutherland brought forward the Compilation of Priorities (see attached) for further discussion in the group. During the September SCPC meeting, members were asked to provide their top three priorities for TUSD. Members were provided with an Excel spreadsheet with all priorities listed in order of number of votes. Kathy provided an overview of some of the points from the School Master Plan and encouraged the members to review the information for a better understanding of the obstacles facing TUSD. The following link provides detail about the School Master Plan: <http://tUSD1.org/contents/distinfo/masterplan/index.asp>

Additional Discussion Points:

1. Members were asked to separate into 3 groups and choose the top 4 priorities from those listed in the compilation. The groups would then come back together to discuss the choices and agree upon the discussion for upcoming meetings.
2. Members asked specific questions about kindergarten subsidy, administrative cuts, the elimination of schools, TUSD sponsored charter schools, and technology.
3. The groups came back together and provided input about their process for deciding and their top 4 priorities as identified by the group. The following is the break down of the group priorities:
 - Group E listed 1) school improvement/student achievement, 2) TUSD budget, 3) student retention, and 4) school lunch nutrition
 - Group W listed 1) school improvement/class size, 2) student achievement, 3) TUSD budget, and 4) parental involvement

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-Group M listed 1) quality of education (student achievement/school improvement), 2) TUSD budget, 3) public relations, and 4) school safety

Decision(s):

1. The committee determined that the focus topic for the November 19 General Meeting will be **Quality of Education** and should include student achievement, school improvement, accountability for underperforming teachers, class size, technology, grading of schools, support and resources for underperforming schools, the food program and better overall nutrition.
2. The second highest focus topic was the budget and participants were looking to create a better understanding of the budget process and how does money actually get to the classroom.
3. Additional priorities will be discussed at upcoming general meetings.
4. Kathy Sutherland agreed to ask the district support for appropriate persons to bring information to the November meeting regarding Quality of Education.

3. TUSD Unitary Plan

Notes: Sam Brown, Director of Desegregation, provided the group with an overview of the Unitary Plan and the process involved. TUSD was sued by two minority families and the case was settled in 1978. As a condition of the settlement, TUSD had to provide a plan that addressed diversity and equity of access while under court supervision. The following is a breakdown of areas addressed by the initial Unitary Plan:

- Phases of bilingual education for minorities
- Magnet schools and AP courses
- Diversity in schools and equal access to quality education
- Poverty/cultural issues

In 2009, TUSD was granted post-unitary status and was no longer under court supervision. In 2011, the plaintiffs in the case won an appeal to the post-unitary status and TUSD is once again responsible for maintaining a Unitary Plan. The plan is currently being created by the "special master," William Hawley from the University of Virginia with specific input from the parties involved with the case (US DOJ/TUSD/Fishers/Mendozas). The information included in the Unitary Plan is confidential until it is released for public comment on 11/9/2012.

The Unitary Plan includes information regarding:

- Student Assignment
- Transportation
- Faculty & Staff
- Quality of Education
- Discipline Policies
- Extracurricular Activities
- Facilities & Technology
- Accountability & Transparency
- Final Termination & Prior Orders

Additional Discussion Points:

1. Public commentary regarding the Unitary Plan will be from 11/9/2012 through 11/28/2012.
2. Public hearing will be held from 11/26/2012-11/28/2012.
3. State comment will be posted on 11/28/2012 (Brief will be filed).
4. Revisions will happen dynamically during the period of 11/9/2012 through 12/9/2012.
5. The Special Master will file the updated Unitary Plan with the courts on 12/10/2012.
6. By 12/14/2012 all parties will submit any objections to changes in the plan.
7. The court will rule on the Unitary Plan by January 2013.

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Decision(s):

1. The expedited timeline is a priority for TUSD so as to facilitate needed changes in the budget (FY13/14).
2. The School Master Plan has a great affect on the Unitary Plan. Many provisions in the Unitary Plan cannot be implemented until the School Master Plan is passed.
3. A public website will be established for viewing after 11/9/2012. Commentary forms will be available through the TUSD website and offices.
4. Increased outcomes, reporting, and monitoring is needed for the success of the plan. District policies and standardization will provide for a better plan.
5. The PowerPoint of the presentation will be posted to the SCPC website pending approval.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55pm (Kathy Sutherland)

Summary prepared by: Michelle Simon, 10/21/2012

Summary Approved: 10/26/2012