

Parent Superintendent Council Agenda Summary

September 16, 2008 | 11:30-1:30 am | Centennial Middle School

Topic	Summary
Introduction and Remarks	<p>Dr. Schauer welcomed everyone and thanked Centennial for hosting. He introduced Principal Kathy Miller who thanked her PTO for providing the food. He introduced Governing Board members who were present.</p>
District Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Memorandum • Noteworthy school accomplishments • How to access latest information on construction projects • School Banners • Arizona Learns preview • Inspiration Award • Presentation on Election Law at September 23 Board Meeting 	<p><u>Air Quality Memorandum</u> A memo about Air Quality at our schools was given as a handout. It outlines how we check our air quality and what we do when we detect signs of mold or other problems.</p> <p><u>Noteworthy School Accomplishments</u> If anyone is aware of accomplishments or special recognitions their school has achieved, please let us know so we can announce it at a PSC meeting.</p> <p><u>How to Access Latest Information on Construction Projects</u> For updates on the construction projects going on at some of our schools, there is information on our website that is continually updated. From the district homepage, go to “District News” and click on “Construction Updates.” The site includes FAQ’s, floor plans of the schools being remodeled, and minutes of the construction committee meetings.</p> <p><u>School Banners</u> Kelly Alexander announced that all schools are getting new banners that say “Excellence in education for over 120 Years!”</p> <p><u>Arizona Learns Preview</u> Theresa Sweeney said The State of AZ had originally planned a public release of the AYP and AZ Learns evaluation and designations in September, but due to some technical difficulties the release date for AYP is now October 1st and for AZ Learns is October 8th. This year the target for the percentage of students that needed to meet/exceed the standard was raised in order to meet the goal of 100% proficient on grade level standards by 2014. As the standard gets higher it becomes more and more difficult for some of our subgroups to meet the Annual Measurable Objects. Our district’s AIMS DPA scores were published in the newspaper this summer. We once again performed very well when compared to other districts in Maricopa County and the State of Arizona.</p> <p><u>Inspiration Award</u> Patty Weegar said the district is developing an idea for an Inspiration</p>

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	<p>Award that Kyrene staff can apply for. This evolved from our Back-to-School event in July where Ron Clark gave a message that was extremely inspirational to all staff. Patty said the award is part of an effort to keep his message alive – that every single child can achieve and reach their potential if they are motivated and have good teachers. Ron Clark has a school called Ron Clark Academy with opportunities for other teachers to come learn the methods that have worked for him. The top prize for the Kyrene Inspiration Award will be to send 2 staff members to his school. Patty showed a film clip about the Ron Clark Academy. Other smaller prizes will also be given. The awards are open to all staff, and Patty asked each PTO to consider donating from \$100-\$300 to help us fund the awards. She distributed a flyer with more information. An application form is being developed and any staff member who wishes to apply may do so.</p> <p><u>Presentation on Election Law at September 23 Board Meeting</u> Chris Thomas, ASBA Legal Counsel, will be at our September 23 Governing Board Meeting to talk about ARS 15-511 and what the law allows school district personnel and PTO’s to do regarding elections. Chris has asked to have at least one PTO representative from every school at this meeting, which will be held at the district office beginning at 7:00 pm.</p>
<p>Hot Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redistricting Initiative • Election Law • TUHSD Bond & Override Initiatives 	<p><u>Redistricting Initiative and Election Law</u></p> <p>Dr. Schauer reminded the group that in addition to the upcoming national election, we have local elections that will affect Kyrene families. There is a Redistricting Initiative, a Governing Board election with 9 candidates running for 3 open spots, and a Bond and Override election for Tempe Union High School District (TUHSD). Election Law and District Policy are both very specific about the role school staff and PTO’s are able to play with regard to elections. Nancy Dudenhoefer and Stephanie Hayden enacted a situation where a staff member and community member meet at an event that Nancy was attending in her role as Community Relations Manager of Kyrene. Nancy explained that when on school business or school property, a staff member is unable to advocate a position on an election, and can only direct people to where they can find information. Kelly Alexander distributed a flyer and talked about use of school or district resources to influence elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Governing Boards of Kyrene, Tempe Elementary and TUHSD have all taken a position on the redistricting initiative that is posted online and can be shared. • The Board has written a statement for the voter pamphlet. • Staff members while on district property or district business can give factual answers to questions about election initiatives, as long as it does not get into opinion. • PTO’s are allowed to participate in political activities. As private citizens, PTO members can take positions and give opinions. If they hold a meeting to engage in political activity at a school or the district office, it changes their category for facility use and they must pay an



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	<p>hourly rate just as any outside organization would have to do.</p> <p>Yvette David said she has talked with Chris Thomas, legal counsel for ASBA, and he said it is legal for PTO’s to take a position on issues and advocate for them. If the PTO has a website that is not linked to Kyrene, they can post their position and it does not need to be balanced. If they want to hold a meeting to advocate a position they can either meet off of district property or pay a facility use fee to rent district space. PTO’s can contribute up to 20% of their normal operating budget toward a cause they advocate. Sue Knudson said if a PTO holds a forum at the school and factual information from both sides is presented without advocacy, they do not need to pay a facility use fee.</p> <p>Q: Can PTO’s print their own flyers to distribute at a harvest festival or other event held at the school? A: Not at the actual event, but they can pass out flyers on the city streets outside school. If they invite the community at large to the event, they can put flyers on cars in the parking lot.</p> <p><u>TUHSD Bond & Override Initiatives</u> Zita Johnson, TUHSD Board member, talked about their upcoming Capital and M & O Overrides and Class B Bond Elections. She distributed a flyer and talked about TUHSD and the excellent education they deliver. She said that in AZ, school districts are allowed to ask residents for additional funds, which is what these elections are about. Last November the voters failed to pass these initiatives, which resulted in a loss of \$8 million to the district budget. This November they are again asking voters to approve the bond and overrides in order to make major repairs and renovations to their facilities, address health and safety issues, provide for energy savings, perform preventive maintenance and replace equipment as needed. The projected tax increase to the residents if all 3 initiatives pass would be about \$5.60 per month for an average home valued at \$282,000. If these initiatives do not pass, it will affect classroom next year. There will be program cuts, an increase in class sizes, and it will change the district’s ability to offer the education they have done in the past. She asked all PTO’s to spread the word so people are informed and can vote intelligently on these initiatives.</p>
<p>PTO Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centennial Fitness Center • Monte Vista PTO “Freedom to Read” fundraiser 	<p><u>Centennial Fitness Center</u> Kathy Miller shared information about the Centennial Fitness Center. Their PTC has had a multitude of fundraising projects and this one started with an initiative from the P.E. teachers. There was an unused shop classroom that they cleaned out and set up as a fitness center to help with wellness for students. The PTC decided to support this for students and staff and through donations and fundraising projects were able to purchase equipment for it. They have also applied for a grant from Lowe’s and are waiting to hear if they will receive it.</p>

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	<p><u>Monte Vista PTO “Freedom to Read” Fundraiser</u> Sandy Brinkley, Monte Vista PTO Board member, talked about a Read-a-thon fundraiser they are currently holding. They knew parents were getting tired of the typical fundraisers so this is intended to be the only fundraiser of the year. Students collect sponsors who donate money based on how much they read, and they have 2 weeks to try to achieve different levels. The PTO is hoping to raise about \$10,000 when it is over. Their theme is “Freedom to Read” and they are using red white and blue colors to promote it. PTO provides popcorn to the kids while they read and they have invited celebrity guest readers.</p>
<p>Small Group Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What special projects are your parent organizations working on? • Do you have any advice or tips for parents at other schools about fundraising projects or related topics? <p>Reporting Out</p>	<p>Meeting attendees broke into 3 groups to give feedback on the discussion questions. Following is the feedback that was generated:</p> <p><i>What special projects are your parent organizations working on?</i></p> <p><u>Centennial and Altadeña Regions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Fund (one time donation) - Esperanza • Read-a-thon – Monte Vista • Family Fun Night – Sierra • Sally Foster Gift Wrap • Square 1 Art - original works, grade levels different <p><u>Aprende and Pueblo Regions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mariposa – Donation for specific “wish list” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technology Challenge 07-08 – Smart Boards ○ Math/Science Challenge 08-09 – Microscopes • Workplace matching funds (Intel) • Mirada – Read-a-thon Challenge for Shade Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading hours ○ Log – reward for completing it ○ Daily drawings ○ Mascot – “Eddie the Eagle” ○ Engaging teachers – lots of enthusiasm ○ Cost: \$1000; Net: \$13,000 • Manitas – Traditional Fundraiser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teacher engagement based on % participation ○ Cherry Dale – catalog of items ○ 50% return • Brisas – Student Artwork on magnet, etc. to fund Art Masterpiece • Paloma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spirit Shirt - “Stained Imaging”, “All over shirt” ○ Father/Daughter Dance <p><u>KMS & Akimel A-al Regions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norte <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual Fall Family Picnic ○ Hearing/Vision Testing



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Book Fair ○ Sock Hop ○ \$ for Shade Structure for younger kids ● KMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fall Festival (Wed night) ○ Sept - “Be a Middle Schooler for a Day” – parents attend school with student, fundraiser (“stay at home”) ● Estrella <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Going Green” – less paper going home, charge for printed copy ○ Entertainment Book sales ○ Gift wrap ○ Reading Garden (last year) ○ Family Portraits in garden ○ Pumpkin Walk <p><i>Do you have any advice or tips for parents at other schools about fundraising projects or related topics?</i></p> <p><u>Centennial and Altadeña Regions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$30 per family; if 50% donate we would have enough money ● Events for families vs. fundraising events ● Pumpkin Walk ● Carnival Games ● Dance (Family) <p><u>KMS & Akimel A-al Regions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “One time donation” – can be very successful, but also risky. Competition from other clubs who also want to raise \$ ● Focus on the <u>purpose</u> of fundraiser ● Bingo Night for families ● Restaurant Nights ● At Harvest Festivals, organizations sponsor booths and activities and raise \$ there
Closing	David thanked everyone for attending and for everything they do on behalf of our schools. The next meeting will be at Paloma Elementary on October 21. All PSC reps are invited to be a part of the agenda planning meeting on Tuesday, September 23 at 1:00 pm.

Minutes taken by Nancy Hetrick