

Parent Superintendent Council Agenda Summary

October 21, 2008 | 11:30-1:30 am | Paloma Elementary School

Topic	Summary
Introduction and Remarks	<p>Dr. Schauer welcomed everyone and introduced Governing Board members and principals who were present. He thanked Paloma for hosting and introduced Principal Beth Lang who introduced her PTA Board members and thanked Tammy Schick for making the food.</p>
District Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Enrollment • Structured English Immersion (SEI) • School Calendar • Featured Kyrene Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kyrene Foundation • Upcoming Redistricting Forum 	<p><u>Open Enrollment</u> Kelly Alexander pointed out a handout that was provided, which is an update from last year with current information about Open Enrollment.</p> <p><u>Structured English Immersion (SEI)</u> Gina Taylor said that when students enroll in school, if they have a home language other than English they are given an assessment and, based on their scores, they may be given English Language instruction. AZ law requires schools to group English language learners together in a structured English immersion setting. They are given an ILLP (Individual Language Learner Plan) and their SEI program is based on that, with a focus on 5 areas: grammar, vocabulary, conversation, reading and writing. As students progress they can take the assessment again and when they reach proficiency they are exited from the program.</p> <p><u>School Calendar</u> Mark Knight introduced members of the calendar committee that were present and said they are in the process of designing next year's school calendar, and may even adopt a two-year calendar. Parameters include aligning with the Tempe Union High School District (TUHSD) and respecting the AIMS window so students have enough time for instruction prior to taking it. On the district website there are two versions of the school calendar posted, and we have asked for staff and community feedback on them. Calendar Option A is basically a rollover of this year's calendar, and aligns with the one TUHSD is considering. In Calendar Option B, the "schools closed day" on Friday, December 18 will be moved to Wednesday, November 25, which is the Wednesday immediately prior to Thanksgiving.</p> <p><u>Kyrene Foundation</u> Dr. Schauer introduced Jeff Peters, who talked about the Kyrene Schools Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that is independent from the district. Their purpose is to advance the mission of the district by working with corporations, small business, organizations and community</p>

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	<p>members to fund programs, grants, scholarships and enhancements to the schools. They are attempting to recruit more members and Jeff distributed a sign-up sheet and encouraged PSC reps to join the Foundation and/or one of the projects. The Foundation has a goal of raising \$500,000 to support At-Risk Student & Safety Programs, the Family Resource Center, teacher mini-grants, scholarships for students, school enrichment programs and employee recognition. They have come up with several initiatives to support the program including Cash and In-Kind donations, Grants, Kyrene 411 Advertising, a Dinner/Auction and a Car Raffle. Tax credit donations are welcome, and United Way contribution can be earmarked for the Foundation.</p> <p><u>Redistricting Forum</u> Yvette David said the group <i>Preserve Kyrene</i> is holding a forum on unification at the Ahwatukee Fire Station. She will send an email with the time and location.</p>
<p>PTO Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paloma PTA Grant to Support Fitness 	<p><u>Paloma PTA Grant</u> Beth Lang said the Arizona PTA works in collaboration with the McDonald’s Corporation to offer academic awards. Paloma was awarded a \$1000 grant that they earmarked for their PE program, combining it with money from <i>Jump Rope for Heart</i> to purchase heart monitors and help kids work on fitness and set personal goals. They have a parent wall near the school office that tells about the grant and how they have used it.</p>
<p>Hot Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AYP and AZ Learns Labels • Legislative Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ABEC ○ K-LINK 	<p><u>AYP and AZ Learns Labels</u> Theresa Sweeney said that AYP is a measure of how we meet the federal standards within the requirements of NCLB. There are 3 components for elementary schools: attendance (90%), percent tested (95%), and test objectives (percent needed varies by subject and grade level). We have never had a problem with the 90% attendance, and this year we met our goal of testing 95% of the students. We did have issues with the test objectives. Any sub-group that has more than 40 students in it must be counted in a category. Sub-groups include ethnicity groups, English Language Learners (ELL), Special Education and Low Socioeconomic Status. A student may be counted in more than one group, and if that student does not meet objectives it shows up in all their groups. In elementary schools the sub-groups don’t usually add up to 40 students, but they do in middle school.</p> <p>Implications for not making AYP include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of a point on the AZ Learns Label • Title Schools are placed into School Improvement • Each year of school improvement brings sanctions <p>Pueblo and KMS did not make AYP this year. Pueblo does not accept Title money but KMS does, so KMS is in School Improvement Year Two. All of the sanctions from Year One apply, including offering parents</p>



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	<p>transportation to two alternate schools that are not in School Improvement. An additional sanction for Year Two is that we must offer free tutoring through an approved vendor.</p> <p>Kyrene as a district is in Year Two of Improvement Status. Sanctions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent notification letter • Title I 10% set aside for Professional Development • Conduct a self-assessment • Develop an Improvement Plan • Implement the Improvement Plan • Evaluate self-assessment and Improvement Plan <p><i>Arizona Learns</i> has to do with the State Standards. Labels are given of Excelling, Highly Performing, Performing Plus, Performing or Underperforming. Points are given for AIMS Percent Passing, MAP (students who achieve one year's growth), ELL, and AYP. To be an Excelling school a certain percent of your students much exceed the Standard (Z Score). Kyrene has 17 Excelling schools and 8 Highly Performing schools. Theresa shared AIMS charts that depict Kyrene's performance on Reading and Math compared to the State of Arizona and to NCLB expectations and standards. Theresa said that we are proud of Kyrene's scores when compared with the rest of the state, but we are not satisfied until we make progress toward the goals we have set for ourselves.</p> <p><u>ABEC and K-LINK</u></p> <p>Dr. Schauer said he has been asked how we are informed about what is going on in the legislature. Kyrene District is a member of ABEC (AZ Business and Education Coalition), a group that brings educators and business people together to develop common goals. Rae Waters said that ABEC was formed in 2002 and Kyrene is one of the founding members. It has been helpful in defeating some legislation and making sure we receive our 2% funding.</p> <p>Rae Waters informed the group about K-Link (Kyrene Legislative Information Network), a parent-run organization that was an advocacy group in past years. It consisted of a coalition of parents that took their issues to the legislature. If there is interest in bringing this group back, we need someone to lead it. If someone would volunteer to coordinate it, they could start by sending information home with the PTO newsletters to get people signed up. There are outside organizations that will help by giving presentations and training. It has been found more effective for a parent to contact the legislature than for staff to do it. Dr. Schauer said PSC would benefit from having a legislative committee to bring information to the group and help us work as a team to promote legislation benefiting education. Rae urged PSC members to consider this or mention it to other parents at their schools that might be interested.</p>



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<p>Small Group Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What questions do you still have about the topics discussed today? 	<p><u>Small Group Discussion</u></p> <p>Time was given for brainstorming a list of questions to be asked as a follow-up to today’s presentations. Following are the questions asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: Could the deadline for the calendar survey be extended? • A: Mark said we can extend it, but there are timelines approaching for adopting a calendar. Dr. Schauer said we will come up with a strategy for getting the word out and extending the deadline by a few days. • Q: I thought the state was supposed to provide funding for construction problems, but it seems that the legislature has decided they are not going to provide that money. Is that correct and can they do that? • A: Rae Waters said that is exactly what happened. There is a formula that tells the School Facilities Board how much they will fund but the State has to appropriate the money and they have not done that. Dr. Schauer said that is one of the reasons Kyrene override and bond elections are so important because it is the only way we can ensure we will have funding to maintain our buildings. • Q: How does the Foundation prioritize who receives the money they raise? • A: Jeff Peters said most of their money right now goes to At-Risk Student & Safety Programs and the Family Resource Center, but as they expand they will look at how to prioritize. For grants, there is a process to apply for them. • Q: Why does the number of sub-groups affect KMS making AYP but not the other middle schools? • A: Theresa said all middle schools are getting close to having issues with sub-groups in Special Ed and ELL. If a school does not have 40 students in a sub-group it would not impact that school. • Q: Do parents know what sub-groups did not make it? • A: The letter that goes to parents is very specific about why they did not make AYP and what happens next. The letter is written by the state and only goes to parents at the schools that did not make AYP. Sue Knudson said NCLB will be up for re-authorization, and there are fundamental problems with it that will eventually prevent every school in AZ from making AYP. Rae said www.nsba.org has information about this. • Q: Is there a website for K-LINK? • A: There used to be but there is no one heading it up right now. Sandy Lowe said the Parent Network is trying to share legislative information and would be happy to partner with someone on this. There is more information at the Kyrene Parent Network website. • Q: How much of an influence do we have on the school calendar? Also, if my first priority is to have Kyrene and TUHSD’s calendars aligned, how do I vote? • A: Mark said we are looking at some type of rollover plan for next year and want to put together a true tri-district calendar team in the

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	<p>future. The high school tends to dominate calendar discussions right now and the issue we will find with Option B is that high school teachers like having a day after the semester ends to do report cards and finalize everything before leaving on winter break.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: What happens to students in the SEI program if they don't pass after the first year? • A: SEI is set up as a 2-year program. If students are not ready to exit after two years they would continue in the program but we would not receive funding from the state. • Q: How does AYP affect the teachers? • A: Theresa said that not making AYP is demoralizing for the teachers. There has to be a balance between keeping teachers motivated and helping them work toward fixing the problem. In theory, if a school goes into Year Three or corrective action the state could take over the school, but this will be impossible due to how many schools could potentially be in this status. Rae Waters said that Roosevelt District is in Year Three and the state voted not to take them over. Most school districts did not make AYP. • Q: According to the graphs, 100% of students are supposed to make AYP by 2014. Does everyone realize this is unrealistic? • A: We hope this is taken care of during the re-authorization of NCLB. There are good aspects of NCLB that should remain and problems that should be eliminated. • Q: How would unification affect the Title schools? • A: If the three districts unify, we would have to re-work how we distribute Title funds and all Kyrene schools would probably fall below the line of qualifying for them. • Q: What will be talked about at the Tempe Chamber of Commerce <i>State of the Schools Address</i> tomorrow? • A: Dr. Schauer said each panel member has 90 seconds to make an opening statement and then they will take questions from the attendees. They were provided a list of questions ahead of time, but one of them is about unification and they cannot give opinions about that.
Closing	<p>Dr. Schauer thanked everyone for attending and for everything they do on behalf of our schools. The next meeting will be at Norte Elementary on November 18. All PSC reps are invited to be a part of the agenda planning meeting on Tuesday, October 28 at 1:00 pm.</p>

Minutes taken by Nancy Hetrick