

KYRENE

Parent Superintendent Council Agenda Summary

November 18, 2008 | 11:30-1:30 am | Norte Elementary School

Topic	Summary
<p>Introductions and Remarks</p> <p>District Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Structure – Who does what? • Tax Credits • Middle School Study • State Budget Situation • Phone Dialer 	<p><u>Introductions and Remarks</u></p> <p>Dr. Schauer welcomed everyone and introduced Principal Spencer Fallgatter who thanked his PTO for providing the food. Dr. Schauer thanked Yvette David for all her work on the “Save Kyrene” initiative to defeat unification on the November ballot. He introduced Governing Board members and principals who were present, thanking all Board members for their service to Kyrene, especially outgoing members Sue Knudson, Rich Zawtocky and Mitzi Epstein. Sue thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve Kyrene, first as a Norte &, KMS parent and then as a Board member.</p> <p><u>District Structure</u></p> <p>Kelly Alexander showed how to access information about the District structure from the Kyrene homepage. From the “Departments” tab you can find the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An organizational chart that shows the structure of upper administration • A list of Department Programs and Services with links to more information about each of them • An alphabetical directory of employees and departments with phone numbers and email links <p><u>Tax Credits</u></p> <p>A flyer about Tax Credits was distributed. Kelly Alexander said that as the year draws to a close, we are making a concerted effort to encourage community members to make a donation from their 2008 taxes. This will be advertised on school marquees, in school newsletters, and online. Online donations can only be made to a school – not to particular programs. They can be mailed, as long as postmarked by December 31. The district office will be open from 10:00-2:00 on December 31 to collect last-minute donations. On December 6 the Tempe Schools Credit Union is having a pancake breakfast for only \$2 where tax credit donations can be made. These donations are partially used to support character education programs, so those who don’t have a particular fund they want to give to can be encouraged to donate to at-risk youth.</p> <p><u>Middle School Study</u></p> <p>Dr. Schauer said that Dr. Garcia came to the November 13 Governing Board Meeting to say that he has been unable to complete the project</p>

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	<p>within the original timeframe. He has committed to finishing it during winter break and giving his report in January.</p> <p><u>State Budget Situation</u> Karin Smith shared information about next year’s budget situation. Our funding is based on enrollment the prior year and we are down about 200 students this year. Utility companies are increasing our rates, so even if we keep our usage level the cost will go up. Another anticipated variable is our Prop 301 funding may possibly be reduced by 25%. Health insurance costs are increasing. The TEI (Teacher Experience Index) is another variable we are provided as a district due to our number of veteran teachers, and there is question about whether this will be funded in the future. The 2% inflation factor is another variable that may not be funded next year due to the state’s budget deficit. How are we responding to this? We are looking for ways to tighten our current budget and pull unexpended funds from schools and departments. We are in the process of studying our programs to find other areas of potential savings.</p> <p><u>Goodbye to Sue Knudson</u> David introduced Kevin Anway, Norte teacher. He talked about Sue Knudson, her service to the Norte community and the impact she has made on the school and the district. He thanked her for her dedication to Kyrene.</p> <p><u>Phone Dialer</u> Mark Share gave an update on the phone dialer. The system was launched by sending out a message from Dr. Schauer that included information about how to go on-line and give feedback about 2 proposed calendars for next school year. Prior to the phone message going out, only 400 people had gone online to give feedback. The day after the message, over 1200 had done so. We have used the dialer three times – once with a general message for all Kyrene and twice with specific schools. The system can dial 35,000 phone calls an hour. In an emergency situation, the dialer sends a message to every phone number we have on file for a family. The information is taken from the school’s records, so if information is not accurate, parents should let the school office know. The parent portal will be open in the spring and parents will be able to change their own information.</p>
<p>PTO Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nike Recycling Program • Norte “Dads Club” 	<p><u>Nike Recycling Program</u> Cindy Sleasman talked briefly about a Nike recycling program, suggesting that student councils or PTO’s might want to become involved. Tennis shoes can be donated and Nike chops them up and turns them into “Nike Grind” to resurface sport courts. Tempe Kiwanis park re-did their tennis courts with this. There are drop off stations for the shoes. More information can be found at www.nikereuseashoe.com.</p> <p><u>Norte Dads Club</u> Spencer Fallgatter said the Norte Dad’s Club was started by a Norte dad to make a mark on the organization and a difference in children’s lives by</p>

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	<p>getting Dads more involved. They have identified ways for Dads to be supportive by organizing helpers for projects, donating money and clothing, purchasing equipment, etc. Spencer said the greatest benefit is for kids to see their father’s interest and involvement in their education.</p>
<p>Hot Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Goals Update • Resource Re-allocation for Program Needs 	<p><u>Superintendent Goals</u></p> <p>Dr. Schauer said that Kyrene’s Strategic Plan has five goals. He works with the Governing Board on what parts of the Strategic Plan to focus on to make a difference in the organization. He shared the list of Superintendent Goals and how they relate to the Strategic Plan. For Goal #1 “Improve Academic Achievement,” we have not had the desired results. We are not seeing consistent positive growth and are working to change that. There is information on the website about how we are going about that. While we have outperformed the state averages in AIMS scores, we are not increasing our achievement but have been flat for the past few years, so this is an area of focus. The Kyrene assessments show the same thing: erratic progress over time, lack of positive trends, variability between schools and an evident achievement gap. The achievement gap refers to the difference in achievement of minority students, Special Ed students, ELL (English Language Learner) students and low SES (Socio Economic Status) students. Dr. Schauer shared strategies we are employing to deal with this. He is giving presentations to every school staff about how we are doing as a district and how things need to change. He solicits feedback from the staffs about what they can do differently to achieve different results. Our overall goal is 80% proficiency on our Kyrene assessments. Some of the things that are happening take time. We are working to ensure that teachers are actually teaching the adopted curriculum, which is designed to support state standards. Elementary teachers in particular have been deluged with new curriculum every year.</p> <p>Another Superintendent Goal is to develop a new employee compensation system. We are making good progress on this. Improving the teacher evaluation system is another goal. We have developed a differentiated plan to provide more support to teachers that need it. Reducing teacher absenteeism is a goal because we know how important it is to students to have consistency in the classroom. We have reduced the absence rate from 4.25% in 05-06 to 3.77% in 07-08.</p> <p>There is a goal to address AYP issues. Last year the Board urged us to eliminate problems due to not testing a high enough percentage of students. We did, but our current problem is about not making learning progress, particularly in Special Ed sub-groups. Another goal is to report and update on facilities plans, particularly construction projects. Our website always has the latest information about what is happening. There is a goal to eliminate audit findings for student attendance. We have been audited due to errors in reporting student attendance in past years. We are anticipating this year there will be no negative findings in our audit.</p>

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	<p><u>Resource Reallocation for Program Needs</u></p> <p>With our current budget situation and the way we are funded by the State of Arizona, we are always scrambling to fund our budget. Because funding will continue to decline, our only way to do things differently is to reallocate our current funding and put the most money in the areas where it will make the most difference. Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan is “Allocate resources in a manner that is effective, efficient, and responsive to the diverse educational needs of students and schools.” We are working to establish a base level of support that all schools need as a starting point in allocating resources. The areas we are currently focusing on are class sizes, SEI (Structured English Immersion), kindergarten, Title I, utilities, and school office and administration model. We are anticipating losing SEI funding from the state. Our current kindergarten model is not paying for itself so we need to make changes. Our Title I budget decreased by 40% this year and we supplemented from our M & O budget, but cannot do that next year. Excess utilities is being phased out, so we need to reduce our costs. School office and administration model refers to how we determine the number of staff in each school office. An administrator is taking the lead on each of these areas, working with groups to determine how to make changes that will enable the program to be efficient and effective. They will make recommendations to the K-8 Programming Study committee, which will come up with recommendations to the Superintendent and Governing Board.</p>
<p>Small Group Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What questions do you still have about the topics discussed today? 	<p>Everyone talked in small groups to come up with questions about today’s topics.</p> <p>Q: How are we taking the re-authorization of NCLB into consideration as we look at student achievement?</p> <p>A: President-elect Obama has said one of his big priorities is to fund all the mandates in that act, which could help schools a lot. Also, there is a lot of movement to address some of the punitive aspects of it. We are looking forward to positive changes.</p> <p>Q: Will David Garcia be coming to a PSC meeting?</p> <p>A: We would like to have him come, but he has received a fellowship that is taking much of his time, so he may be unavailable.</p>
<p>Closing</p>	<p>Dr. Schauer thanked everyone for attending and for everything they do on behalf of our schools. The next meeting will be at Akimel A-al Middle School on January 20. The next agenda planning meeting is being rescheduled, and Nancy will email everyone with the date and time.</p>

Minutes taken by Nancy Hetrick