

K Y R E N E

Parent Superintendent Council Agenda Summary

January 20, 2009 | 11:30-1:30 am | Akimel A-al Middle School

Topic	Summary
<p>Introductions and Remarks</p> <p>District Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce new Board Members • Presentation on Middle School Study • School Calendar for 2009-10 • Intel Matching Grants 	<p><u>Introductions and Remarks</u></p> <p>Dr. Schauer welcomed everyone and introduced Akimel A-al Principal Ernie Brodersen who thanked his PTO for providing the food. Dr. Schauer introduced Governing Board members and principals who were present. Ross Robb, new Governing Board President, said a few words of welcome and talked about the upcoming year and the budget situation facing the nation and the district. He assured everyone that we will not use the budget as an excuse, but will continue to offer the very best quality education for all our students. He encouraged everyone to communicate with their legislators and ask that they not balance the budget on the backs of education.</p> <p><u>Presentation on Middle School Study</u></p> <p>Dr. Schauer said that Dr. David Garcia will attend a K-8 Programming Study Committee meeting on Thursday, January 29 at 6:30 pm at the Furlong Center to share the results of his evaluation of the Middle School Program. This will be an informal meeting so there can be questions and dialogue with Dr. Garcia. We will follow this with an item on the February 10 Governing Board agenda for the Board to talk about the results and any next steps.</p> <p><u>School Calendar for 2009-10</u></p> <p>Mike Williams informed everyone that the Board adopted a one-year calendar for 2009-10, which is located on the Kyrene website. The first day of school is August 10 and there are a couple of differences between our calendar and that of Tempe Union High School District. TUHSD has the Friday before winter break off, and instead of that day, Kyrene students have the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off. A comment was made that this might confuse parents with students in both districts. Mike said in the future we would like to combine our calendar committee with that of the high school district. Dr. Schauer said we are going to track absence data on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving to see if having Wednesday off has any effect on absences for those days.</p> <p><u>Intel Matching Grants</u></p> <p>Katherine Princic from Intel talked about the Intel Matching Grant Program. Last year they were able to donate a little over \$11,000 for Kyrene schools. The way it works is that if an Intel employee volunteers at a school, after their first 20 hours, Intel will give a \$10 donation for each</p>

Topic	Summary
	<p>volunteer hour. There is no maximum cap on what a school can receive and the Intel volunteers do not have to be school parents. In comparing Kyrene’s participation in this program with that of other districts, we have a lot of potential for growth. Katherine said they are working to educate Intel employees about the program and she asks that the schools let their Intel parents know how important this is. There is more information and a flyer that can be downloaded on their website at www.intel.com/community/arizona. She distributed a stand containing Intel volunteer cards for each school office. Katherine said if schools notify her of upcoming events that need volunteers, she would be happy to publicize them to Intel employees. She needs about 3-4 weeks notice for scheduling. Her phone number is 480-554-5174.</p>
<p>PTO Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akimel A-al Fundraisers and “Character Counts” presentation 	<p>Maureen Delaney talked about several events at Akimel A-al. On January 28 they are having a Character Counts Day to inform parents about the traits students are learning. Their PTO has had a lot of small fundraisers, but it is hard for middle schools to recruit volunteers. They have been working with Booster Juice and have done a gift card program where their PTO got a percentage of gift cards sold. They have dinner nights at NYPD pizza. Big Daddy’s Smokehouse Grill catered today’s luncheon, and they are motivated to work with the schools to do family dinner nights where they give back 20% of what they take in.</p>
<p>Hot Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher Compensation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Performance Pay and Student Achievement • School District Impact from Economic Crisis 	<p><u>Teacher Compensation</u></p> <p>Theresa Sweeney talked about 2 performance pay programs in Kyrene: Proposition 301 and Career Ladder. Prop 301 is a voter-approved sales tax increase that goes to the district. The original legislation allowed districts to create their own plans for using the money, but several years ago the Department of Ed asked for oversight and a plan to be approved by them. Kyrene’s plan has a component on student achievement and one on parent satisfaction as determined by our annual survey. Our teachers have been receiving extra money from this since the 2001-02 school year. There are 3 funds within Prop 301: 20% base salary increase, 40% student achievement and 40% classroom site fund. The classroom site fund is principal-directed, and they have chosen to put 52% of that fund back into compensation. Most teachers receive in excess of \$4,000 extra money in their salary because of this program.</p> <p>Career Ladder began in 1985 and about 28 districts in the State of AZ participate. When it began, districts had the option of participating or not and Kyrene chose to participate. Every year this program is discussed for possible elimination by the State. Career Ladder is designed to increase student achievement and encourage teacher leadership. Teachers submit a portfolio that is evaluated individually, although some work together on their portfolios. They must document positive student achievement and must submit a plan for professional growth. A Career Ladder Advisory Council reviews the portfolios, and teachers receive from \$1,000 to \$6,500 annually for participation. About 75% of our teachers participate in this program, and if the state discontinues it, their salaries will be decreased.</p>

Topic	Summary
	<p>Every year the district must submit a rigorous application to the state for this money. There have been multiple evaluations of the Career Ladder program, and they always show that Career Ladder districts out-perform non-Career Ladder districts. Ross Robb said it is important to keep in mind when we talk to our legislators that if this program is cut, the effect on Career Ladder districts will be unfair to cuts made to non-Career Ladder districts. He suggested telling legislators we believe in local control and we want the legislator to make cuts on an equitable basis. Sandy Lowe said that there is a pending lawsuit about equity in funding among Career Ladder and non Career Ladder districts. Gilbert and Vail School Districts are participating in the lawsuit. Theresa said Gilbert School District made a conscious decision not to apply for this program. Anna Montalbo said this program attracts and retains teachers by giving them additional compensation and ties it to student achievement. We want experienced teachers in Kyrene and if this program is cut, it could force some teachers to leave the profession for a more lucrative opportunity. Dr. Schauer said that superintendents do not want to get into competition with each other for funding, so have been meeting to talk about cuts that affect all equally.</p> <p><u>School District Impact from Economic Crisis</u></p> <p>Representative Rae Waters said that last Thursday the Chairman’s budget was proposed and they are looking at taking \$103 million from education in fiscal year 2009 and \$892 million next year. Universities are slated to take a big hit. Potential cuts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phasing out Career Ladder and the Teacher Experience Index, which Kyrene receives because of our number of experienced teachers • The Math/ Science initiative to train math and science teachers • Soft capitol funds • Elimination of full day kindergarten and early kindergarten • Rolling back to 2007 funding levels for Gifted Education • Vocational tech classes at the high school • Elimination of tax credit funds <p>Rae encouraged everyone to ask their representatives to let districts decide how to make the cuts, rather than cutting specific programs. Letters or emails should be individualized. To receive budget updates, go to the House or Senate websites or get on the edleg.net list from NSBA. Rae’s number at the legislature is 602-926-5550 and her email is rwaters@azleg.gov. She will keep the district updated as she is able. Dr. Schauer said the cuts Rae mentioned are options on the table, but they will likely not all happen. However, since 43% of the State Budget goes to K-12 Education, we will see cuts. He said an important point to share with legislators is that our per-pupil funding is already low compared with the rest of the nation, so this is an even greater crisis for Arizona.</p> <p>Dr. Schauer pointed out the handout of his article that appeared in the <i>Wrangler News</i> and several other papers about the budget situation. He receives regular budget updates from the AZ School Administrators (ASA) and they stress four major points:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics: Education employs a large number of people in our state, so cutting programs results in cutting jobs and the amount of money spent in the local economy. • Equity: Any cuts that are made should be across the Board and should affect everyone equally. • Local control: If something has to go, give the governing boards and administrations of the districts the authority of deciding what to cut. • Balance: Besides cutting the budget, look at revenue enhancement. <p>Terry Tatterfield said Kyrene is in a good position to weather the current budget situation. When our enrollment peaked a few years ago, we began examining our money and where it went and we have done a number of things to set us apart financially from other districts. We have been very conservative with our money and have kept our cash reserves healthy. Terry said that community support through bond initiatives and capital overrides will buffer us from the effects of some of the cuts. For example, we can buy buses out of bond money rather than using soft capital. With utility rates going up, our bond monies have afforded us the opportunity to update our equipment and facilities to give us efficiencies in this area. For this budget year we have already quarantined from 15-30% of school and district budgets. Once we know what will actually be cut, we will issue updates. Terry said that when it comes time to make actual decisions, nothing will be done arbitrarily.</p> <p>Kelly Alexander said in recent communications we have asked staff and the community for budget saving ideas. We are collecting these ideas and at some point we will use them to help make decisions. We want to listen to the community and would like to meet with community groups to share information and receive input. We will have a place on the Kyrene website for the community to provide suggestions and obtain the latest budget updates.</p>
Small Group Discussion	There was not enough time to break into small discussion groups.
Closing	Dr. Schauer thanked everyone and Akimel A-al for hosting. The next meeting will be at Mirada Elementary School on February 17.

Minutes taken by Nancy Hetrick