

# KYPRENE

## Parent Superintendent Council Agenda Summary

March 17, 2009 | 11:30-1:30 am | Milenio Elementary School

Topic	Summary
<p><b>Introductions and District Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspiration Award Winners</li> <li>• Legislative Involvement</li> <li>• Budget Update</li> <li>• Middle School Update</li> <li>• Student Superintendent Advisory Council</li> </ul>	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>Dr. Schauer welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Milenio Principal Nancy Branch. She thanked her PTO for providing the food. Dr. Schauer introduced Governing Board members who were in attendance and reviewed the agenda. Originally the main topic was to have been about our Math Standards, but we will reschedule that for the April meeting. Instead, we will take time to talk about recent events at Waggoner Elementary School.</p> <p><u>Inspiration Award Winners</u></p> <p>Patty Weegar reminded everyone about the Inspiration Award contest that was created in response to Ron Clark’s Back-to-School message to staff last July. She thanked all the PTOs that contributed to the prizes for this contest. Patty introduced Mary Harding, School Secretary at Mariposa, who won first prize in the support staff category. Mary said she was able to attend a recent women’s conference with her prize money and thanked everyone for making that possible. The program for which she won the award is called Miss Manners. The concept was brought to the school leadership team who approved it and Mary took on the character of Miss Manners. The purpose of the program is to reinforce positive character qualities among the students. Mary showed a brief video clip of Miss Manners introducing the quality of “Active Listening.” Once the quality has been introduced, students who are “caught” demonstrating that quality are given coupons good for 25 cents at the student store.</p> <p>Patty introduced teachers Brenda Mulkey from Cerritos and Karen Schwartz from Esperanza who won the Inspiration Award Grand Prize. They were sent to the Ron Clark Academy in Georgia. Karen thanked the PSC for contributing toward their expenses and talked about their experience. The Ron Clark Academy is a one-of-a-kind school, and Karen said the energy there was electric. Classrooms and offices are designed to welcome kids and draw them in. The emphasis is on making school like a home, where students feel safe and know that people care about them. Manners are an important part of the instruction the students receive. Ron Clark’s methods are very energetic and his standards are high. He takes time to motivate each student while holding them accountable for their behavior. The rapport and relationship between him and the students is very strong. His classes are designed to relate instruction to real life situations and are focused on increasing student achievement by meeting</p>

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	<p>each individual child’s needs.</p> <p>Brenda talked about Ron Clark’s book, <i>The Essential 55</i>, which are the rules that every student and staff member at the school live by. She gave examples of some of the rules, all of which encourage the positive character traits of respect, integrity, manners and hard work. The positive energy at the school is a result of the 55 rules. The best part of the whole experience for Brenda was interacting with the students. They always had smiles on their faces and enthusiasm for everything they were doing. Karen said that she and Brenda are sharing the passion and vision they saw at the Ron Clark Academy with teachers here in Kyrene.</p> <p><u>Legislative Involvement</u>  Representative Rae Waters talked about how to get information and give input to the legislature about upcoming legislation. There is a “Request to Speak” system called “ALIS” that anyone can join by logging on to a kiosk at the legislature. Once signed up, they can listen to the legislature in committee and on the floor, look at archived information, and request to speak to a bill that is being discussed. Rae distributed a form for PSC members to fill out and Rae’s assistant will input them into the “ALIS” system. Rae demonstrated how to use the system and said that any input in support or opposition to a bill can become a part of the public record. Information about education legislation can be obtained from ASBA (AZ School Board Association) at <a href="http://www.azsba.org">www.azsba.org</a>. Click on “Governmental Relations” and “Legislative Briefs.”</p> <p>Rae is sponsoring a Democratic Caucus in District 20 next Wednesday, March 25 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Pecos Community Center. They will do a short budget presentation with basic facts and after that they want to hear from the community.</p> <p><u>Budget Update</u>  Dr. Schauer said the Budget will be the main topic at tonight’s Board meeting. No action will be taken but information will be given to the Board and they will have an opportunity to ask questions and give feedback. We know there are budget reductions coming and we will have to make changes. In talking about upcoming budget cuts, the administration has developed a process of putting everything that could be considered on the table and then developing three scenarios that could be implemented depending on the funding we receive from the legislature. We are required to adopt a budget by July 15, but we are holding back on any concrete plans until we hear from the legislature. Another variable has to do with how much Arizona will receive from the economic stimulus package. Part of the budget discussions included consideration of the suggestions that have come in from the community. We are hoping to retain staff other than those who are on one-year-only contracts. We always non-renew these people, but in the past we were able to hire 95% of them back the following year, and this year we may not be able to do that. Information about the budget is available on the Kyrene website.</p>

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	<p>Regarding class sizes, we are not expecting a big change next year. We have been staffing lower than our class size guidelines and next year we will staff closer to the ranges. Gina Taylor said that if we end up with a “worst case scenario” of money coming from the state, we may have to look at increasing our class size guidelines, but that is just one item on a list of changes that could be made. Anna Montalbo said she and Margaret Bowerman have been talking to teachers about this for months, and they tell them that Kyrene has made cautious budget decisions over the years and this has prepared us for the current situation we are facing. We are in a better financial position than many surrounding districts. Anna assured everyone that while budget discussions are going on, teaching is also going on and kids are learning, which is the work of the district.</p> <p><u>Middle School Update</u> At the March 24 Board meeting we will present the local assessment data and look at years of results to see what the pattern has been and whether there has been much of a change in student achievement the past few years. The middle school principals meet regularly to talk about what can be done to constantly improve the middle school program.</p> <p><u>Student Superintendent Advisory Council</u> Student Superintendent Advisory Council (SSAC) will be having a study session with the Governing Board on April 14 at 6:00 pm. They will talk to the Board members about what it is like to be a student at a Kyrene school, what problems they see, and what changes would they like. Anyone that wants to come is invited.</p>
<p><b>Hot Topics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waggoner Elementary School</li> </ul>	<p>David gave an update about what happened at Waggoner Elementary School early Monday morning. It appears that there was some type of structural failure in the multi-purpose room roof. The damage is devastating – there was debris everywhere and water that was pumped through the severed pipes went into many classrooms. We have had officials on site telling us what we need to do. Our insurance company has hired structural engineers to look into this, and we are going to have those engineers look at the entire district to see what actions need to be taken to ensure that all schools are safe. School was cancelled at Waggoner Monday, but most of the school is usable so we had school today. A few classes are being held in the media center at KMS for a week or two until their classrooms are ready to occupy. Tomorrow morning at 9:30 Dr. Schauer will be meeting with any Waggoner parents that wish to come and talk about what happened. At the March 24 Board meeting we will have a 6:00 PM study session to talk about this issue. We have many outside parties analyzing the situation and we will share any information that we have. There has been a lot of media attention about this, and Dr. Schauer reassured everyone that we will have all buildings thoroughly inspected. We currently do quarterly visual inspections, but we will find out which buildings need more attention. The multi-purpose room at Waggoner is a separate building from the rest of the campus, so the structural problem</p>

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	<p>was confined just to that building and the rest of the school is safe.</p> <p>Questions and Answers:</p> <p>Q: Will the insurance company have outside engineers look at the building in an objective way?</p> <p>A: Dr. Schauer has talked with officials at the City of Tempe and they are ensuring that we coordinate our efforts with everyone who needs to be involved.</p> <p>Q: When will the analysis of other schools be complete?</p> <p>A: It should be fairly soon. We already have a demo permit to start removing the debris and that will help reveal the extent of the damage. Whatever information we learn will be made public.</p> <p>Q: Are there needs that Waggoner has with regard to replacing things in the classroom that other PTOs could help with?</p> <p>A: We are in pretty good shape and the insurance company has told us that everything is covered. If we learn of any needs, we will let PSC reps know. Waggoner PTO is planning a carnival on April 3 and they may need to borrow things from other PTOs, such as tables, a sound system, etc. Margaret Bowerman said that KEA is willing to do a drive to help replace damaged items for teachers. There is information on the Kyrene website about this, and Michelle Hirsch suggested we include a list of ways that people can help. Patty Weegar said our insurance cannot cover personal items that staff had in the classroom, so PTOs might be able to help replace that type of thing. David said he will talk about this at the Waggoner PTO meeting tomorrow morning. Gina said we are asking teachers to make a list of the things they have purchased for their classrooms that might have been ruined. Kathy Cranson suggested that gift cards to Target or somewhere similar might be helpful.</p> <p>Dr. Schauer said we are looking at bringing in an inflatable building for the rest of the year until the MPR has been repaired. Tomorrow a letter about this issue is going to every Kyrene parent. Nancy Dudenhoefer is developing FAQ's for our website on this topic.</p>
<b>Closing</b>	Dr. Schauer thanked everyone for coming and Milenio for hosting. The next meeting will be at Pueblo Middle School on April 21.

Minutes taken by Nancy Hetrick