

Scottsdale Parent Council

General Meeting

Chaparral High School

October 19, 2011

Meeting called to order at 9:30 by SPC President, Heather Heroldt.

Calendar Review / Announcements –

Ann Hanson, President of SEA announced that on November 17, the President of AEA will be speaking in Scottsdale offering a good opportunity to hear his perspective on the state of education in Arizona. A Q&A session will follow. This will be held at Coronado High School and details are also available in The Learning Curve.

Governing Board Members in attendance today are Bonnie Sneed and Dr. Eric Meyer. Bonnie introduced herself and shared that she was a new SUSD Governing Board member, a past Secretary of SPC, and is currently working on professional development issues for SUSD.

Q&A with Prevention Chair, Dr. Dana Sherman

Q: A student came home with rash on her face from gym class. The child was pushed in the locker room and child fell. Aggressor told her that if she did it again, "there would be blood on the floor". Parent told her daughter that she should have taken the opportunity to address this with the aggressor at the time, as the aggressive behaviour from the other child will continue. The child thinks incident is over and is now just trying to avoid the aggressor. What would Dr. Dana recommend? Dr. Dana recommends that the parent address this issue at home and find out if she is willing to stand up for herself if it happens again. Dr. Dana recommends asking the child what she could have done differently, as it is always good to look situations even if they are handled perfectly. Dr. Dana recommends that the parent talk to her how she really feels about it, and if she wants her parent's help or not. If she is unwilling to report it parent needs to decide if she will report for her. Ask her if she wants to help prevent this from happening to someone else. Sometimes taking that approach will help if the child feels they are in the leadership role. Also talk to child's friends to get their perception on the situation. Dana recommends she should report incident as a threat.

Frequency of Bullying - A study shows that majority of middle school bullying happened in the middle of the social hierarchy, and the bully is trying to "climb" and gain status through his actions. Another line of research said that victims were fringe kids that didn't fit in. But another point to consider is "top tier" kids who are fighting for or to retain their social status. They gain status by knocking another kid. Parents need to teach kids that long term, aggressive kids are not considered popular. As kids get older they figure this out and the top tier bullying peaks in 8th grade.

Q: What do you do if child asks you NOT to report? Dr. Dana recommends the parent explains how and why you are doing it. Parent needs follow up from teacher also. Tell the teacher you would like some follow up and report on what has been done, whether it be observation, extra attention to the child or other actions. Also, if parent reports with a suggested action/solution, that is helpful and can help quickly resolve things.

Don't talk to parents of the aggressor to try to resolve things. Think about outcome you expect from that situation. The other parent will be naturally defensive and in most cases neither parents were present during the situation with the kids. No parent will thank you for bringing this up. All emotions are high, and it is a recipe for disaster. Let principal or teacher work with the other child's parent for resolution instead.

Understanding the Code of Conduct - Dr. Milissa Sackos, Executive Director of Community and Student Services

Last year SUSD decided to look at local and state changes/laws and use discipline data from district and AYS (Arizona Youth System) to find what problems are common in the district.

Changes/additions include:

Now by signing open enrollment application, the parent and student agree to comply with policies and regulations of SUSD, including the Code of Conduct

Consistency in implementation of Code of Conduct, data collection and data entry – All districts in the state now have to report in the same manner and automatically upload data to the State Department of Education accountability system.

Community / parent outreach

Attendance - Auto notices (robo calls) to parents now occur when a student has an unexcused absence. This practice is now consistent district wide. Also, attendance in Middle Schools is now reported period by period to alert administration immediately.

Minor Aggressive Acts: added language in Code of Conduct to include horseplay.

Substance Abuse: In the past the policy called for automatic suspension for 9 days and a chemical awareness program. The Code of Conduct now includes a preventative approach where if parents sign up for the chemical awareness program voluntarily, the suspension is reduced to 5 days.

Level 2 – clarified that action is taken if the second violation occurs within 365 days of the first.

Technology Use: Language was added to give consequences for use of the district system or computers to harass other students. Also, in identifying the need to teach social-media responsibility, the Code of Conduct language was changed to include "materials may be confiscated".

Search and Seizure – added language to include use of canines or other detection resources.

Student ID – added language that students may be required to carry or wear ID. SUSD is also looking at technology for school busses to keep track of who is on each bus. Dr. Sackos is unsure of the launch date for this.

Student Release Form: Added language to the photo/video release to include social media sites like Nixel and Facebook. Also a Yearbook release was added to specify yearbook pictures.

Visitor ID: Added language to say, visitors “must sign in”

What’s Happening Now

-Continuing community/parent outreach; bullying/cyber bullying awareness, drug/alcohol awareness, SPC collaboration/ Prevention awareness

-Ongoing training on consistent implementation of Code of Conduct across the district and consistent reporting and data entry.

-Continued discipline data analysis

-Committee currently meeting to recommend positive behaviour supports and training.

-Proposed policy adoptions forthcoming from legal on Technology Use Agreements and Bullying A.R.S. 341 (A)(37)

-New requirements on how we address bullying in schools

-Provides timelines for reporting and investigating bullying

-Requires us to provide student/parents with written copy of student rights, protections and support services when bullying report is received.

-Requires follow up with victim and outcome of investigation

-Document retention for at least 6 years

-Disseminate information on Board policies, incident reporting, support services and student rights at beginning of each school year and to new students and their families

-Posting in classroom and on website

Student Services specific to bullying

-Creation and implementation of a social skills program for offenders beginning 2012/2013. (Similar to Alcohol program, it includes a family piece. Family member must also attend the program)

-Refinement and expansion of victim/bystander support: SPI, SPC, SPD, SUSD resources; counselors, psychologists, social workers

Q: - Where do issues at bus stops fall? It is included in COC as students are still school's responsibility. Even weekend activity can be school related if it has a "nexus to the school" and kids are afraid to be in school.

Q: What about cyber bullying between school districts? Dr. Sackos recommends that it is still be reported to your school, and admin will get involved and deal with other district.

Q: What oversight exists to make sure there is uniform application of the statute? Some teachers think everything falls under category of Horseplay. Comprehensive training and all students are allowed due process at the site.

Q: Regarding the bus question and the door to door jurisdiction philosophy; many parents are not aware of it. This fact can empower parents to consider bus, bus stop, and before/after school incidents as situations that can be investigated by the school.

Q: How do we support the bus driver who is responsible for the safety of the kids as they drive? The first step is finding out who is supposed to be on the bus and who is actually on the bus. Sometimes there were kids not even our students were on the bus. As mentioned earlier, the district is investigating technology that can help SUSD determine who is on the bus each day.

Suggestion to post the high points of the Code of Conduct on the busses so kids will see it daily.

Dana Sherman – SPI offers Chemical Awareness program at Coronado for kids who have been guilty of violating drug/alcohol policy. Also, go to SUSD website to see all the resources available or call Milissa.

Q: What problem -trends are showing up? A decrease in at risk behaviour and increase in developmental assets is presenting. However, bullying data shows that there will be a jump in reporting before a decrease as the awareness campaign becomes more known. There will be some false reports at first as there will be confusion in what is considered an incidence.

Q: Dana, what are Prevention Specialists role on campus? SPI Representatives work at elementary schools 5 hours per week. The amount of time is all based on funding. We were lucky to get full funding from city of Scottsdale. Representatives work 8 hours at the Middle School level and 4 hours at the High Schools. Some PTO's purchase additional hours to see students or conduct programs. They also do programs in classrooms or other group settings on bullying, anger management, social skills, behavioural lessons.

James Dorer – Head of Security for SUSD – This is a new position for SUSD with a responsibility for emergency preparedness and to provide support services in case of a crisis. He also interacts with law enforcement and SROs. SRO's job is to work hand in hand with administration at the site. In specific instances, there are 2 different investigations; Administration and the SRO investigate separately if a crime involved. They work together and communicate daily.

Q: If there is an external investigation and police are questioning students, can police come in and question student witnesses without parent being involved? The District has policies and procedures that outline how police interact with students. In regular situations of questioning student witnesses, 99% of time parent will be included. Law enforcement can question students without

parent involvement, but only in very specific instances, and usually when the student is the victim and the parent is under suspicion. In this situation, notifying parent would compromise the investigation.

Dr Peterson Q&A

School Grades came out for schools: 90% of SUSD schools received A's and B's. On average, 50% of schools received these grades. SUSD tied for 8th in ranking for the state with Chandler. The #1 districts were a tie between San Simone and Vail School Dist (south in Tucson). Visit Arizona Dept of Education at www.azed.gov homepage for a full list.

Calendar – Dr. Peterson has received many emails and calls. They are taking calendar to the Governing Board for approval for next year's calendar. He also wants to get calendars for the next 2 years approved at the February meeting. School will start Aug 13 next year. Fall break will be the 3rd week of October. They are looking to cut winter break to 8 days - otherwise we go to school through May 30 which is after Memorial Day weekend, and Dr. Peterson knows many families would cut out at the end of year. Also push spring break week back one week.

Q: How do conferences work now? There are no designated days for this year but expectation is that teachers will communicate with parents in some way. Some are doing conferences and some are not. Teachers did get a day of pay in their contract to pay for them to do conferences during the year. Teachers said that did not work well. Next year Dr. Peterson is proposing two ½ days k-12 in the first and third quarters.

Q: Busses – how do we get follow up on bus incidences? – Send email to Dan Shear to get follow up to bus situations. Bus driver can write a referral form to give to administration to get them involved.

Building update – Ground breaking at ANLC occurred recently. Mohave is going well, the Yavapai multi purpose room is on schedule to be done during Thanksgiving week. Ingleside and Cocopah are going well. They are installing LED high efficiency lighting on school exteriors. Solar collectors are up at DMHS and the solar shade structure at DCES will be going in.

Advertising – They have pricing ready to send to the Governing Board for approval for busses and white fleet. BRAC is working on next phase of sponsorships – strategic partnerships. Discussions on what we do with the revenue continue.

Adjourned at 11:25

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Dorsch, Recording Secretary