

# SCOTTSDALE PARENT COUCIL

## GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, August 17, 2011**

### **Welcome and Board Member Introductions**

-Introductions of 2011-2012 SPC Board Members made by President, Heather Heroldt.

-Heather announced that Keri-Pittenger Baracy has had to resign from her position as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Board member, Pete Trebbe is being considered to take her place and will be confirmed by vote at next month's meeting.

-Learning Community Chairs and Level Liaisons – The Board is seeking to fill some openings for these positions. If you were past Learning Community Chair (Complex Chair) or Level Liaison please consider taking it on again. New candidates will be considered also. Please contact Heather Heroldt if you are interested.

### **Communications**

We will continue with the two issues of TheLearning Curve; the general issue and Learning 2. These e-publications include columns from various officers on the board, including "Myth Busters" by Heather. Please send ideas and any "myths" to Heather.

Julie Gildersleeve – VP Communications - if Parent Organizations have not yet submitted contact information, please submit it to Julie at [vpcommunication@scottsdaleparentcouncil.org](mailto:vpcommunication@scottsdaleparentcouncil.org). She will prepare the directory for distribution in October.

### **Meetings**

We will be rotating meeting locations for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of year.

September 14, 9:30 – Coronado High School

October 19, 9:30 – Chaparral High School Library

November 9, 9:30 – Saguaro High School

December 14, 9:30 – Desert Mountain High School

January – Coronado High School

January will be Legislative Breakfast at Coronado where Legislators are invited to come meet parents. This meeting will probably be on a Monday rather than Tuesday or Wednesday.

SPC Reps will be visiting parent organizations.

## **Arts in Education Update**

Francesca Thomas - Interim President of Arts in Education Council – They are trying to expand participation in Arts and Ed Council and they meet monthly.

A&E Fundraiser - This year they will be having a fundraiser – the first ever and are looking to get people involved. Jobs of all sizes are available. Please visit [www.Artsined.org](http://www.Artsined.org) to see info on volunteer ops. Please look to people who are interested in A&E to join in this committee. Date is not yet firm but they are looking at end of February or early March and they may be partnering w/SUSD Foundation. It will involve competition between the Learning Communities

Monthly newsletter will also be started for A&E. Please contact Francesca for info on helping out or visit the SPC website for info on A&E.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Suzanne Berger - SPC Treasurer – Presented proposed budget for this year. Fiscal year begins June 1. The only source of income for SPC is school membership dues. Invoices have been sent out and should be received by Parent Organizations by the end of week. Please return them to Suzanne as soon as possible. She has included stamped and addressed envelopes for your convenience.

Expenses – SPC has very limited expenses, the largest being communication. Other expenses include insurance for special meetings, meeting room rental, hospitality, postage.

**\*\*\*Motion** by Francesca to accept the budget as presented. Seconded by Heather. All voted in favour. **Motion carries.**

**Dana Sherman – Prevention Chair** – In each general meeting Dana will present a topic on Prevention. Scottsdale Prevention Institute has Prevention Specialists in SUSD schools. SUSD is now providing a Bystander Strategy curriculum that Dana developed. This will be distributed at Back to School nights or they will be passed out to students at schools that have already had BTS nights. This curriculum can be implemented in your schools to deal with bullying. Contact Dana if you want to start this program.

The new AZ bullying law will affect our students. This law was just recently passed and directs districts to implement:

- Supply written incidence form (available from Student Services on the SUSD website).
- Establish disciplinary procedures against employees who fail to report bullying incidents.
- Provide students with copy of support services available at their district.

It is important to students that they can report anonymously so they can be protected from student retaliation. Be sure to encourage your child to report bullying as SUSD will do all possible to protect him/her.

SUSD has the opportunity to be on the forefront of bullying prevention. SUSD and SPI is working to reformulate the definition of harassment and bullying, including cyber-bullying. It is sometimes

difficult for the schools to determine if cyber-bullying is in their jurisdiction. But if cyber-bullying affects students at school, then the schools have the opportunity to engage and deal with the problem.

Dana attended a positive meeting w district leadership regarding some new ideas on how to deal with bullying. One idea presented was a diversion program, similar to chemical awareness where the student needs to go through an education program with their parent after an infraction.

We have a shared responsibility to address bullying. Bullies reverse rolls often and the victim becomes the bully. When working toward a solution, it may be helpful to come to a teacher and district with a plan, rather than just demanding a solution. This helps us all be part of the solutions together. As parents we need to model good behaviour – as kids are learning from us. A community problem requires a community solution.

Question – How does the school ensure that a report is made anonymously and how does the school determine the legitimacy of reports? The goal is to protect the victim. The online report form can help ensure that privacy is a priority. Rights of privacy sometimes dictate that kids may never face their accuser. The school investigates fully and refers to all records from past situations to see if a pattern is occurring. During the investigation, the target and the accused bully will never be put in a room together. Email Dr. Milissa Sackos at [msackos@susd.org](mailto:msackos@susd.org) for clarification on this policy.

Improvements in the area of bullying is a priority of Dr. Peterson.

### **Understanding AYP – Adequate Yearly Progress – Dave McNeil – Director of Assessment, Accountability and Research for SUSD.**

#### **1. To meet AYP** – (which ends in 2014 at end of NCLB – No Child Left Behind)

- 95% students must be assessed on AIMS test

- Meet AMO's (Annual Measurable Objectives). For example, 81.2% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders must meet the reading AMO

- Must meet additional indicators; HS Graduation Rate, Elementary School attendance rate

For Parents: Student absences due to vacations affects AYP because schools must meet a 90% attendance rate.

#### **2. AMO – Annual Measurable Objectives** (set by No Child Left Behind). By 2014 100% of students must meet or exceed the standards set by NCLB which are measured by AMO's (Annual Measurable Objectives)

AMO's have increased since NCLB began in 2002 and pressure on schools to perform has increased. Students must be proficient in the AIMS which is set by the AZ Department of Education. All states set their own test standards which includes ELL students and some Special Education.

What does it mean to meet the standard? The bar is moved from grade to grade at state dept of ed.

### **3. Subgroup Factors**

AYP does consider the limitations or challenges facing some subgroups (there are 9), including:

- Race / Ethnicity
- Special Ed
- ELL
- Economically Disadvantaged

\*These considerations are applied provided the school has more than 40 Students in a subgroup.

\*If there are less than 40 students in a subgroup classification, the student's Scores are considered along with the balance of the student population and Are not given special weight or consideration.

### **4. Effect of Subgroup Factors**

Many large schools districts do not make AYP due to specific subgroups not meeting the requirements.

Other notes: Common Core will replace AIMS in a few years. 48 states have moved to Common Core. We should see some changes to AYP in the next year.

AZ Learns Evaluation – schools will be given grades instead of Highly Performing, Performing labels.

Dr. McNeil's presentation will be available online at the SPC website.

### **Dr. Peterson**

Dr. Peterson visited every campus the first 2 weeks of the year. SUSD is up number wise this year by about 500 students while other districts are struggling.

E-Learning – 804 students are enrolled. There are many people from outside the district wanting to take our E-learning courses which is currently offered to High School students. SUSD will roll out GED and also Middle School enrichment via E-learning in the future.

Grand Canyon Certification – at end of sophomore year students can take a test and be eligible to graduate early and attend 4 year college.

BYOT – initiative – Bring Your Own Technology – an initiative with the IT Dept to allow students to bring their own technology to school and use it to the school's advantage. Dr. Peterson believes it sends the wrong message to tell these kids to turn off their technology when we have the opportunity to teach kids how to use these things appropriately. He is looking at leveraging the technology so many kids already own, so kids can take technology classes that would normally be limited to the number of classroom computers.

Text book downloading – the BYOT initiative would simplify ability for kids to have their e-text books with them. Currently, there are online texts in math, SS, LA and Science.

Bullying Flyer – Priority to inform parents and kids of what bullying is and how to stop it and how to handle it. He also feels it is important to educate staff on proper behaviour within the district. We need to change the culture in SUSD with administration as roll models.

Q – Is Half- Day Scheduling for Seniors going away? It is currently a conversation with principals but not a decision by District.

Jeff Thomas addresses: It is difficult to arrange ½ day schedules for these students. We need to change structure on staffing. To schedule all advanced classes in the morning is an impossible task. Kids are then competing for these classes and the result is not allowing the kids all the courses that are available. Also – to make dollars count we are not able to offer the classes because we can't get all kids in there because they must choose between specials (band). Andi Furlis is in support of moving away from ½ day senior scheduling as it is important for college bound 12th graders to be engaged in school rather than leave at 12:00.

Francesca recommends that we start having this conversation with middle school parents so they get the message that half days for seniors is not to be expected. Also important to educate middle school parents on cost of college, and to be high school ready.

Study Halls for lower grades- Andi Furlis: It is important to make student achievement the goal . There could be more students in honors courses if they can actually learn the honors material. Study hall time gives these students chance to succeed. Study halls in lower grades will affect the need to take additional classes as a senior. They also offer time for study groups to meet during the day.

Dr. Peterson's email: [djpeterson@susd.org](mailto:djpeterson@susd.org) (Note the J)

Q – Is increased enrolment translating to higher class sizes? In first 2 weeks of school they are looking at the numbers in classes and schools and making adjustments. In some cases aides are being added. Class size ratios this year are the exact same as last year. They are keeping eye on the numbers.

Teacher Ratio for certain subjects: Algebra – all students must take this subject. Since it is so important in many areas, Dr. Peterson wants to lower the student/teacher ratio in algebra classes to 25/1. They also reviewed test scores of 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts from last year and added sections in the Middle Schools.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jenny Dorsch,  
Recording Secretary