

PTO meeting minutes

January 10, 2012

In attendance: Sarah Chiccarello; Jennifer Minor, Principal; Linda Gallie; Whitney Crutchley, VP Community Business Partnerships; Deanna Labella; Suzy Collins, School Treasurer; Stephanie Cunningham, Hospitality Committee Chair; Chelly Maniuszko, VP Communications; Joe Muth, PTO Treasurer; Holly Busch, Co-VP School Spirit and Events; Tracy Caruso, Secretary; Amanda Valentine, Co-Chair Bookfair; Lori Kaatz, UPC; Rob Allen; Sheryl Thomas, VP In-School Fundraising

Welcome, Joe Muth

Joe: Good morning, let's get started. Think about next year's board. Let Karen or Holly know what's going to happen for next year.

Presentation by Rob Allen regarding school ratings (A +/Excellence)

Rob: I'm discussing the new school labeling system called A-F School Accountability and how points are calculated and what it means to Sonoran Sky. The information is also available on the PVUSD website. There is a parent guide that the Department of Education provided, handouts for Q&A and a pie graph for how points are earned. The information provides a list of all schools, AYP, old state label and the new A-F profiles. N/As mean that the school did not receive new labeling. One of three labels for every public school, but there are some exceptions with charter schools and such. With the new labeling, Sonoran Sky got an A. It missed a B by 2 points. A-F school accountability is based on student individual growth. Half of the points being calculated is the academic outcomes and the percentage of students passing AIMS. One quarter of calculation is the calculation of all students' academic growth whereas the other quarter is the academic growth of the bottom 25%. Everything has to do with growth with the new labeling system.

Amanda: What funds are going to be available to help aid kids to be given extra help?

Rob: In high schools, we've applied for aid. There is no additional federal dollar for it.

Linda: Considering we are open enrollment and from all over the valley, we are still not getting any more assistance?

Rob: No more federal money than you are already getting.

Joe: Whatever new monies are out there, support taking the test and not curriculum. It definitely puts constrain on the teachers to help growth.

Chelly: What's your title?

Rob: It is the director of assessment.

Chelly: I'm open enrollment. At the end of 3rd grade, you need to be at guarantee. What's the focus to assist 3rd-6th graders to keep at reading level? How's the district looking at for next year to help them get to grade level?

Rob: I cannot speak to specific program at district/staffing stand point but this is going to change the focus. We are going to have to address our lowest kids. It's a big question but I don't have the answers yet. Back on the calculation, the included students have to be admitted the first 10 days of school to the last day. Growth only for two years of AIMS and enrolled for 2 years in our building.

Lori: With the movement to get rid of AIMS, what would the effect be?

Rob: It's the exclusive label for 2013. There will be 3 more years of AIMS and then PARCC will be put into place.

Amanda: Which parts are you not excited about?

Rob: Higher achieving schools not getting the recognition they might have gotten before.

Amanda: It'd be interesting to know the difference between states with open enrollment versus states that don't with this new labeling system. Also, you made the system?

Rob: State superintendent of instruction when he was a legislator

Joe: It puts more weight on teachers than what they already have and will potentially affect our rating which is what brings parents and students to our school.

Whitney: How many went from high performing down?

Rob: Not all did. The majority of them did get As.

Labella: This is just paper. If you can tell the general public, it's just numbers and this is what we are doing I don't see how we can't still attract families to Sonoran Sky.

Joe: The purpose of this is making teaching accountable.

Amanda: Us as the PTO can implement programs.

Teacher Representatives: Deanna Labella and Sarah Chiccarello

Sarah: Thank you so much for the lunches. We are excited about reading groups, club and reading naturally.

Holly: Glad to hear it is working.

Jennifer: Ask the teachers because Squier said the students are doing better than ever. We've done a lot of all including the bottom 25%.

Holly: Parents need to be involved.

Jennifer: We need to switch out thinking. How we can do things differently and adjusting where more research based while bringing more parents in next year.

Labella: We use Razz Kids a lot and excited to go on.

Joe: As PTO board, we'll have to look at what's being used and what's not.

Chelly: Ask on supply list for \$5 fee to help fund.

Jennifer: Let's figure out classrooms and do average.

Remarks: Jennifer Minor

Jennifer: We had great performances in December. We started using Study Island Math and seeing great progress. I sent an email to payroll. We made \$15,000 in online tax credits. We received a lot of last minute tax credits at the end of December.

Approve PTO Minutes for November and December: Tracy Caruso

Everyone is in approval.

Updates

Joe Muth, PTO Treasurer

Joe: There's \$50,961.05 in the checking account. Enrichment went up; currently at \$46,327.25.

Chelly: The new variety of enrichment helps.

Amanda: Educated based enrichment is great.

Joe: Added budget for \$5,800. It put \$6,000.

Amanda: When is the school store?

Whitney: It should be tomorrow.

Joe: We are nowhere where we should be. Not sure where we are right now as I've only received one deposit so far.

Linda: Could we sell items at Carnival?

Joe: We could.

Linda: At least try and get rid of the inventory and recoup cost.

Joe: Someone should get in touch with Amy.

Chelly: We made about \$1,800 last year. Or we can make baskets for Bingo Night.

Joe: \$1,000 from Fry's and \$1,300 from BoxTops.

Suzy Collins, Treasurer School

Suzy: Everything is going good.

Joe: \$195 in fees. We can control the deposits but it's really the number of checks so we get fees like crazy.

Whitney: I've used the square and I love it. Imagine what we could do at parents night if we were able to accept credit cards.

Stephanie Cunningham, Hospitality

Stephanie: Tomorrow is the lunch for 4th grade. February 7 is half day and lunch for the meeting;

Jennifer: Sandwiches are good.

Whitney Crutchley, Community Business Partnerships

Whitney: Silent auction planning is going great and we are meeting on Thursday. Someone wants to do the taste for the beer. Invites probably will be going out the end of January.

Jennifer: Advertising at Kindergarten roundup.

Amanda: I got banners.

Whitney: The amount of prizes is great. Teachers are due with experiences. Peter piper pizza night is on Tuesday, January 17.

Chelly Maniuszko, Communications

The directory is done!

Holly Busch, School Spirit and Events

Holly: The carnival planning is going well. We are meeting tomorrow to see where things are at. Sir Bounce a lot doing lots of stuff and lots of face painting. There will be about 5-10 baskets.

Chelly: We should send a carnival informational letter to say what's going on, the hours of operation and what will be there. Focus on fun and kid centered.

Lorilyn Kaatz, UPC

Lori: The next UPC meeting is January 18 at 9am. Next week is Dr. Lee to give an update of next year.

Jennifer: They will be talking about budget and funding.

Sheryl Thomas & Linda Gallie, Fundraising & Fry's/Fresh & Easy

Sheryl: Thank you for all the help and support while I was out. Voluntary donations were around \$2,500 at the end of October. What would the cost be to do it online?

Chelly: Cheyenne has great online donations.

Joe: For the year for voluntary donations we have had \$15,287.64 plus two more checks. We came in \$2,000 over last year's budget. Last month was \$1,800.

Linda: Easier you make it for people, the more you will get.

Chelly: \$16,000 for voluntary donation with little work.

Whitney: What's the percentage doing voluntary donations?

Sheryl: About 130 out of 540. We went down in rank on School Cents; we are currently in 9th place. In November and December, we pushed through about \$5,000 through Amazon and received \$284. We received almost \$300 for August-November for Escrip. We also have the Target red card signed up but not sure who signed us up for it.

Chelly: Carol Wastek signed up.

Sheryl: In August, \$231 came in.

Linda: But for the Target red card, you need the credit card.

Sheryl: But if you already have one, sync it. We wouldn't tell people to sign up for one. The money is going to the school and not the PTO.

Linda: Fry's was about \$1,000 and currently about \$124,000. Fresh n Easy program finished and it's about \$800. We are collecting all invoices for February.

New Business

School Dryer

Joe: Karen asked if we wanted to buy a new dryer.

Chelly: Last year we got a new used washer; dryer is quicker to air dry than to dry.

Jennifer: The filter was full and it is working now, so we do not need one currently.