



Parent / Superintendent Council Minutes
 September 30, 2015
 11:30 am –1:00 pm
 Combs High School

Topic	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome & Introductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gayle Blanchard welcomed the group with quick introductions, discussed the purpose of the Parent/Superintendent Council (PSC), and provided school site marketing brochure and bond informational sheet handouts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combs High School Student Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Brenda Mayberry discussed the AdvancED accreditation process, what to expect, and what it means for the high school. She mentioned this is the second accreditation and the process is different than the one conducted in 2010. Principal Mayberry shared that she has no concerns about the accreditation and that student input is a part of the process. Several high school students presented on the areas of Homecoming, Music, Athletics, and Student Council. Students shared updates regarding events and activities taking place. The homecoming parade will take place on October 29 with a tailgate/bonfire and trunk or treat event. Combs Family Night is Friday, October 2. Students are encouraging community involvement at the middle school level as well. Student council is made up of four grade levels and student government with over 30 officers. The Freshman class is working on fundraising ideas to boost up their account; Sophomores are working on the same and promoting basketball spirit with a “gray-out” game, Juniors working on prom and the tailgate. Each council will have their own booth at the homecoming event along with a silent auction booth. A movie night school fundraiser will be held in November. Senior class is working on homecoming. Prom is semi-formal and if a costume is worn, it must have a removable mask. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Ms. Holly Houskeeper inquired about the 2010 accreditation, what was the area of improvement. Principal Mayberry noted it was increase community involvement, however she clarified that CHS was a brand new high school at that point in time. Principal Mayberry explained that AdvancED could accredit with areas to improve therefore allowing the school to stay in the system and setting a timeline as in six months or one year to fulfill.</p> <p>Ms. Mower asked for a printout of all the high school activities to share information at PTO meetings. Principal Mayberry explained that every event that CHS hosts can be found on the Combs Coyote and AIA websites. The whole season is listed.</p> <p>Ms. Christa Moak shared additional information for the October 29th homecoming parade. Parade starts at 4:30 p.m. and each school is participating along with different clubs at the high school. Spectators are</p>

encouraged to dress up. Ms. Moak explained that something new will be added to the lineup right after the JROTC group. Parade organizers will have a flag and are asking active duty and veterans to come and walk in the parade. The parade theme is monster mash and a contest will be held this year for the best overall theme, the best show, and two different categories one for the high school and a second for all others. Ms. Moak wants to get the word out to the schools and for parade participants to bring candy to pass out/toss at the parade.

Ms. Houskeeper asked who is providing candy for trunk or treat event. Principal Mayberry stated that each booth will supply their own.

- District Update

- Dr. Blanchard spoke about the Coyote Weekly Update which is sent out every Friday by the high school. She would like to add the PCS group to the distribution list. Principal Mayberry agreed to send the weekly update to the PSC group.
- Dr. Blanchard explained that Combs Family Night is a competition with the winning school receiving a pep assembly at their school site. Principal Mayberry shared that last year two assemblies were provided to include a winning elementary along with the middle school. Combs Family Night Football game will be a “pink out.”
- Dr. Blanchard is pleased with how the school year has started, smooth start with over 4,500 students across seven campuses.
- Dr. Blanchard talked about the two main focus areas: staff retention and community engagement. She described reaching out to our community at large to get them involved and engaged in our programs. Dr. Blanchard spoke about the business-education partnership breakfast held that morning. With the help of Ms. Kelly Guerra, Coordinator of Community Education and Mr. John Scrogam, Career and Technical Education Coordinator, District invited local business to join them to meet and encourage mentorships, internships, guest speakers, job shadowing, and real world connections.

Discussion:

Ms. Amanda Strebeck commented on the school site marketing brochure noting that all day kindergarten has a sticker correction but middle school competitive sports did not. Dr. Blanchard suggested parents stay connected following twitter and Facebook as it relates to sports at middle school and high school. All schools have accounts and parents are encouraged to follow and spread the school news.

- Mobile App

- Mr. Jack Wallbrecht, Director of Technology presented a PowerPoint to discuss the launch of another communication tool, a mobile app. Still in development, District is asking for parent input. The mobile app will be an informational release and tied into twitter, Facebook and Pinterest. The newsfeed will be updated as things are posted. The app will have icons for athletics, news, calendar, school menus, parent resources, student information, tax credits, bus stop locator, fine arts, etc. Mr. Wallbrecht commented that the district website will be more mobile friendly with future improvements.

Discussion:

The group provided some suggestions for the mobile app. Dr. Kemp asked if it is possible to keep the scores and link to the MaxPreps website under

the athletic icon. Another person asked if there will be a parent link to attendance. Mr. Wallbrecht stated yes, there will be added features.

Ms. Ronnie Mandeville asked if Jupiter grades will link to message teachers. Mr. Wallbrecht explained that parents will see the same sign in information for Jupiter grades.

Ms. Houskeeper asked if the app will have the teachers listed for the middle school and tutoring hours. Mr. Wallbrecht replied that yes in a future release.

Mr. Wallbrecht explained notification, payments, etc. and ability to pick and choose which school calendars you want. Ms. Mower inquired if it is the same with news feed, possible to see one specific school site. Mr. Wallbrecht will look into it.

Parents are encouraged to email Dr. Blanchard or Ms. Martinez with any questions or suggestions for the mobile app.

- Civics Test

- Ms. Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction reviewed the laws and requirements relating to passing the civics test in order to graduate from high school. She explained that the civics test requirement goes into effect for the class of 2017. Students must pass with a score of 60% minimum in order to graduate from high school. District is looking at having it administered in 8th grade but also looking at Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior classes for this year. Ms. Dunker is planning for communication to go out to parents in December. She noted that it is the same test as the one administered to become a U.S. citizen. Ms. Dunker shared that Ms. Sheri Hammer, CHS Counselor, had worked with a group of teachers in the east valley and is looking at all the items on the test and the answer choices.

Discussion:

Ms. Rebecca Mendoza asked if students do not pass the first time, will they be given another opportunity to take the civics test. Ms. Dunker answered yes, District will have to provide other opportunities for students to take the test. Ms. Dunker confirmed that District will keep track of students in an electronic system for any those coming in to our district.

Ms. Whitt asked if there will be a class to relearn the civics test. Ms. Dunker stated District will provide instruction mostly in US History and there will be multiple opportunities to learn the curriculum to pass the test.

Principal Mayberry mentioned that there have been discussions among educators to move US History to a Sophomore class instead of in Junior year. District will work with administrators to meet the need of our students.

- AzMERIT Update

- Ms. Dunker shared a PowerPoint presentation created by Joe O'Reilly, Ph.D., Mesa Public Schools. She mentioned that Mr. O'Reilly assisted with the roll out of AzMERIT which is unique to Arizona and based on an Arizona test blueprint.
- Ms. Dunker discussed AzMERIT background and that it does cover reading, writing and math. District is still required to administer AIMS

Science. CTA and CMS are the two schools that administered the test online, all others were on paper. Ms. Dunker commented that the online test was a lot less time intensive.

- Ms. Dunker distributed handouts to attendees describing what AzMERIT means for your child and a family report guide. She commented that scores should arrive sometime around the end of October and will be sent to schools and sent home with children by the end of the first week of November, once Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has released the embargo.

Discussion:

Ms. Mendoza asked if AzMERIT is required. Ms. Dunker explained that AzMERIT is not required for graduation like AIMS, however you may not opt out of testing.

Dr. Blanchard restated that by law, District is required to administer the test and by law, we must have a certain percentage of students take the test. Ms. Dunker commented that it is to see where AZ students are as a whole; we look at it for student success and growth of the students as well.

There was a brief discussion concerning school labels. This is our second year without a school label. The state put the labels on hold due to the change of the assessment.

Ms. Mendoza questioned whether teachers are graded on AzMERIT much like performance pay. Dr. Blanchard and Ms. Dunker explained student achievement has to be a part of teacher's performance, it has not been on AzMERIT and it is too early to tell if it will be a factor.

Ms. Whitt shared her thoughts about the requirement to pass a state required test. She said this may not be a terrible thing if we continue to challenge students appropriately.

Ms. Dunker asked for suggestions regarding communication to parents. Please email Dr. Blanchard or Ms. Martinez with suggestions.

Ms. Dunker shared the website link for parents to comment on standards. Website link is open until October 22.

Dr. Blanchard provided a quick recap on the bond election

- \$40 Million bond is different than an override, bond is for items like buses, technology, buildings, but not salaries and not administration
- Several informational meetings held to date
- October 5th is the last day to register to vote
- District is required by law to show how dollars will be used
- Reduction in capital dollars from the state over the past 5 years

- Future Agenda Items

- Email Dr. Blanchard or Ms. Martinez with future agenda items.

- AzMERIT Update

- Ms. Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction provided an update as it relates to the new assessment AzMERIT. During September's meeting, Ms. Dunker provided an overview on the score report. In today's meeting, she shared that reports (spring results from last school year) will be sent home November 16. All school and district information is embargoed until November 30.
- Ms. Dunker explained that there is a frequently asked questions (FAQs) link/button on the district website providing information about the AzMERIT test as well as other helpful links. Ms. Dunker requested parent feedback for any additional items to include on the FAQs sheet.

Discussion:

Ms. Jorgie Anderson asked if the test score will affect her child's grade. Ms. Dunker responded no it will not affect their grade.

Mr. Woody Woodrey asked if the student's score will be available on Jupiter Grades. Ms. Dunker stated that paper reports will be sent home with the students. Mr. Woodrey asked for consideration of split parent households. Ms. Dunker will work with teachers to make sure both parents receive a copy of the report.

The group asked several key questions about AzMERIT, covering the following topics:

- test scores
- school labels
- intervention level
- domains and commonalities in those domains
- charter school must follow the same rules for testing

Mr. D'Elena inquired if school and district results will be posted on Arizona Department of Education once embargoed on November 30th.

Dr. Blanchard clarified that any public release will occur after the embargoed timeframe.

Ms. Anderson asked if a student can opt out of AzMERIT testing.

Dr. Blanchard explained that per the Attorney General's opinion it is not an option. Students are required to take the test for there is a 95% participant threshold requirement for districts. Ms. Dunker explained the testing window and that makeup tests are offered within that testing window. Districts have to offer make ups to everybody.

Dr. Blanchard talked about standards, namely the misinformation about repeal of common core. She stated our standards are still in existence and we are still teaching to our standards. The repeal gives the Arizona State Board of Education the opportunity to make some changes, it gives them flexibility with changes to the standards. Parents can voice their opinion on the standards and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is seeking public input through public meetings. The East Valley listing on the Governor's website shows November 2 at Chandler Center for the Arts and Walker Butte Elementary, both start at 6:00 p.m. and covers ELA and the math standards.

Dr. Blanchard will forward the public input link to the group.

Combs

J.O. Combs Unified School District

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Parent / Superintendent Council Minutes

January 27, 2016

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Simonton Elementary

Topic	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome & Introductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gayle A. Blanchard welcomed the group.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simonton Elementary - Performing Arts / Student Leadership Groups New Elective Courses at Middle School District Job Fair - March 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Bradley Shepstead, Simonton Principal, talked about their grant funded leadership program, <i>Leader in Me</i>. Simonton is utilizing the <i>7 Habits</i> in their day-to-day activities and their goal is for every student to have a leadership role on campus. Principal Shepstead point outed that when culture is strong, academics are strong. Led by Ms. Karen Steele, Band Teacher, Simonton’s Advanced Band performed a short piece. Ms. Steele noted the performing arts students in this group are in their second year of performing. The orchestra also performed a short piece. Mr. Shepstead introduced teachers Ms. Mindy Schimel, Ms. Jennifer Bonadio, and Ms. Erin Pareti, co-sponsors of the Sparkle club, one of the student leadership groups on campus. Students who participate in the Sparkle Club are leaders of friendship. The club has begun fundraising activities in order to cover the cost of a “buddy” bench. Ms. Schimel showed a short video clip the club has been working. <p>Discussion: Parents inquired about the cost of a bench. Ms. Jorgi Andersen offered to donate a bench and Ms. Shannon Fujimagari volunteered her husband to build one. The Sparkle Club is hoping to have a bench in place by May 18.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction, discussed the three new elective courses for the middle school. The new courses are Theatre and Stagecraft, Careers and Your Future, and Communication and Media Technologies. The courses provide different opportunities for students and for building programs at the high school and will have a technology focus (with digital photography and web design) and career exploration. Theater and Stagecraft will build into the fine arts program at the high school level. Ms. Dunker mentioned registration and the upcoming Combs Middle School Open House on February 3. <p>Discussion: There was no further discussion about this topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Patty Rogers, Assistant Superintendent, spoke about the second annual job fair to be held at Combs High School and remarked on the huge success of last year’s job fair. J.O. Combs is hiring for next school year and will have a list of job openings soon. Dr. Rogers noted that J.O. Combs is always looking to hire paraprofessionals. The application

process is done online and if completed prior to March 15, an interview will be guaranteed.

Discussion:

The group discussed the online application process and the requirements to be a substitute. Dr. Rogers explained the requirements and stated if individuals want to substitute next year, they should fill out the paperwork now. There is training provided for substitutes prior to assignment. Dr. Blanchard will send the parent/superintendent group the information in the summer. The emergency substitute certificates are only good for one year (July to July).

Ms. Ronnie Mandeville shared her experience with the emergency substitute training program saying it was a really good class and extremely informative.

Dr. Rogers noted that training has helped with the substitute pool and is offered for any other substitutes that want to attend.

Ms. Andersen asked about the July training and if dates have been set. Dr. Rogers mentioned the dates will be in July and will bring to next meeting. She suggested if you are interested, get your fingerprint card from the state now. District rolls the prints in the office and you may contact Dr. Rogers if interested. The cost is \$67 and the fingerprint card is valid for six years.

Ms. Holly Houskeeper commented that she has never heard of the program. Dr. Rogers explained the program has been offered by word of mouth since this is our pilot year. Dr. Blanchard explained that the State department reinstated the state emergency substitute program.

Ms. Mandeville suggested more computers be available for the job fair.

- SciTech Festival

- Ms. Kelly Guerra, Coordinator of Community Education gave a brief presentation on the SciTech Festival, scheduled February 4 at Combs High School Cafeteria. This is J.O. Combs District first annual SciTech event. Dr. Blanchard mentioned our priority is community engagement and outreach and we find ways to partner with outside organizations and community.
- The SciTech festival is a month long STEAM celebration. This year all school sites will be participating February 4 from 6-7:30 p.m. Pinal County will be in attendance to demonstrate Lego robotics, along with Banner Ironwood Medical Center. The District Technology Department will also be offering free checkups for computers.
- Ms. Guerra discussed employment opportunities within Community Education for high school seniors (those who are 18 or over). Community Education is looking for activity leaders for the Combs Kidz program. She explained that activity leaders work with a lead person and help students with homework, activities, and games. They also provide student supervision.

Discussion:

The group talked about the activity leader job requirements and starting wage.

- Mobile App

- Mr. Jack Wallbrecht, Director of Technology, discussed the set-up of the new J.O. Combs mobile app with built in community type features. He provided instruction for downloading the app and asked the group to review, comment on those things that do not quite work, and suggest features to be added.
- Dr. Blanchard shared that she has already asked the high school student advisory group to review and comment on the mobile app.

Discussion:

The group offered several suggestions such as giving the parents the ability to report their own student absences and access to both the middle school and high school bell schedules. District will have to check on the feasibility of absence reporting via a parent portal on mobile app site.

Mr. Wallbrecht mentioned that staff and teacher listings will be forthcoming, however parents have the ability to access grades and the parent/student handbooks.

Ms. Andersen suggested a parent resource link to the employment page. She also asked about online Edgenuity access and if student progress is similar to JupiterGrades. Mr. Wallbrecht confirmed that it is web based.

Suggestions may be forwarded directly to Mr. Jack Wallbrecht at jwallbrecht@jocombs.org

- Parent Survey

- Dr. Blanchard discussed the parent survey format and stated that a “registered voters” link will be included at the end of the survey. The parent survey will be sent globally and made available during the Parent Teacher conferences February 18-19. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Discussion:

There was no further discussion about this topic.

- Candidate Forum - Thursday, Jan. 28, 6:00 p.m.

- Dr. Blanchard extended an invitation to the community to come meet the four finalists considered for the high school principal position.

Discussion:

The community will have an opportunity to individually meet and ask questions during the meet and greet portion of the forum. Dr. Blanchard explained the final candidate selection process and noted that a recommendation will be made to the Governing Board for their approval.

- Future Agenda Items

- Football program at Combs Middle School
- Food Vendors / Food Choices
- District-wide Notification regarding health issues (i.e. outbreaks)
- Emergency substitute training in summer
- Love & Logic, Athletics information

Combs

J.O. Combs Unified School District

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Parent / Superintendent Council Minutes

February 24, 2016

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Simonton Elementary

Topic	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome & Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Gayle A. Blanchard welcomed the group and thanked Ms. Shelly Hargis, PTSO, for organizing lunch.• Dr. Blanchard recognized board member Mr. Bob D'Elena who has been selected to serve on the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Finance Committee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• J.O. Combs Middle School - Love & Logic, National Junior Honor Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Mark Mauro, Combs Middle School Principal, chose to highlight two areas, National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and Love & Logic programs. He also mentioned their book study as an entire faculty, <i>Closing the Attitude Gap</i>.• Ms. Emily Hubbard 8th grade social studies teacher and NJHS Advisor presented. NJHS currently has 11 members who meet once a week. The focus is community service, citizenship, academics, character, and leadership. Student presenters explained the five character traits. Members complete service hours with the Combs food bank and the Veterans drive. Students described the positive impact NJHS has had on them this year. Most have found additional community service type opportunities outside of school.• Ms. Sue Lebtich Math teacher and Ms. Laurene Shindledecker Social Worker presented on the Love & Logic program which is an evidence based classroom management program that offers low stress strategies for teachers. Following Simonton's example, CMS implemented the program and meets once a month to discuss program concepts, which are taught during staff professional development. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Ms. Shindledecker revealed there are parental options available for the Love & Logic program. Ms. Strebeck talked about her positive experience with participating in the 6-week free program offered at Simonton.</p> <p>Mr. Mauro provided a summary of competitive sports and schedules. He highlighted cheerleading, flag-football, and girls' basketball. He said games are on Tuesday and Thursday (10 games with regular tournament), flag-football is on Saturdays with cheerleading at games. CMS is hosting a cheer competition on campus in March. There has been a great turnout of parents and students for the events.</p> <p>The group discussed competitive sports, specifically the flag-football program at the middle school. Dr. Blanchard described that many districts have moved away from tackle football at the middle school level for safety and financial reasons. Mr. Mauro explained that our current outdoor facility is not a regulation football facility. Mr. Mauro is working on a competitive flag-football league for next year.</p>

The group discussed the most effective way to get their voices heard regarding concerns about competitive sports program. Dr. Blanchard encouraged parents to utilize the parent survey because survey results are shared with the Governing Board. She also pointed out that the survey is anonymous.

Ms. Whitt shared her thoughts commenting that we need to think about an entire group of students and that as a community member she wants all students to have opportunities to participate in a variety of school activities.

Ms. Strebeck inquired if we plan to add other competitive sports such as track and field. Mr. Mauro stated funding is extremely tight however, we are building upon the program. Mr. Mauro confirmed there is a grade eligibility piece (a grade check) and athletes need to be good models of character. He noted that middle school administration meets with high school administration monthly to talk about how they can partner.

- Legislative Update

- Dr. Blanchard reminded the group about the May 17 Special Election for Prop 123 (the response to lawsuit inflation). She will provide a frequently asked questions (FAQ) sheet at the next meeting.
- Dr. Blanchard discussed the empowerment scholarships accounts (ESAs). House and Senate bills that allow families to apply for a debit card (\$5,300) which is about 90% of what charter school funding receives. It is taxpayer dollars for private and home schooling with no achievement accountability.

Discussion:

The group briefly discussed ESAs, as well as JTED and CTE funding, noting that the state has restored the earlier reduction in CTE funding this year. This is good for our programs. Mr. Mauro referenced the three new elective courses for the middle school--Theatre & Stagecraft, Careers & Your Future, and Communication & Media Technologies.

- Food Services

- Ms. Jennifer Roorda, Food Services Supervisor, discussed in detail the benefits, guidelines of participation (calorie restrictions), and compliance issues for the National School Lunch program which is a federally funded program.

Discussion:

In response to questions from the group, Ms. Roorda explained that District is required to verify annually a certain percentage of the free and reduced applications submitted.

Parents shared a few common complaints such as long lines and availability of food choices at the high school (items are gone by the time students get to the front of the line). Ms. Weber noted this year the improvement of the meal forecast, adding that students never go without food; they may go without their choice.

Dr. Blanchard addressed the subject of one lunch period instead of two at the high school. One lunch period is well received by students as it gives students the opportunity to meet with their clubs or groups and each other. Ms. Weber revealed that technology is being upgraded with a couple of point of sales, in an effort to expedite the lunch lines.

- Miscellaneous

- Dr. Blanchard asked the group for their help in promoting the J.O. Combs Job Fair. Copies of the flyer were handed out.
- Emergency substitute training days have not yet been set. District will make sure to communicate through parent / superintendent council group or email.

- Health Services

- Ms. Keeli Torres, District Nurse, talked about the topic of communicable diseases as it relates to notification and what is reported to the local Health Department. She provided a handout that outlined the types of diseases. Ms. Torres explained that middle school and high school only notifies if requested by the County, and only if it is an outbreak or issue.
- Mr. D'Elena inquired about one of the symbols listed on the sheet. Ms. Torres explained that the symbol "0" means at our discretion and that county does not want to know about it unless we have many reported cases and if it has been diagnosed.

Discussion:

The group discussed the automated absence reporting system. Dr. Blanchard explained that it is state law for schools to call regarding student attendance. Dr. Blanchard encouraged parents to contact their school principal if there are extenuating circumstances regarding absences. Parents may also contact their school to adjust the cell phone or home phone number listed on record.

Ms. Piña asked if a parent reports an illness to the front office does staff then notify the nurse's office. Yes, information is shared with the nurse's office.

On the subject of the flu, Ms. Torres explained notification for the flu occurs if a child is officially diagnosed. This happened at Combs Traditional Academy and letters were sent home to parents regarding the flu. Ms. Torres also shared that Urgent Care facilities also report to the county.

- Parent Survey

- Dr. Blanchard reminded the group about the parent survey. She asked parents to be sure to complete the survey especially if they have an opinion specific for their school site.

Discussion:

Ms. Andersen shared her thoughts about the parent survey commenting that she liked it and that it was not repetitive. She wondered if the middle school could offer a raffle as an incentive much like the high school had.

- Parent / Community "Meet and Greet" for new CHS Principal - March 22nd, 6:00 p.m.

- Dr. Blanchard announced the date and time of the parent / community "Meet and Greet" for the new Combs High School principal. She shared that Ms. Brooke Davis' official start date is July 1, 2016.

Discussion:

There was no additional discussion.

- Future Agenda Items

- Mobile App (track & field athletic schedule and middle school bell schedule)
- Dates for substitute training
- Prop 123 FAQ sheet

- Job Fair

- Dr. Blanchard provided highlights about the March 21st job fair. She noted that there were 175 participants (75 certified and 100 support staff). There were about 100 walk-ins and some applicants had scheduled interviews. As of today, District has hired 18 certified staff.

- Mobile App

- Dr. Blanchard talked about the J.O. Combs mobile app. She explained that we are experiencing technical difficulties with the news and updates link. There seems to be a delay in pulling the feeds from the Twitter and Facebook accounts, therefore, we are not ready to officially roll out the app until this issue is resolved.

Discussion:

The group discussed the mobile app. Ms. Houskeeper suggested that tutoring time with the teacher be on the middle school website under parent link or student link.

Ms. Whitt asked about the Combs Traditional Academy waiting list. Mr. Berkshire said there is no waiting list to attend CTA at this time. He further added that the first grade class size is about 28 or 29 and that folks are not being turned away due to space. Additionally, CTA has moved away from combo classes.

- Emergency Substitute Process

- Ms. Debbie Jones, Professional Development Specialist, presented information as it relates to Emergency Substitute training. She explained that every year, substitutes have to retake the training. Interested persons have to interview, take a proficiency exam, participate in training, submit an application and fingerprint card. Background checks are also completed and teachers have to classroom shadow one day at an elementary site, and middle and high school one day.

Discussion:

The group discussed the topic of lack of substitutes across the district. Ms. Sant shared one of the benefits of this training program is that some of individuals are now going to college to become teachers. Mr. Berkshire said emergency substitutes are given practical information for how to do this.

Ms. Whitt wanted to know the difference between long term and short term. Dr. Blanchard explained that a long-term situation is when the assignment goes over 10 days. The only way to be a long-term substitute is that the individual must have a Bachelor's degree.

Dr. Blanchard thanked Ms. Jones for putting together a very successful program. Ms. Jones is retiring at the end of this school year.

- Future Agenda Items

- Art donations or contribution from community for Library
- Free and Reduced Lunch application review/verification process
- Lunch schedule at school sites / social time / more recess time
- Group punishment
- Accelerated Reading program

Combs

J.O. Combs Unified School District

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Parent / Superintendent Council Minutes

April 27, 2016

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Harmon Elementary

Topic	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome & Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Blanchard welcomed the group and advised everyone that this is our last meeting for the school year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harmon - <i>Arizona History</i>• Support our Schools AZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Angie Beauchene, Principal, thanked Harmon's PTSSO for all they do. Ms. Beauchene praised Ms. Chantel Mower who she said does a tremendous job.• Ms. Stephanie Atkinson and her fourth grade class presented <i>Arizona History</i>. Ms. Atkinson explained that students are learning about the state and natural resources, the five C's of Arizona, and about important people in Arizona. Students showed off their Arizona brochures and timelines.• Dr. Jennifer Johnson presented a PowerPoint on the subject of parent advocacy. Dr. Johnson is a former school superintendent from Glendale Union and spent time at the Arizona Department of Education. She joined the advocacy world to represent the public district schools in Arizona. Dr. Johnson explained why advocacy is so important and how to tell our elected officials and legislature what we expect them to do for our children.• Dr. Johnson offered ideas on how to get involved individually or collectively to get their voices heard about what will serve children well. She provided information about the <i>Request to Speak</i> system and the Arizona Parent Network, a subsidiary to Support our Schools AZ (SOSAZ), which serves as a strategic, intentional grassroots coalition of parent advocacy groups. Dr. Johnson offered to help the individuals in the group register for the <i>Request to Speak</i> system and encouraged community members to follow Support our Schools AZ on Facebook and Twitter.• Dr. Johnson discussed a few of the issues to pay attention to-- negotiating the budget, no money for facilities, and no new money for teacher salary increases or professional development. She talked about Prop 123 and that there will be a lot of work to be done regardless if it passes or fails. <p>Discussion: Mr. D'Elena thanked Dr. Johnson for being a guest speaker. The group briefly talked about Prop 123. They also talked about ways to help SOSAZ grow that parent voice to support our students.</p>

- Bonding Capacity and District Needs

- Dr. Blanchard and Ms. Karla Slovitsky spoke about the bonding capacity and future bond election. Ms. Slovitsky described the needs of the District, which she said are no different than they were back in November 2015. We need to start updating and maintaining our facilities by replacing carpet, coating the roofs, painting, repair/replace air conditioning units, and vinyl flooring. There is also a need for technology and security cameras.
- Ms. Slovitsky made a recommendation to the board for a \$34 million bond instead of \$40 million, stating that she lowered the amount for the auditorium. The auditorium was originally planned with a seating capacity of 1,200. It has been scaled back to a seating capacity of 500-600. She mentioned that the tax rate would be approximately \$6.68 per month on a \$100,000 property valuation.
- Dr. Blanchard reached out to parents to encourage them as school leaders to help the District, to be part of this advocacy. Dr. Blanchard mentioned she would start by attending staff meetings to share information.

Discussion:

The group talked about the percentage of early voters in our school district boundaries. Also discussed was the design of the auditorium, which will have classrooms around the peripheral, and the proposed location. Ms. Kathy Flynn suggested a splash pad or sculpture, something with a community feel to it.

Ms. Hargis and Dr. Blanchard shared information about some of the activities that the Political Action Committee takes part in.

- Summer Programs

- Ms. Kelly Guerra, Community Education Coordinator, provided *Summer of Learning 2016* and Combs Kidz Summer Camp flyers and encouraged registration as early as possible.

Discussion:

Ms. Guerra explained to the group why summer programs are only offered for the elementary level this year. She will reevaluate middle school programs for next year based on the Casa Grande model. Ms. Guerra offered to speak to parents individually about their child concerning maturity and interest level to see if maybe there is a reciprocal class for that child if age is an issue.

- Accelerated Reader Update

- Ms. Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction provided an update as it relates to the Accelerated Reading (AR) program. She shared that we do review our programs used for instruction annually and has looked at AR. Ms. Dunker is getting feedback from reading coaches and has a meeting scheduled May 3rd to continue discussion at that time.

Discussion:

Ms. Hargis inquired if it was up to the school site on how to use AR or was it the same across the district. Ms. Dunker commented that it has been by school site and by grade level for consistency among the grade level.

- Miscellaneous

- Dr. Blanchard expressed her gratitude for the individuals who serve in this group and hopes they continue to be involved in this committee. She asked if anyone is unable to participate to please let her know.
- Dr. Blanchard shared the high school received the A+ certification and are wrapping up their AdvancED accreditation.
- Mr. D'Elena spoke about the upcoming board election and asked the group if they would mind signing a petition (must be a registered voter in the district).
- Dr. Blanchard thanked guest speaker Dr. Johnson.