

**Parent-Superintendent Council Minutes**  
**October 26, 2016**  
**11:30 am – 1:00 pm**  
**Ranch Elementary**

Topic	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Introductions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Patty Rogers, Assistant Superintendent, welcomed the group.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ranch Elementary - <i>Anti-Drug Posters &amp; MLK Poems</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sue Kruse, Ranch Elementary Principal, shared a few highlights about the school acknowledging the community's support in providing shade structures and benches for outdoor activities such as lunch on the lawn. Ms. Kruse thanked the Parent-Teacher Organization for providing lunch for today's meeting.</li> <li>• Ms. Cross, sixth grade teacher, spoke of the Pinal County Anti-Drug Poster contest and the Arizona State University's (ASU) Martin Luther King Poem, Essay or Bookmark contest. In reference to the poster contest, Ms. Cross shared that Ranch had two students place in the top 60 and one place in the top 10. Sixth grader, Lydsey Threlkeld shared what inspired her to design her poster.</li> <li>• Other student presenters shared their MLK poems speaking about what influenced them in their writing process.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Ms. Kruse is excited to share the news about starting a new club at Ranch Elementary--the Junior Optimus Club. She referred to it as a "JOY" club. Ms. Kruse mentioned that she has been a member of the Optimus Club for the past 13 years, helping with childhood cancer. Ms. Cross has volunteered to sponsor the club and they are eager to get started. The club will be open to 5th and 6th graders. The club's focus will be service; service where they can and to be kind no matter what a person is like.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Photo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A photograph of the current members was taken.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AzMERIT Update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction presented the 2015-2016 AzMERIT assessment data, and shared the celebrations. The presentation was the same one shown to the Governing Board at the October 5th meeting.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Combs Traditional Academy (CTA) ranked #1 in Pinal County for AzMERIT English Language Arts (ELA) and Ranch Elementary ranked in the top 15%.</li> <li>○ AzMERIT Math show CTA and Ranch ranked in top 10% and Harmon ranked in top 25% proficiency.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ms. Dunker summarized state, county, and district percent passing proficiency ELA comparisons for grades 3-6, grades 7-11 presenting Combs does outperform the county in most grade levels.</li> </ul>

Furthermore, in Math proficiency for grades 3-6, Combs does outperform the county in almost every grade level and showing an increase in proficiency from last year's scores. For grades 7 to Algebra II, Combs does outperform the county on percent proficiency in most grade levels.

- Ms. Dunker also reviewed the data regarding graduation and dropout rates.

Discussion:

Mr. D'Elena asked if Combs has interventions for struggling students. Dr. Rogers touched on the topic of intervention for those students who are struggling in school. She explained that school psychologists, teachers, and coaches are involved and meet to discuss if students are on grade level. Additionally, English Language Learners (ELL) receive support and are part of that intervention system.

Dr. Rogers provided an update concerning the Arizona Department of Education's A-F letter grade, which has not been used since AzMERIT was implemented. She mentioned that the State Board of Education (SBE) is in the process of making policy recommendations about a new A-F accountability system which will include AzMERIT. SBE will be completed in December and will make a recommendation to ADE.

In response to the question from Ms. Blamires regarding A+ certification, Dr. Rogers explained that the differing A-F letter grades do not affect or change the high school's A+ Certification given by the Arizona Education Foundation.

- Transportation Update

- Ms. Shannon Weber, Director of Support Services, shared a few updates and celebrations concerning transportation. Combs District just wrapped up National Bus Safety Week with the transportation department promoting a poster contest for K-6 students. With support from the community to offer prizes, participation in the contest increased to 65 entries, up from 17 last year. Cabinet will be involved in choosing the winner and prizes will be awarded at the end of this week.
- Ms. Weber noted that District as a whole is ranked high in relation to bus safety inspections with no violations for safety.

Discussion:

Ms. Weber discussed the average age of the buses adding that the mechanics work hard with what they have to work with. Mr. D'Elena commented we are doing very well from a safety standpoint. Ms. Hargis said, "our bus drivers are awesome" to which Ms. Weber noted they are a good group of folks.

- Homecoming Parade Update

- Ms. Christa Moak shared the highlights about this year's parade, commenting that it has grown over the last few years. Ms. Moak expressed the importance of remembering that the parade is a community event and should be important to schools, keeping students in mind because they love to be involved.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miscellaneous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Rogers thanked Ms. Moak and Ms. Strebeck for the time they have dedicated to coordinating the homecoming parade.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion: The group discussed ways to increase participation and volunteers for the parade. A suggestion box or survey utilizing Survey Monkey. May look at surveying participants and spectators via school newsletters with a link to the survey. Scheduling/timing of parade may be an issue for staff as well as families who have overlapping commitments that week, especially coming back from Fall break.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Rogers shared some District-wide celebrations and events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KOOL FM will play the Combs High School Chamber Orchestra's version of the Star Spangled Banner the week of 11/7-11/13 every day at noon</li> <li>Combs Middle School baseball team championship</li> <li>College and Career Planning night at Combs High School Oct. 26th</li> <li>Harvest Parade back this year for Ranch Elementary and the high school band will lead the parade around the school</li> <li>Combs High School marching band qualified for the ABODA State Marching Band Festival</li> <li>Friday Night Fever fan vote game of the week- 12news will come and do highlights from the game so vote for Combs High School football team - a link will be on the Combs Kids Count! Vote Yes Facebook page or see <a href="https://goo.gl/27VmwJ">https://goo.gl/27VmwJ</a></li> <li>November 12- Citizen's On Patrol Classics &amp; Custom Car Show and Toy Drive to benefit Combs Education Foundation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future Agenda Items</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Allergies / Food Service Protocol</li> <li>Revisit modified school calendar (two week Fall &amp; Spring schedule)</li> <li>Bond update</li> </ul>