



Parent-Superintendent Council Minutes
 August 24, 2016
 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
 District Professional Development Room

Topic	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Blanchard welcomed past parent representatives, board members, and new parent representatives. Dr. Blanchard explained the purpose of the Parent-Superintendent Council, which is to increase the two-way communication between the District’s parent community and administration.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Blanchard shared a few celebrations for the J.O. Combs District, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Combs High School’s A+ Certification and AdvancED accreditation, a successful summer school program, and student achievement (6% growth for AzMERIT test scores, increase in graduation rate, Combs High School ACT scores outscored the state average) ○ Business Services Department awarded the ASBO Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 6th year in a row ○ Voters approved Prop 123 thus allowing District to provide a 4% salary increase for all employee groups ○ A successful 2nd Job Fair ○ Student enrollment showing a bit of an increase with about 200 students more than this same time last year ○ An additional Young Coyotes program ○ Kindergarten enrollment at 346 ○ First Combs High School graduate to commit to Harvard <p>Discussion: The group discussed Central Arizona College’s Promise for the Future requirements specifically the community service hours. Parents inquired about the process for submitting the required information. Dr. Patty Rogers will follow up.</p> <p>Additionally, the group discussed community service opportunities for students who are looking to acquire their service hours. Ms. Meredith Brennan spoke about the Arizona Care Rescue who is always looking for volunteers. For more information about the rescue, contact Ms. Brennan at meredithbrennanjr@gmail.com</p> <p>Ms. Kelly Guerra mentioned that additional community service related information is shared in the high school counselor’s newsletters (volunteer section). Alternatively, you may visit the Career Center that has a Volunteer Corner. Ms. Guerra mentioned other upcoming opportunities such as the San Tan Valley Farmers Market, Schnepf</p>

Farms Messy Fest Sept. 17, and a Car Show in November organized by Citizens on Patrol. She also stated that Combs Kidz afterschool program accepts volunteers as well.

- Emergency Substitute Training

- Dr. Rogers presented on the topic of emergency substitute training and outlined the requirements. She noted the training is not advertised on the District website because it is considered a referral based program for J.O. Combs Unified District only.
- Ms. Christa Moak and Ms. Holly Houskeeper shared their experience having attended the emergency substitute training. They shared that they found the three day training to be super informative and felt confident to fulfill the position based upon the training they had received.
- Dr. Rogers provided a list of employment opportunities within the District.

Discussion:

Dr. Rogers asked for parent input regarding the job classification Paraprofessional. Specifically, how best to advertise the Paraprofessionals job classification.

Ms. Guerra shared that she had emailed high school seniors directly regarding employment opportunities within the Community Education Department.

- Combs Foundation / Social Media

- Ms. Guerra explained that DL Withers had donated \$5,000 when former Superintendent Dr. Jan Langer retired for the purpose of distribution on her behalf to graduating students for college scholarships.
- Ms. Guerra explained the role of the newly formed Combs Foundation, which is to distribute scholarships to our seniors and perhaps mini grants to teachers, as well as assist families for non-educational needs. The board is comprised of a diverse group of individuals within the community, including one Governing Board member, who are invested in our school district. Dr. Blanchard and Ms. Guerra are nonvoting members.

Discussion:

Ms. Guerra commented that the Combs Foundation might have some committees and if you would like to be part of that process please give your name. The Foundation Board is also looking at fundraising opportunities beyond the school level and if anyone in the group has a great fundraising idea for a foundation, she would love to hear it.

Additionally, Ms. Guerra highlighted the Combs District Facebook and Twitter accounts in order to get all the latest up to date information on events and news within our district and community. She encouraged parents to follow their school site and/or follow the school district. You may text "follow jocombsusd" to 40404. Parents are encouraged to write a review for their school site and/or the district.

- Factual Information - November Bond Election

- Dr. Blanchard distributed a copy of the newly updated district brochure. This is a wonderful marketing tool filled with information about school sites and programs.
- Dr. Blanchard presented the Bond Election Community Informational Meeting PowerPoint, which was shared on August 23rd. The PowerPoint will be posted to the District website. She reviewed slide #11 that shows the capital dollars that the school district should have been receiving versus the actual dollars received. This is an issue across the state. This slide serves as a visual representation of why the Governing Board has called for this election.

Discussion:

The group discussed the H2O building, which is sold.

Also discussed was the Combs High School 500 building with Dr. Blanchard explaining that due to growth at the high school the 500 building is open.

There was a brief discussion regarding the number of registered voters in San Tan Valley. Ms. Shelly Hargis will post the voter registration link on Facebook.

Dr. Blanchard and Ms. Slovitsky verified the total amount of the bond to be \$36.8M.

- Instructional Minutes / Lunch Periods / Recess

- Dr. Rogers distributed the Elementary Instructional Minutes spreadsheet that is used for the elementary sites. She reviewed the different categories noting that Foundations is our phonics program. When finalizing the instructional minutes spreadsheet, we take recommendations from the state and look at our early release schedule (Wednesday); however, there is an extra five (5) minutes in the lunch time for this year.

Discussion:

Dr. Rogers encouraged parents to utilize the District's Facebook page as well as GreatSchools to post positive comments.

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Survey

- Dr. Blanchard spoke about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) survey. She commented that part of this group's responsibility is to represent the district and the state. Dr. Blanchard explained that the Arizona Department of Education is asking districts to share this information with members of their community so that they have an opportunity to take the survey. The survey takes about 5 minutes and is available at www.azed.gov/essa/survey/

There was no further discussion on this item.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Family Football Night Friday, Sept. 9, 7 pm game time • 2nd Annual Community Health Fair, Tuesday Sept 20, 6-8 pm at CHS • Homecoming Parade, Thursday Oct. 20, starts at 5:00 pm. The theme is Vintage Carnival (50's or Carnival but will provide more information). If the weather is a problem then the backup date is Oct. 21. The cost for entry is free for anyone in the community. Ms. Moak will provide more information within the next couple of weeks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Agenda Items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this time