



Parent-Superintendent Council Minutes
September 28, 2016
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Combs High School

Topic	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Blanchard welcomed the group.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHS Presentation - Drama Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Brooke Davis, Combs High School Principal, introduced the drama students who are starring in the upcoming production of “The Diary of Anne Frank” (CHS library, Oct. 6-8, 7-9 pm). Students performed a short skit of the play. <p>Discussion: Dr. Blanchard shared that the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) Governing Board approved the Combs Career and Technical Education (CTE) program and are supportive of what Drama teacher Mr. Nick Smith is doing. Dr. Blanchard noted that Mr. Smith did an amazing job speaking to the EVIT governing board members. Mr. Smith also teaches drama at the middle school.</p> <p>Students answered questions from the group and shared their reasons for participating in the Drama Club. There is so much more to the program such as set design, lighting, sound, and costumes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Update / Celebrations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Blanchard shared a few celebrations for the J.O. Combs District: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Iris Tefler, Special Education Resource teacher at Ellsworth is the recipient of the Esperanza Latino Teacher Award. This is a distinguished honor with four outstanding Latino educators being recognized. Recipients personally receive a \$5,000 cash award plus \$2,500 stipend to their respective school. This year’s ceremony will be held on October 20, 2016 at the Chateau Luxe in Phoenix, AZ. ○ Overseen by the Department of Public Safety and with the exception of Apache Junction, our bus safety ratings were the highest in Pinal County and well within range. Combs District has 1 ½ mechanics. Mr. Harry Gengnagel and Mr. Jorge Arevalo do an amazing job in keeping our fleet maintained. ○ The Business-Education Breakfast was held September 27 with over 40 participants from different industries. Pinal County ESA understands there is a huge teacher shortage in the state and they are working on recruiting teachers. To help and support them in marketing materials, they reached out to Combs District when they caught a glimpse of high school graphic design students working. In collaboration with Pinal County ESA, Combs is working on creating marketing materials for teacher attraction and retention and fingerprinting for our nursing program. Ms. Kelly Guerra and

- College and Career Planning Night

- Mr. John Scrogam are part of the Business-Education Partnership committee. This was the third event we have done.
- AzMERIT student achievement results. Dr. Blanchard noted that staff is currently working on a presentation for the Governing Board. There is a 2% increase with ELA, 4% increase in math across the district, Science was at the top, and high school algebra saw some real growth.
 - Ms. Sheri Hammer, CHS Counselor, talked about the College and Career Planning event scheduled October 26 from 6-8 pm. College and career representatives will be on campus to meet with interested students and community members about post-secondary plans. They will be offering small group presentations in a classroom setting. A few of the guests include universities, trade schools (large equipment machinery, welding, and plumbing), and military. Central Arizona College will have a Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) demo in the computer lab.
 - Ms. Hammer explained the event is not just for seniors. The campus is marketing to juniors and seniors even with the adult education program. Current marketing efforts include flyers, announcements and Jupiter grades.
 - Other activities planned include visiting college campuses such as University of Arizona, Grand Canyon University, and Arizona State University for interested students who meet GPA criteria.

Discussion:

The group discussed the importance for students to have the opportunity to be exposed to post-secondary education. Site council requested the inclusion of trades. Mr. Apostol asked if an elite university could be included in future events.

Reminder that the practice SAT is scheduled for October 19 for all sophomores and top 10% of juniors.

During the school day they will be leaving class with an area set up for them to take the PSAT; important to prepare for

This year, the high school specifically created a folder, which was given to every student and contained high school and post-secondary planning information. Information includes types of colleges, high school/college/career testing programs, financial aid resources, website for SAT and ACT, how to navigate around everything from the FAFSA to scholarships.

- Achieve60AZ

- Dr. Blanchard spoke about a new post high school education initiative called Achieve60AZ, rolled out by the governor's office. The goal is to increase the number of individuals who have a degree (higher education or certification) and raise it to 60% by 2030. Increasing the number of Arizonans who earn education beyond high school will lead to a more diverse, knowledgeable and innovative workforce. Learn more at achieve60az.com

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Your Own Teacher Program • Parent University • Miscellaneous 	<p>Discussion: Although not on the agenda and in response to a question from Ms. Hargis, Dr. Blanchard discussed a little bit about Prop 205, Legalization of Marijuana and the financial impact to Arizona schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rogers discussed the teacher shortage that the state of Arizona is facing and the challenge for school districts to fill certificated positions. Her focus is to create a “Grow Your Own” teacher program. As part of that effort, Dr. Rogers will be working with Ms. Alice Goodrick, Combs CTE teacher, staff and the community for ideas--ways to recruit within our community. • Dr. Rogers provided a copy of the Arizona Department of Education teaching intern program information as well as a list of current vacancies within the J.O. Combs school district. • Dr. Rogers shared that on October 17, as part of professional development day, colleges and universities will be on hand offering certified staff, support staff, and community members’ information regarding education. Community members are invited to stop by and talk to colleges or universities about teacher programs or early childhood programs. Food trucks will be available for you to buy lunch. <p>Discussion: The group brainstormed on activities to recruit potential teachers and talked about the student teaching process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Santa Dunker provided a flyer to promote the upcoming Parent University on Saturday, October 22 at Ranch Elementary. The workshops will be from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Sessions include Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM) in the Kitchen, Understanding the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, and Internet Safety in the 21st Century to name a few. Topics will be presented in conference-type hour-long sessions. • The draft English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards are available for public review and comment on the Arizona State Board of Education website at https://k12standards.az.gov/. • Several Combs District staff members worked on ELA and math standards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Agenda Items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Allergies - what are our practices regarding food allergies and how do we address them