

# Henry Elementary School Site Council

Meeting minutes, Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Attendance:

Members Present/Classification:

Jonathan Ben-Asher, Principal  
Kim Bachenheimer, Certified  
Diane Holzman, Certified  
Christy Canovas, ESP  
Jacob Landcaster, ESP  
Lorrie Baker, ESP  
Gary Fowler, Parent  
Kim MacAllister, Parent  
B.J. Cordova, Community Member

Guest: Barbara Panunzio

Absent:

Michelle Ward, Parent (excused)

1. Meeting called to order by Facilitator, Christy Canovas, at 3:52 p.m.
2. Minutes of October 6, 2009 meeting were distributed at the meeting. Consensus that the minutes were correct as presented, with minor typographical errors under “Student council expenses”... They can’t be expenses that TUSD should be paying for... and “You can’t have other clubs if you don’t have a student council”
3. Discussion items:
  - Instrumental music: Mrs. Panunzio shared potential contacts and suggestions for music/orchestra. Ultimately it is site council’s decision but must be offered to the entire school (whether after school, or as daytime extracurricular activity). K-2 already has donated choral instructor for this school year, can we encourage involvement primarily from 3-5<sup>th</sup> grades? Discussion – is there an option to pay the Sheelys a small amount, to maintain program equity across grades? Students can’t be graded on tax credit-funded programs. \$200 available specifically for orchestra, and \$2,900 in the fine arts which could be used. Need to determine amount per hour that would be paid, with a district classification for the job. Council needs to determine what program outline we’d like to have, and fund – and whether during or after school with input from school staff. Lorrie can provide job descriptions/costs so that site council can make a decision. Potential to also include schoolwide assembly (steel drum band, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, others?) – Henry may be only feeder school to Gridley, that maintained a band program.
  - How to request items to be placed on site council agenda: any constituent may request to their representative that an agenda item be added, and any site council

member representative should then forward this to the facilitator or principal ASAP for inclusion on the next agenda. Members should be communicating regularly with their constituent group.

- Follow-up to School Accountability Plan – Copies of the finalized/signed SAP including minor adjustments were distributed. The staff development calendar was completed along with items regarding technology implementation. Suggestions were provided by central office at district regarding portfolio of work and other items that can easily be added.
- Renovation update – construction has begun, with sawing/cutting (may be loud) to commence shortly. Shortage of restrooms, but staff are coping with this. Construction staff/district are meeting regularly to keep project updated in terms of next phases of construction.
- Action Oriented School Council: (Gary Fowler) – District is trying to implement the shared decision-making process, need more progress on this concept since not a lot seems to change in spite of continued changes at the upper levels. If overrides pass, where will additional funding specifically be put at our site? Does site council as the school's governing body decide this autonomously or will this be made at district/administrative level? What fund is this in? (Site council can decide on questions that the board has delegated). Relating to the pending initiatives, schools will find out if/what decisions need to be made relating to education/technology overrides after the voting process. District has made it a priority to keep all-day Kindergarten. This applies possibly to the next school year, and would not likely be available this fiscal year. Potentially the district will be putting together very specific training for site councils. If these are decisions that the site council makes, then it is up to the principal to implement them. Site council needs to be strong leaders as a group, voting to make decisions and not with individual opinions being represented on behalf of the group. Can a note be placed in parent newsletter to educate them about site council happenings, and encourage their further participation? Could smaller parent corkboard be traded for larger board, and add site council meeting/info? Also send out blurbs by email/other ways so parents know what will be happening and become more involved regularly? Parents should help build, not react to conditions at the school.
- Discipline – student behavior problems throughout school. How do we take care of/get help for students/encourage appropriate behavior and creative ways to handle problems, even with less counselors & staff to support these needs and encourage a better educational environment rather than just spending time to contain a behavior problem and shortchanging the remaining students? What specific programs/ideas do we have to be proactive, instead of just being in a triage/reactive situation? (Example, Henry rewards store) – what are causes of the problems, it is a broad concern but need parent involvement. Primary grade levels are already working on this. Intermediate level seems to be relatively calm, but it takes time. 4 Be's – Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Caring (as opposed to “don't do this or that”). These are Henry's Values – need to find a way to teach life skills as well as reward behavior since there is no counselor to handle this. Some teachers do this at the class level, but nothing schoolwide/systematic.

Can older students interact with younger students as mentors? School is also short on monitors, so 5<sup>th</sup> graders actually help monitor 1<sup>st</sup> graders. Principal is in process of working with staff to introduce peer mediator program and school monitor program. Possible adult mentors as well from large companies or civic clubs, Strength Building Partners, or mix of resources, potentially looking for 20-30 people or more on a regular basis? Also existing partnership with Sahuaro HS with suspension alternatives? Quarterly or more assemblies to recognize academic, behavioral and other above & beyond positive attributes?

- K-3: teaching assistant was hired with the Title 1 funds. (how do we put out need for more supplies, for fundraisers, tax credit funds & others since decision was already made and there isn't a way to go back on that)

4. Reports:

- Facilitator: Susan Allard has had to resign from site council, due to a class that also meets on Tuesdays. So we need another teacher representative for site council. (staff representatives, get the word out for teachers to nominate someone).
- Principal: 301 Goal results from last school year: we did meet the goals. TUSD (district acknowledges that we met our goals; we are hard at work on next goals).
- Tax Credit:

5. Study/Action Items:

- Instrumental Music: \$500 moved/seconded and approved for music assemblies schoolwide. Unanimous approval.
- Henry Title 1 Plan - \$35,400 in stimulus dollars available for targeted assistance/tutoring. Plan can be a work in progress, but must be measured. This is a supplement, for reading & math, not replacing existing programs or for other subject areas. Students selected based on teacher recommendation and academic progress. Some of this happens after school, and some can happen during school if it doesn't interfere with existing curriculum. Also, goal of parent involvement (includes interaction with school counselor and PTA synergistically). Important to get started, and categories flexible. Moved and seconded to approve plan as presented. Unanimous approval.

6. Announcements

7. Call to the Audience

8. Set Next Agenda

9. Adjournment: 5:48 p.m.