

Tanque Verde On Target (TOT)

Board Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2014

The second meeting of the Tanque Verde On Target (TOT) Board Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, April 22, 2014. The meeting was held at the Tanque Verde Unified School District Administrative offices in the Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Tom Dameron.

Everyone was asked to briefly introduce themselves. We have some committee members attending for the first time tonight.

Barbara Drummond stated she is relatively new to the area, is a parent of school age children attending our schools.

Parralee Schneider retired community member involved in politics.

Rocky Ferrell is a retired community member, with a business, *Verde Valley Flower Farm*, on Speedway.

Ruth Hannley has grandchildren attending our schools.

Greg Gaines is a stay-at-home parent with children attending our schools.

Anne Velosa has three children attending school in the district.

Tom Dameron retired business owner who has a child attending ACES.

Gary Hix has a grandson attending EGJH.

Lisa Bleecher long time district resident.

Rebecca Maher is a Realtor and district resident with school age children.

Kevin Brown has lived the area for years; he has children attending our schools.

Barbara Zukowski retired TVUSD teacher and district resident.

Jamin Collins lives in the district has a three children attending our schools. Active in the PTGs.

Tom Fench is district resident with school age children at TVES and EGJH. He and his wife own a Tutoring Service.

Jeremy Schalk is a business owner with school age children.

George Atkinson, Redington Pass district resident.

Bonnie Carpenter has grandchildren attending our schools.

I. Approval of the April 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Rocky Ferrell made a motion to approve the April 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Dr. Price noted there was a typo, under section II Policy review BDE Board Committees and BDF Advisory Committees in the first paragraph the policies should reflect BDE and BDF. Lisa Bleecher seconded the motion; noting the minutes should reflect the correction, the motion carried unanimously.

II. Clarification of questions from the previous meeting – Tom Dameron and Barbara Drummond

A. The first question:

i. *Do we need to understand the budget process?* Barbara led the committee through how the school district budget is funded. In general, the district receives **approximately** 50% funding from the State and 50% from local property taxes. How the funds are dispersed is approximately 80% goes toward people and 20% goes toward programs.

State Funds

State funding is calculated using the Qualifying Tax Rate (QTR) formula. District Additional Assistance (DAA) funds Capital Outlay Revenue Limit (CORL) - CORL funds go into the Maintenance & Operations Fund. The state continues to cut this funding approximately 47% each year. Soft Capital and Building Renewal funding has been eliminated.

District Taxpayer Funds

Property taxes (primary and secondary taxes):

Primary taxes

Pay for Maintenance and Operation expenses including teacher salaries and classroom supplies

Secondary taxes (voted) - Overrides and Bonds

Overrides 2013-14 FY-

Maintenance & Operation Override (M & O) 10% expires 2017 – to pay salaries and classroom supplies

K-3 Override at 5% expires 2014 – to pay salaries and maintain smaller classroom sizes

Bonds – paid for new school and building remodels, community programs building

In the last 5 years, 23% of education funding has been cut. In an effort to bridge the funding gap, the district has looked at growth funding through open enrollment, creating a district sponsored charter school, Parent groups (PTG, TVF) .

ii. *How efficiently is money being spent?*

For 2013, the national average per pupil spending is approximately \$11,000. The district average is approximately \$7,000.

Arizona has experienced the highest education cuts in the nation.

Committee members asked, when was the last time teachers received a raise?

And, what is the starting salary for a teacher?

Our teachers haven't received an increase in many years. They have received in some cases compression salary adjustments. This year, adjustments to the contracts for certified employees who have worked less than ten years will receive \$300 to pay for the additional year of experience that they would have been paid if they were to resign, reapply and be rehired. We are committed to this practice to ensure that salary compression does not become an issue in the future.

The starting salary for a new teacher is \$30,300.

Dr. Price added, he will be recommending to the Governing Board at the next Board meeting that each certified (teacher) position be paid an additional \$1000. Ideally, this increase was to be permanent; however, due to unfavorable legislative action during the last budget session, he can only recommend the increase be for the 2014-15 school year. District sponsored charter schools established within the last year will only receive charter school additional assistance funding for one more year according to new legislation. Adding to this limitation, the school district will only receive 74.5% of the charter school additional assistance funds for the students enrolled at Tanque Verde Elementary School next year. We had planned to use these funds to increase teacher salaries. Next year we will be required to convert TVES back to a traditional public school at no penalty for repayment of the additional charter funding received in the past.

Due to time constraints, Barbara announced that the remaining questions will be answered at the next meeting.

IV. Review Survey Responses – Paul Bentz, HighGround Inc. Consulting

Mrs. Place introduced Paul Bentz. She shared with the group it was during a visit to Litchfield that Dr. Price, Board Member Carlos Ruiz, and she learned about the survey work Paul does. Mrs. Place said they learned about Litchfield School District's marketing efforts through Ann Donahue, Litchfield's Public Information Officer. Times have changed, and school funding has too; school districts need to learn how to market themselves. Paul's work was very instrumental in helping form Litchfield's marketing plan. Dr. Price contacted Paul and requested a Public Opinion survey for our school district. The purpose of the survey is to better understand what constituents know about the school district, and what their thoughts and perceptions are in relation to their support.

Paul shared the survey results. The survey was conducted April 4 – 11, 2014. Information was collected from 300 people (*See attached Survey results*)

V. Preparation for next meeting – Barbara Drummond and Tom Dameron

Barbara asked everyone to be prepared at the next meeting, May 13, to provide their recommendation regarding the feasibility of the school Board calling for an M & O Override and or a Capital Override election and if so, when.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Tanque Verde Unified School District Public Opinion Survey

**April 4-11, 2014
(N=300)**



In general, would you say that Pima County is heading in the right direction, or the wrong direction?

7.0%	Definitely right direction
27.7%	Probably right direction
16.0%	Probably wrong direction
28.0%	Definitely wrong direction
21.3%	Don't Know, Refused

K-12 education in your area is heading in the right direction, or the wrong direction?

17.7%	Definitely right direction
21.0%	Probably right direction
14.7%	Probably wrong direction
33.3%	Definitely wrong direction
13.3%	Don't Know, Refused

*note: "In your area" is intentionally broad to allow for interpretation beyond the local school district

In general, would you say that the size of the schools in your area are:

20.0%	Too large
64.0%	Just about right
6.0%	Too small
10.0%	Don't know, Refused

How much have you seen, read, or heard about Tanque Verde Unified School District?

17.0%	Nothing at all
32.3%	A little
47.3%	A lot
3.3%	Don't know, Refused

What specifically have you seen, read, or heard about Tanque Verde Unified School District?

Open ended. N = 209 Respondents

27.8%	Good/High rated/quality schools	3.6%	Better than other schools
8.0%	Have students attend	3.2%	Attended a Tanque Verde school
7.6%	Funding challenges	2.8%	Charter information
6.2%	Smaller class sizes	2.8%	Seen advertising/information
6.0%	Wrong direction/dissatisfaction	2.8%	Recent changes/construction
5.6%	Don't know		
4.6%	Good teachers	1.4%	Common core

Approval (Scale of 1-5)

	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Tanque Verde Unified School Board	3.58	31.3%
Tanque Verde A-Plus	3.97	70.7%
Tanque Verde Foundation	3.80	67.3%
Local School Parent-Teacher Groups	3.71	44.0%

Override Programs (Scale 1 to 5)

	<u>Mean</u>
Special education	4.08
Increased teacher pay	4.06
Band and musical education	3.91
Technology including mobile computer labs	3.91
Maintenance such as fixing or replacing air conditioners, roof replacement, parking lot paving	3.88
Replacing aging classroom equipment	3.84

Override Programs (Scale 1 to 5)

	<u>Mean</u>
Art programs	3.83
Character education including safety, civic responsibility and ethical behavior	3.82
Smaller class sizes	3.81
Foreign languages	3.70
Improving school security	3.57

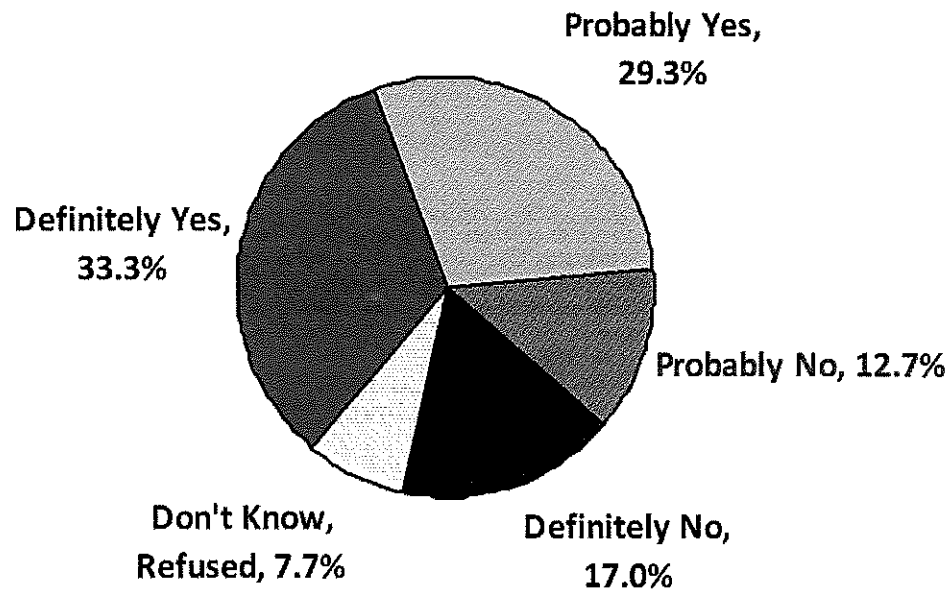
Override Programs (Scale 1 to 5)

	<u>Mean</u>
Classroom aides	3.57
Sports	3.56
Community use of facilities and fields	3.51
Replacing aging buses	3.39
Reducing traffic	2.92
Exterior campus maintenance such as landscaping	2.89

Maintenance and Operations Override

Knowing just what you know right now, would you vote yes or no on a Maintenance and Operations override?

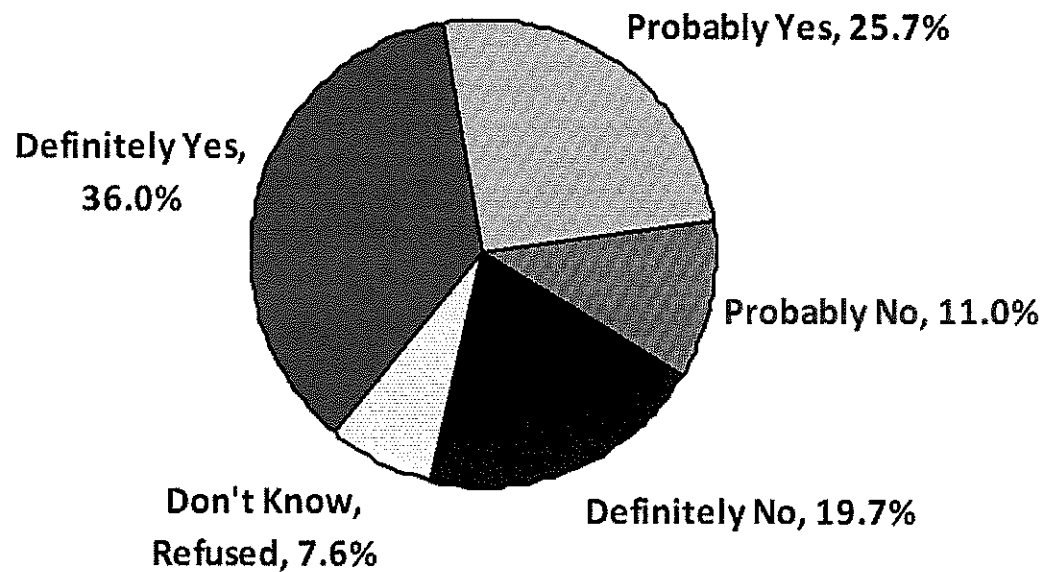
Total: 62.6% Yes
29.7% No



School Capital Override

Knowing just what you know right now, would you vote yes or no on a School Capital override?

**Total: 61.7% Yes
30.7% No**



Override Comparison

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 55.0% | I would likely support both overrides because they are both essential to our quality education. |
| 9.7% | I would likely only the Capital override. |
| 8.7% | I would likely only the maintenance and operations override. |
| 26.7% | I would vote no on both overrides - things are fine the way that they are. We don't need to give the schools any more of our money. |

Demographics

Age Group:

15.0%	29 and under
10.0%	30 to 39
9.7%	40 to 49
32.3%	50 to 64
33.0%	65 Plus

Sex:	47.3%	Male
	52.7%	Female

Party:	41.0%	Republican
	29.0%	Dem
	30.0%	PND/Independent/Other

Demographics

Permanent Early Voter List:

64.0%	Yes
36.0%	No

Do you have children under 18 living at home with you?

27.7%	Yes
70.3%	No
2.0%	Refused

Demographics

Are you . . . ?

- 29.7% Employed Full Time
- 15.0% Employed Part Time
- 38.3% Retired
- 14.3% Not Working/Other
- 2.7% Refused

Source of Education and Public Policy Information

21.3%	Arizona Daily Star
16.0%	Internet news sources, websites or blogs
14.3%	Local television news
11.0%	District Newsletter
9.3%	Other
7.3%	National newspapers like the New York Times or Wall Street Journal
6.3%	Radio talk shows
5.0%	Cable Television channels like CNN or Fox News
4.7%	Don't know, Refused
2.3%	Broadcast television like ABC, CBS, or NBC?
2.3%	Social media such as Facebook and twitter