

## Tanque Verde On Target (TOT)

### Board Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2014

The first of three meetings of the Tanque Verde On Target (TOT) Board Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, April 8, 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 Governing Board President Mrs. Claire Place.

#### I. Introductions and Statement of Committee Purpose - Claire Place, TVUSD Board President

Claire Place expressed her appreciation to committee members for their willingness to be part of the Advisory committee. She reiterated the committee purpose is to serve as advisors to determine the feasibility of the School Board to call for an M & O Override and/or a Capital override Election and if so, when. At the conclusion of the third meeting, the committee will be asked to make a recommendation to the Board by consensus.

Claire Place introduced Superintendent Dr. Doug Price, Business Manager Marty O'Shea, Human Resources Director Kim Sharp, and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/School Board Judy Bower to the committee. Dr. Price, and Mr. O'Shea are listed on the agenda to present to the committee tonight, and Kim Sharp and Judy Bower are here for support and to help field questions. Adding, due to the formal structure of the meeting, Judy will be taking meeting minutes.

Claire Place introduced Barbara Drummond and Tom Dameron, who both graciously agreed to Co-chair this committee. Claire Place asked to clarify if they wanted to appoint someone from the committee to take meeting minutes, or if would like for Judy to take the minutes, both agreed that was fine.

Claire Place had each of the committee members introduce themselves and state their reasons for agreeing to serve on the committee and any other pertinent background information which they would like to share:

Barbara Drummond indicated she is relatively new to the area. She worked for several Fortune 500 companies before having her family. They are a military family and have lived in a number of places in the United States. They are now settled here and invested here. She has 3 boys attending ACES.

Tom Dameron stated he is retired after 20 years as a business owner. He has a first grader attending ACES. As an employer, it was challenging for him to find qualified, good, local employees in the area. By serving on this committee he feels he can give back to the community.

Rocky Ferrell is a retired community member. He and his wife have lived in the area for many years. Mr. Ferrell has lived abroad working for Merrill Lynch and retired in 1991. He describes himself as a "numbers guy". He has a business, *Verde Valley Flower Farm*, on Speedway. This community is important to him and he, too, wants to give back.

Parralee Schneider grew up in Tucson, moved away and then came back in 1993. In the past, she has volunteered in the schools. She became a Realtor in 1973 and is now involved in politics. She is a member of the Republican Party. She is interested in keeping public education strong and relevant.

Greg Gaines is a former teacher and principal in a charter school. He currently has two children attending TVES through open enrollment. Greg is currently a stay-at-home parent. He wants parents to feel that the schools belong to both the students and their parents. With this type of partnership, our schools become even more special. He volunteers at TVES as needed.

Lesli Pintor has lived in this area for 10 years. Lesli is a lifelong banker and worked in that industry in various capacities. She appreciates financial solvency, and appreciates being involved on this committee.

Lisa Bleacher has been in the area for 10 years. She has an 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders attending the TVUSD schools. She recently sold two businesses and is now “enjoying and/or considering retirement.” As a business owner, Lisa and her husband found it difficult to find employees to fill their technical positions. “Not all high school graduates are cut out for a university education; there are real employment opportunities in the technical fields that do not require a four-year degree.” Her husband has expressed a desire to teach Junior Achievement.

Charlene Atkinson attended the meeting on behalf of her husband George Atkinson who was in Washington, D.C. at the time of the meeting. George and Charlene moved into the area in 1995. She is a former elementary art teacher from 1991- 2001. She and her husband have a keen interest in supporting the arts in this school district and community.

Bonnie Carpenter has served on the Board for Parks Service for 12 years. She has 2 grandchildren attending ACES. She believes education is everyone’s responsibility.

Kevin Brown and his family have been living in the school district for 30 years. He had two siblings attend our schools. Currently, he has one child at TVES, one child at EGJH, and one child at the high school.

Jamin Collins has lived in the district for 16 years. She has three children attending school in the district (2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades). She’s held Parent-Teacher Group leadership positions at ACES and Emily Gray. Her background is in Political Science.

Anne Velosa has a science and engineering background. She has 3 children in the district (7<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> graders). She has been involved as a school volunteer and has been a member of Parent-Teacher Groups since the time her children entered the public schools.

Barbara Zukowski is a retired elementary school teacher who worked in TVUSD for 24 years. She believes that the Tanque Verde Schools have always been inviting to students and parents alike and noted that she was heartened by the comments made about the school as the introductions were made. She is happy to serve on the committee.

Jeremy Schalk has a business placing students in vocational and educational internships. He works with area high school students, Pima County JTED students, and Pima Community College students. Mr. Schalk noted that he is happy to serve on the advisory committee.

Ruth Hannley moved into the district in 1983. She is a musician who taught private music lessons in the community. She is interested in the subject of school operations, budgets and culture. She noted that she recently was contacted via phone to complete a survey regarding the Tanque Verde Schools.

Claire thanked everyone, stating this is a passionate and diverse group.

## **II. Policy Review - BDE Board Committees and BDF Advisory Committees - Claire Place**

Claire Place presented and reviewed school district policies BDE and BDE. She explained in detail how a Board Advisory Committee works. This committee is temporary and will only meet three times for its designated purpose. The committee recommendation shall be advisory only and by

consensus. The committee will be dissolved after the conclusion of the third meeting. Committee members received a specific statement of the purpose of the committee and meeting dates. Claire Place discussed the requirements of the Arizona Open Meeting Law as it applies to the committee. She noted that there were to be no outside meetings among committee members. She cautioned committee members about email communication as well. She described how these public meeting Notices and Agendas will be posted and meetings open to the public. Meeting minutes are requirement for the advisory committee.

### **III. Committee Membership - Claire Place**

As Co-chairman, Tom Dameron instructed committee members to direct all questions to him via email. Claire Place added it is important to not copy ALL committee members in email communication, as this could be a violation of the Arizona Open Meeting Law. No one person on this committee represents the committee as a whole.

### **IV. Meeting Protocol - Co-chair Barbara Drummond**

Barbara Drummond addressed the committee, stating they intend to honor the meeting time allotted as per the posted agendas. Her role as Co-chair is to help facilitate the meeting and if necessary move conversations along during the meeting. She will help track questions for further discussion. .

### **V. Review Timeline - Co-chair Tom Dameron**

The next Tanque Verde On Target (TOT) Committee meeting will be held on April 22 at 6:30 at the district office in the board room (2300 N. Tanque Verde Loop Road).

### **VI. District Goals/District Profile/Educational Priorities - Douglas Price**

Dr. Price reviewed the district goals with the committee:

#### ***1. Ensure the fiscal sustainability of the District***

- a. Optimize classroom funding while addressing non-competitive salary issues and providing appropriate benefits for all district employees.*
- b. Pursue new significant revenue sources, including grants and gifts.*
- c. Increase capacity and program through continued growth, achievement and operational efficiency.*

#### ***2. Maintain and enhance a rigorous and relevant curriculum***

- a. Support the transition to Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards and PARCC Assessment requirements.*
- b. Survey and report assessment data to inform and support student academic achievement.*
- c. Support continuous academic growth, and emphasize the writing skills curriculum.*
- d. Fully implement district technology programs.*
- e. Offer a market-driven, K-12 program emphasizing character development, performance-based learning, relationships and individual responsibility.*

#### ***3. Promote professional development and instructional improvement***

- a. *Implement the state-mandated performance-based evaluation system.*
- b. *Facilitate staff collaboration to support continuous professional learning that will enhance student achievement and the operational efficiency of district operations.*
- c. *Encourage employee wellness and personal health awareness.*

**4. *Involve and engage community in District pursuits***

- a. *Encourage and support partnerships and collaborations with business and community groups.*
- b. *Enhance District communications by improving the district website and email service, and by utilizing web-based resources.*
- c. *Recognize contributions and achievements of community members, students, teachers and staff, and promote the strengths of the District.*
- d. *Offer programs and facilities which invite community participation.*

**5. *Sustain modern, safe and efficient facilities for students, staff and community***

- a. *Complete District technology infrastructure improvements.*
- b. *Provide emergency preparedness training and practice for staff and student safety and security.*

“Relationships are at the heart of our goals,” Dr. Price noted.

Dr. Price explained that each committee person received a folder with material for this meeting. In that material he pointed out the *District Fact Sheet* which highlights the district demographics, academics, fiscal responsibility, business/civic involvement, and business and community partnerships.

Dr. Price said at the next meeting we will be discussing, in detail, the budget and reviewing historical budgets that include district assets and expenditures. Dr. Price noted that recently the school district commissioned a climate survey to better inform the board, the TOT Committee and the community about the community perceptions regarding the school district. Two committee members indicated they’ve already completed the survey. He added we should have the results at our next meeting and will be posting the results on the website.

Dr. Price touched on some of the cost-saving measures the district has implemented recently noting the installation of Solar and the replacement of older mechanical AC/heating units, along with a Building Automated System, centralizing the control of most of the mechanical unit and lighting operations throughout the district. Dr. Price pointed out that the district office was renovated using doors, windows, ceiling panels, many of the hard fixtures from the previous district office building. Recycling much of the material from the old building allowed the school district to save funds to use in other parts of the 2009 Bond projects. The District opted to renovate the district office building in order to build new classrooms for the adult community programs and at the other school campuses.

Dr. Price made note of the upgrade of the district’s technology infrastructure. By the July 1, the school district will have capacity for 2200 end users on the wide area network. New accountability measures are now in place as mandated by the state. Our school district must have the technology capacity to have all students be assessed on the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards beginning next school year. All tests will be completed via computer. These added technology demands and new accountability measures are having an impact on professional development for teachers.

The state education budget continues to be debated at the legislature. Budgets are adjusted on a yearly basis depending on the legislative mandates, restrictions and calls for accountability. At the April 22 meeting, Dr. Price will share the budget trends for the past five years and will look at the revenues and expenditures as they pertained to the budgets.

Dr. Price shared with the committee that recently he and three (3) TVHS students were invited to the Capitol for a tour and to meet with some legislators. Representative Ethan Orr and Senator Dave Bradley visited with the TVHS students during the day at the Capitol. The TVHS student representatives were asked to open the daily session of the House of Representative by leading an opening prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Price concluded by saying this ad hoc Board advisory committee is important in helping the school board best understand community sentiment regarding the direction of our local school district.

One committee member asked about touring the campuses and Dr. Price will arrange that with the building principals and the co-chairs of the TOT Committee

## **VII. Budget Review and Education Financing - Marty O'Shea**

Business Manager Marty O'Shea reviewed the *Arizona School Finance Summary Manual*. He described the general categories of a school budget and reviewed the following:

- Budget Formula Construction
- Where Formula Dollars Come From
- How Budgets are Categorized.

Mr. O'Shea briefly reviewed M&O and Capital funding including Maintenance and Operation overrides and Capital overrides. Maintenance and operations funds make up 90% of a District budget. Maintenance and Operations funds, whether from formula funding or voter-approved funding, can be spent for the operations of the school including salaries and program costs. Capital funds, whether from formula funding or voter-approved funding, can be used only for Capital.

A committee member asked if the District receives Tax Credit donations. Mr. O'Shea confirmed we do receive tax credit donations, adding these funds are limited to extra- curricular activities.

Charter funding questions came up during Mr. O'Shea's presentation. Committee members asked if public charter school funding was different from traditional public school funding. Dr. Price clarified that in Arizona charter schools are publicly funded schools; however, they are funded differently. Charter schools receive base-support funding and receive what is called additional charter school assistance funding. Traditional public schools receive base-support funding and additional assistance. The base support amounts for traditional school funding and charter school per pupil are the same. The additional assistance for our charter school students is greater than it is for our traditional school students. Also, Dr. Price noted that the charter students are funded on the current year Average Daily Attendance (ADM) and the traditional schools are funded on the previous year ADM.

## **VIII. Question and Answers**

Committee members were encourage to forward questions to Tom Dameron.

## **IX. Next meeting preparation - Tom Dameron and Barbara Drummond**

Barbara Drummond asked everyone to please review the finance manual in preparation for next week. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.