

November 14, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.

Community Linkage Advisory Committee Meeting Notes:

The first meeting of Community Linkage Committee for the 2013-14 school year was held on Thursday, November 14, 2013. The meeting was held at the Tanque Verde Unified School District Administrative offices in the board room.

Following is the meeting agenda:

- I. Introductions

- II. Meeting Objective – Strategic Partner Networking

- III. Celebrations
 - A. Reward Schools
 - B. ABEC Recognition
 - C. National FFA Award Winner – JTED/TVHS

- IV. Updates
 - A. ACES PTG
 - B. TVES PTG
 - C. TV Foundation
 - D. TV A+
 - E. Booster Club
 - F. Governing Board

- V. Legislative
 - A. Recent Elections
 - B. Legislative Session – Education Issues

- VI. Action Planning
 - A. Technology
 - B. Arizona College and Career Readiness Assessments
 - C. Collaborations

Dr. Price welcomed the participants and asked each to introduce themselves. There were representatives from all the school Parent Teacher Groups, the Tanque Verde Foundation, the high school Booster Club, the Tanque Verde A + group, Amity, Pima County Superintendents office, Board Members: Mrs. Claire Place, Mr. Jeff Neff, Mr. Carlos Ruiz, and Legislative District 10, State Senator David Bradley.

STRATEGIC PARTNER NETWORKING:

Dr. Price spoke to the group expressing his thanks and appreciation, "You all contribute toward the success of the district, and we couldn't do this without you and the support of our community."

CELEBRATIONS:

Dr. Price shared some of the district celebrations. Both Agua Caliente and Tanque Verde Elementary Schools are recognized as Reward Schools by the State Board of Education and the Arizona Department of Education. Rewards schools are recognized for high academic performance or high levels of student growth.

Tanque Verde Elementary School received Arizona Business and Education Coalition (ABEC) recognition for their superior academic achievement in all areas measured by AIMS (Science, Math, English Language Arts and Reading).

"The National Center for Educational Achievement (NCEA), a department of ACT, Inc., looked at student test results for the past three years to create this year's higher performing schools list. Schools qualify for NCEA's list in a given subject by meeting one of two metrics: the Performance Measure and the Growth Measure. TVES is being recognized as one of these outstanding performers. The Performance Measure compares schools on the percentage of students at or above the achievement level closest to NCEA's College and Career Readiness (CCR) Targets, after adjusting for school poverty rates based on the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced price lunch. The top five percent of schools are considered for NCEA's list. The Growth Measure evaluates schools whose students perform better than predicted for a school with similar demographics and prior achievement using statistical analyses. The top 10 percent of schools are considered for NCEA's list, within each low-income group."

National FAA Award winners and TVHS students, Meghan Marnier placed first in the nation individually and won a FFA scholarship and Miriam Solinsky placed 13th. Our Veterinary Science team placed sixth nationally out of 43 state teams.

UPDATES:

The following group representatives presented updates:

ACES

Tim Soeder, ACES PTG President, spoke of the joint school venture with the Fall Festival held at TVHS this year. He felt this was a great opportunity to build a community. He thought the festival was successful, and added that the organizers will be sending out a survey to parents to find out what worked, what didn't, and how to make it even better next year.

Soeder also reported an alternating ACES PTG meeting schedule was introduced this year. One month ACES holds a morning meeting followed by an evening meeting the next month. This alternating meeting schedule has been introduced to accommodate working parents. Thus far the morning meetings are better attended, according to Mr. Soeder.

Currently underway at ACES is the "Penny War" fundraiser. Grade levels have been grouped together to form three teams. Students from each class place their pennies in their group container. One point is received for every penny in the container. Classes may put other coins

and paper currency into the containers of OTHER groups. Each silver coin or bill reduces the number of points from that container by the amount of the coin. (e.g. a nickel reduces the points by five, a dime by ten, a dollar by 100, etc...) This is a competition where strategy counts.

November 22 is the ACES First Annual Art Show from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the ACES MPR.

TVES

Shara Gerhart, TVES PTG President, announced the TVES PTG will conduct a general meeting on Friday, November 15. She indicated PTG meeting attendance is improving

They just finished the *“Walk and Roll”* activity at TVES. This activity encourages students to walk to school. By participating, students received tickets for a drawing to win a scooter.

When students return from Winter Break in January, the Spell-A-Thon Fundraiser will begin. These funds will go to the general fund to help support teacher grants, or technology purchases.

Ms. Gerhart added that the Fall Festival was successful and that everyone chipped in to help.

EGJH

Jamin Collins, EGJH PTSG Treasurer, agreed that the Fall Festival was fun for students and their parents and allowed all the campuses to work together.

EGJH PTSG typically does not have a great presence at the junior high campus. This year they are creating fundraising opportunities and building the PTG parent participation.

In September, the PTSG organized the *“Eat Wings, Raise Funds”* at Buffalo Wild Wings. Emily Gray PTSG received 15% of the sales from the Emily Gray community. They raised a few hundred dollars in what Ms. Collins reported as a *“fun event.”*

Also in September, the PTSG hosted a *“DASH and DUNK”* fundraiser. Students were asked to collect pledges from family, friends and neighbors. Students raced against the clock and each other to DASH across the field as many times as they were able in 10 minutes. After that, students went into the MPR and attempted to DUNK as many basketballs into the hoop in 10 minutes. Because of the physical activity component, this was tied into the Student Health and Wellness goals. Total student pledges collected came to \$4500. The funds collected will go toward teacher stipends and classroom needs. The PTSG will continue to implement activities that require little or no upfront costs and can be done in a relatively short timeframe. Mrs. Shelton and Mr. Miller were a great support and worked well with the PTSG in organizing this fundraiser, according to Ms. Collins. EGJH PTSG will continue to focus on the no-overhead fundraisers, Ms. Collins added.

TANQUE VERDE FOUNDATION

Mr. Ross Pearson briefly talked about the Tanque Verde Foundation (TVF) sponsored events with *Tech Trek* and *Taste of Tanque Verde*. Ms. Melody Leavitt mentioned that organizers are opening up *Tech Trek* to 5K race to attract more participants. Track teams from TVHS and EGJH will be invited to participate. Money they raise at these events help support the District in larger

technology projects as well as individual teacher requested grants, according to both TVF members Pearson and Leavitt.

BOOSTER CLUB:

Mr. Robert O'Brien, TVHS Booster Club member spoke about the Booster Club support for all athletic teams at the high school including the Cheer Squad. Athletic teams at the high school have really grown the past few years. The Boosters are working toward the goal of permanent lights and expanded bleachers at the high school football field. He announced Mr. Lantz, TVHS Athletic Director, is organizing a golf tournament to benefit the Athletic Department. This fundraiser will be held at Forty Niner Country Club on Saturday, March 1. Mr. O'Brien thanked the PTG groups for including the Booster Club in the Fall Festival.

TANQUE VERDE A +

Mrs. Angie Donelson, Tanque Verde A + spokesperson, talked about this newly formed grassroots, non-partisan parent group that has a supportive public education focus. The TV A+ mission is to examine and participate in local and state education ballot issues to promote and support a positive education agenda. On Monday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Real Life Church, TV A+ is hosting a forum. They have asked local state legislators to come and speak to the group about legislative issues in the upcoming session. TV A + has contacted high school civic teachers to see if their students may want to attend this forum.

LEGISLATIVE:

RECENT ELECTIONS

Mr. Richardo (Ricky) Hernandez, County Superintendent CFO, shared his perspective of the last election and shared some voter trend data. He stated that elections are changing; how citizens vote is changing. Three out of five voters over the age of 55 are voting by mail and in this district there are many voters who do not have children in school. Mr. Hernandez encouraged schools to become better organized, prepare voter information early, and "walk the neighborhoods" to make certain that school information is presented accurately, legally and timely. He provided statistics on the surrounding district override election results and the vote margins in both successful as well as unsuccessful elections. Catalina Foothills conducted a campaign which was supported by a well-organized group 'Friends of Catalina Foothills.' This group was able to clearly and concisely communicate issues in support of the school district needs.

According to Hernandez, many voters are unaware of the assessed property value tax limits and how this could have a negative impact on their local schools. Voters approved, on the November 6, 2012 General Election ballot, Proposition 117 which amended the Arizona Constitution to cap the annual increase in the value of real property used to calculate property taxes to 5% over the value of the property for the previous year, beginning with the 2015 tax year. Currently, there is no limit on full cash value. This limitation would apply to property values used in determining all property taxes on the real property.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION – EDUCATION ISSUES

As part of a legislative initiative, Senator David Bradley visited our school district, shadowing the superintendent for a good part of the day. Senator Bradley met with Board Members for breakfast and toured all the campuses during his visit. Senator Bradley had the opportunity to talk with our teachers and students as he visited each campus.

AMITY:

Ms. Terry Meloney, a 30-year Amity employee and Educational Liaison, spoke about how Amity's program offerings, their facilities and populations have changed through the years. She expressed her gratitude to the District for implementing tutoring opportunities for their students and for all the special education services provided. Amity continues to work with parents regarding the importance of education, as parents and for their children. Amity works with students to help instill healthy routines and good study habits which better ensure success. As the families heal and eventually leave the Amity rehabilitation therapy, the Amity staff is optimistic that families leave with a better understanding of the value of education.

ACTION PLANNING:

Mr. Tony Blackwell, TVUSD IT Director, spoke about the District Technology Plan. With the support from the Tanque Verde Foundation and PTGs, the school district was able to accomplish a great deal. For some time now our IT infrastructure has been inadequate. Within the last two years, we have been able to increase our bandwidth, implement and expand our wireless coverage, and purchase new equipment. With recent upgrades the District has made important strides. Because of our partnership and financial support from the TV Foundation and PTGs, we now have a focused district-wide strategic technology plan.

Dr. Price talked about the new state-mandated PARCC computer assessments and how our technology resources will be tested with the implementation of the assessments. Beginning in 2014-15 school year there will be one mandated, summative test administered each year. Districts will have the option to give three formative tests throughout the school year prior to the summative test. The state will provide for the summative test and districts will pay for the remaining three tests if they choose to give them. Information from ADE continues to change in these testing matters. Dr. Price explained how challenging it is to plan with the constant changes. In an effort to be prepared, we continue to attend ADE sponsored workshops and plan accordingly.