

January 24, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.

Community Linkage Advisory Committee Meeting Notes:

The first in a series of meetings of the Community Linkage Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Emily Gray Junior High School Library.

The committee was formed at the request of the TVUSD Board. The charge of the committee is to:

1. Learning of the scope of the school district needs
2. Understanding the current resources and assets on hand to deal with quality programming
3. Learning of legislative (federal and state) mandates and pending issues that will/may affect programs
4. Using the 2011-12 TVUSD Budget Committee's recommendations
5. Look at the District's 2013-14 budgetary projections based on demographic trend data and possible BSL
6. Advising the Board in matters of immediate assets, cuts and programming as it pertains to the upcoming school year

Dr. Price started the meeting welcoming everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He then introduced the guest speakers State senators David Bradley (D-Tucson) and Rich Crandall (R-Mesa) to an audience of school district stakeholders – residents and non-residents - comprised of current and former students and parents, current and former district employees, school board members, friends and neighbors with an interest in education and in our community. The evening session and subsequent meetings are intended to increase awareness of the challenges facing our school district, and more broadly, facing public education in our state.

The State Senators were asked to present their perspective on education and Arizona's budget. First up was Senator Crandall, former Education Chair while he served in the Arizona House of Representatives (2009-10), and former Senate Education Chair (2011-12). His remarks addressed some of the best practices he's observed while visiting schools and school districts. He cited Tanque Verde's tradition of high student achievement, and suggested that continuing improvement is the result of examining what we do well and not well enough.

Long a proponent of technology and its use in classrooms, Senator Crandall spoke about the implications of adopting a "bring-your-own-device" approach to education,

noting that advances in technology have put computers with their own web connections into more backpacks and pockets than could have been imagined even five years ago. Smartphones were strewn across the tables during the meeting, and Senator Crandall pointed out that technology infrastructure planning for schools needs to embrace wireless devices.

Senator Bradley, currently a member of the Senate Education Committee began his talk with a discussion of the dire outcomes typically faced by students in foster care. With the number of children in foster care on the rise (currently 15,000 in Arizona), he asked that everyone consider the plight of children in the system, citing the high rate of academic failure and eventual incarceration among one-time foster children.

Senator Bradley also discussed Arizona's budget with respect to spending for prisons versus spending for education. The comparison he drew prompted enthusiastic approval from representatives from Amity Foundation's Circle Tree Ranch, the alcohol and drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation facility in our community.

The evening was to have included a presentation by the school district's Business Manager, Marty O'Shea. As the invited guests were kind enough to spend more time with the group than had been anticipated, Mr. O'Shea will provide an overview of the budget challenges facing our schools during the next Community Linkage meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Price thanked everyone for coming. He reminded everyone the next meeting is on Thursday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m. at Tanque Verde High School in the Library.