



JOINT MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JOINT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE SCOTTSDALE  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND JOINT ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF SCOTTSDALE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE MINUTES

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Community Design Studio  
7506 E. Indian School Rd.  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85257

**PRESENT:**

**City Council Subcommittee on Education:**

Mayor David D. Ortega

Councilwoman Tammy Caputi

**Scottsdale Unified School District Joint Advisory Committee on Education**

Dr. Scott Menzel, SUSD Superintendent

Julie Cieniawski, SUSD Board Vice President

Patty Beckman, SUSD Board Member

**Scottsdale Community College Joint Advisory Committee on Education**

Eric Leshinskie, SCC President

Dr. Eddie Lamperez, SCC interim Vice President of Academic Affairs

**ABSENT:**

Councilwoman Solange Whitehead (excused)

Melanie Burn, SCC Director of External Affairs.

**STAFF:**

Rebecca Kurth

Stefanie Zamora

**Call to Order**

Mayor Ortega called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members present as noted above.

**Public Comment**

**None**

**1. Approval of April 6, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

**Julie Cieniawski made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2022. Councilwoman Tammy Caputi seconded the motion. Mayor Ortega, Councilwoman Caputi, Dr. Menzel, Ms. Cieniawski, Ms. Beckman, Dr. Leshinskie, and Dr. Lamperez voted in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes.**

**2. Accomplishments and Updates**

Mayor Ortega commented on the joyful time of buses rolling, parent orientations, and cars lined up at the schools. He announced Copper the K-9 will patrol the halls of Mohave, with Officer Steel.

**3. Collaborative Learning Solutions Presentation**

Dr. John Eyler, CEO of Collaborative Learning Solutions, discussed trends and innovations in student wellness and potential strategies for the community.

“The way we design our systems and structures drives the way people think, behave, and problem solve.” The way systems are put together create ineffectiveness and deficiencies.

Planning for the next five years will incorporate significant focus on student wellness, such as anxiety and depression, social emotional learning (SEL), behaviors, and putting proactive, preventative, and intervention systems in place to identify students before they identify themselves. “Use what you have better opposed to buying more.” Many school systems have student information such as attendance, grades, and behavior, but are not efficient in accessing and utilizing the data. When this data is triangulated, it creates a holistic picture of the child and could identify larger issues.

Be efficient with the structure and people in place and use a national framework multitiered system.

**A. Tier 1**

1. Screening – Completed 2-3 times per year and identifies students who are starting to slip or fall off the radar.
2. Belonging and Relationships – Encourages restorative practices, such as community building utilizing instructional circles, sense of belonging, and accountability focused on fixing harm done to the community versus punishment.
3. Mindfulness – Being intentional, present, and without judgment and using cognitive strategies. Self-care for teachers and helpful for students with transitioning, collect themselves, check-in, acquire self-regulation skills.
4. Six Protective Factors –
  - Compassionate, Dependable Relationships
  - Predictability
  - Cultural Responsiveness
  - Skill Building in Academics & Social Emotional Learning
  - Voice, Choice, & Opportunity to Collaborate
  - Safety

A study looked at 41 violent school campus events between 2008-17 and the

findings show there is no profile; however, most have psychological and behavioral symptoms, are bullies or have been bullied, and have social stressors. Guidance from the report developed the six protective factors for school safety.

B. Tier 2

1. Smaller groups of students
2. Short term innovations
3. Diagnostic Measures
4. Skill Development
5. Utilization of Personnel

Look at developing thinking skills and social emotional cognitive skills that will prepare students for an ever-changing environment. Harvard has developed excellent SEL competencies built around domains.

C. Tier 3

1. Wellness Centers

Communities are building wellness centers on or close to school campuses as access is greater and less stigmatizing through the school system. These centers offer localized services, such as medical, dental, vision, and mental health.

2. Wraparound Teams

Individualized look at students and developing a plan including community partnerships the family can implement over time.

3. Community Partnerships

Partnerships with local law enforcement in terms of an SRO. The SRO, like teachers, sees the students every day and can pick up on behavioral changes and should be included in the screening and intervention process.

Mayor Ortega introduced SCC President Dr. Eric Leshinskie to speak on any cross over into the community college system.

Dr. Leshinskie stated colleges are focused on acquisition of knowledge, skills, and meaningful employment and have lost sight of the whole student experience, including mindfulness. SCC is committed to partnering with SUSD to better support students by providing referrals and access to community resources. He is especially excited about utilizing current resources to develop dual and concurrent enrollment programs with SUSD and the possibility of offering access to SCC services such as counseling and career advisement.

In response to Ms. Cieniawski's questions, Dr. Leshinskie advised the current dual enrollment program accounts for 10% of the enrollment at SCC. They need to work on ensuring the high school has qualified teachers for the program. An alternative would be for SCC to provide their resources to the high school. Unfortunately, he did not have the number of qualified dual enrollment teachers, but would provide it at the next meeting. Further noting it is challenging to obtain dual teaching staff without incentives, which will continue to be explored.

Ms. Beckman stated she would appreciate a further conversation on collaborating with SCC specifically on sharing resources. (This will be added to the next agenda)

**4. SUSD Safety and Security Update**

Dr. Menzel stated a safety and security brochure was shared with all SUSD staff that includes updated security protocols and processes. He introduced Joshua Friedman, Director of Security at SUSD and Sergeant Kevin Bingham from Scottsdale Police Department and SRO supervisor.

Mr. Friedman advised all lobbies were turned into welcoming spaces so parents and visitors cannot enter the campus until they are vetted. More closed-circuit cameras have been and will continue to be installed. The Scottsdale Police Department has been given access to the cameras to view active events on campuses while responding. A partnership has been developed with the City's emergency manager and fire chief for better utilization of their services. Security is working with the AZ Counter Terrorism Information Center on threat and vulnerability assessments for all facilities. The security department works closely with the psychologist and teachers on campus to ensure there is a well-rounded approach to security.

D.I.G.IT is the security phrase being promoted this year.

Doors – all doors will be locked on campus.

ID – all students, staff, and visitors will wear visible identification.

Gates – all perimeter gates will be locked and secure.

IT – cyber security is important for the district as a whole and teaching students to not share passwords.

Sergeant Bingham concurred the SROs are a part of the screening and intervention processes, as they spend most of their time getting to know students, mentoring, and counseling. They have access to additional resources, especially social media accounts. A Restorative Justice program was started five or six years ago which holds students accountable for what they did and provides rehabilitative services.

**5. Scottsdale Internship Program Update**

Stephanie Zamora, Management Associate, discussed updates to the development of additional service learning employment opportunities in City government for high school and community college students and recommendations to establish a centralized City internship program.

Ms. Zamora provided background on how she became to hold her current position as Management Associate to the City Manager, where she is tasked with designing, establishing, and fortifying a robust service learning program for the City, highlighting the importance of fostering an environment for higher education while providing an opportunity for students to explore a career in public service. Presently, the program offers a dedicated service learning team that has begun work on the larger goal and vision they are trying to execute, which requires creativity, imagination, and being willing to try something new, all in line with what Scottsdale is about.

The team identified that youth are disconnected from performing civil service for the City of Scottsdale government as a problem statement. Recruitment and retention strategies are two root causes. Current participants suggested including balancing, learning, contribution,

and a social aspect to build up the internship program. Ms. Zamora suggested an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City, SUSD, and SCC to have one dedicated staff member running the program and recruiting target demographics. Further, creating a fellowship for students combined with the Scottsdale Promise Scholarship Program would offer a structured and leveraging connection.

In response to committee questions Ms. Zamora advised the leader of the Mayor's Youth Council is part of the internship program team. The particulars such as duration of internships, credit or non-credit, and when service would be performed will depend on what department(s) are participating. The team is encouraging a diverse rotation of participating departments.

Mayor Ortega suggested incorporating all departments within the City and not just management. Many committee members asked for continued information on the program at future meetings.

#### 6. **SUSD Strategic Plan Update**

Dr. Scott Menzel provided an overview of the 2022 SUSD Strategic Plan, noting this is the 126th year of serving students in Scottsdale. The vision statement is to engage all students in world-class future focused learning. Dr. Menzel reviewed the governing board's five adopted goals to accomplish the mission statement.

1. Academic excellence
2. Culture and climate
3. Attracting and retaining top talent
4. Community engagement and partnership
5. Optimizing resources

Dr. Menzel reviewed some of the board identified commitments for each goal designed to help achieve the vision, such as college and career readiness, cultivating critical and creative thinking skills, offering robust extracurricular activities, and providing real world learning experiences. The next step is for the five implementation teams to move the plan into action.

Ms. Cieniawski recognized the excellent work for all involved and suggested creating measurable and action-oriented outcomes.

Dr. Lamperez inquired if the implementation teams are based on the goals and if there is a mixed representation from SUSD, SCC, City, and community. Dr. Menzel advised the first team is focused on the multitiered system that connects goals one and two; the second team is focused on goal three; the third team is focused on goal four, the fourth is focused on goal 5; and the fifth team is focused on innovation in teaching and learning that cuts across all goals. The implementation teams have representation from all five learning communities that include staff, community, and parents. One exception is implementation teams four and five will start with internal staff and expand to external partners.

#### 7. **Future Agenda items and Meeting Dates**

- Reduced water allocation

- Actionable goals for the committee
- Deliverables and year-end review
- IGA components
- Collaborating with SCC

8. **Adjournment** – 6:12 p.m.

There being no further business before the committee, Mayor Ortega declared the meeting adjourned.

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