



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

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Community Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Rd.
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

PRESENT:

City Council Subcommittee on Education:

Mayor David D. Ortega
Councilwoman Solange Whitehead

Scottsdale Unified School District Joint Advisory Committee on Education

Dr. Scott Menzel, SUSD Superintendent
Amy Carney, SUSD Board Member

Scottsdale Community College Joint Advisory Committee on Education

Dr. Eric Leshinskie, SCC President
Dr. Stephanie Polliard, SCC Vice President of Academic Affairs
Melanie Burm, Director of External Affairs

ABSENT:

Councilwoman Tammy Caputi
Dr. Libby Hart-Wells, SUSD Board Member

STAFF:

Rebecca Kurth
David Simmons, Chief of Staff

Call to Order

Mayor Ortega called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as noted above.

- Females have recovered from the pandemic and males have not, as their attendance decreased from 69% to 55%.
- Arizona typically runs 15% below the national average.

Results from surveying students in high school, parents of students in high school, and recent high school graduates who did not attend college.

- 83% of the parents said it is important to get a degree.
- 92% of high school students said they plan to continue their education post high school.
- Unfortunately, only 50% do end up continuing their education. 80% of students surveyed said they are on track to attend a four-year institution, but upon reviewing their transcripts it was revealed only 35% were on that track.
- 57% of high school graduates not attending college want to continue their education and 65% believe a degree is beneficial.
- The populace recognizes the value of a degree and want to pursue one, but there is a disconnect that is being explored.

Redesign of Higher Education

- Diversifying higher education products and locations
- Arizona has uniform intercity product
- Build 4-year degree products with community colleges and non-university campuses.
- Create partnerships with community colleges and K-12 schools for data sharing and dual enrollment.
- Expanded and targeted financial aid. Providing a clearly defined system results in motivation. The messages are provided to 8th graders that they can go to college and pursue post high school education.
- Teachers Academy offers students the chance to go to college for free if they are pursuing a teaching degree and teach in Arizona. This program has reversed the 10-year decline in education-related programs.
- Partnerships with cities and towns to use university resources to address problems and make sure political leadership, students, and families understand the value of a degree and that they can get a degree.
- The board is looking to allocate several million dollars to help fix problems, such as
 - Studying how to address a dust problem for the Department of Environmental Quality.
 - Studying Valley fever
 - Studying the effects of PFOS on firefighters' blood
 - Hiring and retaining public safety officers.

Dr. Menzel discussed the partnerships with Coronado Foundation for the Future and the Scottsdale Charros to develop a college going promise for graduates of Coronado High School. The program would ensure all students who successfully complete high school receive two years of paid college. They want to make sure first-generation college students get the support they need to get the first college experience under their belt. There is interest in a 2+2 model so students can move from a community college to an in-state university. Mr. Arnold said there is difficulty with single promise packages and

universities offering different products that are creating confusion and overlap. Transfers from community college is key and needs to be reinvigorated. University is not always the right product and they want to ensure students have success coming out of high school.

Dr. Leshinskie spoke about the community colleges being authorized to launch 4-year degrees. Maricopa Community Colleges will begin offering seven degrees including those for workplace shortage. SCC will offer 4-year degrees in the fall of 2025 focused on the financial and business industries. Through a partnership with NAU they are offering 4-year degrees on SCC campus.

Dr. Menzel asked about data for students who graduated from an Arizona university and remained in Arizona. Mr. Arnold said they produce a yearly Alumni wages report using the DES database to see where alumni are working and how much they are making. Looking at 30 years of data, approximately 80% of alumni are working in Arizona for the first two to three years after graduation, which then tails off at five years to about 50%. Nonresident data shows 30% of graduates stay in Arizona. They are working on how to link employers and graduates to retain alumni, but much must be done on that front.

Mayor Ortega explained the purpose of this group is to make sure they have a healthy environment, coordinate safety, career pathways, internships, scholarships, and partnerships. The numbers show crisis levels, and they must continue to improve. Mr. Arnold stated this information is on their website and to contact community relations to implement community partnerships and grants.

4. **Scottsdale Philharmonic**

Joy Partridge, President, and Carl Ryder, Music Director of the Scottsdale Philharmonic Board, provided a presentation on a possible collaboration involving Scottsdale third grade students. Their vision is to enhance the cultural environment of the City of Scottsdale with an orchestra of professional musicians where everyone can attend classical symphony concerts.

Ms. Partridge and Mr. Ryder founded the Scottsdale Philharmonic 12 years ago. Thanks to the support of the Mayor, Council, and patrons the program is very successful. They have recruited one of the world's best conductors from Moscow who has changed the style of the symphony to that of a major symphony, where audiences feel the emotion and talent.

For first ten years all concerts were free with approximately 1,600 attendees per concert. Seating is limited at Scottsdale Center for the Arts so to control the number of patrons a \$15 donation was requested. Concerts are also livestreamed for free. Eight concerts are planned for 2023.

The presenters discussed the advantages of music programs for children. It has been proven children who enter and stick with a music program will go on and graduate from college. Albert Einstein began studying music at age six and played his violin every day as a brainstorming technique. It has been said classical music helps to build IQ, mental thinking, increases brain capacity for thinking, creates a connection and community. The symphony supports underprivileged children at Rosie's House in Phoenix by involving

them with the music program.

The Symphony proposed an annual concert for all Scottsdale third grade students, as that is when they really start developing in music. If they are introduced to a symphony orchestra, they will want to be a part of the music program. If they start young, they will stick with it.

Mr. Ryder explained the proposal is to expose all third graders in the district to a symphony concert. Music is the only activity that engages both the creative and cognitive parts of the brain to work together and create ideas and develop concepts, which can be measured in music.

Dr. Menzel asked how, with 1,459 third graders and 1,452 second graders, they could fit into one venue. Mr. Ryder explained they would use the Scottsdale Center for the Arts, with 853 seats. The proposal would be to perform two 45-minute shows in the morning to end around 12:30 p.m. Because concerts are not as effective if the students do not know the music, the teachers could prepare students by teaching them the music, or the symphony could play music the students are familiar with. Ms. Partridge said nothing specific is proposed, but they have performed Peter and the Wolf many times, which is a story where the instruments turn into animals.

They would like to initiate a discussion on moving forward with something like this. If children can have some exposure to this quality of music, there is a good probability they will go on and be better educated. They suggested it should be called the Mayor's Annual Children's Concert, because it is something special for every Scottsdale third grader to see a symphony orchestra.

Councilwoman Whitehead expressed her full support for the exposure of classical music at an early age and the investment into the community.

Mayor Ortega spoke of the Mayor's Constitution Contest and how classical music could fit into the program. This natural opportunity can be discussed further with staff in selecting a venue that works best.

Mr. Ryder shared his effective technique of using a violin in kindergarten, which was a superficial exposure, but it had a big impact on the children. Mayor Ortega commented that it is the discovery of hidden confidence. Ms. Partridge shared her experience as a third grader being exposed to classical music and the impact it has had on her life, which is why she is so passionate about this opportunity. If there is anything the Scottsdale Philharmonic can do to encourage classical music, they are available and open to suggestions.

5. Dual Enrollment

Dr. Eric Leshinskie, President of Scottsdale Community College discussed steps that can be taken to further the dual enrollment programs between the Scottsdale Unified School District and the Scottsdale Community College

Dual enrollment is when students in high school are taught by a qualified instructor in high school, a curriculum that has been reviewed, approved, and modified to count as college credit. The partnership between SCC and SUSD for dual enrollment is very strong, with over 1,200 students enrolled in the dual enrollment program for the fall of 2022. There is a concern about inequity regarding the number of qualified instructors, course offerings, and the number of enrolled students. Early college works as students enrolled in dual enrollment are achieving at a 95%+ in dual enrollment classes and are more than likely to earn a degree.

SCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. To teach college level classes, the instructor must have a master's degree in the discipline they are teaching. Public schools have instructors with master's degrees in general education, which would not allow them to teach a dual enrollment course.

High School	Qualified Instructors	Course Offerings	Number of Students
Chapparal	22	95	400
Desert Mountain	18	75	320
Saguaro	13		
Arcadia	12	50	160
Coronado	4	11	55

The challenge is this inequity they are experiencing, as seen above. They have been discussing strategies to create more dual enrollment opportunities without putting additional burdens on instructors. They are also interested in advancing concurrent enrollment. After the high school day, students would travel to SCC for participation in a class taught by SCC instructors on campus.

Another option is to teach college courses at the high school that students would attend at the end of the day, eliminating a possible transportation barrier. Scottsdale online and summer school programs are an untapped opportunity that is also being explored.

One vulnerability at all schools is that should a qualified instructor resign, it is not guaranteed their replacement will be a qualified instructor to continue offering the dual enrollment course that students may have been counting on. The solutions being explored for solving the inequity situation would also help in this situation.

The great news is the program is growing and administrators want to continue and advance the partnerships. There is some great energy between the two institutions and now is the time to explore how to expand this opportunity and the inequities, whether it is connected to the Coronado Promise, or just finding ways to get more opportunities for early college for students.

Board Member Carney suggested incentivizing teachers to obtain a master's degree in specific discipline areas and having previous students who attended dual enrollment courses speak to younger students about the benefits. Dr. Leshinskie explained dual enrollment instructors are SUSD employees; they would not be able to offer any incentives through CSS. This is something to discuss, however, it requires a funding source. There is

a national model that provides a per student incentive, which is a nominal amount. The dual enrollment instructors do this out of the kindness of their heart as they know it adds value to that student's life, they get an early start on a degree, and save money in the process. At SCC they are engaging with alumni to connect with students early and they will look at this idea for SUSD.

Councilwoman Whitehead inquired if the Teacher's Academy would offer free courses for teachers seeking a master's degree. Dr. Leshinskie said it is not an option through that program, but in the past for a short period of time, the state and private universities offered discounted tuition rates.

Councilwoman Whitehead inquired how students would be transported to the SCC campus. Dr. Leshinskie advised they would require personal transportation or use of the bus line. They are discussing options, such as an SUSD bus transporting students to SCC, an SCC instructor going to the high school, or virtual instruction.

Dr. Leshinskie noted there is an \$85/ credit cost associated with dual enrollment courses that the student must pay; financial aid does not apply. A nominal scholarship program is available. Dr. Menzel said this is one of the best values in higher education. Other states have figured out how to take the burden off the families. By problem solving they can create opportunities for more students. They might be an opportunity to propose a pilot project if the state would be willing to fund it. There are many opportunities here f to think about how to create a better system that serves the needs of all students.

Mayor Ortega encouraged further discussion and exploration into opportunities that might be able to offer stipends to teachers and transportation for students.

6. Intergovernmental Agreements

What agreements could further the partnerships between these parties and benefit all organizations?

Dr. Menzel spoke on a potential IGA around the work opportunities with the City through internships and externships and paid work experience for high school and college students in their areas of interest that meets the City's needs. The next step is to figure out who to speak with to get the ball rolling. Ms. Kurth advised that Stephanie Zamora will be taking the lead on any internship programs and agreements and suggested tabling this item until the next meeting when Ms. Zamora will be in attendance.

7. Future Agenda items and Meeting Dates

- Intergovernmental Agreements
- Apprenticeship Opportunities
- SCC Work to Learn Program

The next meeting will occur in April 2023.

8. Adjournment: 6:40 p.m.

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

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