

UPC Snapshot

November 2009

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Lee began the meeting by saying that although it's a time to celebrate the passage of the override, the district is not out of the woods yet. PVUSD still has declining enrollment numbers, and the state has not yet decided what it will do to school funding to decrease the deficit. He is asking principals to see how staffing could be used more efficiently in their schools. Although the current ratio of staff to students is good, there are extremes in the district which lead to some classes being very crowded while others nearby are not filled. He ended his remarks with questions from the group. In addition to class size questions, there was considerable interest in what the district is doing to promote health and wellness for the students. UPC will do a program on that topic in the spring.

UPC Business Meeting

- Electronic directories have all been sent, and print copies are now available for those who preferred them. Send any corrections that need to be made to Pam Kogan.
- December's speaker will be Chris Maza, president of PVEA (Paradise Valley Education Association).
- January's presentation will be about Infinite Campus, the district's new data collection system. The transition will happen in February.
- Yes for PV School's Laurie Smith thanked the group for all of their efforts to help the override pass. She shared some interesting information about the election: 4 out of 5 people who voted did it by early ballot. This means that in future elections, the information has got to be out to the public by October. Also, 71% of the voters were over the age of 50. This implies that the message of the override being good for homeowners regardless of whether they had a school age child was received.
- Laurie also reported on what's happening at the legislature. A handout was distributed that is available on the website.
- Julie requested that all COMPASS committee members give a brief report on their committee's activities at the December meeting. If unable to attend, she requested that the report be sent to her for her to share with the group.
- The Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) still needs a parent volunteer. Meetings are held approximately once a month on Thursdays from 3:15-5:00.
- UPC will collect shoes next month for Shoes that Fit. Donations of any size of new, closed toe and closed heel shoes, preferably athletic-type shoes, will be accepted at the meeting. All shoes will be distributed to the PVUSD shoe closets.
- Horizon will host a presentation on internet safety and "sexting" on January 11, 2010, from 6:00-7:30 in the Media Center. A Maricopa county sheriff from the computer crimes division will do the presentation.

Program – A Whole New Mind

Daniel Pink's book, *A Whole New Mind – Why Right Brainers Will Rule the World* was the topic of discussion this month. The program began with a video by Daniel Pink explaining the premise of the book. He reviewed right and left brain functions:

Left – logical, analytical, sequential

Right – holistic (big picture), context, synthesis (rather than analysis)

Daniel Pink argues that the left brain functions used to be the most valued in the workplace, but they are not enough anymore because of three forces on the economy right now:

1. Asia - routine (left brain) work is disappearing from the US and being sent to Asia
2. Automation – software is replacing left brain work (e.g. TurboTax, do it yourself legal software, etc.)
3. Abundance – standard of living in the middle class at record high; products outnumber users. Companies want to sell things to people that they didn't know they were missing (e.g., iPod, cell phones, Tivo, Etc.)

Kids need to be prepared for this kind of future. Daniel Pink believes that this requires attention to these six “senses”:

1. Design
2. Story
3. Synthesis
4. Empathy
5. Play
6. Meaning

Hands-on activities corresponding to the six senses took up the remainder of the program. The tools for this program are available through the district's Professional Development Department.