

SNAPSHOT

United Parent Council
Monthly Meeting in review

Next meeting:
Wed., Sept 16
Grant Writing 101

AUGUST, 2009

President Julie Bacon introduced **UPC officers** for 2009-10. Upcoming **program topics** include Grant Writing, School Councils, and a discussion of the book [A Whole New Mind](#) which is being studied by administrators across the district. **Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the district administrative center's East/West conference room starting at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.**

"**Yes for PV Students**" is a PAC formed to see passage of a Maintenance and Operations override this November. Member Laurie Smith presented information to the group. State law allows districts to exceed the state imposed M&O budget limits by up to 10% if there is voter approval. **Passage of the M & O budget override** will *decrease* class sizes; provide instruction for technology, P.E., and fine arts; give additional assistance in reading, writing, and math; offer competitive salaries to attract and retain highly qualified teachers and staff; and, promote a safe and healthy school environment. Most Valley metro districts have overrides in place. If the budget override doesn't pass, the district will be forced to cut more than \$10.8 million from its operating budget over the next two years negatively impacting class sizes, salaries, and programs. Fact sheets will be available at school sites. See also the committee's website www.yesforpvstudents.org. United Parent Council supports passage.

Other news: ** This year **UPC's Special Education Committee** invites parents to watch for details of upcoming evening programs featuring presentations by SARC and Raising Special Kids. The committee also hosts monthly **parent-to-parent support gatherings** the last Wednesday of the month at Einstein's, 64th Street and Greenway, at 12:30 p.m. Questions—contact Chair Allison Cahill, email: aecahill@cox.net. ** UPC supports parent group leaders by sponsoring the Leadership Ideas Networking Community or "**LINC**" where school parent leaders can come together, network, and share ideas. LINC Chair, Jen Mozillo, announced the first event— a **parent group presidents' exchange** to be held on Wednesday, Sept. 16th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. All parent group presidents are encouraged to attend this once a year opportunity. ** The district's **student information system** will undergo an upgrade in February. Julie Bacon will follow the transition closely and ensure parents know what to expect. ** Finally, plans for a new **Long Range Plan** are underway and parent representatives have been chosen for the first stage of work. The LRP is the district's five year roadmap. UPC will provide regular progress reports

Program: United Parent Council ends each meeting with an informational presentation. This month new superintendent Dr. James Lee addressed the group and answered questions in a program titled: "**THE FIRST BELL**". Dr. Lee introduced himself and his cabinet. Dr. Lee has been a teacher, principal, and district administrator. He believes it's important to nurture, engage, challenge, guide, empathize, and understand children. With regards to adults (district employees and parents), it's important to: engage, train/coach/mentor, challenge, empathize, and involve them. He is asking administrators to study and discuss the book, [A Whole New Mind](#) by Daniel Pink. It inspires a holistic approach to learning (right hemisphere thinking) favoring synthesis and big picture thinking, helping students to know about their world and what to do with information they possess. This kind of knowledge will be necessary in the 21st Century. Regarding plans to draw up a new Long Range Plan, Dr. Lee will utilize a shared decision making format that is collaborative, inclusive, meaningful, and focused on student achievement.

For details on upcoming meetings, programs and all things UPC, go to www.PVUPC.org