

UPC Snapshot
United Parent Council Meeting 10/14/09

Mascot, Pre-K and Little Scholars licensing fee hike of 8,000% proposed by DHS

Dr. Lee gave up some of his time to Jane Tate of Community Education who spoke about a proposed licensing fee hike to Community Ed programs. PVUSD has 23 Mascot programs, 8 pre-K, and 1 Little Scholars program. ***Current licensing fees for Mascot programs are \$150 every three years per school. DHS's proposed new licensing fee would be \$7,380 per school.*** Many kids would be forced out of the programs and become latchkey kids if this new fee is approved. Two public meetings are scheduled to discuss the fee hike:

- Tuesday 10/27/09, from 5-6pm at DHS State Lab Auditorium 250 N. 17th Ave in Phoenix.
- Thursday, 10/29/09 from 5-6pm at 535 N. Wilmot Rd., #201 in Phoenix

Interested persons are encouraged to share their thoughts and concerns about the ramifications of this fee hike by sending a letter to the Director of DHS.

Superintendent's Remarks

Dr. Lee gave his impressions about the first quarter. He has visited all schools in the district and is impressed by how well everything is going in spite of increased class sizes and funding woes. He praised the PVUSD teaching staff for its positive attitude during these trying times. He also addressed the recent traffic tragedies that have happened at several high schools. He was impressed by North Canyon's staff response as well as the crisis teams who were trained and ready to jump in to meet with staff and students. He is grateful that the district has excellent outside resources to work with, like Don Cross from the City of Phoenix, who has worked with the district on intersection safety issues.

Yes for PV Students:

Reminder—Yes for PV Students information cannot be included in school publications

Laurie Smith spoke to the group about what the political action committee "Yes for PV Students" has accomplished so far: signs and bumper stickers are visible throughout the community, 1,500 doors have been knocked on, 3,000 phone calls have been made, members of the PAC have spoken at numerous school, neighborhood and community meetings, and 45,000 households have gotten mailings. The second mailer is going out this week, and extras are available if anyone would like some. Yes for PV Students is on Facebook now, too! *Volunteers are still needed the day before the election to make vote reminder calls and to hold signs saying "Vote Yes" at schools in the morning before school begins and at dismissal.* Contact Laurie Smith (jlsmith7017@aol.com) for more information, or visit their website www.yesforpvstudents.com.

UPC Business Meeting

- Flyers and handouts from all meetings will be available soon online at the UPC website (www.pvupc.org)
- Next meeting will be 11/18/09. Program: Book Discussion - *A Whole New Mind – Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the World* by Daniel Pink. Dr. Lee has asked his cabinet and district administrators to read this book as they begin to create the new long range plan to educate 21st century students. Several books were still available for sale at the meeting. Contact Tami Taylor (taylorzona@cox.net) for more information.

- Next Special Education program will be 11/12/09 “Understanding the IEP” with Laura Bistrow. Flyers with meeting dates are available online, as well as an article about Asperger’s syndrome. For more information, contact Allison Cahill (aecahill@cox.net).
- The Long Range Plan has a new name: **COMPASS 2015 (Centered On Measures Positioning All Students for Success.)** Parent representatives are needed to be on various committees. Please contact Julie Bacon (jwbacon@cox.net) if you are interested in participating in this important project.
- UPC needs someone to take over the e-bulletin (which is a short email blast that goes out several times a month with timely information from UPC). Experience with Constant Contact helpful, but not necessary. Contact Julie Bacon (jwbacon@cox.net) or Sandy Ditsch (kebs9036@cox.net) for more information.

Program: School Councils – Shared Decision Making

Dr. Patrick Sweeney, *Asst. Superintendent, Instructional Support - Secondary* and Dr. Lil Baribault, *Asst. Superintendent, Instructional Support – Elementary* gave a keynote presentation on school councils. Copies of the presentation are available through Dr. Sweeney’s or Dr. Baribault’s office. The presentation discussed the purpose of the council, the roles of the participants, membership selection and the district’s expectations:

Summary of Key Expectations of School Councils:

- Meetings should be held at least once a month
- Members are selected by representative group
- Members are responsible for soliciting input from group they represent
- Agenda items should be solicited from school council members in advance
- School council members should receive a copy of the agenda in advance
- Agendas are to be publicly posted at 24 hours in advance
- Minutes are to be recorded promptly and be easily accessible on websites and newsletters
- Specific areas should be identified for school councils to be decision making bodies; they should not be just advisory in nature.

The full power point presentation is available for viewing on the UPC website.

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