



Minutes City Council's Education Partnership Committee November 17, 2008

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Education Partnerships Committee held on Monday, November 17, 2008, 3:30 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Chair
Councilmember Joel Navarro

City Staff Present:

Jennifer Adams, Pub Wrks Admin
Tom Canasi, Comm Svcs Mgr
Kathy Gasperich, Council Aide
Mary Helen Giustizia, Solid Waste Svcs
Kim Hale, PD
Kate Hanley, TCC Exec Dir
Shelley Hearn, Community Relations Mgr
Jan Hort, City Clerk
Adrienne Richwine, Dep Comm Svcs Mgr
Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec Mgr
Nikki Ripley, Media Relations Dir
Lynette Stonefeld, TCC, Communities in Schools
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Dir
Mari Yennie, Council Aide

Guests Present:

Steve Adolph, TUHSD Superintendent
Kelly Alexander, Kyrene School District
Paul Berumen, ASU, Dir of Local Govt & Relations
Amanda Burke, ASU, Associate Director of the Office of University Initiatives
Sharon Doyle, TUHSD Foundation, TIE Foundation
Zita Johnson, TUHSD Governing Board
Barbara Khalsa, Rio Salado Community College
Catherine Mayorga, Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Kitty McGrath, ASU, Executive Director, Career Services
Bill Munch, Tempe Elementary School District
Stephanie Salazar, ASU
Elaine Stover, ASU, Career Services
Mark Svorinic, Pinnacle Education
Art Tate, Superintendent, Tempe Elementary School District

Councilmember Arredondo called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and everyone introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 1 – Approve Education Partnerships Council Committee Action Plan

Councilmember Arredondo summarized that the Action Plan needs to be finalized and moved forward to City Council for approval.

Shauna Warner summarized the action items:

- 1. Enhance the relationship of and foster partnerships between educational entities, educational non-profits and the City of Tempe.**

Councilmember Arredondo added that it would be important that the school boards meet once a year with the City Council and have a discussion, especially because of the budgetary concerns. He asked if the Tempe Union High School District would be willing to host a meeting to do so. Art Tate added that Tempe Elementary had just invited the Council and school boards to attend a meeting in February.

There was a suggestion to add ASU to the second bullet point, “coordinate City and school district lobbying efforts” since the Council has always been generous to support the University’s lobbying efforts.

- 2. Enhance communication and information sharing and dissemination.**

There were no further additions.

Councilmember Arredondo asked the group to consider how the City can enhance the governing boards’ meetings with the use of Tempe 11. By the next meeting, staff will determine how much space is available.

- 3. Identify and facilitate resource sharing between all educational entities, educational non-profits and the City of Tempe to maximize resources and improve services.**

Councilmember Arredondo stated that the City wants to maintain a good partnership, particularly with the elementary schools because of the City parks, but it is also important to share whenever possible. One example might be to work on opening weight room facilities..

There was a suggestion to add a bullet addressing the continuation of exploring a community mentoring program partnership between ASU and the City.

- 4. Facilitate and develop services to provide life-long learning opportunities, including workforce development, drop out prevention, special education, literacy programs and visual and performing arts education.**

Councilmember Arredondo noted that the Council will be discussing the budget on December 1st. One example of providing learning opportunities is through the use of the computers at Escalante. Those computers are hooked up to the Library and some of those kids do not have access to computers otherwise. He asked for the group to look at other partnerships that might be needed. For example, here might be opportunities for seniors to have passes to school events.

Lynette Stonefeld addressed the first bullet “aid in the expansion of drop-out prevention programs” suggesting that with much national effort on the drop-out issue, the committee should explore developing a plan on what prevention efforts would look like and getting those involved who have a stake in drop-out prevention.

Councilmember Arredondo suggested that Communities in Schools handle that and return to the group at the end of the year to suggest what could be done for the community. He suggested that Ms. Stonefeld, through her organization, figure out if there is some way the City could receive a community award to acknowledge the work being done.

Mark Svorinic added that Pinnacle Education would be interested in assisting with that as well.

5. Identify and facilitate joint facilities development for school-resident use (e.g. North Tempe Multi-Generational Center) and joint transportation solutions.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that Council will continue to promote the school Metro pass program. The junior high students are starting to use Orbit. He suggested a strongly worded message to the transportation group that we believe that seniors and youth should ride the light rail free.

Shelley Hearn clarified that the bus pass and the rail pass will be interchangeable.

Councilmember Arredondo added that public relations will be important to let everyone know that the pass covers both. He would also like everyone to know where they can get these passes. Shelley Hearn will work on getting the word out and follow up.

6. Advance community services and programs in collaboration with educational entities serving Tempe.

Kate Hanley summarized that in conjunction with the MLK event, the Unity program at the high schools will be announced and they will be given modest funds from the City Council to help the high schools promote the same goals and values that the City is trying to promote.

Councilmember Arredondo asked Ms. Hanley to determine if funds are available to provide moderate funds to Kyrene, Tempe Elementary and a charter school for the same promotion for of unity and diversity efforts.

The Committee agreed to add the suggested items and forward to the full Council for approval at the December 11, 2008 Issue Review Session.

Agenda Item 2 – School Resource Officer Update

Cmdr. Kim Hale summarized the School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

- Currently, there are nine school resource officers, five in the middle schools (McKemy, Fees, Connolly, Gilliland and Kyrene), as well as four in the high schools (Corona del Sol, McClintock, Marcos de Niza, and Tempe).
- The middle schools fall under the school safety grant where the SRO's need to spend about 80% of their time on campus and teach 180 hours of classes per year.
- The grant has become very competitive and when the grant process was opened, the City lost some grant funding for the high schools. The City has funded the high school positions this year.
- The high school officers have an opportunity to get involved in different levels with the students within the schools by not being tied to a grant (i.e., mock crash at Marcos de Niza, joint tactical demos at EVIT).

Councilmember Arredondo stated that on December 1st, the City Council will decide a budget. He would like to take the message to the Council to be careful what is cut regarding police and fire because there are safety issues that effect not only the youth, but the seniors as well. The SRO's help teacher safety. He asked for consensus that the message is to leave police and fire alone. There was consensus.

Art Tate added that the police are number one on campus and they must be in the middle schools.

Kate Hanley added that the Tempe Community Council (TCC) helped with the original grant proposal for SROs from the school district, and the TCC is very happy to work on that again.

Councilmember Arredondo suggested the possibility of using some of the RICO funds in a broader way to help Marcos de Niza, McClintock and possibly Tempe High open their weight-training facilities, provided that residents are allowed to use the facilities as well.

Cmdr Hale added that RICO funds have been used from some large cases in the past, but it takes a long time to get those sources out of RICO. He just finished a large investigation and \$500K was seized, but that money, however, won't come to the RICO fund for another two or three years. In comparing obligations to what is currently available, the RICO fund is very slender right now.

Councilmember Arredondo added that is why it is even more important to strategically plan what might be used in two or three years. This group needs to see how it can partner to help. He also added that a number of park rangers will be released to work in the parks, and there's no reason they cannot check on the schools as well, as long as there is an agreement in place. He asked staff to begin to look at options.

Agenda Item 3 – Discussion of Nike Reuse A Shoe Program Expansion

Mary Helen Giustizia summarized the Nike Reuse A Shoe Program Expansion.

- The program was started in partnership with Nike to collect as many athletic shoes as possible and redeem them for the opportunity to apply for a grant for the development of sports courts.
- The first shipment of over 5,000 pairs of athletic shoes went to Nike in July.
- The number of collection sites has been increased to 12 around the Valley.
- All types of athletic shoes can be donated. The flyer will be updated with instructions.

Ms. Warner added that the shoe collection is ongoing, so any club interested in holding shoe drives could actually start collecting now. For special collections, the City will pick up and provide containers. ASU has a permanent site.

Ms. Giustizia summarized the "ERIC" system (Education Recycling Information Center).

- In conjunction with the schools, staff is working on a grant from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) for development of an education/recycling information center.
- A mobile unit will be developed with the interior made from all recyclable materials and will feature recycling displays.
- This unit will be launched in April of 2009 and staff will be implementing a program especially for elementary schools to "kick-up" some of the recycling programs.
- Students are the prime users of athletic shoes and schools are prime locations for collecting shoes. Staff will be setting drop-off sites at all of the schools to promote a competition between schools. New containers have been placed at the drop-off points and staff is developing a special rep who will communicate that the containers are for collecting shoes. Tempe is the only municipality in Arizona with this program.
- Proposals are being submitted by prospective contractors for the "ERIC" system and they will be reviewed in the next week.
- The unit is the result of an ADEQ \$60K grant.
- The unit will be available to schools for special events to promote recycling.
- If interested, call Mary Helen at 480-350-8151 or Lucy Morales at 480-350-8224.
- Staff has also worked with EVIT to develop an activity book for schools.
- Long range, a mascot is also being developed, and the desert tortoise is high on the list.

Agenda Item 4 – Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Arredondo asked that Shauna Warner be the contact for future agenda items. He added that the group will meet every other month, with the next meeting on January 26th (rather than MLK Day).

- There was a suggestion to include promotion for the school tax credit. On 12/6, all three districts will partner in a pancake breakfast at the Tempe Schools Credit Union on Mill and opportunities will be available to do the tax credits for any of the school programs. Councilmember Arredondo asked staff to report at the January meeting about available space on Tempe 11 for a spot on school tax credits. He directed staff to coordinate with each of the districts.
- Councilmember Navarro suggested (under the work plan item “coordinating with outside agencies”) that there might be an opportunity to tap into the resources of the professional sports teams for grants and programs.
- Councilmember Arredondo asked Mark Richwine to check with the Angels to get tickets for kids to attend as an effort to unite the community.
- Kate Hanley added that TCC has been notified that they will get Insight tickets. She will make contact with the school representatives in the group.
- Kitty McGrath stated that thanks has been given for the work the police officers do in the schools, but the ASU Memorial Union nearly burned down one year ago, and she extended her thanks to the Tempe firefighters for their outstanding work. There were no injuries, although 5,000 students were in the building at the time.
- Councilmember Arredondo asked Shelley Hearn to make sure the superintendents or representatives have the opportunity to ride on the light rail during the festivities on the first day, December 27th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell
Reviewed by: Shauna Warner

Jan Hort
City Clerk