



## Minutes City Council's Education Partnership Committee December 14, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Education Partnerships Committee held on Monday, December 14, 2009, 3:30 p.m., in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**Committee Members Present:**

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Chair  
Councilmember Joel Navarro

**City Staff Present:**

Jan Hort, City Clerk  
Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec  
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services  
Mari Yennie, Comm Rel

Adrienne Richwine, Comm Svcs  
Dave Park, City Atty  
Kathy Berzins, Comm Svcs

**Guests Present:**

Rick Heumann, Chandler City Council  
Stephanie Salazar, ASU  
Dianne Welling, TUHSD  
Ross Robb, Kyrene School Dist  
Kelly Alexander, TUHSD Foundation

Pat Burdette, TD #3 Visual Arts  
Eric Gudino, ASU  
Chris Bustamonte, Rio Salado College  
Sharon Doyle, TUHSD Foundation, TIE Foundation

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

**Agenda Item 1 – Community Use of School Playgrounds**

Mark Richwine stated that staff has been meeting with Tempe school district officials and their legal representatives to prepare an agreement that would allow the shared use of school playground equipment. Dave Park stated that the agreement would limit these shared uses to outdoor facilities. Both the City and school legal representatives agree that additional specificity to the terms of use of equipment need to be added to the preliminary agreement. The agreement is currently with the school district legal authorities for fine tuning. Staff anticipates that additional meetings may be required to ensure that the concerns of each school district are addressed. Councilmember Arredondo stated that the agreement should be finalized no later than February. This agreement is vital to ensuring that all parties concerns and needs are met. As changes in leadership occur, this agreement will bring a sense of systemic continuity.

Councilmember Arredondo voiced frustration over the delay of the agreement by the attorneys over the use of the outdoor facilities and likened it to the disconnect between the lack of computers available to Tempe school districts and the bureaucracy involved in making these tools available to youth. Dave Park stated that in the case of the computers, there are laws that preclude municipalities and other governmental jurisdictions from donating certain items to school districts. Staff is in the process of working with an Indian tribe to coordinate their involvement in donating computers directly to the StRUT Program (Students Recycling Used Technology), which is a 501C3 non-

profit organization that is not operated by the school system. Councilmember Arredondo commended staff for finding creative ways to share resources for the benefit of youth and encouraged them to use that creativity to find ways to share outdoor playground facilities, as well as other assets which can be shared. Councilmember Navarro voiced his support of the direction staff is headed and suggested that this item be placed on an upcoming agenda for a progress update.

Mark Richwine recapped that he will follow up with school superintendents to reiterate the Committee's desire to have this agreement in place no later than February. Councilmember Navarro agreed that the use of school playgrounds will add tremendous value to the public once these facilities become available for community use.

**Agenda Item 2 – Studio Artists Program**

Pat Burdette, Tempe District #3 Visual Arts Specialist, stated that the Studio Artists Program has evolved over the past thirty years. Currently, there are seven artists that go into 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to give workshops on their respective areas of expertise. The art forms include weaver, street paintings, graphic art design labels, self portraits with a twist, mask making, and ceramic art. The school districts have dedicated studio space for this collaborative program.

**Agenda Item 3 – Art Masterpiece Program**

Ms. Burdette stated that this program is designed to train parents, who have a passion for art, to work directly with children. Parents are taught how to discuss art with children and how to conduct art projects in class rooms. This partnership between parents and art teachers provides an exceptional level of enrichment for program participants. Councilmember Arredondo asked Ms. Burdette to provide a one page program narrative to share with the Mayor and Councilmembers.

**Agenda Item 4 – Future Agenda Items**

Councilmember Arredondo suggested that staff work with Rio Salado Community College representatives to host an upcoming committee meeting.

Ross Robb announced the opening of the Kyrene Family Resource Center. This center could be used to host an upcoming meeting.

**Agenda Item 5 – Future Meeting Date – next meeting February 8, 2009**

**Agenda Item 6 – Announcements**

Councilmember Navarro introduced Rick Heumann, Chandler City Councilman. The City of Chandler is looking at creating a similar committee. The Kyrene School District also covers parts of Chandler.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.**

Prepared by: Kay Savard

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner