



Dear KPN members,

As usual, life is not boring when it comes to issues in education, especially as it relates to all of us in the S.E. Valley. There are lots of issues out there to consider, such as redistricting, the search for the new TUHSD superintendent, the 1st draft proposal for budget cuts in TUHSD, and the board approval of the Kyrene Health materials, so don't miss updates found in this issue. We've also added an index to our newsletter so our readers have the ability to go first to the articles that interest them most.

As the end of the year approaches, just like other school organizations, officer positions are being discussed for next year. If you have an interest in getting more involved with KPN, we would love the chance to speak with you. We promise there will be no pressure! Officer nominations will take place at our April meeting and our members will be notified of this process via email.

Please continue to let us know what we are doing well, as well as what we could be doing differently or better! We truly welcome hearing from you. Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,
Sandy Lowe
President

2006-2007 KPN Officers & Contact Information

President:	Sandy Lowe	president@kyreneparent.org
1st Vice President:	Greg Patten	firstvp@kyreneparent.org
Curriculum:	Paul Scowen,	curriculum@kyreneparent.org
Membership:	Brian Smith	membership@kyreneparent.org
Organization:	Mckell Keeney	organization@kyreneparent.org
Legislative Issues:	Jennifer Doering	legislative@kyreneparent.org
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Web Manager:	Stacey Joseph	organization@kyreneparent.org

Kyrene Parent Network
March 22 Meeting Highlights
Redistricting

Our discussion revolving around unification was a lively and interesting one thanks to our very special guest, **Dick Foreman**, opinion columnist for the Arizona Republic. Mr. Foreman spent ten years as a board member in the TUHSD and was very involved in the past work on the redistricting topic. A common theme that arose throughout the night was that community members would like to see more information on the possibility of unification, and a list of the pros and cons of the proposals on the table. Another idea that was raised was to form some type of committee made up of community members to take an in-depth look at the redistricting proposals and provide this community some recommendations based on supportive evidence.

One thought left by Mr. Foreman was this: There *will be* a proposal for some type of unification for our communities on the November 2008 ballot-why not take some control of this and really study the possibility to make sure that the one on the ballot is one we can live with for our kids.

We appreciate Mr. Foreman taking time to come to this meeting and look forward to more discussions with him on this topic.

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Our Website:

<http://www.kyreneparent.org/>

The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

KPN Membership Information

Are you interested in either becoming a member of Kyrene Parent Network or being put on our email list? For **membership**, just fill out the form found at the end of this newsletter and then either return it by email to **Eduarda** at databasemgr@kyreneparent.org, by mail (**KPN, 3614 E. Brookwood Court, Phx. AZ 85048**), or bring it to one of our meetings. We have a \$5 annual fee to help cover printing costs, etc, but if you do join via email, you can certainly either bring it with you to a meeting or mail it in. **To be put on an email list for information**, contact databasemgr@kyreneparent.org.

Membership questions: Brian at membership@kyrene.org

Around our

PSC

Kyrene Parent Superintendent Re-cap For March 20 Meeting (at Monte Vista)

Reported By Sandy Lowe

Districts

Several updates given:

- **Cyber Safety** has been requested by several people as a PSC agenda topic. PTO's can schedule a presentation on Cyber Safety, by contacting the Prevention Supervisor.
- In regards to **school safety**, the Crisis Team oversees all emergency response plans for the district. Dr. Schauer stated that the Crisis Team serves an important role, because its members possess expertise in every area and are able to come up with the best solution in any given situation.
- Dr. Tatterfield gave a follow-up to last month's **Budget 101 presentation**. He stated that currently we are #8 out of 229 districts in the state for percentage of the budget that goes into the classroom (64 ¢).

Main Presentation: Theresa Sweeney discussed **Student Assessment**. She stated that assessment is an integral part of the education process and provides feedback on learning and the appropriateness of curriculum. Some of the tests currently given in Kyrene include:

- The **NAEP** (Nat'l Assessment of Educational Progress) is a federal analysis of public education, given annually to a small number of students randomly selected. Kyrene has several schools that seem to fit the demographic they are looking for, so they are frequently chosen. The test is generally given to 4th and 8th graders at the selected schools, and includes questions about reading, math and science.
- The **AIMS Writing Field Test** was designed to provide statistical information for future writing tests. It is an un-timed test of students in grades 3-8, given at the end of February at 6 pre-selected schools.
- No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requires **Science testing**, which will begin in 2008. The field test is being given this April to students in grades 4 & 8 at schools randomly selected by the State to balance demographics. Twelve Kyrene schools have been selected. Every item on a field test is analyzed by a program to determine whether the question is valid or if there are problems with it.
- **Fall Performance Writing tests** are given to 3 grade levels between 3rd and 8th, which vary from year to year. Spring Performance Writing is given to 2nd graders. Each of these assessments is done in 2 sessions of one hour each.
- About 10 hours of testing is done in the spring for grades 3-8, including **AIMS, CASS and MSS**. This takes a total of less than 2 school days, which is only about 1% of the school year. AIMS is a measure of progress against an absolute standard, whereas grades measure progress with format flexibility. Theresa stated that a parent should never rely on just one measure of a child's progress.

Questions on what you have read, contact KPN PSC reps Eduarda Schroder databasemgr@kyreneparent.org, Marni Anbar marnibo1@mac.com or Sandy Lowe president@kyreneparent.org.

For more details, please see the minutes on the Kyrene Website:
<http://www.kyrene.org/psc/agendas-minutes.htm>

The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

Kyrene Governing Board Meeting Update for March 27, 2007

**Kyrene
Governing
Board**

Lomas students, along with their teacher gave a presentation on their experience with the Junior Achievement Exchange City opportunity. The 5th graders that participated all seemed to really have enjoyed this event and took away many practical life and business lessons from it.

Dr. Tatterfield gave a presentation on the plans to replace the portable buildings. Over time, those schools affected will be seeing these disappear, as additions will be done to the schools to replace them. Orcutt/Winslow the company hired to do this, was also present to answer questions.

Carrie Furedy, co-facilitator for the Health Committee, presented the outcomes of the public review of Health resources for instruction of the expanded Health Curriculum, which had been on display for 60 days. Over 150 people took advantage of this chance and below is a quick summary of the comments. Remember that this only pertains to “resources and lesson adoption”, not curriculum. Curriculum was adopted by the board on August 22, 2006, so this was outside of this committee’s responsibility.

3rd grade: 27 comments, 13 positive, 7 regarding curriculum, 7 about material, 2 changes were made as a result.
 4rd grade: 55 comments, 32 positive, 3 regarding curriculum, 20 about material, 1 changes were made as a result.
 5th grade: 93 comments, 58 positive, 2 regarding curriculum, 33 about material, 5 changes were made as a result.
 6th grade: 85 comments, 32 positive, 13 regarding curriculum, 39 about material, 1 about process, 6 changes were made as a result.
 7th & 8th grade: 51 comments, 30 positive, 4 regarding curriculum, 17 about material, 6 changes were made as a result.

Some ideas that resulted from this feedback were to continue looking at materials to ensure our students are using the best resources available. Since 7th and 8th grade are receiving the same lesson this year, the 8th grade lesson will be changed for next year so students do not have a repeat of materials. Parents will also have the ability to not “opt in” on sections of the lessons.

More Detailed Information

Agenda and Minutes of each meeting are available on the District’s Web site:
<http://www.kyrene.org/gb/mintues-agendas/2006.htm>

Kyrene Schools Community Foundation



**Don't miss our first
Harrah's Casino night!
Saturday, April 21st, 5 – 11 p.m.**

**Kyrene
Foundation**

A luxury bus will depart from Insight Enterprises, Inc. located at 6820 S. Harl Ave, Tempe, 85283 at 5 PM and return back to Insight between 10:30 PM and 11:00 PM after an evening of fun and excitement at Harrah's Casino. Only \$25 per person to join the festivities and you get \$10 in Harrahs bucks when you get on the bus!

All proceeds will benefit the Kyrene Schools Community Foundation specifically to help fund many vital prevention services programs formerly supported through federal grant dollars. Tickets will be available on the Kyrene Foundation website shortly or contact Samantha Heinrich at (480) 783-4074 or sheinrich@kyrene.org

The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

Tempe Union H. S. District Governing Board Meeting for March 28, 2007

TUHSD
Governing
Board

Students from Tempe High School opened the meeting with a wonderful performance by their Percussion Group and by their Choir quartet. Following this, many students and staff were recognized for their accomplishments.

The main presentation was the **Superintendent's Budget Recommendations** for 2007-2005, Draft 1. Noting this is the first draft is important, since there will be some time to give this some thought by not only the Board, but by those in the TUHSD community. The results of these recommendation resulted from many hours invested by administrators, staff and community members. Some of the main points were:

- Principles guiding process.....Cuts farthest from classroom, Look at position (rather than individual) and its value, Equity – all positions are valuable, Consider input from stakeholders.
- Some ideas for increasing revenue.....Advertising on buses, Charge for fingerprinting.
- Ideas for Consideration for Budget Control Items ...Overall paper reduction, Reducing utilities,
- Reducing some student activities (ie.Band trips), Change of boundaries, only one summer school site, open enrollment for Corona and Mt. Pointe.
- Specific Budget Cut Recommendations.....Were divided by District Office Cuts, District-wide cuts, and Campus cuts. For each budget cut, a # from one to four was assigned, called goal. "1" being the most likely to be put back in the budget IF additional funding was found. The following are just some of the recommendations randomly selected:
 - District Office: Plumber position (4) (\$25,500), eliminate 2 FTE for Maintenance Dept. (4) (\$52000), reduce curriculum dept. position .50 FTE (1) (\$30,500)
 - District-wide: Classified staff overtime budget (4)(\$75,000), Postage budget (4) (\$31,500)
 - Campus cuts: 8 FTE for teacher positions due to decline in enrollment (1) (\$440,000), 6 FTE 2nd Librarian at each site (1) (\$330,000), 5.5 FTE English Assts. (4) (\$110,000), 2 FTE Gifted Coordinators (1) (\$110,000)

There were 3 green card speakers, one addressing the Athletic Director's position, one speaking on behalf of Librarians, and one for the English aides. It was again emphasized that this is just the beginning and there will be more time for discussion and input.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL BUDGET CUTS, PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHMENT TO THIS EMAIL.

In The Headlines

Tempe school workers back assistant for superintendent (3/7)

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/85380>

Kyrene Goes To State Science Tourney (3/24)

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/0324ar-science0324Z14.html>

Lago's Principal's tie to ADOT explained (3/29)

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/0329ar-catfolo0329Z14.html>

Revamped pay plan upsets Kyrene teachers (3/30)

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/tempe/articles/0330ar-kyrene0329Z10.html>

Redistricting panel proposing 2 options for Foothills schools (3/30)

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/0330ar-redistrict0330Z14.html>

Proposed school cuts could affect Corona (3/31)

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/chandler/articles/0331cr-cuts0331Z6.html>

Next step in superintendent's search for TUHSD (3/31)

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/0331ar-supercover0331Z14.html>



The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

Arts Council for Youth News

**Arts
Council**

The new Arts Council for Youth is off to a great start! Please check the brand new website at <http://artscouncil4youth.org>. On the calendar page, you will find frequently updated calendar listings for music, dance, theater and art events in our area. There are pages with contact info for piano teachers, voice teachers, other music teachers, art lessons, dance classes, performing ensembles for youth, information about a new Memorial Music Scholarship that High School Seniors can apply for in April (on the Giving Back page), a blog with arts news and reviews, and much more. The first festival sponsored by Arts Council for Youth is shaping up to be a vibrant and culturally enhancing day. See more about the festival that will take place May 5 at Kiwanis Park in the next article. Our next Arts Council meeting will be Monday, April 9, from 4:00 – 5:15 pm at the festival site: Kiwanis Park Sister Cities Garden, 5800 S. All America Way, Tempe. Everyone is welcome to join us, just to listen in, or to get involved as an “Arts Friend” and help out with the arts festival.

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**Don't miss ARTS JAM for your “fam”
Music, Dance & Art Festival**

**Featuring free Arts Activities for kids, Entertainment on three stages, Art Exhibits and Arts & Crafts for Sale,
Booths where you can Sign Up for Summer Classes and Lessons!**

**Saturday, May 5, 2007, 9 am – 1 pm
Kiwanis Park - Sister Cities Garden
5800 S. All America Way, Tempe**

<http://artsjam.org>

(See performer photos – more photos will be added each week)

Space is still available for more student art exhibits (no charge to exhibit), art for sale, crafts for sale, art activities for kids and food vendors. Questions or information, please contact Mckell Keeney: mk@artsjam.org or 480-223-7217

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For fun, check out the **blog for KMS's production of Hello Dolly!**
<http://artscouncilforyouth.org/TalktoUs/ArtsEventsNewsBlog/tabid/98/Default>

Thank you for your support of the arts in our community and in our schools!

The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

Helpful Websites

Unification: <http://www.ade.az.gov/sdrc> AZ Depart. of Education website on Redistricting Committee

Kyrene School District: Kyrene Health Committee & Work on Health Education Resources:
<http://www.kyrene.org/curriculum/health/index.htm> For meeting minutes, click on Health Committee.

Kyrene Governing Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes:

<http://www.kyrene.org/gb/mintues-agendas/2006.htm>

Tempe Union High School District: Tempe Union High School Board Meeting Agendas/Minutes:

http://www.tuhsd.k12.us/school_board/agendas.htm

Arizona Dept of Education, AIMS scores: <http://www.ade.state.az.us/profile/publicview/>

Arizona Dept. of Education, Dropout rates: <http://www.ade.az.gov/researchpolicy/DropoutInfo/>

**No Parent Left Behind Parent Workshops
 Sponsored By Tempe Union High School District
 (They are free and open to everyone!)**

**Parent
 Workshops**

Topic: **“Drug & Gang Education”**
 Date/Time: Tuesday, **April 10**
 Refreshments/Workshop at 6:30 p.m.
 Location: Tempe High Library-West Room

Topic: **“Myspace..The Realistic Dangers”**
 Date/Time: Tuesday, **April 17**
 Refreshments at 6:00 p.m.
 Workshop at 6:30 p.m.
 Location: McClintock High School Cafeteria

Topic: **“Drinking & Driving”**
 Date/Time: Tuesday, **April 24**
 Refreshments at 6:00 p.m.
 Workshop at 6:30 p.m.
 Location: Tempe Public Library
 (Project Room)

**Contact Information: Kay Cosner
 Parent Community Services Manager**

Topic: **“Helping with Your Student’s
 Career/College Choices”**
 Please note the date change. KPN had
 the incorrect date in the previous issue!
 Date/Time: Tuesday, **April 10**
 Refreshments/Workshop at 5:30 p.m.
 Location: Marcos de Niza High School-Room 255

Topic: **“Information & Opportunities
 Related to Job Skills”**
 Date/Time: Wednesday, **April 18**
 Refreshments/Workshop at 5:30 p.m.
 Location: McClintock High School – Room 503

Topic: **“The Bigger Picture of Drug Use”**
 Date/Time: Wednesday, **April 25**
 Refreshments at 6 p.m.
 Workshop at 6:30 p.m.
 Location: Tempe High School
 (Lecture Room)

The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

**Around
Arizona**

A "Leg" Up Legislative Update

- Here's a chance to see what going on in Arizona with a **new TV station** for AZ legislature: Cox Channel 123.

Kyrene Parent Network

New Membership

For school year 2006-2007

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address (include city/zip): _____

Schools children attend: _____ N/A: _____

Optional: Work in: Tempe Union H.S. District Kyrene School District

Amount Enclosed: _____ \$5 annual *OR* _____ \$50 Lifetime (Fees help cover printing, renting of Facilities, etc)

Cash or Check If check, #: _____

Please make **checks payable to Kyrene Parent Network**. Forms along with payment can either be brought to the next meeting or mailed to: KPN, 3614 E. Brookwood Court, Phx. AZ 85048

For Information: Website: www.KyreneParent.org Contact: brian@kyreneparent.org

Bylaws, Section 4.1 Membership. Membership in the Corporation shall consist of any adult 18 years of age or older who resides or works or has students enrolled in the Kyrene School District and/or Tempe Union High School District.

All information will be confidential. Thank you!

Revised 10/17/06

Your support of Kyrene Parent Network is a significant step towards understanding and working with our Kyrene area school districts towards a goal of improving all aspects of our children's education.