



# The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

April 26, 2007 Issue 7

**The One-Stop Shopping Place  
for Educational News about  
Kyrene Elementary & Tempe Union H.S. Districts!**

Dear KPN members and friends,

At this time of year, we are all in high-gear and ready to shift to neutral, eh? With graduations, concerts, testing and tying up loose ends in school, we know time is limited, but we hope you will at least glance through our newsletter. We strive to provide our readers with up-to-date educational news about our organization, our districts and our state.

Though we feel all this news is important, every so often, something comes along that shouts to be read. This month, it is **the presentation to the Kyrene Governing Board (4/10) by Superintendent, Dr. David Schauer**, of his vision for Kyrene. If you don't really know this man in charge of our children, then perhaps it would be worth the time it takes to at least glance through the summary. We find it optimistic, thoughtful, and should give this community some assurance that the past is relevant, but the present and future is what is important. Dr. Schauer and his cabinet are committed to the teachers, parents and students of Kyrene, as we are to our children. We have summarized this presentation, but if you would like a copy of the power point, please let us know. So, read it and tells us what you think. We'd love to hear from you!

Have a great May!

Sincerely,  
Sandy Lowe, President

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## Kyrene Parent Network April 17 Meeting Highlights Special Guest: Onnie Shekerjian

Kyrene Parent Network was honored to have Tempe Councilwoman, Onnie Shekerjian as our guest at our April meeting. Over the years, Councilwoman Shekerjian has served on many different educational committees at the school level, district level, and state level. With her tireless commitment to quality education for every child, she has taken on the leadership role for the Education and Technology Advancement Committee for the City of Tempe. Two major goals of this committee are to encourage partnerships between all educational entities and Tempe and to assist in the development of life-long learning opportunities, like the new International Baccalaureate Program that will be offered at Tempe High School. We think all these objectives are so interesting and important, we will send you a copy via email. If you have a moment, take a look and see what you think.

It is evident that Councilwoman Shekerjian has confidence in the overall goals of Tempe, especially those revolving around education, and she works diligently to find ways to accomplish them. If you have questions for Onnie Shekerjian, her email is: [onnieshekerjian@tempe.gov](mailto:onnieshekerjian@tempe.gov)

## Our Website:

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

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F.Y.I.

## Important information About Kyrene Parent Network

### What is Kyrene Parent Network?

The one and only non-profit organization run by parents and uniting parents from the Kyrene and Tempe Union High School Districts and whose sole purpose is to serve the parents and students of these Districts.

- With bylaws, articles of incorporation
- Officers elected by members
- Meetings and objectives based on member vote and input
- Issues may be related to a school, but generally are those that go beyond school sites and affect everyone
- Includes solicitation of input from Districts and sometimes board members

### What are some benefits of groups like KPN for our community?

- Brings parents from across Kyrene and Tempe High School Districts together to share their wealth of experience and ideas
- Bridges timely, accurate information from both Districts and thus provides another way to have a strong connection between the Elementary and High school districts
- Provides leadership and representation for parents across districts, so our voice is united and more influential in working toward common goals that benefit our children
- Promotes open communication and cooperation between parents, students, school administrators and staff, and governing boards
- Assists parents in understanding school policies & encourages parent participation on district committees

### What does KPN do?

- Monthly information meetings
  - Updates on current issues especially where input is very important
  - Speakers are brought in based on member interest
- Monthly newsletter includes:
  - Recaps of governing board meetings, KPN's monthly meeting, & PSC meeting
  - Access to Newspaper articles regarding timely articles,
  - Updates on legislative action *and* on current District committees
- Regular email bulletins on hot news
- Host forums for school board candidates

### Are there other organizations like this?

- Not in Kyrene or Tempe Union
- Districts across Arizona have similar organizations in which their main focus is watching out for the students' interest.
  - Paradise Valley - United Parent Council: <http://www.pvupc.org/> (which has been around for 30years)
  - Scottsdale - Scottsdale Parent Council: <http://www.scottsdaleparentcouncil.org/>
  - Peoria - Peoria United Parent Council <http://www.peoriaupc.org/>
- All are formal parent-led, district-wide organizations
  - main focus is quality education for the students.
  - have regular communication on timely issues
  - help ensure there is parent participation on District committees
  - have regular updates on education legislation, governing board meetings, and newsletters.

**Please consider joining Kyrene Parent Network. We want your participation and voice in one of the most important that areas that affect all of our children, EDUCATION!**

**Email: [datasemgr@kyreneparent.org](mailto:datasemgr@kyreneparent.org)**

**Call Sandy Lowe at 480-961-0388**

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## Our KPN Officers for 2007-2008 are:

President:	Sandy Lowe	<a href="mailto:president@kyreneparent.org">president@kyreneparent.org</a>
1st Vice President:	Greg Patten	<a href="mailto:firstvp@kyreneparent.org">firstvp@kyreneparent.org</a>
V.P. of Curriculum:	Paul Scowen,	<a href="mailto:curriculum@kyreneparent.org">curriculum@kyreneparent.org</a>
Co-V.P. of Membership:	Brian Smith	<a href="mailto:membership@kyreneparent.org">membership@kyreneparent.org</a>
	Eduarda Schroder	<a href="mailto:databasemgr@kyreneparent.org">databasemgr@kyreneparent.org</a>
V.P. of Organization:	Mckell Keeney	<a href="mailto:organization@kyreneparent.org">organization@kyreneparent.org</a>
V.P. of Legislative Issues:	Jennifer Doering	<a href="mailto:legislative@kyreneparent.org">legislative@kyreneparent.org</a>
Corporate Secretary:	Ann Niemann	<a href="mailto:secretary@kyreneparent.org">secretary@kyreneparent.org</a>
Corporate Treasurer:	Christie Burke	<a href="mailto:treasurer@kyreneparent.org">treasurer@kyreneparent.org</a>

## Around Kyrene

### Kyrene Parent Superintendent Re-cap For April 17 Meeting (at Aprende)



**Fingerprinting may be required for all parent volunteers:** Kyrene District has suggested that all volunteers, that are on school property, during the school day be fingerprinted to ensure the safety of children. Currently, parents and guardians are not required to do this. The major challenges are how to pay for this estimated cost of \$60 to \$80,000, and the capability of Human Resources to handle the 25-3500 parent volunteers. PSC reps were asked about the possibility of PTO's picking up this cost. There were many questions regarding this possible policy change and thus this topic will be addressed again.

**Update on Redistricting:** The Kyrene Governing Board is waiting to receive the official notification that there will be 2 proposals available to consider by not only Kyrene, but also Tempe Elementary and Tempe Union High School Districts. Site councils are now being visited by District staff and Governing Board members to obtain input.

**Use of KSD facilities:** Categories based on an organization's characteristics determine if and what fee will be charged for the use of using Kyrene District property. A detailed handout was distributed including the categories, form to request use and filing procedures. If interested in seeing these, please contact Sandy Lowe at KPN [president@kyreneparent.org](mailto:president@kyreneparent.org)

**The main presentation centered on how PTO's use their funds to support schools.** Though school districts don't have legal control on PTO activities, if they occur on school property or with students, there are policies in regards to fundraising, facility use, use of District resources and political activities. **In regards to donations to schools**, several questions are asked before acceptance:

1. Is the item compatible w/ the District, or will it require "additional" funds to maintain,
2. Does it fit the needs of the District, and
3. Should PTO's fund school needs that should be provided by the state.



One example of #1 is donation of computers. If a computer is donated, maintenance of it can't require additional funding. **Another area that has come up for discussion is the computer tech. positions that six schools are currently funding from PTO funds. As of next year, this will be discontinued and PTO's will no longer be able to do this.** The question becomes what can PTO's fund for their schools? District is encouraging PTO's to support consumable expenses, like printer cartridges and paper rather than positions. Discussions will continue as the need arises. Reps than broke into smaller groups to brainstorm other ideas for money PTO's raise.

For more details, please see the minutes on the Kyrene Website:

<http://www.kyrene.org/psc/agendas-minutes.htm>

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## Kyrene Elementary Governing Board Meeting - April 10, 2007

- Dr. Schauer gave a presentation entitled "**Kyrene at a Crossroads**" which dealt with his view of Kyrene as a "Learning Organization". It was an optimistic way to view the many issues and challenges facing Kyrene. **Please see the summary of this in the box below.**
- A **new Policy and Fee structure** was proposed and approved by the KGB. Though primarily a "clean-up" of the other prior policies, the new process did increase the fees charged for most uses on "non-Kyrene" affiliated organizations.
- The Board approved the **adoption of the Advanced Language Arts Curriculum for Grades 6-8**. Implementation will be in the 2007-2008 school year. (I also have a copy of the PowerPoint presentation)

For copies of Dr. Schauer's presentation, the presentation on curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade or to see the new new policy for fee schedules, please feel free to contact Greg Patten: [firstvp@kyreneparent.org](mailto:firstvp@kyreneparent.org)

### Kyrene At A Crossroad (Part 1) By Superintendent Dr. David Schauer Presentation to Governing Board 4/10/07



#### I. Places Where Roads Cross

- History vs. future
- Past vs. new methodologies
- Honoring past without excluding forward thinking

#### II. Reinforcing Our Values

- Desire to make our work transparent
- Strive to see common good
- Continue to enhance collaboration
- Push to create greater awareness
- Inspire people to become more engaged
- Strive to create trust
- From good to great

#### III. Characteristics of Learning Organizations

- New skills & capabilities
  - Aspiration
  - Reflection & conversation
  - Conceptualization
- New awareness & sensibilities
- New attitudes and beliefs

#### IV. Core Concept

*At its essence, every organization is a product of how its members think and interact.*

#### V. Definition

*Learning in an organization means the continuous testing of experience and the transformation of that experience into knowledge, accessible to the whole organization, and relevant to its core values.*

#### VI. Creating Our Own Definition

*If I had a learning organization...*

- What in this new organization helps it thrive & succeed?
- How do people *behave* in this organization? How do they interact with the *outside world*?
- What are some of the differences between the *ideal* organization and *ours*?
- What are the obstacles? How do we measure progress?

#### VI. Moving Forward

- Understanding and learning from the past
- Defining and Prioritizing
- Existing Structures
- Enhancing and Creating
- Ongoing Engagement

#### VII. Strategic Change Portfolio

- Compensation Systems
- Evaluation Systems
- Efficiencies
- Curriculum, assessment, resources, & Professional growth alignment
- Alternative Programming
- Marketing
- Multiculturalism/Diversity

#### VIII. Learning Organizations Principles

- Educate
- Incorporate into groups and processes
- Enhance sound decision-making
- Creates sustainable improvement and change

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## Kyrene In The Headlines

Kyrene expands gifted (4/5)

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/tempe/articles/0405tr-giftedinside0405Z10.html>

Kidzone Recognized (4/18)

[http://www.evliving.com/cities\\_news.php?action=fullnews&id=6992](http://www.evliving.com/cities_news.php?action=fullnews&id=6992)

## News In Kyrene School District

<http://www.kyrene.org/ksdportal/>

Kyrene Governing Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes: <http://www.kyrene.org/gb/mintues-agendas/2006.htm>

Kyrene Middle School Prep Program: <http://www.kyrene.org/aboutksd/prep-program.htm>

**There will be one more chance to take the required entrance exam for Kyrene Prep Academy at KMS on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Joe Bonamo at 480-783-1029 or email [jbonamo@kyrene.org](mailto:jbonamo@kyrene.org)**

Kyrene Summer Academy: <http://www.kyrene.org/summeracademy/index.htm>

Kyrene Health Committee: <http://www.kyrene.org/curriculum/health/index.htm>

For meeting minutes, click on Health Committee.

Superintendent Dr. Schauer's monthly articles: <http://www.kyrene.org/ksdnews/>

Summer school registration for TUHSD: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=26,67,211&tuhsdgroup=1>  
Ends April 27<sup>th</sup> for 1<sup>st</sup> session and May 11 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Session

April/May Corona Newsletter: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/cds/Parent/ParentNewsAprilMay07.pdf>

Marcos' Spring Newsletter: [http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/mdn/newsletter/spring\\_07.pdf](http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/mdn/newsletter/spring_07.pdf)

Desert Vista Spring Newsletter: [http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/dvh/News/04\\_2007/Spring2007.pdf](http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/dvh/News/04_2007/Spring2007.pdf)



## News in Tempe Union High School District

<http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=5>

**Around  
TUHSD**

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

[http://www.tuhsd.k12.us/school\\_board/agendas.htm](http://www.tuhsd.k12.us/school_board/agendas.htm)

Tell TUHSD what you think about their new website: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/surveys/website.htm>

**Summer school registration for TUHSD ends April 27<sup>th</sup> for 1<sup>st</sup> session and May 11 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Session**

<http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=26,67,211&tuhsdgroup=1>

April/May Corona Newsletter: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/cds/Parent/ParentNewsAprilMay07.pdf>

Marcos' Spring Newsletter: [http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/mdn/newsletter/spring\\_07.pdf](http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/mdn/newsletter/spring_07.pdf)

Desert Vista Spring Newsletter: [http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/dvh/News/04\\_2007/Spring2007.pdf](http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/dvh/News/04_2007/Spring2007.pdf)

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## Tempe Union High School District Governing Board Meeting - April 11, 2007

- **Presentation: Sister City Program**  
Teachers involved with the Sister City Program introduced their visiting teachers from Germany. Each one addressed the board and audience, talked about the wonderful experiences they have had as part of this program and thanked everyone for this opportunity.
- **Communications:**
  1. Declining enrollment and budget constraints may shut down the Tempe Union High School District's satellite campus in Guadalupe.
  2. Redistricting
    - Important to listen to the community and keep them informed.
    - The 3 CFO's from Tempe Elementary, Tempe Union and Kyrene Elementary met to talk.
    - A comment was made in regards to it being interesting the different approaches by the three districts in addressing this issue.
    - A bigger group to discuss the issues was suggested, since there may be more creativity with a bigger group.
  3. Certified positions that may be cut due to the budget recommendation have been sent notification and if this changes, they may be recalled back. The vote to do this was 2 to 1 in favor of it.
  4. Teacher Contracts will be issued very soon and teachers have 30 days to respond.
- **Superintendent Search:** A new superintendent is scheduled to be named in May.
- **Budget:**
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> budget draft proposal has been given to the budget task force, who will take these recommendations to their constituents for their input. The draft was also given to the study Team for their input.
  - There were several green card speakers: One was a librarian addressing the importance of these positions to the District. A gifted student also spoke on all the benefits she has received from being in this program. Finally, a parent spoke about the importance of the Gifted Program to this community and the school district.
  - A 2<sup>nd</sup> budget draft proposal should be ready by April 25. A study session was requested for the budget and for possibly discussing the Guadalupe Satellite campus.

### More Detailed Information

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

## Tempe Union High School District In The Headlines

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

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

**International Baccalaureate school may be in Tempe High's Future (4/12)**

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/87662>



**Mt. Pointe teacher expands career horizon**

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/0413ar-localpeople0414.html>

**Guadalupe Campus of TUHSD may close (4/14)**

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/tempe/articles/0414tr-guadalupe0414Z10.html>

**Student Column: The Corona Terrorist Won (4/20)**

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0420tr-student0420-ON.html>

**All was quiet and empty at Corona (4/20)**

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0420tr-Corona20-ON.html>

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## Help Catch Person(s) Responsible for Corona Threats

Any parent wishing to contribute to the existing reward for apprehending the person(s) responsible for the threats made to Corona may do so by writing a check to "Corona del Sol" with a notation "for reward". Checks may be dropped off in the Corona bookstore or front office. If anyone has information regarding this investigation, please contact Corona's school liaison **Detective Gary Duplissis at 480-752-8772.**



Thank you!

**Around The  
Community &  
Arizona**

**Don't miss ARTS JAM for your "fam"**  
**Community Music, Dance, Theater & Art Festival**  
**Free admission!**  
(Sponsored by Arts Council For Youth)



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

Pre-purchase raffle tickets \$1 each; 6 for \$5 or 25 for \$20: [info@artsjam.org](mailto:info@artsjam.org) or call Jennie: 602-432-9190

### *What can you do for free at Arts Jam Festival?*

- Arts & Crafts For Kids      Play Musical Instruments      Learn Some Dances
- Sign-up For Summer Classes, Theater Workshops, Dance & Music      Try Some Acting
- Listen To Some Great Musicians      Watch Some Great Performers, Like Jugglers & Dancers
- And More!

### *What can you buy at Arts Jam Festival?*

Art, Crafts, Books, Refreshments

WEBSITE: <http://artscouncil4youth.org>

For calendar listings of school concerts, plays and exhibits: [www.artscouncil4youth.org](http://www.artscouncil4youth.org)

Questions or information, please contact Mckell Keeney: [mk@artsjam.org](mailto:mk@artsjam.org) or 480-223-7217

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

## Arizona Education In The Headlines

**Redistricting: How Glendale Union is looking at this (4/4)**

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/glendale/articles/0404gl-redistrict04Z18.html>

**Officials Clash over unification proposals in SW valley (4/11)**

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/0411swv-redistrictinside11Z5.html>

**Horn critical of No Child Left Behind**

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0424horne-ON.html>

**Follow The Parents Lead On Unification (4/27)**

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/eastvalleyopinions/articles/0424tr-foreman0425.html>



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## No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Community Roundtable with Senator Harry Mitchell

About two hundred people attended the NCLB Community Roundtable with Congressman Harry Mitchell. This event took place on April 14th in Scottsdale at Pueblo Elementary School. Arizona Education Association, President John Wright along with other education leaders presented their perspectives on the effects of NCLB. Congressman Mitchell was convinced by the panel that fundamental changes in NCLB are needed and urged the participants to mobilize others to work for change in NCLB. For more information: [http://www.arizonaaea.org/politics.php?page=282&sub\\_page=267](http://www.arizonaaea.org/politics.php?page=282&sub_page=267)

To view pictures: [http://www.arizonaaea.org/images/NCLB/NCLB\\_Mitchell\\_Roundtable/default.htm](http://www.arizonaaea.org/images/NCLB/NCLB_Mitchell_Roundtable/default.htm)

## Websites For Parents and Educators

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

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/>

## Don't Miss "Education News Parents Can Use"



*Education News Parents Can Use* focuses on schools, learning and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. On the **3rd Tuesday of each month during the school year**, *Education News* airs live via satellite, offering parents important information on how to get involved in children's learning. There are 2 programs left for this year and they sound very captivating and practical!

**Teacher Quality: Inspiring Excellence and Strengthening Innovation - Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

**Time: 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM ET**

**Reading: The Gateway to Success in Learning and Life - Tuesday, June 19, 2007**

**Time: 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM ET**

For more information about these programs, and where they can be seen, please see the website:

<http://ed.gov/news/av/video/edtv/index.html>

***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.***