



The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

December 7, 2006 Issue 3



Dear KPN members,

With December upon us, our **Kyrene Parent Network** board is busy planning our meetings for 2007. We hope you have enjoyed our guests and presentations so far and we look forward to seeing you in the new year! Here are our topics for the beginning of 2007:

January 18 (Thursday), 10:30 am, Chandler Sunset Library, 4930 W. Ray Road: : The topic will be identifying signs your child is struggling in school and what parents can do to help. We are currently researching this area and looking for a speaker with expertise in this area. If you have any suggestions, we'd welcome them.

February 13 (Tuesday), 7:00 pm: There will be a review of the new Health Education Education Curriculum. We will outline what is new and what has changed from the previous year.

March 22 (Thursday), 10:30 am: Tentatively, we hope to have a round table discussion of the pros and cons of unification.

If you have specific information, suggestions or questions about these areas, we would love to hear from you! Remember, our goal is to make **KPN** an organization led by the interests of the community in Kyrene and Tempe Union High School Districts!

On behalf of our Board, we would like to wish you a very Happy Holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year. We truly appreciate your support of and participation with Kyrene Parent Network and are thankful for the opportunity to meet so many dynamic community members!

Sincerely,
Sandy Lowe

KPN Website:

www.kyreneparent.org

KPN Thank You's

We would like to thank:

Tara Kissane
President of Arizona Alliance for
Arts Education

Pam Krewson
Founder and past president of the
Arts in Education Council for
Scottsdale Schools

Lynn Tuttle
Arts Coordinator for the Arizona
Department of Education

For being our guests at KPN's
November meeting.



2006-2007 KPN Officers & Contact Information

President:	Sandy Lowe	president@kyreneparent.org
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The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

Kyrene Parent Network November 21 Meeting Highlights

Pam Krewson (Founder of the Arts in Education Council in Scottsdale), Tara Kissane (President of AZ Alliance for Arts Education), and Lynn Tuttle (Arts Coordinator for the AZ Dept. of Education) shared their passion and expertise for Fine Arts in education. The audience was mesmerized by these women's message to all of us about how important it is for children to have exposure to these classes. The advantages of having an Art Coordinator for a District as well as a Parent's Art Council were discussed and many great ideas were shared as to how to get started. Grants which would assist Districts with the needed finances were also discussed.

One story shared, which really exemplified the advantages of having an Arts Coordinator, was told by Tara Kissane. Tara, as an Arts Coordinator, told of a music teacher who broke down and cried during her review. This surprised Tara, since the review was a good one for that teacher. When asked what was wrong, the teacher went on to say they were happy tears and she was just so grateful that someone finally recognized her strengths in terms of her specific expertise in music. No one ever had been able to examine her teaching in the detail that Tara had, and this really gave the teacher a strong sense of worth.

Many questions were asked and the time went much too fast for everyone, but all three of these special guests said they would be delighted to return at another time.

KPN Membership Information

Are you interested in becoming a member of Kyrene Parent Network? If so, there are a couple ways to do this. First, just fill out the form found in this newsletter and then either return it by email 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. Here is some contact information:

Membership questions:

Brian at membership@kyrene.org

To e-mail your membership:

Eduarda at databasemgr@kyreneparent.org

To mail your membership:

KPN, 3614 E. Brookwood Court, Phx. AZ 85048

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.

Kyrene Forums on Re-Districting

Meetings for the Kyrene Community on Re-Districting have been completed. During each of the three meetings, opportunities and challenges were listed and will be made available to the public.

Please consult the District's website Kyrene.org for further information.

Kyrene Parent Network Meetings

December – No meeting

Thursday, January 18 10-11:30 am Sunset Library

Tuesday, February 20 7-8:30 pm

Thursday, March 22 10-11:30 am

Tuesday, April 17 7-8:30 pm

Thursday, May 17 10-11:30 am

The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

Around our Districts

Parent Superintendent Re-cap For November 21 (at Sureno)

Samantha Heinrich, Assistant Director of Supplemental Education, presented information on the Safe Schools Grant. The grant was awarded in August, 2003, and it will expire in July 2007. Some of the services will continue to be covered by this grant, such as Second Step and Project Alert, but other programs will have no source of funding next year. KASP has funding for one year only, and the Infant Development Program will be subsidized through State funds. Other programs that will continue through a combination of State funds and tuition dollars are ACE Club and STAR Program. The Kyrene Schools Community Foundation can play a role in funding some of these programs. She asked anyone who has influence with corporations, funding sources, grants or partnerships to contact the District with ideas

Mark Knight, Executive Director of Human Resources, stated that the calendar option chosen by TUHSD is basically a rollover of this year's calendar. From the input gathered on the Kyrene website, over 500 people either voted for Option A, or voted for B but said they would be okay with A.

There was a discussion on Redistricting, with Board Members Ray Waters and Sue Knudson answering questions. Dr. Schauer stated that there are two upcoming community meetings about redistricting – one at Aprende on November 27 and one at the District Office on December 6 – and there may be one for staff as well. He said that Rae Waters and Sue Knudson have been involved in these discussions for many years, as it is a recurring topic.

Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association (KMFA)

KMFA is a non-profit organization made up of parents, community members and fine arts educators in support of a complete music and fine arts education program for all schools in the Kyrene School District.

Recap of November 16 meeting:

Lani Kuban is the new KMFA treasurer. Tracy Kirkman-Liff presented an itemized list of responsibilities/activities a grant might provide. The list came from the October brainstorming session. Those in attendance ranked the possibilities from 1-9 (high to low) along with * next to items of great importance. The next KMFA meeting is January 18, 4:30 -5:30 pm at the District Office.

For more information, please see KMFA's website:
<http://www.kyrenefinearts.org>

Upcoming Meetings for Kyrene and Tempe High School Districts

Kyrene School District Governing Board Regular Meetings

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm, District Office

December 12 (only one meeting in December)

Kyrene Health Curriculum Committee Meetings

Meetings will resume in January.

Tempe Union High School District Governing Board Meetings

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., Benedict Education Center

500 W. Guadalupe

December 13

Tempe Union High School District

Two forums addressing unification will be held tentatively in late January and on March 1.

State Commission Re-Districting Meeting

Thursday, December 14, 2:30 pm at State Capitol (HHR #5)

The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

Kyrene Governing Board Meeting Updates

November 14 Meeting Highlights

- As a part of the consent agenda, the purchase of a new “E-Mail Spam” filter was approved. The new technology is expected to reduce identification errors related to “spam” and thus enhance communication.
- **K-8 Programming Study** (Item 7.4) - This recommendation was to dissolve the K-8 Programming Study Committee as a Governing Board Committee. The committee is expected to remain with its current representation, but report to the Superintendent. Under the new configuration, the “Superintendent will provide updates to the Governing Board and the Kyrene Community as he deems appropriate and necessary to keep the Bard and public informed”.
- Items for Future Consideration (Item 9.0)
 - Rich Zawtocky asked that an update on the K-8 Committee be given at some time in the future
 - Tuesday December 12, 5:00 pm, Executive Session (Superintendent Evaluation) followed by Study Session (Alternative Programming), followed at 7:00pm, Regular Board Meeting (Only DECEMBER BOARD MEETING)

November 28 Meeting Highlights

- The Kindergarten "Plan" was approved. Half-day Kindergarten will be offered at a limited number of schools, but the district will adjust to meet everyone's requests. The daily curriculum will be the same for each, but the time allotted for each activity is doubled. Issues not discussed were availability of classroom space and busing for those that desire 1/2 day but whose local school may not offer this option.
- Dr. Schauer mentioned that he plans on scheduling one additional Forum for District Employees on the Redistricting Issue.

More Information

Agenda and Minutes of each meeting are available on the District's Web site:

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

Tempe Union High School District Governing Board Meeting Updates

November 1, Board Meeting Highlights

Dialogue was begun on the re-districting issue. Ms. Arredondo-Savage stated the District need to discuss how to address the issue, how to gather data, and how to communicate it to the community.

November 15, Study Session

School Improvement Plans For Corona and Mountain Point was discussed.

November 29, Study Session

School Improvement Plans For Desert Vista and Marcos

November 29, Board Meeting Highlights

The Marcos de Niza High School dance group performed for the governing board at the beginning of the meeting. National Merit Scholarships semifinalists were announced. Each High School had at least one semifinalist. Two public meetings on unification were announced for 2007 - one will be in the north part of the district and one will be in the south part of the district. The date of the first one that was scheduled for a date in January is being rescheduled because of a district calendar conflict. The second one is set for March 1, 2007. Details will be announced.

More Information

Agenda and Minutes of each meeting are available on the District's Web site:

http://www.tuhsd.ker.az.us/school_board/agendas.htm

KPN Looking for Assistance

KPN board members Greg Patten and Mckell Keeney attended the November 29 Tempe Union High School Board meeting. ***If anyone else attends any of the Tempe Union board meetings, we would appreciate you sending information to us, so it may be shared*** with others. Otherwise information is taken from the minutes when they are posted. Contact Sandy Lowe at president@kyreneparent.org if you are able to help

The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

RE-DISTRICTING NEWS

Notes from the Public Hearing of the State School District Re-Districting Commission State Capitol, November 15, HHR #5, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Meeting was conducted by Chairman Martin Schultz with most commission members present. (Jay Blanchard, who has responsibility for the three Tempe, Chandler, Phoenix districts under consideration was absent). The commission will try to keep information updated on their website, www.ade.az.gov/sdrc, but early results indicate a significant time-lag. A set of frequently asked questions was passed out to all those present and a commitment was made to add to the information as it becomes available.

Information was given to clarify previous information distributed:

1. The “optimal size” quoted for a school district (6,000 – 30,000 students) was quoted from a Syracuse University study. Upon additional study, it is believed that the floor is appropriate, but the upper limit is probably much higher (with 50,000 not being unreasonable).
2. The District size is based upon the February 2005 AMD (Average Daily Membership) which represents the 100th day of school and is the basis for legislative funding.

One issue the Commission had not considered was raised by Steve Gallardo, a member of the Arizona legislature, dealt with Voting Rights Act. He pointed out that one of the considerations that will be reviewed will be “fairness” in potential elections for new districts. In earlier discussions, another general issue cited was in regards to how a consolidation would be approved by the voters. At the time, it was felt that voters in each district would have to approve the changes, but this is under scrutiny now and is being reviewed by the legislative legal bureau. Transition costs required to consolidate districts is recognized by the commission as being a reality, but funding for these costs is not included with the enabling legislation. Legislation to authorize some type of funding is expected but certainly not finalized.

Correspondence should be directed to Art Harding from the Arizona Department of Education, a commission member, at sdrc_comments@azed.gov or (602) 364-1952.

Prepared by: Greg Patten, firstvp@kyreneparent.org

Next Meeting at State Capitol: Thursday, December 14, 2:30 pm in HHR #5

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails.
Explore. Dream. Discover.

Author: [Mark Twain](#) 1835-1910
American Humorist, Writer

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.

Middle School Model:

<http://www.kyrene.org/k8psc/Middle%20School%20Evaluation.htm> Link to consultant from ASU, Dr. Garcia's Presentation regarding 1st year evaluation of Model

Demographic and Enrollment Projections for Kyrene: Report from consultants, Applied Economics 8/06

http://www.kyrene.org/ksdnews/images/Demographic_Study.pdf

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

No Parent Left Behind University – Workshops

http://www.tuhsd.k12.us/parent/no_parent_left_behind.html

Parent Education Opportunities

The mission of **NPLB** (No Parent Left Behind) **University** is to provide parents, grandparents, and/or guardians with the opportunity to network, share experiences, lend support, and learn useful parenting strategies in a non-judgmental environment. Be sure to check the websites for dates and times of free workshops January – April for topics such as “**How to Make a Four-Year Plan**”, “**Depression and Suicide**”, “**College and High School Planning**”.

http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/parent/no_parent_left_behind.html

Attention Teachers of Physics, Chemistry, Physical Science and Math

For summer 2007, ASU offers a program of courses for your professional development. These courses can count towards the interdisciplinary Master of Natural Science degree and graduate degrees in education. Tuition reimbursement funds are being sought : apply to jane.Jackson@asu.edu. Modeling Instruction is recognized as an exemplary K-12 science program by the U.S. Depart. Of Educ.

For more information, visit <http://modeling.asu.edu/>
Follow the link to ASU Graduate Program for Teachers of the Physical Sciences.

“We never know the love of the parent till we become parents ourselves.”

Author: [Henry Ward Beecher](#) 1813-1887, American Preacher, Orator, Writer