

Kyrene Parent Network Legislative News

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President, Ann Niemann
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Capitol Times

The second session of the Forty-seventh Arizona legislature began in January. As your new Vice President for Legislative Issues, I've been keeping tabs on what's happening at the State Capitol. I've gone to both House and Senate Education committee hearings, attended the annual Arts Congress and forum, and even watched and taped hearings online when I haven't been able to spend the day in Phoenix. I also read both of the large local newspapers.

This will be the only print newsletter. The rest will come out as online newsletters sent by email and posted on the Kyrene Parent Network website.

-Mckell Keeney

Kyrene Parent Network Vice President,
Legislative Issues

Bills to watch

Bills of interest:

House Bill (HB) 2253
School tax credit; fine arts
Appropriations committee, Feb. 7

Senate Bill (SB) 1226
School board members; increase
Passed senate education committee
5-3

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Kyrene Community Meetings - 2/9, 2/13, 2/15
- ◆ Candidate forum KMS 3/2
- ◆ March 9 meetings



“This is what has been placed in my bowl.”

“Wabi sabi is a beauty of things imperfect, impermanent and incomplete.”

Arts Congress and Forum

On Monday, February 6, I attended the annual Arts Congress and Arts Forum at the capitol. We sat at tables of ten with others from our home district. The legislators were to join us for lunch, but their session ran late, so they barely got to eat and run. We had talking points for ArtShare. ArtShare is a cultural trust fund to advance the future of the arts in Arizona. Legislation was passed in April 1996. Among the endowments: 13

million from the state of Arizona into the state treasury. Another 7 million will complete the state’s legal obligation of 20 million to the fund. One of the policy purposes is to train schools to implement and assess Arizona Department of Education arts standards.

For more information, go to azarts.gov/artshare/about.html

On the panel: Alan Prewitt

Alan is part of Phoenix Theater, Cookie Company and Arizona Community Arts.

He said Theater and Dance are most underrepresented in public schools.

In Ganado High School, 87% failed the AIMS test. Alan believes that they are bright students, but that they do not relate to the AIMS questions. He thinks with a different arts slant to the questions, arts could help level the playing field, for these students who think in artistic ways.

On the panel: Sue Raymond

If you wait five minutes, someone will have another idea!

Sue teaches art in the Paradise Valley Unified School District (where I went to school 5th grade through High School).

Eight other universities offer arts degrees in Arizona besides the major universities.

Students need jobs for the next 50 years. Some of these jobs haven’t been invented yet. The students will help invent them.

On the panel: Andre Licardi

Andre is the Fine Arts Coordinator for the Peoria Unified School District.

In First Grade, 95% of the students are involved in arts. By the end of 6th grade, only 34% are involved in arts. Their interest did not change. What changed?

About the incentive for a district to have a full-time Fine Arts Coordinator: “I save and earn my district multiple times my salary. All the grants I bring in get positive attention for the district, and the district loves positive attention.”

On the panel: Bob Galloway

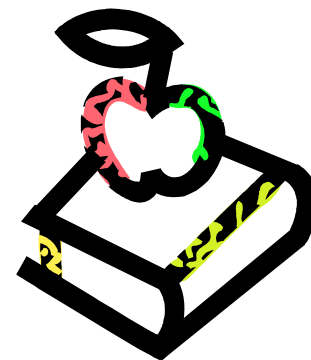
Bob has been on the faculty of Mesa Community College for 25 years. He is a photographer. He said the arts have been marginalized. One of the first things he had to learn was how to articulate the value of the arts at staff meetings, why the arts deserve to be alongside math and science. He said that the right attitude is very important.

Resource website:
KeepArtsInSchools.org Art came out higher than PE and other things as a factor to keep students in school.

On the panel: Bob Wills

Bob is a dean at ASU, Herberger Theater. He said we graduate 5,000 - 6,000 music teachers a year, but lose 11,000 a year through retirement, leaving teaching, changing teaching area and other reasons. He sees philanthropy disconnect with adults. Although they benefited from the arts in school, of the bankers, doctors and others around us, only 5% are contributing to the arts in their

community. He shared some “bad news”: Although it is not advertised, ASU will accept students missing their High School Fine Arts credit without requiring them to make it up. NAU and UA are heading this direction. We need to write letters about this. Potential artists in residence could use help with the Arts Standards - how to connect their art form to the curriculum. That would increase the artists available.



KBAQ encounters with young musicians. High School students introduce their instrument to younger students.

The moderator: Tara Kissane

Tara is the president of Arizona Alliance for the Arts, and the full-time Fine Arts Coordinator for the Paradise Valley District. She also lives in the Kyrene area, and previously worked in Kyrene!

Parents can make the link for themselves of wanting their children to be creative.

Tara suggests appealing to the audience with different approaches about the value of arts education. Talk about increasing creativity for students.

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Reaching wide,
working together.

We're on the Web!
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