



The Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter

August 25, 2007 Issue 7

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

About

KPN

Welcome back to all of our members and friends,

Kyrene Parent Network is happy to be back this year and we are looking forward to a great year with all of you. After surveying our members and friends, we have begun to lock in some wonderful speakers for our upcoming meetings. Some of the big topics that surfaced are unification, class size, high school capacity and boundaries, PTO funding and tax credit money, the middle school schedule and Academic Lab. Watch for our emails, website and newsletters for specific information regarding when these will be addressed. We will also be concentrating on the subjects of Math and Science and exactly where education is at in regards to teaching them in schools.

We are here because of people like you that are involved with their children's education and want to know more about issues that affect not only their child, but children in general. We want this organization to be driven by what parents want to see more of, so please continue to provide us with your suggestions and ideas. We try very hard to respond to those that contact us, but if for some reason we overlook an idea, suggestion or question, continue to give us opportunities to address them. We are all volunteers in a non-profit organization and as you may know, sometimes, there is not enough manpower to be as timely as we would like to be.

On behalf of all of KPN's board members we thank you for your continued encouragement and support. We are all committed to and excited about the possibilities for Kyrene Parent Network.

Sincerely,
Sandy Lowe, President
480-961-0388

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Our KPN Officers for 2007-2008 are:

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



2007-2008 Meeting Calendar

- Tuesday 8/14 9 – 11 am
- Tuesday 9/4 6:30 – 8:30 pm
At Tempe Police Substation
(on Hardy, between Warner & Elliot)
- Tuesday 10/2 9 – 11 am
- Tuesday 11/6 9 – 11 am
- No meeting in December
- Tuesday 1/15 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Tuesday 2/5 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Tuesday 3/4 9 – 11 am
- Tuesday 4/1 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Tuesday 5/6 9 – 11 am

Morning Meetings are all held at Kyrene District Office. For evening locations after December, please check our website.

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Important information About Kyrene Parent Network

Would you like to be more in touch with what is happening in the Tempe Union High School District as well as Kyrene Elementary?

Would you like to hear other parents' thoughts on educational issues?

Would you like to meet and hear educational experts on today's most interesting topics?

Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed with decisions pertaining to your child's education?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, please consider joining KPN today!

We offer:

- Monthly meetings with guest speakers
- Monthly email newsletters
- Red Alert bulletins on hot topics
- Informational resources supporting a K-12 approach to education

And Much More!

Kyrene Parent Network is the one and only non-profit organization serving parents from the Kyrene and Tempe Union High School Districts. Based on parent input, Kyrene Parent Network selects topics of interest to present at meetings and report on during this school year

To become a member:

Email: databasemgr@kyreneparent.org or
Call Sandy Lowe at 480-961-0388

Preview of October's KPN Meeting

Hear from Kyrene and TUHSD's Curriculum Directors on Science in the Classroom

**October 2, 9 - 10 am
Kyrene District Office**

Kyrene Parent Network August 14 Meeting Highlights

Our Superintendents, Mr. Steve Adolph of Tempe Union High School District and Dr. David Schauer of Kyrene Elementary were KPN's very, special guests for our September meeting. They were so engaging and responsive to our audience, we actually adjusted our agenda so they could stay longer and address more questions and concerns. Questions ranged from those on unification, to class size to high school capacities and boundaries, all of which will be addressed in some way by Kyrene Parent Network this year, so stay tuned.

KPN would like to sincerely thank
Dr. Schauer and Mr. Adolph
for taking the time to be with all of us. It was great!

Don't Miss September's Meeting!

Topics & Special Guests:

International Baccalaureate Program in Tempe Union High School District

Mr. Scott Greenhalgh, Coordinator
Speaking about this exciting new educational program

and

The Status of Math & Science Today

Mary Wolf-Francis, President
of EDU Partnerships, Inc.
Discussing Math and Science in Education today:
trends in the nation and changes in the state.

When & Where:

Tuesday, September 4, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Tempe Police Substation
(on Hardy between Warner & Elliot)

Questions: membership@kyreneparent.org

Kyrene Parent Superintendent Re-cap April 21 Meeting

Purpose of Parent Superintendent Council: To encourage 2-way communication between Kyrene District and parents

PSC

Major message from Kyrene:

1. Declining enrollment, but strong demand to attend Kyrene.

3200 outside of boundaries (enough to fill 3 to 4 schools + additional \$17 million in state funding:

Maricopa - 829

Tempe - 322

Unorganized Territory - 165

Baseline and I-10 area - 650

Gilbert/Q. Creek - 189

Laveen - 142

Chandler - 509

Mesa -

What does "unorganized territory" mean? This is an area where development has occurred that wasn't included in an existing school district.

2. Increased expenses, less revenue, but conscientious financial management & revenue generation has helped offset this

3. Community would like to be better educated about district issues and the District has a desire to make the work more transparent.

Results of 2006-07 Survey of Parent Reps

Overall, PSC meetings were seen as:

- well-organized
- topics were selected based on parent interest
- reps felt their input was important to Kyrene in making decisions

Some ideas that came from small group discussion of reps are:

- parents would like to see more "relevant information that effects them directly"
- would like more time in the meetings to talk about topics of interest
- consideration of reps to sit with different reps each time to get to know each other better

Examples of the topics of interest that arose were:

- unification
- class size
- parent fingerprinting
- recycling in our schools.

Questions: Contact KPN reps:

Eduarda Schroder at

membership@kyreneparent.org or

Sandy Lowe at

president@kyreneparent.org

Where to Find Information about Kyrene School District

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

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

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

Find your Kyrene school & bus route: <http://www.kyrene.org/ksdportal/elink/>

School Calendars/Boundary Maps: <http://www.kyrene.org/ksdportal/calendars-times-maps/>

K-8 Committee Meeting Summaries/Times/Locations & Agendas: <http://www.kyrene.org/k8/>

Special Education: http://www.kyrene.org/resource/curriculum_section/index.htm



Kyrene Policy Manual

<http://lp.ctspublish.com/asba/public/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=main-h.htm>

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Kyrene Elementary Governing Board Meeting Highlights

8/14/07

- Acceptance of \$128,214 for the P.E. Pilot Grant in which Lomas is participating
 - will be used for increased physical education and wellness programs For more information, look for news item, under headlines.
- Kyrene Governing Board response to the SDRC on unification plans was approved. Both plans were rejected.
 - The document was sent back to Dr. Schauer for editing in regards to grammar and clarity. There are plans to follow up with this issue as to how to communicate the content of this document to our community.

7/10/07

- The purpose of the truth in taxation public hearing (which is to notify tax payers of the intention to raise its primary property tax over the current level to pay for the increased expenditures due to the Adjacent Ways Plan for the 2007-08 year was presented.
 - Proposed rate increase would increase tax rates in Kyrene from money will pay for fire lane improvements needed at 8 schools. This proposed rate increase would cause homeowners' tax rates in Kyrene to jump from \$6.73 per \$100,000 home to \$11.91 per \$100,000 home
- Greg Stanton, member of the Phoenix City Council thanked the Governing Board, Dr. Schauer and his staff for the willingness to work with the City of Phoenix to partner
 - Stated he believed a good plan was developed that would allow the PAC After School Programs to stay in the Kyrene Schools in Phoenix.

6/26/07

- A presentation on the 2nd year evaluation of the Middle School Schedule, specifically, Academic Lab was given. For a summary of this evaluation, please see Kyrene Parent Network's website, under Kyrene.
- A fee increase of \$25.00 per athlete, per sport, per season for the 2007-2008 school year was approved.
- 2007/2008 Proposed Budget and Utilities Plan as presented was approved, along with the posting of the summary of it on Az. Dept. of Education's website :
<http://www.ade.gov/schoolfinance/>

Questions: Contact KPN rep:
Greg Patten firstvp@kyreneparent.org

Kyrene In The Headlines

"Education by the Numbers" (8/24) **KSD employees implement new math strategies**
http://www.ahwatukee.com/articles/kamii_1238___article.html/learn_students.html

"East Valley schools try wellness program" (8/23) **Lomas chosen to participate in PE Pilot Grant** <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/95666>

"School district seeks to hold unification plan" (8/14) **Kyrene seeks no unification plan for '08 ballot** <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/95142>

"What do the names mean in Kyrene" (8/3) **Kyrene School Names**
http://www.ahwatukee.com/articles/spanish_1114___article.html/kyrene_district.html



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Tempe Union High School District Governing Board Meeting Highlights

Around TUHSD

8.8/07

- Summer school enrollment: 1,605 students in 1st session and 1,342 in second
- Thanked Tempe Diablos for \$50,000 start-up grant and City of Tempe for \$25,000 grant to be used for development/implementation of International Baccalaureate Program housed at Tempe High School

8/22/07

- Mr. McDonald, Compadre Principal, talked about the open house and dinner for prospective students living in Guadalupe. TUHSD is working on building relationships with this town., since many high school age students do not attend TUHSD
- Holly Secor was appointed as the new asst. principal/registrat at Corona High School
 - The Unification response letter to the SDRC is in the final stages of draft and will be finalized at the 9/5 board meeting. The board voted 3 to 2 in favor of rejecting both plans proposed by the

Where to Find Information about Tempe Union High School District

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

TUHSD Governing Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes: http://www.tuhsd.k12.us/school_board/agendas.htm

Gifted Program (Peggy Payne) <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/ppa/>

Bus Routes & Schedules: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=26,64&tuhsdgroup=1>

School Calendar: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=58,127>

School Boundary Maps: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=5,9&tuhsdgroup=1>

Staff Directory: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=4>

Special Education: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=26,67,70>

Community Relations: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=26,57>



TUHSD Policy Manual

www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=5,8

Tempe Union High School District In The Headlines

“iPod restriction gives off good vibes” (8/21) **Mountain Point policy promotes socialization, education:** http://www.ahwatukee.com/articles/school_1214_article.html/pointe_lunch.html

“Split decision” (8/10) **Tempe Union administrators skeptical of unification:**
http://www.ahwatukee.com/articles/oppose_1147_article.html/one_three.html

“Parent committee endorses 3-into-1 plan” (8/3) **Parent Committee on Unification:**
http://www.ahwatukee.com/articles/plan_1115_article.html/three_school.html

“Mountain Pointe prohibits iPods, other devices on campus” (8/9) **No iPods at Mt. Pt.**
http://www.ahwatukee.com/articles/school_1128_article.html/players_allowed.html

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**In Our
Community &
Arizona**

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/>

My Child's Academic Success - Help with Academics: <http://ed.gov/parents/academic/help/edpicks.jhtml?src=In>

Learn about Az. Schools: <http://azcentral.greatschools.net/modperl/go/AZ>

Contribute to a classroom: http://www.azcentral.com/families/education/swl_search.php

College tips about Az.: http://www.azcentral.com/families/education/education_collegetips.html

Trends and News in Education in Arizona: <http://www.azcentral.com/specials/special44/spc44index.html>

Chalk Talk with Lori Baker - What's happening in education and asks for your opinion to guide the Tribune with their education coverage: <http://www.azcentral.com/members/Blog/ChalkTalk>

Reference Websites for Students: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/nie/reference.html>

Search for Scholarships: <http://12.47.197.210/s101se/Search/Default.aspx?siteid=a29c02eeb3>

Arts Council for Youth

www.artscouncilforyouth.org



- **General Meeting: Tuesday, August 28, 3:30 - 5:00 pm**
at the Tempe Union High School District Office, conference room, 500 W. Guadalupe Rd. Tempe. Mandy Buscas, Arts Learning Program Director for Arizona Commission on the Arts will be with us to discuss grants programs and other resources.
- Ahwatukee Foothills Expo at Pointe South Mountain Resort on Saturday, September 29, from 12:00 pm - 4 pm. Arts Council for Youth coordinated the entertainment, including Desert Vista High School String Quartets, Guitar Ensemble, Akimel A-al Orchestra students, and Brisas Mallet Masters. Admission is free.

Notice to our Readers:

If you ever have educational information you believe would be of value to parents; please send it in for consideration of including it in this newsletter: membership@kyrene.org