



Kyrene Parent Network Newsletter September 22, 2006

"About KPN!"

Dear KPN members,

I, along with our new Board, would like to welcome you to our first edition of our newsletter. We want this to not only be a practical piece of information that can be read fairly quickly, but also one that provides news on topics our members are interested in. Please feel free at anytime to let us know what else you would like to see in it, and by all means if you would like to contribute something to this, you are most welcome!

As you read through the newsletter, you will see three sections: summaries of meetings, schedules for upcoming meetings, and contact information. As we progress through this year, more than likely other areas of interest will surface and we will be more than happy to add them. One of our goals this year is to encompass more topics involving Tempe Union High School, so please let us know areas that interest or concern you or those that you have questions about.

Under our list of officers, we have provided two contact names and information, myself along with Brian Smith who is over Membership. Please feel free to contact us at anytime with questions, suggestions or concerns. We look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,
Sandy Lowe

2006-2007 Officers & Contact Information

Due to having only one person nominated for each position, the slate of officers presented at the September 19 meeting, automatically became the new officers of the year.

- President:** *Sandy Lowe*
michaellowe@cox.net
- First Vice President:** *Greg Patten*
- Vice Presidents:**
 - Curriculum:** *Paul Scowen*
 - Membership:** *Brian Smith*
brian@kyreneparent.org
 - Organization:** *McKell Keeney*
 - Legislative Issues:** *Jennifer Doering*
 - Corporate Secretary:** *Ann Niemann*
 - Corporate Treasurer:** *Christie Burke*

Kyrene Parent Network September 19 Highlights

KPN was pleased to welcome Dr. David Schauer, superintendent of Kyrene School District as our special guest! It was easy to tell that he has a genuine interest in our community and is committed to making sure Kyrene is a District of excellence. It was fun to hear about a few personal tidbits such as being from the Midwest and that he loves to work around his historic home. Two things he emphasized as being important in building trust and understanding are providing accurate and accessible information and ways our community may participate with decisions. In ending Dr. Schauer graciously answered questions related topics such as Academic Lab and how one can get involved.

Guests were also treated to a great presentation by member, McKell Keeney, on the Health Curriculum. Her concise re-cap of its history, what the committee is currently working on and what is to happen in the next couple months gave everyone a good basis to become involved in the upcoming decision. We were also lucky to have Rich Zawtocky, president of the Kyrene Governing Board as a guest speaker who shared ideas of how our community may provide input into the changes being made.

We were honored to have Rae Waters and Mitzi Epstein, Kyrene Board members, along with District staff, Patty Weeger, Theresa Sweeney and Kyrene's new Director of Community Relations as guests. This year, KPN and Parent Superintendent Council will actively share information by sending reps to each others meetings. We welcomed Alison Deli from PSC, and we look forward to this cooperative effort this year!

Website:

www.KyreneParent.org

Membership Information

Frequently #1 Asked Question:

How can I add my voice to Kyrene Parent Network?

Answer:

Simply join KPN by filling out our form and either bring to an upcoming meeting or mail it in, with the \$5 fee. Blank membership forms may be found on our Website:

www.KyreneParent.org

For renewal of membership, just contact us.

Your support of KPN 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.

Contact:

Brian@KyreneParent.org

Kyrene Parent Network Meetings 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7-8:30 pm

October 17 – to be announced	January 16	April 17
November 21 -Ironwood	February 20	May 15
December - No meeting	March 20	

Parent Superintendent Summary For September 19 (at KMS)

After a brief welcome and introductions, Dr. Schauer talked about the adequate yearly progress labels. He emphasized that performance is strong in Kyrene and when a school doesn't make AYP, it has to do with how many in each sub-group took the test. The few schools in Kyrene that were labeled as failing was based on this and not academic performance.

All Day Kindergarten: Principal Gina Taylor gave a brief update on the progress of the Kindergarten Solutions Team. Next month a proposal on how Kyrene should implement a free full day kindergarten will be proposed to Dr. Schauer. State funding will not be enough to fund all components offered currently. Instructional assistants is the #1 item teachers do not want to give up; however, given it is one of the biggest costs, more than likely there will be a reduction. Parents will not be allowed to voluntarily pay for extra services, based on state mandates. **The team is currently seeking input from prospective kindergarten parents as far as what they would choose for their child-all day versus half day, in order to get an idea of what needs to be done to be ready for next year.** For more information on the Kindergarten Solutions Team, visit the Kyrene website at www.kyrene.org/k8psc. Click on Solutions Teams and Kindergarten Solutions Team.

Theresa Sweeney presented a summary of the **history of the Health Curriculum Committee**, what is currently being done and what is planned for the future. Please refer to the KPN meeting recap. A similar presentation was made at KPN's meeting. Please see article on this topic.

Rosetta Walker announced Native America Youth Day on October 19-20 at ASU West-This is designed for Native America Youth in grades 7-12 and scholarships are available.

Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association (KMFA)

September 21 Meeting Highlights



The Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association 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 No. 28. Meetings are open to our community and this is an opportunity to provide input into the music and fine arts programs in the Kyrene Schools.

The feature guests of the September KMFA meeting were Kyrene Superintendent, Dr. Schauer and Dr. Cecilia Johnson from Tempe. They discussed high school articulation and focused on the use of music. Photography, Painting, and Drawing were also talked about.

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

Kyrene Governing Board September 12 Meeting Highlights

- Prior to the regular meeting, there was a Public Hearing that briefly covered two items:
 - Presentation on district's justification & plans to address "Excessive Utilities Usage" for the fiscal year
 - Proposed changes to the Budget. (primarily format changes to meet new state mandates)
 - The regular Meeting was then called to order.
 - Items on Approved in the Consent Agenda
 - 84 New Teachers/Support staff, 44 At-Will Support staff, 24 Temporary Teachers & Support Staff
 - 58 Current employees that changed Positions, 1 was granted Leave, 18 retired, resigned, or were terminated.
 - New K-8 Science Resources and K-5 Science trade books
 - **Top 10 Priorities for the 2007 Legislative Session (Item 7.2)** - The Governing Board discussed a request from the Arizona School Board Association (ASBA) to prioritize Kyrene's Governing Board's Top 10 items for the upcoming legislative session. These recommendations will be consolidated with recommendations from other districts in the state that will result in an overall priority list for the ASBA's lobbying efforts in 2007. Sue Knudsen volunteered to pare the list of ASBA recommendations received from 88 issues to 10. The broad categories identified by ASBA to be considered included:
 - Advocacy for Children (2 issues), Student Needs (7), Local Control/Governance (12), Accountability (15),
 - Redistricting
 - Taxation/Revenues (12), Funding (23), Personnel (19)
- **To see the detailed list of the 88 items, please see our website.**
- **Redistricting Commission (Item 7.6)** – Dr. Schauer and Sue Knudsen attended a session that is charged with consolidation non-unified school districts across the state. This is a result of legislation passed in the last session of the legislature and signed by the Governor (SB 1068). There is a very aggressive timeframe required to meet the mandated by an expected November 2008 ratification election. The Governing Board is highly concerned by the expected results of the School Redistricting Commission – the consolidation of the Kyrene District into another district or districts. The Governing Board has tentatively set a date of **October 6** to meet with members of the Tempe Union High School District and the Tempe Elementary School District to better understand what is required of the districts by the Redistricting Commission and what options are available. **The Board has invited the public to share with them their views on this issue.**



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

- September 26
- Thursday, Oct 5 (Note: Meeting moved to Thursday because of Fall break)
- October 24

Governing Board Study Session, District Office

- Tuesday, September 26, 6:00 pm Enrollment and Demographics

Parent Superintendent Council (PSC) Meetings - 3rd Tuesday of the month, 11:30-1:30. NOTE: Reps from each school attend these meeting and then are to report back to the school's community.

- October 17 – Sierra Elementary
- November 21 – Sureno Elementary
- December – NO meeting

Health Curriculum Committee Meetings: - 4:30 to 6:30, District Office

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| ○ September 25 | October 2 |
| ○ October 16 | November 7 |
| ○ November 16 | December 4 |
| ○ December 18 | |

Tempe Union High School District

Governing Board Meetings – Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., Benedict Education Center, 500 W. Guadalupe

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| ○ October 4 | October 18 |
| ○ November 1 | November 15 |
| ○ November 29 | December 13 |

Kyrene Parent Network Health Curriculum Update

The Kyrene Governing Board approved a new expanded Health Curriculum on August 22, 2006, combining the previous Health Education with Growth and Development curriculum and HIV/AIDS and other STIs curriculum. Some of the changes are a definition of abstinence, and definitions of types of intercourse for grades 6 - 8. The ongoing Health Steering Committee was opened up to the Kyrene community, and 18 new parents and community members along with additional staff members were added.

The immediate tasks of the committee are to crosswalk the curriculum with all state regulations on sexuality education and to finalize lesson scripts and resources. The public will be invited to view and comment on the resources over a course of 60 school days for each part finalized.

Following public review, the lessons and resources will go to the Governing Board to consider for approval. For more information, see kyrene.org/curriculum (click Expanded Curriculum Draft). The Arizona Administrative Code can be found at the Secretary of State's website: azsos.org (R7-2-303 is the section about this topic) and Arizona Revised Statutes related to this are on the state legislature website: azleg.gov (ARS 15-716 Instruction on AIDS, and ARS 15-102 Parental involvement in the school).

*Provided by McKell Keeney,
V. Pres., Organization*



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 for topics such as **“How to Begin the College Process”**, **“Organizational and Study Skills”**, **“Bullying: It’s More of an Issue Than You Think”**

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

**“Opportunity is missed by most
Because it is dressed in overalls
and looks like work”.** Thomas Alva Edison

