

School Council Meeting Minutes

Peter Howell Elementary School

Date of Meeting: February 12th, 2024

Members Present: Lona Chacon, Jaquetta Alexander, Nancy Huff, Jeanne Dugan, Lucy Patterson, Kristen Ginter, Reyna Montano, Amanda Leighton

Members Absent: Cynthia Cave

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 3:20 P.M. by Mrs. Chacon.
- II. **Call to Audience** – No audience
- III. **Principal's Report** – The big thing to report currently is budget information because it's that time of the year I'm not sure if everybody is aware of what's gone to the board recently. I think we talked about it at our coffee connections, with ESSER dollars running out we're looking at how to fund things for next year not just Howell but across the district, it will be impossible to fund everything. The district leadership presented to the district the importance of keeping interventionists and RTI positions which most high schools and middle schools use RTI most elementary schools are using interventionist so like we have a reading and a math interventionist they presented to the board a few weeks ago and their plan at that point was to move funding from our DEI department to fund out of desegregation dollars to fund interventionist across the board so we can continue with those programs a couple board meetings later when they were supposed to vote on it there was such a large outcry at the call to the audience that they wanted to consider it so they didn't take a vote they wanted to continue considering and then I've already looked at the meeting agenda for tonight and leadership is presenting it looks like 3 different options and in place of cutting the DEI department one of those will impact us greatly which is cutting our Title 1 budget. Title 1 funding has already been cut over 20% our site alone is losing over \$50,000 in title budget and title funding for next year so one of the things I will consider tonight is a 5 to 10% cut to sites along with a couple of other options one was cutting certain amount of dollars from multiple kinds of departments from HR and payroll and you know all the various departments to make up for the funding and then there was one other one that I looked at yesterday and I think there were three options so anyway that's where we sit as a site is we are currently kind of in limbo and making decisions especially when it comes to staffing because whatever the district decides that they're going to fund an interventionist will make a difference in us having what we need to fund through our title one money but then we will have to make some decisions about how we're spending the title dollars when it comes to it whether the districts funding

interventionists or not we're still going to be looking at that large cut to title one and then you know potentially depending on what happens tonight even a larger cut to title one if they go that route so watch the board meeting tonight or with the newspaper probably in the morning or actually you can go to board docs if you go to TUSD governing board and board docs you can see that they will give you the minutes from what was decided so that's our biggest thing right now we are currently trying to figure out what will be supported and what we're going to continue to support for next year some good news a bright spot in the middle of all of the budget cuts is that our enrollment has increased to the point that we get a teacher back so if you all remember for years we've operated at two teachers per grade level and we had a cut when COVID hit we had a cut in our number of teachers and now we've gained back we're sitting about 260 give or take yeah and actually when they came back in January there's all these new kids it's really great yeah we've had a lot coming in January. we've always had a very high mobility rate, one of our most challenging things for us is because we are a small school we have a limited number of staff that can do additional things so for us to be able to offer a couple of clubs after school and all of the sports programs and things like Girl Scouts, we have been trying to get Boy Scouts again but Boy Scouts is kind of nonexistent they won't get back with me my contact is nonexistent so yeah that's a little a little bright spot I thought you would be very happy to hear that. I actually, well Lucy would know Lona would know, at this time of every year I have to offer teachers a letter that just asks what is your preference for teaching and then by a certain time I have to notify teachers where what grades level you'll be teaching and they had it originally due next week I think but then I got the news about the ability to add another teacher so I've asked everyone get their preferences to me by Wednesday so we can kind of determine where we're going to be and what grade level we're hiring because there's a job fair on Saturday and hopefully we come back with a fabulous teacher for us so that is our bright spot. I probably misspoke tonight is just an agenda item a discussion item they're not voting so they don't have it as an action item we won't know a decision tonight, at the earliest it will be two more weeks before we'll know what the board decides about funding for the interventions position.

IV. Community Report - I still hold the once a month meeting down at ward 6 Lieutenant de la Oso, Tony who's a gem of a person he's gotten a transfer so he's moving to the downtown district and so he's leaving us after about two years Lieutenant but if anybody's ever free to come everybody's welcome February 28th ward six, six to seven I keep it tight to an hour we hear updates about crime and homeless and there's been a lot going on and just now to go literally on my way here there's a house Irving where a man moved out and left four dogs in the backyard that are emaciated and we've been battling this house and the owner of land the landlord and and we just found out because the plumber went in to do something that he left also one in the bedroom for several days now before things yeah so five dogs that Pima Animal Control was there so anyway it's all these just little neighborhood things so

most of you don't know about or even need to know about but constant there is constant Neighborhood Association activity going on and working with this encampment that was over at 2nd street near Alvernon behind the engineers anyway there's lots going on behind the scenes so we don't put out but the big thing and the good thing so those are that just because I was just over there a little stunned by that. On April 20th we're having the neighborhood event again and we've confirmed two food trucks and I confirmed Ready Set Rec the activity thing through the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation department with the fun and games for the kids, so 11 to 3 on April 20th we'll have a brief board meeting and then we'll have free food trucks and fun and games and socializing so that's the fun thing we're starting to get organized it will be at the Alvernon park. Can you update us, I think it was our last meeting there was some discussion about the encampment is there still an encampment in the park? I just drove by on my way to check on the poor dogs yeah shopping carts are there and again as Lieutenant Tony says at every one of our meetings when we talk about Miramonte park or out in the Duffy neighborhood, all of them come to our meeting now because they're all ward 6. Lt. Tony says they can be in the park from 7:00 AM till 10:00 PM, they can't sleep there. The renovations to the park has just been a ridiculous battle now that the Pima County flood control is doing a bid because they want to put basins and first it was just going to get rid of that part of Montezuma over there on the West side and make up a walking path or whatever structure but they have to take out the asphalt from the street to make this nice walking path, so it's out to bid but it's going on way over 2 years. So, it's ridiculous we have that chain link fence there that's supposed to deter the camping out, but they just break apart the fence and go back there. We just had the big encampment that was right there off of 2nd St. in the alley right past the tip of the where the engineers are and people are hysterical about that so we got them to move along but they just move somewhere else you know they don't disappear they just become somebody else's problem and what is the ultimate solution that outreach go and offer them you know services housing help and they say no thanks.

V. Discussion items –

1. April Agenda – Budget Report will be brought to April meeting.

VI. Action items

1. Budget Journal - Use of undesignated tax credit funds.

- a. Vote to move \$3500.00 in the Budget Journal from Tax Credit – Howell – Undesignated funds to Tax Credit – Howell – Sports in the 2024 – 2025 fiscal school year.

Motion by Huff / Second by Cave

Final Resolution – Motion passed.

Yes Votes – Alexander, Dugan, Ginter, Huff, Leighton, Patterson,

Montano

- b. Vote to move \$1500.00 in the Budget Journal from Tax Credit – Howell- Undesignated funds to Tax Credit -Howell- Tutor line to pay for Literacy Connects, Reading Seed Tutors in the 2024-2025 fiscal school year.

Motion by Huff / Second by Cave

Final Resolution – Motion passed.

Yes Votes – Alexander, Dugan, Ginter, Huff, Leighton, Patterson,
Montano

2. Vote to use TC-Undesignated funds for the following:

- a. Vote to use \$11,610.00 of undesignated tax credit monies to pay for Enrichment Instructor in the 2024-2025 fiscal school year.

Motion by Huff / Second by Cave

Final Resolution – Motion passed.

Yes Votes – Alexander, Dugan, Ginter, Huff, Leighton, Patterson,
Montano

- b. Vote to use Howell undesignated tax credit funds to pay the activity fees for the 2024 – 2025 fiscal school year.

Motion by Huff / Second by Cave

Final Resolution – Motion passed.

Yes Votes – Alexander, Dugan, Ginter, Huff, Leighton, Patterson,
Montano

- c. Vote to use \$1,170.00 of undesignated tax credit monies to pay for the Howell Kindness Squad Facilitator for the 2024-2025 fiscal school year.

Motion by Huff / Second by Cave

Final Resolution – Motion passed.

Yes Votes – Alexander, Dugan, Ginter, Huff, Leighton, Patterson,
Montano

VI. Adjournment: Mrs. Chacon adjourns meeting at 3:53 P.M. –
Next meeting is April 30th at 3:15.