

School Council Meeting Minutes

Peter Howell Elementary School

Date of Meeting: September 9th, 2025

Members Present: Lona Chacon (Facilitator), Jaquetta Alexander (Principal), Nathalye Alvarado (Certified), Jeanne Dugan (Classified), Lucy Patterson (Certified), Kristin Ginter (Parent), Nancy Huff (Community), Kristen Buus (Classified)

Members Absent: None

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 3:18 P.M. by Mrs. Chacon.

II. Call to Audience – No audience

III. Principal's Report –

Major items to report on our teacher and staff vacancies facilities state testing and an annual workforce. Teacher and staff vacancies – We started the year hiring a fourth-grade teacher Ms. Allread and instead of one kindergarten teacher we were able to get another one since our numbers were up in the kindergarten class. We welcomed Mrs. Alvarado back to the kindergarten class. We had hired an AIS Art's Integration Specialist as Mrs. Armendariz decided to stay home when her baby was born. However, at the beginning of the year our new AIS had personal family matters that caused her to leave. With Joan Ashcroft's help, we have just hired a new AIS Art's Integration Specialist, and she will start on the 22nd of this month. We continue to need to fill the EX ED 3-5 class teacher position, we currently have a contracted teacher in that position. Gilbert, our PM custodian, retired at the end of August, so we need to hire for that position. We also now need to hire a teacher as our first-grade classroom numbers are up, we are currently looking to interview for these positions. We also had a Resource Parapro position open. We were able to put in for a sub for that position and he is working out wonderfully. His name is Mr. Bill he is applying for the position; he is working well with students and staff. We do not hire EX ED hires for this position, so we will see what happens.

Facilities – AC has been our biggest issue, and we have also had a water main break, which we have had in the past and again they have repaired not replaced the main. We are currently unable to use the parking lot. The AC has gone out in several rooms, portables and in the cafeteria. We have had to move classes around to keep everyone cool. Humidity has been bad, and it has also been difficult to have students and staff on the playground with no place to come into where it is cool. Hopefully, by winter break we will have new units on the building. We have had issues with irrigation in our courtyard for years. We are finally getting something done about that. University of

Arizona has been a great support for us. They have helped us to get rid of the ant situation in the courtyard. We are looking at getting irrigation fixed out on the playground. A positive thing is that we are finally getting a Marquee, it is on the North side of the playground along 5th.

AASA scores show that we did make proficiency gains although small we made huge growth gains. We should continue to be a “B” School, official scores are not out yet.

Community Report – Neighborhood Association has a meeting tomorrow evening on zoom. I will share anything that we discussed today but everything else is kind of status quo. We continue trying to keep the park just across the street where a lot of kids play from Faith Lutheran school clean and a lot of neighbors are picking up trash there and there's a CSO community service officer Mohammed who's just a delightful man and he was over yesterday playing with the kids from faith Lutheran, he tries to show his presence often there which is a great thing. Halloween parade is the only pitch that I'm going to try to make. We're going to talk about it tomorrow night. We really appreciate teachers and staff supporting with some extra candy to hand out to the neighbors on the route we usually have 200 to 300 kids, it's really grown, and I think all of you have been there. We like to stock them with candy, so they don't have to buy it all themselves and there have been empty patches along the route, so we want to have other neighbors who live in other parts of the neighborhood plop themselves on the curb so there are not so many empty spots, so we'll discuss that tomorrow night. We'll probably have Sonoran dogs again and we might try to get a second food truck, so we'll discuss that and again any input from any of you especially you that do the Halloween parade, just let me know and I'll share it with the Neighborhood Association meeting tomorrow night. There is going to be a TUSD override that's on the November ballot it's Prop 414 and it's an override that would raise teacher salaries and open more positions for counselors, interventionists, career technical education it's all about staffing like paying the staff that we have better and hiring more staff to support our kids better that's what it's for and so we would really like community support.

IV. Discussion items –

1. Budget Journal - Use of undesignated tax credit funds

Quick overview so we had last year approved those two out of tax credit undesignated and we did some fundraising if you all remember to raise money to support clubs also so we are able to pull from tax credit on designated we're able to pull out easily paid for Kathy's position to continue to be the enrichment instructor because our starting balance at the beginning of this year was \$35,115.14 we encumbered which is Kathy \$16,365.74 that left us remaining balance of \$18,000 change so out of that \$18,749.40 we

can fund kindness squad which costs us \$1,454 I believe is what we budgeted for it and then out of our fundraising efforts we were able that went into gifts and donations so that's not something we have to approve but fundraising helps us pay for robotics club robotics club this year missus Miller is looking at doing two days a week and she's considering well she's looking at who is interested to possibly do a Tuesday and Thursday and do primary and an intermediate group and we're able to pay for that out of gifts and donations. Then starting second semester we're having an arts program and a theater program and those however we don't have to pay for out of our tax credit undesignated we have Fine Arts money that will pay for those so out of that \$18,749.40 we are currently only looking at spending \$1,454.00 for kindness squad so that will allow us to continue next year to pay for Kathy our enrichment specialist and then whatever donations come in for the rest of this year we should still be able to pay for Kindness squad again next year and be able to at least maintain the programs that we currently have through our tax credit still as the years progressing. The district does not pay for enrichment specialists. Our district budget only includes teachers, a part-time counselor and library assistant. Exceptional Education pays for all our EXED positions. Flor is paid out of language acquisition.

2. Tax Credit team

As a tax credit team what are we going to try to do? Promote tax credit donations as a way to fund all our programs? Is that something we as a committee want to try to work on or should we still have a subcommittee meeting a few times throughout the year to continue to figure out ways to promote donations for tax credit. We have a balance of \$18,000 so I don't know if it was due to the subcommittee or not. We could just do stuffing and folding only again, the presence in the neighborhood like the neighborhood meetings and even the Halloween parade is good. Half of the cookies sold for the Baggins fundraiser came from people we've never met. The community would like the opportunity to support and this may be a way that they can do it and they can meet us and get to know who we are and what we are about. It was more impactful than we even realized because obviously our enrollment is up this year and it's a lot of neighborhood families. So, we will look at setting up tables and getting signs. We will continue with the subcommittee as we are getting good ideas here. We can look at numbers and readdress if needed later.

3. ***Site Council dates for the rest of the year.*** – We will continue with Tuesdays at 3:15. We will hold the meetings in the library. The dates will be 11/18/25, 2/17/25, 4/21/26.

V. Action items

6. Site Council By-Laws – Vote to approve the By-Laws

Motion by Huff/ Second by Dugan

Final Resolution - Passed.

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

- ## **VI. Adjournment:**
- Mrs. Chacon adjourns meeting at 4:15 P.M. –
Next meeting is November 18th at 3:15 in the library.