

**Minutes of the Site Council**  
**Sycamore Elementary School**  
**November 20, 2014**

**Present:**

**Ken Graff** (KG), Principal (non-voting member)

**Mary Fosdick** (MF), member

**Melanie Stewart** (MS), member

**Tori Janes** (TJ), member

**Melissa Verbridge** (MV), member

**Rob Edwards** (RE), member

**Andre Mixon** (AM), member – President 2014/2015

**Rajka Corder** (RC), member

**Site Council Meeting of the Sycamore Elementary School**

Mr. Graff gave us the “Beyond Textbook” presentation. It was very informative and it gave us an overview on how it is being used.

1. **Call to order** - Andre Mixon called the meeting to order at 4:41 p.m.
  - a. **Pledge of Allegiance** at 4:41 p.m.
  - b. **Approval of minutes:** Members reviewed the meeting notes. Rob motioned to approve, Tori seconded.
  - c. **Administrative & Member Reports**
    - i. **Member Report: (KG)** (i) Sycamore Student Council is the organizer of the food drive. The goal is to collect ~2700 cans and we currently have ~3200 cans. There is a competition going on between the classrooms to see which one will collect the most amount of cans. The students will celebrate as they watch teacher talent show in the beginning of December. Also, the teacher of a winning classroom will wear a turkey suit. (ii) Also, the school wrapped up the Fisher House donation effort. Sycamore collected \$600 and it was nice to see a strong support district wide. The plan for further involvement is for the high school students to have their practice at the Fisher House. We will also use this model to reach out to other school districts. (iii) Sycamore elementary had visitors from Prescott Unified School District. Their teachers visited our classrooms (Mrs. Verbridge) to observe our teachers and daily routines.
    - ii. **Administrative Report:** None

d. **Call to the public** None. (KG) Prop 424 passed and Sycamore is very thankful to the community!

e. **Recognitions**

- i. Mrs. Elkins for adding a quiet room for AR testing. In addition, Reading Nights are great and students love them. During the Reading Nights, the entire library staff is there including Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Brack, etc.
- ii. "The Spooky Run" was a great success with lots of involvement in the community. Honor society students participated in the Spooky run.
- iii. Sycamore is very thankful to the community for passing Prop 424!
- iv. "Mother-Son Sports Night", organized by PTA, was a lots of fun and great event! Mrs. Kreamer did a great job with helping PTA in organizing this event!
- v. Mrs. Chrissie Mealer and Mrs. Samantha Purdy are recognized for great efforts in the "Wright Club". They are continuing to meet with students and went flying with them on Saturdays. Their efforts are above and beyond.
- vi. Sycamore is thankful for the community for their support of the food drive for the Vail Food Bank. Lauren Prater was leading Sycamore's food drive.
- vii. "Fisher House" donations were collected by the students raising money in the most innovative ways. For example, they would order water in the restaurant instead of soda, babysit, teach siblings to read, etc. The money they collected or saved was donated to the "Fisher House".
- viii. Hannah Adame did checking of all the immunization records.

2. **Consent Agenda** There were two requests for the field trip:

- a. Trip to the UofA Flandrau Science and Planetarium Center with Ms. Jennifer Gorjidoz. The request was approved.
- b. Rehearsal for the Winter Concert (on Dec. 2) with Mrs. Allison Minch. The request was approved.

3. **Old Business**

- a. **Enrollment update:** (KG) Sycamore has 967 students and we were getting some second graders.
- b. **Staff Update:** The new fifth grade teacher is Ms. Fagnerness. She moved from Minnesota and has four years of experience teaching Spanish in a middle and high school. She will take over the class that was being covered by the substitute teachers. It took us four weeks to fill in this position. In addition, number of special need students is about ~60, according to Rhonda Hamacher (Inclusion Specialist). It is helpful to run small groups in a classroom support role. Sycamore also hired Julia Kerley as a special needs paraprofessional. Ms. Muller will go on the maternity leave after the second quarter, and Ms. Kristy Gossen will be her substitute teacher.
- c. **Facilities Update:** (KG) There is a plan to open a crosswalk at Vista Monte, next to Danzone. Danzone is also open to parents using their parking lot. In the afternoons, there is a congestion

when parents are picking up kids from afterschool clubs. The school is suggesting for parents to park. There are plenty of spaces at Corona Middle School. Also, MS suggested for the club teachers to walk kids to the designated parent pick-up spot or bus. There was an interesting situation with transportation on Wednesday, when lots of drivers called in sick. Overall, there is a shortage of drivers and sometimes mechanics would drive busses. In this situation, e-mails and phone calls were sent in a timely manner. MF pointed that some buses are coming earlier, and thus some kids missed early buses (route 8, for example). Sometimes, the transportation changes pick up and drop of times. The school will look into bus schedules. There has been lots of trash on the playground areas, and luckily no damage. The security has been notified.

4. **New business:**

- a. **A+ application:** Brian Turner and Allison Minch are the lead writers of the A+ application. The deadline for this application is January 23<sup>rd</sup>. They are starting a rough draft but are still collecting evidence from staff, parents, council, etc.
- b. **Title I:** Part of the agreement for the Title I program is having a “Parent Involvement Policy”. This policy is being brought up to the council every year. There are some district expectations for the parent involvement, as well as responsibilities for parents and teachers. Parents are encouraged to attend parent teacher conferences, school functions, to get involved with classroom, etc. We need that commitments and the description of what parents’ involvement is. Site council was reviewing this policy. RE had a motion to accept it, TJ seconded. Site council accepted this policy that is specifically related to Title I students.
- c. **Bond Elections:** Sycamore Elementary is thankful for the community support and commitment! VUSD is planning to build a new elementary K-5 school in Corona De Tucson. There are several sites that are being considered, no decision yet. There will be some planning committee consisting of parents and site council volunteers with meetings starting in January/February timeframe. The plan is to build a school throughout next school year. There will be some discussions about boundaries of Sycamore Elementary and the new school, just preliminary.

5. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 15th at 4:00 pm.

6. **Adjournment:** RK had a motion to adjourn. MS seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 pm.