



Minutes City Council's Education Partnership Committee March 16, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Education Partnerships Committee held on Monday, March 16, 2009, 3:30 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Chair
Councilmember Joel Navarro

City Staff Present:

Jennifer Adams, Pub Wrks Admin
Kathy Berzins, COT Social Services
Brenda Buren, PD Director
Carlos de Leon, Dep Pub Wrks Mgr
Kim Hale, PD
Kate Hanley, TCC Exec Dir
Shelley Hearn, Comm Rel Mgr
Jan Hort, City Clerk
Greg Jordan, Transit Admin
Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec Mgr
Lynette Stonefeld, TCC, Communities in Schools
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Dir
Mari Yennie, Comm Rel

Guests Present:

Amanda Burke, ASU, Associate Director of the Office of University Initiatives
Chris Bustamante, Rio Salado College
Joanne Floth, Regional Coordinator, First Things First
Zita Johnson, TUHSD
Bonni Pomish (for David Shauer), Kyrene Schools
Vic Sanchez, TUHSD
Art Tate, Superintendent, Tempe Elementary School District

Councilmember Arredondo called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and everyone introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 1 – Upcoming Transit System Changes

Carlos de Leon summarized the major changes:

- Route 92 – 48th Street/Guadalupe
 - Strong ridership has been built-up from South Phoenix (48th Street) to Tempe High School.

- Rather than via Broadway and up Mill Avenue, proposal is to modify route to serve 52nd Street, along Rio Salado Parkway, and then to downtown.
- Potentially affects students coming from South Phoenix.
- Currently, a lot of bus service moves along Mill Avenue, and this is an effort to be more efficient, to provide service where there is no service.
- Adds service to businesses along 52nd Street, as well as Tempe Center for the Arts and along Rio Salado Parkway.
- Staff is asking for feedback from students and parents. Public comment will be taken through April 3rd. Any route change would occur in July.

Councilmember Arredondo suggested that a flyer be distributed to the students.

Mr. de Leon stated that staff could work with the Tempe Union High School District to develop a flyer.

Greg Jordan added that they could utilize the monthly newsletter that goes out to all parents.

Vic Sanchez added that school bus service is provided to students from that area, but there are a lot of students with different schedules. Anything that would hinder that would make it difficult for the students.

DIRECTION: Councilmember Arredondo suggested that Mr. Sanchez meet with Carlos de Leon and his staff to discuss the issues.

- Route 40 – Apache/Main
 - Seek public opinion on whether to continue the route from downtown Tempe to Sky Harbor. It is duplicative of the rail system and could be eliminated without affecting riders' ability to get to the airport.

DIRECTION: Councilmember Arredondo suggested that this proposal also be discussed with the school district.

- Orbit Earth
 - Proposed change may affect some of the Tempe Elementary School District.
 - The route would be streamlined along College Avenue and operate more on Miller Road.
 - These changes would have a minimal impact to the existing riders.

DIRECTION: Councilmember Arredondo suggested that Dr. Tate meet with Carlos. The committee will have a recommendation after the administration and the school boards have had a chance to review these proposals.

Chris Bustamante added that on the proposed changes for the Route 30 - University Drive would impact the Maricopa Community College District Office, as well as Rio Salado College.

Mr. Jordan added that Route 30 is related to Route 92. If the Route 92 change is approved and actually happens, the Route 30 change would be contingent upon that. If Route 92 isn't approved, the change won't be made to Route 30.

DIRECTION: Councilmember Arredondo suggested that Mr. Bustamante meet with Carlos and discuss any concerns. Tempe students can ride these buses free with the Youth Bus Pass Program. That program is handled through the Transportation Division. The pass is also usable on light rail. The public relations to elementary and high school needs to be better handled so that everyone knows what is available.

Mr. Sanchez asked if there was a way to expedite getting that form to the students.

Mr. de Leon stated that he has been working with the school district staff to get this information out.

Councilmember Navarro asked about the process.

Mr. de Leon clarified that a birth certificate is required for the pass. He suggested the schools could filter that process.

Councilmember Arredondo asked for the number of students coming from South Mountain area and the cost to allow those students to ride free. With recruitment down, it might be something that could be shared.

Mr. de Leon clarified that staff is directed to calculate the cost of extending the program from a Tempe resident base to a student base based on the enrollment in the district.

Lynette Stonefeld added that she worked with all three homeless coordinators in each of the districts and getting bus passes is one of their biggest challenges especially when someone loses their place of residence. They may or may not live in Tempe, but they go to Tempe schools.

DIRECTION: Councilmember Arredondo asked staff to make a cost projection and come back to the committee.

Mr. Sanchez added that although some of the students live outside of the City of Tempe, most who go to Tempe schools end up spending a large part of their time in Tempe. Part of the reason for having these youth passes is to instill ridership. Many of those students regard Tempe as their home.

Councilmember Arredondo added that when they choose a school, they are choosing a community as well. There are some trade-offs.

Agenda Item 2 – First Things First Money Distribution Update

Joanne Floth, Regional Coordinator for First Things First for the Central Maricopa Region, summarized that the organization is a voter initiative passed in 2006 that puts a tax on tobacco (80 cents per pack) which has been decreasing with less smokers. That generates about \$150M per year that comes into the State.

- The funding is then funneled out to the thirty-one State regions. The Central Maricopa region includes Tempe, Chandler, Ahwatukee and Guadalupe and each region has a council which decides the distribution of the funding.
- This region's council consists of 11 members.
- The council performs a needs and assets report of the community for children 0 to 5 years of age.
- The next step is to develop 11 different strategies for using the \$5.7M for these children.
- The Council is currently working on requests for grant applications. Funding will begin on July 1st.
- The council voted to expedite some funding and some discretionary dollars were received from the State.
- The council has decided to use that in providing childcare scholarships for families that may not qualify for DES subsidies.
- Home visitation services are also being expedited. The council decided to put about \$350K into that.
- If any agency is interested, they should visit the website at www.AZFTS.gov for further information.

Councilmember Arredondo added that there are some legislators who would like to tap into initiative money. It has taken several years to build this organization and this could have a drastic effect on the 0-5 year-old population. He urged committee members to remind legislators that this isn't money that they should touch.

Ms. Floth agreed. These funds were never part of the general fund, but were funds raised aside from that and already about \$7M of the dividend that would help further down the line has been swept away. If the Governor

decides to do a special election, these voter-protected funds would be up for grabs if the people elect to overturn those funds.

Ms. Stonefeld agreed. Years ago, Tempe was designated one of the “Communities for Kids” which is basically a 0-5 year-old initiative. Many community members were instrumental in helping pass the legislation that funded the First Things First project and Tempe has been involved since the beginning.

Kate Hanley added that the TCC has met with Ms. Floth and TCC intends to submit a proposal for Item #3 - Increase the quality, accessibility, and affordability of early care and education programs, building on TCC’s history with Open Horizons. She has been meeting with TCC’s partners to see if there was support to submit for the third one.

Dr. Tate added that they have met with Ms. Floth to discuss this.

Agenda Item 3 – Status of Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO) Money

Brenda Buren summarized that legislation allows law enforcement agencies to use seized assets that were used as part of a criminal enterprise. Once the case is adjudicated, the monies can be used for specific law enforcement purposes as well as for some very specific gang and drug related programs. Historically, they have tried to fund things in the Police Department and supplement things that didn’t get funded in their budget, as well as use some for grants. In the past, they have provided the Seized Asset Community Action (SACA) grants, which are summer grant programs. Those small grant programs (up to \$3K each) have been done for at least the past ten years. Last year, a collaborative program with the TCC was opened.

Councilmember Arredondo suggested some collaboration so that the weight rooms and computer rooms can stay open this summer. A grant for \$3K is enough to keep a weight room or computer room open so the kids can spend time. He felt this could take some of the burden off the schools but still have some of these areas where kids can spend time. If we provide some alternatives, we can make a difference.

Ms. Hanley stated that they have not received an application in the past from the high school district, but they would certainly welcome one.

Mr. Sanchez recalled having some RICO money in the past, and it did a lot of good for the students.

Ms. Stonefeld added that the City is a fiscal agent for a drug and alcohol abuse project through Magellan Health Services and under that, there are about 31 community members working to determine what is most needed in the community to combat under age drinking and drug abuse. The committee will finish next month and that might be another area to see what citizens are saying that we need in order to impact change in that area.

Agenda Item 4 – Discussion of Evans School Repurposing

Dr. Art Tate summarized that the Evans School is repurposing. Currently, they are trying to decide what to do with the school. It was advertised widely with a 3-week application process. The following criteria have been identified: financial advantage to the district, community needs, social needs, TD3 retains the property ownership, and that it be a stable activity. They asked respondents to provide their proposal in 200 words. Seven things are being considered:

- Childcare Center
- Adult Education
- Education and Care Center for Autistic students
- High School extension center
- Charter school

- Private school
- Teacher Preparation Academy

The board will decide how to go forward. He will meet tomorrow with his administrative staff, plus six members of the community, to review the applications. He will forward a recommendation to the board on Wednesday. The board will decide which recommendations will go forward. There will be two community meetings, April 2nd and April 7th, and whichever of the seven suggestions go forward, there will be formal presentations made. The community can ask questions and input will be gathered. On April 15th the board will decide which continuing process to take. He hopes a decision will be made in late April or early May, so that by the time school starts in the fall, something viable is in that facility.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that the calls he has received have concerned competition with TD3.

Dr. Tate responded that it would have to be to the district's financial advantage.

Councilmember Arredondo added that it would be a question that would need to go back through the board.

Dr. Tate added that it will be analyzed.

Shauna Warner asked how the public forums are advertised.

Dr. Tate responded that a door-hanger flyer has been distributed to the neighborhood in the square mile around Evans. Once the decision has been made about what will go forward, another door-hanger flyer will be distributed.

DIRECTION: Councilmember Arredondo suggested that Ms. Warner talk to Dr. Tate about using the bulletin board on Tempe 11, as well as a reminder for the announcements at a Council meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Update on Referrals from Juvenile Court

Agenda Item 6 – Communities in Schools Funding Update

Lynette Stonefeld summarized both Item #5 and #6. At the last meeting, there was a request for data regarding referrals to Maricopa County Juvenile Court. After each person has been adjudicated, they are asked what school they attend. She showed a graph comparing 2004, 2005 and 2006 for trends and referrals by offense. All types of juvenile activity have been decreasing. She added that a "status offense" is an offense where a young person does something that if he had been an adult, he wouldn't have been charged, i.e. underage drinking, curfew violation, etc. The graph shows only young people enrolled in school. Two charter schools are included.

She continued that every other year, the Communities in Schools board accepts applications from the schools for projects. She provided a list of approved funding distribution: She added that resources have dwindled, and they went from fourteen partner schools this year to twelve in the next year.

- Primarily at the elementary schools, a lot of resources centers are funded. Agents of those schools help to bring in additional resources that address student needs. Some have food banks, clothing banks, and most of them provide some type of parent education in partnership with the school teachers and the community.
- At Nevitt, the program is the "American Dream Academy" which is a partnership with ASU. It helps empower families of modest means to help encourage their students to think about college. They are trying to encourage that type of process in families very early.
- At the Kyrene Middle School and Kyrene Aprende Middle School, the program is ACE which targets students who are identified by their teachers or counselors as having serious issues since these are the kids that are most likely not to succeed.

- The KASP (Kyrene Alternatives to Suspension Program) is the brainchild of the Kyrene Middle School and it provides a counselor and a teacher who will work with at-risk students.
- At Marcos de Niza, the No Parent Left Behind Workshops are being supported and there are now about 30 workshops per year.
- At Compadre, support is being provided for the prevention counselor.

Councilmember Arredondo added that it is important for people to understand that the City is in a partnership. This funding list totals about \$75K. By the time, the City adds RICO funds and the bus passes, it is a good testimony of the partnership.

Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items – next meeting May 18, 2009

- TCC funding updates – Agency Review and Unity Grants

Agenda Item 8 – Announcements

Councilmember Arredondo distributed an opinion he and Councilmember Navarro sent to the newspaper concerning collaboration and working with the school districts.

Mark Richwine announced that an RFP has been issued for field usage on the other side of Priest below the dam. The RFP is due on April 15th and is for 45 or 46 acres.

Amanda Burke announced that the website, <http://community.asu.edu> is a beta site and she would like to have feedback. The goal of the website is to help someone connect with resources that ASU is making available to the community for partnering on grants. If the committee is interested in having her office make a presentation to the committee or meet with individuals, she would be happy to do that. On the website there is information on how to connect, or contact her through her email at Amanda.m.burke@asu.edu.

Bonnie Pomish announced that Waggoner School will be reopening tomorrow. There will be some classes that will be held in the Middle School next door. Shelley Hearn added that the City building inspectors will be working with the schools to ensure that their facilities are safe.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell
Reviewed by: Shauna Warner

Jan Hort
City Clerk