



PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS

School Governing Board Meeting Agenda January 23, 2024

Notice of Regular Meeting: 9:15 AM
1477 W. Commerce Ct. Tucson, AZ 85746

General Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment

The Partnership Schools Governing Board welcomes public comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the schools. Comments should be limited to three minutes per individual. At the conclusion of public comment, the Board members may respond to the comments made by the public to the Committee, may ask staff to review a matter, or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. Members of the Committee, however, may not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during public comment unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action. Finally, be advised that internal high school(s) and academy processes are available to students and employees for communication.

Reports:

Superintendents Reports

- Enrollment/Recruitment
- Finance
- Grants
- Infrastructure
- Review Benchmark Data
- Cognia Accreditation Update

Action Items:

- Motion to Approve Minutes from the November 28, 2023, Partnership Schools Governing Board Meeting.

Announcements:

The next regular meeting is proposed for February 20, 2024, 9:15a.m. at COPE Community Services, Inc. 1477 W. Commerce Court, Tucson, AZ 85746.

Adjournment:

Partnership Schools Governing Board Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2024, at COPE Community Services
1477 W. Commerce Ct. Tucson, AZ 85746

Members Present:

- Khalid Al-Maskari (Via Zoom)
- Daniella Hisey (Via Zoom)
- Joe Higgins (Via Zoom)
- Richard Paige (Via Zoom)

Staff Present:

- Ian Kidd, Superintendent (In person)
- Rod Cook, CEO (In person)

Guests Present:

- Clarissa Jimenez, COPE (In person)

General Matters:

1. **Call to Order**
Ms. Hisey called the Partnership Schools Governing Board meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Public Comment**
No public comments were made.

Reports

1. **Superintendent's Report**

a. **Enrollment/Recruitment**

Mr. Kidd reported to the Board enrollment and recruitment is something they are always working on and trying to get numbers up. Numbers from the state show a steady decline. We have a recruiter at both schools that are out in the community and visiting home groups to get our enrollment numbers up. The recruiter is also going to K-6 schools to build relationships with them to get students. We've recently been getting good luck with Tucson High when they are having trouble with students, they have been sending them to our school. We have also been having some traction with other charter schools in town.

The online platform has been holding steady and staying under the 40% threshold. Each of the high schools had 10 students' graduate during the end of the winter semester, so now we will need to replace 20 students. Pima Partnership Academy has been steady with 45-50 students, they have not gained or lost any students. Arizona Collegiate High School has 150 students, and Pima Partnership High School has 130 students enrolled at this time.

b. Finance

Mr. Kidd reported to the Board the finance team is working on the budgets to make reductions to coincide with the student numbers. The Tucson high school had lost an English teacher this year, but we did not replace them. We have pulled other teachers from the middle school to cover each period of this class, the high school will not be replacing them until enrollment numbers go up. The revision on the budget for Pima Partnership Academy will be coming to the Board soon because of the enrollment numbers. We projected a higher enrollment number for the middle school so with new regulations if the enrollment number is less than what budgeted for you must revise the budget and resubmit it.

c. Grants

Mr. Kidd reported to the Board the COVID grants and Esser grants are coming to an end, but there the schools still have the title grants. There is an audit with the National School Lunch program soon and the Department of Education will be visiting tomorrow for the school improvement grant. Tucson has a low graduation rate, and our school must be at or meet that threshold, but we are below it. We currently have a 60% graduation rate, and they want us to be at 65% rate. It hurts our schools when kids drop out and don't reenroll anywhere else, it still counts against our graduation rate. We try and call and do home visits to get them back on track, but it is always a battle. We will continue to meet with the Department of Education to review the classrooms, benchmark data, and they will let us know what needs to be improved.

d. Infrastructure

Mr. Kidd reported to the Board that there are not many updates to the infrastructure at this time. Windows have been replaced at the school in Tucson. There are no other updates for infrastructure.

e. Benchmark Data

Mr. Kidd reported to the Board the pre-test and post-test scores of the English and Math classes for the two high schools. Mr. Kidd reported that when students come into our high schools their test scores are really low but the goal for the teachers is to grow the students test scores. The math scores are low as well, but they are growing when they show up to class. Mr. Kidd informed the Board that what isn't on the pre-test post-test scores is the correlation of attendance to their scores. We have a 20% absentee rate and those students who do show up every day can see the growth in their test scores.

The standardized testing and benchmarking testing shouldn't have any weight to their grades but not carrying any weight to their grades does not incentivize the kids to do well. Mr. Kidd informed the Board he is having the teachers put a percentage of their benchmark test to their grades. It can only help their grade if they do well and does not hurt their grade if they don't do well. The schools are doing well and have Bs across the board. The teachers are helping grow the scores for the students. The report Mr. Kidd showed the Board had highlighted scores with green, yellow, red and blue. The green scores mean they are on track, yellow means they are approaching the threshold, red they are below, and blue means they are exceeding. In a traditional school there would be different patterns of these test scores.

Mr. Higgins asked if this benchmark test is given out at the end of the year, quarterly or with state testing cycles. Mr. Kidd informed the Board the benchmark tests are given out quarterly. The tests are based on standards of what the teachers are teaching to see how they are doing and if there is growth. In a traditional school setting kids would take Algebra I for one semester and then the next semester they would take Algebra II and then a test at the end of the year to see how they are doing. The PPP schools do a condensed and accelerated program and if they did not do it this way, they would need to benchmark test students every 20 days.

Mr. Higgins asked Mr. Kidd if this test is predicting them to do well at the ACT test at the end of the school year. Mr. Kidd informed the Board that the kids at PPP struggle a lot with the ACT testing but that they put ACT like questions on the benchmark to prepare them. Mr. Kidd also reported to the Board if the PPP schools were scored just on their ACT test

scores that they would not be doing well. Mr. Higgins stated the schools received Bs so something is predicting and preparing them well enough to get those scores correct? Mr. Kidd informed the Board that since PPP schools are considered alternative schools, they do not weigh the scores as much and that they look at other factors. The other factors include graduation rate, attendance, and a few other things. If the schools were not considered alternative schools, they would probably have Fs just based on their ACT scores. In the beginning PPP did not apply to be an alternative school and they had Fs, so Mr. Kidd had to go to the Charter Board to get on a school improvement plan. Now they do not just look at test scores to determine a grade but also look at the growth of the scores and other factors.

Mr. Higgins asked Mr. Kidd if the graduation rate which is lower and getting looked at, is it because of seat time or because of credits? How will PPP get that number up. Mr. Kidd informed the Board that they received some grant funding to get the graduation up, so with that they are looking into all students' transcripts to see what they need help with. They are also making a lot of calls to students who have attendance issues have W4s. Those that do miss a lot of school also get home visits to try and get them reengaged in school. If you do take the students with W4s off the list and the students who drop out and don't get back into school, PPP's percentage for graduation goes up. Mr. Higgins asked what percentage of that is our student? Mr. Kidd was unsure of the percentage, and Mr. Higgins stated that its almost like PPP shouldn't be taking in services students that have W4s because it affects the liability of the program.

Mr. Kidd stated that unfortunately that is the ladder, and he knows the PPP schools have a high turnover rate for students which is always a struggle. The students that get behind is mainly because of attendance and when they have less than 20% attendance rate it goes in had that they struggle to be successful with their grades and graduation. Mr. Higgins stated that right now it is good that PPP schools are rated as Bs with the state but if they get to a C or D there will be a need to make decisions about graduation rates, grades and who comes in the door. Mr. Kidd stated that it is hard with tests to determine who will be successful and who will not. It would be great to be able to see student transcripts with their attendance rate before accepting them if they have too many absences we could turn them away, but we cannot do that at this time.

Mr. Kidd reported to the Board the schools have been flagged by the Department of Education because they have identified too many special education students. Mr. Kidd informed the Board that he himself has only requested the school psychologist to test one student in the past two years. The students come to the schools with that determination already, but since the percentage of special education students is high at 30%, they have been flagged.

f. Cognia Accreditation Update

Mr. Kidd reported to the Board the two high schools are accredited schools, which means that any other high school must accept our students with their credits. This accreditation looks at the curriculum, policies, and procedures to make sure they are meeting the national standards of high school credits. This accreditation was done 5-6 years ago, and it was done for the whole corporation. This was done for the whole corporation with the mindset of opening more schools and they would already be accredited and not have to go through this process. Mr. Kidd stated he spoke with Mr. Cook about this, and they are no focusing on the accreditation only for the schools and not the whole corporation since it only involves the high schools.

1. Motion to approve minutes from the November 28, 2023, Partnership Schools Governing Board Meeting.

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from the November 28, 2023, meeting.

Motion: Mr. Higgins moved to approve the November 28, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Al-Maskari seconded the motion.

Vote:

Khalid Al-Maskari: Affirmative
Joe Higgins: Affirmative
Daniella Hisey: Affirmative
Richard Paige: Affirmative

The motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements

1. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 9:15 a.m. at COPE Community Services, Inc. 1477 W. Commerce Court, Tucson, AZ 85746.

Adjournment

- 1. Motion:** Mr. Paige moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Higgins seconded the motion. The School Board meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.