



Office of the Pima County School Superintendent
Southern Arizona Professional Developers

Minutes February 19, 2016

Welcome, Introductions

Members present: Altar Valley USD, Catalina Foothills, USD, Paulo Freire Freedom School, Marana USD, Office of the Pima County School Superintendent, Pima Community College, St. Michael's, Santa Cruz Valley USD, Tucson Unified

Project Based Learning in the Community

- ❖ Thanks again to JoAnn Groh, Principal of Paulo Freire Freedom School for sharing information about her school and her connection with the Buck Institute for Project Based Learning. JoAnn's PowerPoint is attached.
- ❖ JoAnn explained the tenets behind PBL and how they can be enhanced with community involvement. This was exemplified by her video of students working on a climate change project.
- ❖ Aspects of the Powerpoint show how the Community Share initiative (www.communityshare.us) breaks down the walls between education entities and business / community members.
- ❖ Finally, the CITY Center for Collaborative Learning brochure listed summer professional learning opportunities in PBL and Community Share. Their website is <https://cityccl.org>

Professional Standards for Educational Leaders

- ❖ Eric Brooks (ADE's Director of Professional Learning) introduced the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders with a PowerPoint handout (attached). Members reviewed the changes from ISLLC Standards to the new PSEL standards and its implications.
- ❖ Eric pointed out some of the major updates to this new set of standards will be reviewed by the State Board of Education at next Monday's meeting (NOTE: This item was removed from the 2/22 Board agenda.) SAPD noticed that the PSEL standards are more explicit, are more action driven, and have an emphasis on relationships with an educational system.
- ❖ These standards appear to be a better match for the changing role of the principal and are inclusive of other administrative positions.
- ❖ Eric answered questions from the group.

Every Student Succeeds Act Overview

- ❖ Mark McCall (Deputy Associate Superintendent in Educator Excellence) began his overview by having members list what they already know or have heard about ESSA.
- ❖ Mark explained that once Congress passed the ESSA, they turned the 1000-page document over to the US Department of Education to provide guidelines by this October. Both US DOE and ADE are going through the document line by line.

- ❖ Parts of a handout from the Center on Great Teachers and Leaders (attached) was shared and provided the details for a discussion on the major changes from NCLB to ESSA, state responsibilities, timelines, educator effectiveness and Title II.
- ❖ Funds will come directly to the states from the federal government and ADE will take their customary 5%. There are also more funds for professional learning of principals and other administrators in the new legislation.
- ❖ Federal Highly Qualified guidelines have morphed into state's setting their Highly Effective status. Do not be expecting many changes here because certification and Highly Effective guidelines are in Arizona statute (15.203). Highly effective status is already part of our state's data base; items such as the HOUSSE rubric, etc. will now be kept locally.
- ❖ Highly Qualified for Special Education has not changed because it is part of IDEA and state law.
- ❖ The menu for assessments that can be used for the teacher evaluation instrument has been expanded. The 33-50% required in Arizona is currently state law. Title II funds will now allow for revamping teacher evaluations system and leadership professional development.
- ❖ Mark took questions from the audience and explained with as much guidance as currently available.
- ❖ Other handouts included Letter from Superintendent Douglas (dated 2/16/16), ADE's Highly Effective Teachers and Leaders Updates February, 2016 (sent to SAPD members earlier last week), a short summary of ESSA changes from Texas <https://www.tasb.org/legislative/documents/2015-Every-Student-Succeeds-Act-Overview.pdf>, and an article from Education Week "ESSA Loosens Reins on Teacher Evaluations, Qualifications" ((1/6/16)

SAPD Meeting Dates for 2015-2016

Next Meeting --- April 15