



Office of the Pima County School Superintendent
Southern Arizona Professional Developers

Minutes February 20, 2015

Welcome, Introductions

Members present: Amphitheater, Arizona College Prep Academy, Flowing Wells USD, Native Education Alliance, Office of the Pima County School Superintendent, Office of the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent, Pima Community College, Presidio Charter Schools, Sahuarita, Santa Cruz Valley USD, Southern Arizona Writing Project, Sierra Vista USD, Sunnyside, Tanque Verde, University of Arizona

Legislative Update --- Target Education

- ❖ Thanks to Senator David Bradley for sharing his insights on the “rhythm” of the current legislative session in Phoenix and the 1200 bills they are reviewing. Senator Bradley began by providing a brief overview of how bills travel through both houses to the Governor and shared some specific vocabulary, i.e. “zombie” bills that are killed but tend to resurrect themselves in a different piece of legislation.
- ❖ Senator Bradley serves on four committees, with Health & Welfare and Education being among them. He shared the ASBA “List of Bad Bills” and went through each section – Vouchers and ESA’s (with specific examples of how these might look in the future if they pass), Bonds & Overrides, ATRA Bills, Standards and Testing and others. Members asked specific questions on the impact of certain bills. Senator Bradley gave his thoughts on where they might be headed through the rest of the session and the probabilities of both parties working together on certain bills.
- ❖ When it comes to bills dealing with testing and standards, most Republicans seem to be on the same page. These will be the “test” of Governor Ducey to see where he stands on these issues, when the bills arrive for his signature.
- ❖ One of the main tasks of the legislature is to develop a budget. Since it was presented as a joint effort, Dave sees the final budget as almost a mirror of the Governor’s proposed budget with very minor changes.
- ❖ Senator Bradley explained details of bills dealing with vouchers (which he always votes against), profit universities being able to start charter schools, fines for non-compliant school audits, and the 5% cut to administrative costs. He shared letters from district superintendents he has received detailing the cuts they would have to make if this latter budget option remains intact through the session.
- ❖ When asked if there were people to contact, Senator Bradley stated that most staff was new and could not provide in-depth answers. He did suggest contacting Kirk Adams, the Governor’s Chief of Staff, with concerns.
- ❖ Senator Bradley answered specific questions from the audience. All were very appreciate that he took the time to share with SAPD.

AzMerit and AELAS Roadshow

- ❖ Denise shared an update from a recent Regional Centers meeting provided by ADE staff from the Assessment Division. Testing coordinators receive weekly updates on the logistics of the coming assessment. Superintendents receive newsletters twice a month. All other information is on the ADE website. Additions to the website will become limited once the test is operational.
- ❖ Senator Bradley provided the testing update as part of his bill review also.

Other Topics

- ❖ MaryAnn Judkins shared the “hot of the press” summary of the state-wide 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey results. Ask Denise or MaryAnn if you’d like a copy of the booklet. MaryAnn also shared a “Save the Date” June 2 and 3 for the Safe & Supportive Schools Conference in Phoenix. Topics on June 2 deal with LGBTQ students and June 3 focuses on Alternatives to Suspension. More info at www.s3az.org
- ❖ Kathy Dong, Sunnyside USD, invited members to a Discovery Education K-12 STEM Academy being held on March 13th. There is room for 60 more participants. Contact Kathy at KathyD@susd12.org if you have teachers that would like to attend.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 17th