

# El Paso Gridley Community Unit School District #11

## Citizens Advisory Council Minutes

### 11/17/2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. at Centennial School by President Casey Knobloch. Council members present: John Hartness, Michelle Marr, Leah Fletcher, Stephanie Matzke, Hannah Denney, Becky Duley, Haley Stoller, Rich Kiefer, Casey Knobloch, Brent Johnson, Lisa Meyer, Kelly Faulk, Shelly Forrest, Rick Johnston, Kelly Throneburg, Shannon Dudek, Karen Krug, and Brian Kurz. Council members absent: Nancy Schuler, Rhonda Zielsdorf, Shelbie Bigger, John Garrels, and Tim Fairchild.

Casey Knobloch moved and Rich Kiefer seconded the motion to approve the October 13<sup>th</sup> minutes.

Superintendent Rick Johnston stated that the Flu situation for the district is very positive. Compared to other nearby districts, our absentee rates are very low (4-8% average). The second round of the flu clinic for prek-4 has not been set yet because the health department has to wait 28 days. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade – 8<sup>th</sup> grade clinic will be held on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at Centennial Cafeteria. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade clinic will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The following items were mentioned:

- The district will have available the Parent Portal section of the website up by 2nd semester.
- The possibility on paying bills online, submitting prepayments for lunches, and registering on line via the website is still in the works and might be available by August of 2010.
- The district is still talking with the City of El Paso concerning the community's use of the fitness center. At this point, staffing issues need to be worked out.

**District "Dashboard Data":** Brian Kurz gave a description of the Adequate Yearly Progress and a snapshot of the standardized testing results from the 2008-2009 school year. All schools met the AYP state target level except Centennial School and El Paso Gridley High School. Centennial School did not meet the level in the sub group of the economically disadvantaged. El Paso Gridley High School is evaluated via the PSAE which includes the ACT and the work keys. These tests are different in that they are College Readiness Tests. The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades take an Explorer Test and the 10<sup>th</sup> graders take the Plan Test all to prepare them for the ACT. The district attempts to make that day as positive of a testing environment as possible. They offer breakfast and snacks to give the students every opportunity to do their best. Shelly Forrest stated that in districts she has been in the past, the local churches provided breakfast for the high school students prior to taking these tests and maybe this is something that can be discussed in the future. Karen Krug stated that providing breakfast for high school students taking these test may be a great idea. Mr. Kurz stated that the state AYP will be raised next

year and that we will continue to prepare our students. He is working on a spreadsheet that will show each particular class' progress over all 12 years in school. All of the information will soon be on the website and parents will be able to see comparisons for the district other local districts. *This information will show two key areas: 1) how a class progresses through the district from year to year with performance (growth model) and 2) how we are doing compared to 16 area school systems.*

**Teacher Mentoring Program:** Shannon Dudek was excited to share the new mentoring program with the Council. This program is called ICE21 which stands for Induction for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Educator". The district is in its second year of the program which pairs experienced teachers with new teachers. A committee of three teachers has been certified to train more mentors in the future for our district. Mr. Dudek stated that mentors have mentioned being reenergized by the younger teachers and this is forming a great working relationship between the two groups. The district is building a library for the teachers for access to books and videos on educational subjects that will help them grow to better serve the students in our district.

**Teacher Tools Demonstration:** Annie Klinkner (Junior High Math Teacher) demonstrated the Interactive Whiteboards/Promethean Boards to Council members. These are large touch screen interactive boards. Ms. Klinkner demonstrated the many uses of the boards in the classroom as an educational tool and also as a positive motivating tool for the students. The Learner Response System can be used in conjunction with the Whiteboards. The students use clickers to answer questions on the board and the teacher will receive immediate responses to what the students understand in class. Due to the cost of these clickers, the district only has three sets. The Council was clearly impressed with this technology and was able to see what an asset these are to the classroom. The Streaming Video Resources System is called Learn 360 and basically a "G" rated YouTube for educators to be able to access videos on subject matter they are teaching. For example, if you needed a video demonstrating Algebra, you can simply go to this website and watch it and interact with it on the whiteboard. The new Math textbooks for grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> are also on video and parents can access their student's textbooks on line at [www.phschool.com](http://www.phschool.com). This will help the parents at home when their children have questions. There is also a section that can be accessed in which a student (or parent) can actually get a tutorial on the subject matter to better understand the topic. The junior high website has further information and instructions as to how to access this useful tool. The administrators and staff continue to explore and use Skyward for student records. This has been a great tool for them in bringing student information together. Spark is an instant messaging system for the teachers that allow them to immediately communicate with each other. Parent Portal is not available at this time but will be in the near future.

Mr. Rick Johnston stated that he was very pleased with the turnout for the Parent/Teacher Conferences. The high school had 42% attending, which is the highest he has seen. This is encouraging to see positive parent involvement.

The next Citizens Advisory Council Meeting will be held at El Paso Gridley Junior High School Library on January 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Shelly Forest moved and Lisa Meyer seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.