### Welcome Introduction and Remarks

Gayle Blanchard greeted everyone and introduced Mrs. Sue Kruse, Principal at Ranch Elementary. She thanked the PTO for providing lunch. She asked everyone to introduce themselves since there was a guest speaker, Leslie Leroux from the San Tan Historical Society. Gayle told the group that we would soon have a schedule for Zumba classes to be held at Combs Traditional Academy which will cost $7 per class. She also mentioned that there are some new enrichment classes for Combs Middle School students.

### District Information

- **Ranch Elementary Student Presentation**
- **Data Accountability Center (DAC) – Dr. Jane Rupard**
- **AIMS Testing – Santa Dunker, Instructional Services**

Sue Kruse introduced Mrs. Briggs and her first grade students who demonstrated the use of technology in the classroom.

Dr. Jane Rupard presented on Federal Data Accountability for special education. She said that we were 1 of 5 districts invited to participate in this research study about special education students and AIMS results. She stated that there seems to be an achievement gap between the special education population and the general education population. The study is designed to help districts with data analysis and the Combs District is way ahead of other groups in implementation. Marcus Berkshire, Principal at Combs Traditional Academy is the “stats guy,” while, Brendan Stynes, is the Program Specialist, Laura Sokol, Psychologist Intern, Amanda Wernett, Dean at Harmon, Christine Villa, Dean at Ellsworth and Peggy Johnson, Program Specialist at Combs Middle School. We found students who are SLI (speech language impaired) were not passing. The team decided to provide a systemic language approach for these students. A core group of students will be followed for an entire year. The District expects to see increases and should see the achievement gap shrink.

Information regarding AIMS testing was shared. High School testing is taking place the week of 4/10. Back in February they took the reading and writing test. Grades 9/10 will take the high school science AIMS test. AIMS testing is built on state standards. This year schools received 2 labels. The A-F label looks at the meets/exceeds and overall growth of students. The state may be dropping one of the labels, but will retain the A-F labels. Letter Grade labels will be issued in August/September and are released to districts first, before they are released to the community. Districts also receive a
• San Tan Historical Society – Leslie Leroux

Leslie Leourx shared information about the Queen Creek Historical Society. The Historical Society is located at Ellsworth and Old Ellsworth Rd. and services Queen Creek, Chandler Heights, Higley and the Combs area. She is working on a special Centennial Project compiling information from community mentors that make a difference in the community. Her goals are:

- To bring advocacy and sense of place to the community
- Looking for volunteers to “Pledge to Participate”
- Assist with voter registration
- Create a common ground on issues and keep voters engaged and informed
- Keep a connection in the community – keep members involved
- Help identify needs in the community

Future Agenda Topics:

• Budget Advisory Committee Update

Karla Slovitsky indicated that on March 21st the District held the first of two Budget Advisory meetings. There was a good turnout of about twenty people. She said that the cuts we’ve had to make are a direct result of the override not being renewed. She said that the voter approved one cent sales tax goes away in one year. If the override had been renewed, taxes would have actually gone down a bit. She said that we had a consultant attend the meeting who reviewed our demographics. A Fact Sheet was shared which reflects that this is not a J.O. Combs problem. He said that many districts are having to make cuts. He said that there will be a phone survey between now and the next meeting on May 2nd. Gayle told the group that as homework, she would like for the PSC to have conversations with friends and neighbors about the need for an override.

Gayle shared that Lori Linder, interim CEO at Banner Ironwood placed a message in Banner’s Newsletter which goes out to staff and community members referencing our district and the need for funding for education.

Lori Reed added that having the services of Paul Ulan, Primary Consultants, is a huge benefit for preparing for another override. A community phone survey will take place the week of April 16th. Parents asked for schools to focus on the Kids Voting Program. Chris Wiles said that Harmon Elementary did it during the presidential election. Jorgi Andersen asked if maybe parents could register to vote at Parent/Teacher conferences. A recommendation was made to have strategic stations at events for people to register to vote. Shelly Hargis said that information needs to go out before early ballots go out. We need to do our best to educate with factual information.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at Combs Middle School.
Parent / Superintendent Council Agenda Minutes  
February 29, 2012 – 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Simonton Elementary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome Introduction and Remarks</strong></td>
<td>Gayle Blanchard greeted everyone and introduced Mrs. Vanessa Whitlark, Principal at Simonton Elementary.</td>
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<td><strong>District Information</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Simonton Elementary Student Presentation</td>
<td>Vanessa Whitlark introduced Mrs. Joy Albrecht and her 4th grade class. Students presented a skit about Little Red “Writing” Hood.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- 4th Grade “Little Red Writing Hood”</td>
<td>Lacey Jones asked if with the new configuration 6th grade students would have only one teacher as part of the new configuration. Gayle Blanchard stated that not all decisions have been made yet and that Principals would be involved in making those decisions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- School Site Configurations</td>
<td>Mindy Shurtleff shared some information and background regarding the upcoming San Tan Valley Relay for Life. She said that it is a relay that begins Friday, April 20th starting at 6:00 p.m. and continues through 6:00 a.m. the next day. It will take place at the Combs High School track. The goal is to have at least 30 teams participate. They raise money for cancer research. This will be the first time that this relay is taking place in San Tan Valley. Currently, there are 24 teams registered. More information is available at SanTanValleyrelayforlife.com. Combs High School students and staff are involved as well as members of the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- San Tan Relay for Life</td>
<td>Gayle Blanchard introduced Rich Dobson, Director of Support Services, who oversees the Food Service Program. Mr. Dobson then introduced Mrs. Michelle Swendseid, Food &amp; Nutrition Supervisor who oversees food services throughout the District. Michelle presented a PowerPoint explaining the federal guidelines the district follows with regards to the breakfast and lunch programs as well as the “Healthy Hunger Free Act”, new school guidelines. Parents wanted to know how the Food Service Department determines waste of food and popular items. Another parent asked if we take recommendations/suggestions from students, because she knows that fifth graders at one site have suggestions. Michelle said that she meets with Student Council representatives at all schools and discusses suggestions and recommendations. Parents were concerned that certain menu items reoccur on the menu in the same week, but with different names. Another</td>
</tr>
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Budget Items / Legislative Updates

Michelle was concerned about serving breakfast for lunch. She said that this is one of the favorite menu items and that all nutritional guidelines are followed. Michelle shared that Pinal County is also supporting schools, offering nutrition lessons encouraging healthy eating.

Karla Slovitsky shared that both the governor and legislators have proposed state budgets, but that no final decisions have been made. She shared that the governor is trying to implement funding for the “move on when reading” program. This program is to ensure that students are reading by the end of third grade. Two bills receiving quite a bit of publicity now are the “parent choice” bill and the consolidation/feasibility study.

Karla had previously been asked about charter school funding. She stated that she compared the Combs District to Charter School funding by taking our Average Daily Membership (ADM) and placing the figures into a charter school worksheet so that she could compare apples to apples. As a result, if the Combs District was a charter school, we would have received 6% more in funding. She further stated that it is a misconception that charter schools get less funding.

Karla responded to a previous request regarding Combs Traditional Academy. Last school year, there were a total of 93 students at Combs Traditional Academy and current enrollment is 143 students of which 38 are from out of district. Karla said that the CTA campus is breaking even, and we anticipate even more revenue as it grows.

One parent asked how many teachers live in this community. She said that “kids relate to them” if they live in the area. Gayle said that when the District hires teachers, they need to be appropriately certified and highly qualified for the areas that they teach. If we hire a teacher that lives in the community that is a “bonus,” but current practices are to hire the best and the brightest.

Study Session

Gayle Blanchard thanked those who attended a recent Community Budget Meeting. She said that at that meeting there was collaboration and sharing of budget information among staff and community members. Gayle said that a follow-up Study Session would follow with answers to comments and questions which were brought up. Dollar amounts would be placed next to specific budget items and information would be presented to the Governing Board Members. The Study Session is scheduled for March 7th immediately following the Regular Governing Board Meeting and invited PSC members to attend. She indicated that this is an open public meeting and all are welcome to attend. A Study Session is informational and no formal business will be conducted. One parent suggested calling it a “Budget Meeting” so parents show up. Gayle asked members of the Parent / Superintendent Council to spread the word to the community, family, and friends. She also said that there will be a Citizen’s Comments section at the Study Session.
Advisory Committee

Karla Slovitsky will present budget information through a PowerPoint Presentation and present comments and suggestions from the Community Budget Meeting as well as from other stakeholders. The Governing Board can discuss and ask questions. Ballot language from the override will be discussed. Gayle stated that all capital projects are on hold. Gayle finished by saying that the Study Session is an opportunity to share and gather information before the Governing Board makes any final decisions.

Gayle extended an invitation for members of the PSC to consider being part of an Advisory Committee. The first meeting date is Wednesday, March 21st from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Combs High School Library. She said there will probably be two meetings. A guest presenter will be in attendance and will share voter demographic information. A parent asked if the ballot language will consist of one or two questions. Gayle shared that this will be part of the conversation that will take place at the Advisory Meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at Ranch Elementary.
- Current Federal Nutrition Guidelines
- Menus
- Menu Evaluation
- Vendors
- Food Preparation
- New Federal Guidelines
- Website address
- Questions

Food and Nutrition Department
Current Federal Guidelines

Districts must offer for Lunch

- 2 oz protein k-8  3 oz 9-12
- 2 oz grain k-8  2 oz 9-12
- 8 oz milk- variety of flavors
- ½ cup fruit ½ vegetable (one cup of either)

Districts must offer all of these items, students must take 3 of the 5 items
Creating Menus

- Formulas are followed in making a menu that meets USDA guidelines
- Must meet required vitamins, minerals, calories - evaluated for weekly amounts
- Combs has been audited on menus last done 2008-09 school year - met almost all required amounts slightly low in iron added more legumes to menu to comply

Determining Entrées

- Items are tried, taste tested, and if they do not sell, taken off menu
- Input from students, surveys, managers/cooks, and meal counts for the day
# Menu Evaluation

## Current Guidelines Week’s Menu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicken fajita</td>
<td>Hot dog</td>
<td>Cheese sticks</td>
<td>Pork riblet</td>
<td>Pizza</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>with dipping sauce on a bun</td>
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<td>Side:Fiesta rice</td>
<td>Side:Fries</td>
<td>Side:Green beans</td>
<td>Side:baked beans</td>
<td>Side Dish: Corn</td>
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Choice from self serve
Fruit and veggie bar

Milk: Fat free chocolate or 1% white, fat free strawberry on Fridays
Menu Evaluation

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Choice from self serve
Fruit and veggie bar

**UNDER CURRENT GUIDELINES**

**What you don’t see....**
- Chicken fajita – grilled chicken with whole wheat tortilla 8” = 2 oz protein 2 oz grain
- Fiesta rice: Brown rice, fajita seasoning, veggies = 2 oz grain
- Hot dog: 100% turkey dog = 2 oz protein and 2 oz whole wheat bun
- Fries: baked not fried- fat free = 1 oz vegetable
- Cheese sticks: baked lower fat cheese 4 oz = 2 oz meat 2 oz grain
- Green beans: frozen = ½ cup veggie
- Pork riblet: soy enhanced lower fat = 3.5 oz protein 2 oz whole wheat bun
- Baked beans: added protein to menu= 2 oz protein
- Pizza: whole wheat crust, low fat cheese =4.75 oz 2 oz protein 2 oz grain
- Corn: frozen = ½ cup vegetable

**Choices from bar: oranges, apples (green and red), bananas, kiwi, 3 different melons, carrot shapes, celery, cucumbers, broccoli, cauliflower, mixed lettuce, pasta salad, vegetable salad, fruit salads ranch, green peppers, pears, many other fruits and vegetables as available seasonally**
Co-Op

• ASPIN/Mohave-142 districts as members assists our district in procurement procedure

• Winning bids for 2011-12 Shamrock foods, Shamrock Dairy, US Foodservice, Flowers foods (bread)
- Kitchen equipment in the kitchens are service kitchens for on-site production.
- Types of equipment: convection ovens, tilting skillet, combi oven, no fryers.
- Staff member with food safety certification manages food, trains staff on food handling, preparing and serving.
- All staff must have Food Handlers Card.

Food Production Reports are recorded daily.

**Food Preparation**
New Federal Guidelines

**Districts must offer for lunch**

- Protein 1 oz k-8
  - 2 oz 9-12
- Grains 1 oz k-8
  - 2 oz 9-12
  - July 1, 2014 at least ½ must be whole grain
- 1 cup fruit
- 1 cup vegetable
- Vegetables that must be on the menu weekly
  - Dark green (spinach, kale)
  - orange/red (carrots, peppers)
  - legumes (beans, peas)
  - starch (corn, potatoes)
  - other as specified in guidelines
- 1 cup milk must be fat free flavored or 1% unflavored
- Districts are required to offer all of these items, student can choose 3, one of them must be fresh fruit and vegetable
Upcoming Changes

- Price increase Elementary 2.25, Middle school 2.50, High school 3.00
- New Federal Guidelines
- How food is served
- Fruits and vegetables
- Whole grains

Healthy Hunger-Free Act 2010
Check out our website at
www.combsnutrition.com

- Nutrition ideas
- Newsletters
- Nutrition content of foods
- Menus and lots more
Questions ??
Parent / Superintendent Council Agenda Minutes  
January 25, 2012 – 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Harmon Elementary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome Introduction and Remarks</strong></td>
<td>Gayle Blanchard introduced Harmon Principal, Mr. Ames Singley. Mr. Singley thanked his PTSO for providing food for this meeting. Principal Singley introduced Ms. Murietta and several students who were presenting on a new 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grade program at Harmon, “No Excuses University.” Students select different universities around the country in order for them to be exposed to the process of selecting and applying for college admission. Each student researched fields they may want to enter into, jobs available in those fields and actually completed a college application. They also learned how to apply for financial aid and completed an essay of why they wanted to attend that university.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>District Information</strong></td>
<td>Gayle Blanchard told members that the annual parent survey is electronic and up on our website. In the past this document was a hard copy survey which went home to parents. All Combs parents are being asked to complete one survey for each student they have in the district. Parents are asked to complete during the week of January 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;. If parents do not have access to a computer, each site will make available computer access for taking the survey. Some parents have already taken the survey. Gayle asked PSC members to encourage neighbors to complete the survey.   Barbara Remondini stated that during the process of completing the 2012 – 2013 District Calendar, there were several drafts. The Calendar which was presented to the PSC at the last meeting was approved at the January Governing Board Meeting. She said that the decision was made to keep the Professional Development days on the Monday after Fall and Spring Break. The Governing Board approved March 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; as Spring Holiday. Barbara</td>
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• Thinking Maps

Marcus Berkshire, principal at Combs Traditional Academy presented on Thinking Maps, which has been implemented school-wide. He is a trainer in Thinking Maps. It consists of eight visual patterns reflecting the way in which students think. During implementation, one map is taught per week. Some of the different maps include bubble map, circle and tree map. Harmon and Ranch staff has been trained by Mr. Berkshire. A parent asked if other elementary schools would be trained. Mr. Berkshire said that it is costly, and as funds become available, other elementary schools would get trained. He said that Thinking Maps are cross curricular and is a K-12 program. The parent asked if the funds could come from the schools’ PTO. Gayle said that this is a quality curricular program for students and feels that it is her responsibility as Superintendent of the District to look for ways to move forward with this program at all sites. She said she would keep the PSC posted with updates.

• Battle of the Books

Mr. Berkshire shared information about a program for 5/6 grade students called Battle of the Books organized by the Maricopa Library District. Since our district does not have a library connection, Maricopa Library is allowing the Combs District to compete as an independent district. We are also receiving support from the Queen Creek Library. This year only 5th graders are participating. Students form teams and 12 books are read over the year. The “battle” is over 4 books 3 times a year. He said the reading lists consist of great literature that our students would not be exposed to otherwise. The program consists of two phases with 4-5 questions based on the number of teams participating. At the end of each battle, points are tallied and are cumulative. At the end of the battle, there will be winning teams representing schools in the Higley, Queen Creek and J.O. Combs school districts who will compete at the “District” Battle of the Books competition which will take place at the Queen Creek Performing Arts Center on April 30th at 7:00 pm.

Principal Berkshire serves as the Battle of the Books District Coordinator. He said this is a great program. Mr. Singley added that at the first battle at Harmon, 4th graders were invited to be in the audience to expose them to the program. Teams consist of up to 3 students. It is a voluntary program, and students form their own teams.
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<th><strong>Transitions</strong></th>
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<td>Gayle Blanchard spoke about transitions from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school. She said that 8th grade students recently had the opportunity to visit the high school campus. They listened to a presentation about high school courses and programs, and toured the campus. There was also an evening program for parents. During that meeting, tables were set up throughout cafeteria where parents could ask questions about different programs and classes. Rural Metro was present to give information regarding the new Explorer Program, which provides an opportunity for students who have interests in fire/science and EMT careers. This is a program which will provide trainings and ride-alongs with Rural Metro.</td>
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<td>The transition from elementary to middle school may look different for next school year. Information will be presented at the Study Session on the evening of January 25th. The elementary sites have excess capacity space while the middle school is reaching capacity. Gayle said the district continues to look at enrollment, projections, and space. If growth had continued at the rate it did in 2006 and 2007, we would have opened a new elementary school at Ironwood Crossings and a new middle school. She also said that no decisions will be made this evening at the Study Session. There will only be conversation and discussions. One parent expressed her delight at the idea of keeping the 6th graders at the elementary sites. Most people are very positive about the idea. Parents asked if this would just be a one year plan, and Gayle said that this would be a long term plan, but could change based on the economy and growth. She said that there will be a PowerPoint presentation shared with the Governing Board this evening, and it will be posted on our website tomorrow morning. She further stated that districts do not get funding to build new schools until existing schools are at capacity.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Future Agenda Items</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>- Configuration</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Budget items / Charter / CTA</td>
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<td>- Legislative Update</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Override</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Lunch menus</td>
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*Next meeting date:* February 29th at Simonton Elementary.
# Parent / Superintendent Council Agenda Minutes

**November 30, 2011 – 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Combs Traditional Academy**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Introduction and Remarks</td>
<td>Gayle Blanchard greeted everyone and said how appreciative she was of the Combs Traditional Academy PTO for providing lunch for the group. A group photo was taken and is displayed on the District website under the Parent / Superintendent Council tab. Marcus Berkshire – Principal at Combs Traditional Academy described his school as a school of choice. He said there is structured learning where they focus on “time on task” and learning. He indicated that the PTO is a great support on campus. He said it is important to have parent involvement at school and home. Meili Clare, parent at CTA has organized an Art Masterpiece program for the students. She said she has had great success creating great opportunities for students. She further explained the program and the elements of art. The program consists of six lessons where students create six different pieces of art. Several students shared their artwork along with an explanation of their work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combs Traditional Academy student presentation – Art Masterpiece</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Information</td>
<td>Kelly Bray, Community Education Coordinator spoke to the group in a response to their requests for adult education classes. She said that In-Motion has offered to teach adult dance classes for $7 per class for 5 weeks (2 times per week). They would require a minimum of 10 people or they could offer a drop in rate of $10 per class. Rate is high according to parents who indicate that the public library offers the same class for a $5 drop in fee per class. Kelly will look into different options with different organizations / private parties who might be interested in hosting dance classes. Kelly spoke about Combs Winter Camp which will be available during Winter Break. She said that there is a required minimum enrollment of 13-15 to break even, and parents needed to register by December 9th. She touched on enrichment classes such as Building Bonanza (taking place at Simonton), and indicated she would like the program to possibly branch out to Ellsworth, Ranch and CTA. Kelly said that she is exploring digital film classes after school for the J.O. Combs Middle School. Another option she is exploring is an internet based course for elementary students called “Zoo Vet” utilizing live webcam allowing interaction with Phoenix Zoo Veterinarians. She said there is a tuition fee</td>
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for this 6 week club which would be run by one of our certified teachers.

Parents asked about the possibility of cooking classes for adults. They also inquired about college courses being taught at our sites (CAC/NAU).

There was a concern about prices for some of the programs being offered. Parents indicated that prices need to come down stating that if prices were low enough that would create a better draw. Another parent asked about the possibility of utilizing high school facilities and possibly teaching tennis lessons. Parents asked about offering a discounted rate for students who are eligible for free/reduced lunch. Another parent asked if we could offer classes that are not tuition based. Kelly will follow-up on these requests and report back.

### 2012-2013 Calendar

Barbara Remondini said that there is a committee that has been working on a calendar for the 2012-13 school year. She said the committee is comprised of individuals representing all working groups in the district as well as parents. She reviewed a draft of the calendar. She said there is a 198 day work schedule for teachers. The calendar has options for all groups allowing to maximize professional development time. Calendar options were presented and parents responded with feedback.

### Override Election

Karla Slovitsky gave an update on the recent override election. She said that we have 12,000 registered voters in our district and of those, 4200 are registered as permanent early voters. She stated that we need to educate our community before October 1st of next year; before early ballots are mailed. Gayle Blanchard said that she and Karla met with a political consultant – someone who can provide additional data for future planning. Parents’ concerns were for those families who live in the district, but take their children elsewhere (out of the district). Gayle said that the dynamics change during a presidential election (November 2012). She shared the need to educate our community now because once the Governing Board calls for an election, the district’s involvement changes. Karla shared that we have budgeted appropriately, and that Arizona School Finance is formula drive per Arizona Statute.

Gayle indicated that she has no information to share at this time. She has made contacts, but has not heard back.

### Future Agenda Items

- Seminary Update
- Transitions
- Thinking Maps
- Battle of the Books

Move to next meeting

Move to next meeting

Move to next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 25th, 2012 at Harmon Elementary
Parent / Superintendent Council Agenda Minutes  
October 26, 2011 – 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Ellsworth Elementary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome Introduction and Remarks</td>
<td>Gayle Blanchard introduced Principal Tammy Stimatze and thanked her for hosting the Parent / Superintendent Council at Ellsworth Elementary. Tammy then introduced 5th grade teacher, Laura Ridge and her 5th grade students who are participating in Ellsworth’s “Pink Out” in support of cancer awareness. Ms. Ridge’s students showcased their focus on physical fitness by dancing to “fit kids”, a program supporting healthy minds and physical fitness in our schools. Ms. Ridge said that this is a way to keep students mentally alert, and physically fit. Gayle thanked Ms. Ridge and her students. She also indicated that Laura Ridge is a wonderful teacher, and also serves as a member on the teacher evaluation committee.</td>
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<td>District Information</td>
<td>Introductions of all present at the meeting took place. Gayle then introduced Mr. Rich Dobson, Director of Support Services who presented on the importance of safety at school as well as during the ride on the school bus to and from school. The Arizona Risk Retention Trust, which is the insurance company for most school districts in Arizona recently offered, free of charge, a 5-day training program which they brought to the district. In addition to bus safety training with an instructor, the Trust provided a bus simulator which gave the bus drivers actual hands-on training behind the wheel of a bus where they participated in different scenarios. This was a great opportunity for our bus drivers to sharpen their driving skills.</td>
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<td>School Bus Safety</td>
<td>Chairperson for the election action group, “Combs Kids Count”, Alesha Henderson, gave an update from the Combs Override Committee, stating that we have less than two weeks before the November 8th election. Most feedback so far has been positive. More signs were ordered and she indicated that we now have over 100 yard signs and several larger signs posted in the community. She impressed the importance of getting the word out, and the need for a YES vote on both questions</td>
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1 and 2. When the State of Arizona takes dollars from districts, we do not have the funds to purchase instructional materials. Gayle Blanchard stated that Banner Ironwood is supporting the District in this election. Pinal County Elections Department reported that 524 Early Ballots had been returned by October 20th. Simonton, Ranch, Harmon and Combs Middle School are polling sites for the November 8th election.

Gayle Blanchard reviewed the district’s “B” Achievement Label. She said that while we have some work ahead of us, she was pleased with the “B”. She further stated that we have interventions at all sites which include tutoring. She indicated that there is not a label for schools with less than 125 test records, thus no label for the Combs Traditional Academy. Student growth is now included in determining the lettergrade labels. Parents indicated that the A-F Labels are easier to understand, and is easier for parents to see what is happening. Another parent said she would like to see specific plans from schools in the district which would include goals and interventions at each individual site. As parents, they would like to see that a plan is in place for achievement.

A parent asked about teacher qualifications. Gayle indicated that all teachers must be certified, and highly qualified. She also said that if teachers require assistance, there is a process in place to help them improve. A parent requested we include questions on surveys regarding teachers’ performance.

Another parent stated that they had great success in resolving concerns when they contacted the teacher directly.

Barbara Remondini presented on curriculum stating that this was an exciting time to be in education, as all of the projects we are working on fit together. The Common Core Standards will be implemented for all students beginning in 2013-2014, and have been implemented for Kindergarten and 1st grade this year. We are not the only state who has adopted these standards, which will require teachers to teach far differently than they are now.

As a district, we are working on curriculum crosswalks between the old standards and the new, curriculum maps to incorporate the Common Core and common assessments. The District is focusing on the professional development needs of teachers to implement the new standards.

Barbara Remondini provided an update on Jupiter Grades, indicating that the most common question asked was how to link students in one family together. She
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Future Agenda Items</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>provided a handout explaining how to do that. She also indicated that each</td>
<td>• Transition to schools, elementary to middle school; middle school to high school</td>
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<tr>
<td>school site has a Jupiter “expert”, and if parents had questions, they</td>
<td>including preparation, structure of classroom expectations which may include going</td>
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<tr>
<td>should contact their child’s school. All parents seemed to like Jupiter</td>
<td>from one teacher to several, writing / grammar.</td>
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<td>Grades, and how they can see upcoming, or missing assignments.</td>
<td>• School Achievement Labels – School plans for success.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Thinking Maps.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Taking of a photograph of Parent / Superintendent Council members for our website.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Next meeting date is November 30th at Combs Traditional Academy.</td>
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### Welcome Introduction and Remarks

- Combs High School student presentation

**Summary**

Gayle Blanchard greeted everyone and said how appreciative she was of the Combs High School Boosters for providing lunch for the group.

Brenda Mayberry, Principal of Combs High School introduced three high school students who would share the different activities that are going on at the high school. David Hernandez, student body president spoke of the activities going on during this week which include:

- Spirit Week
- Best Buddies Club
- Up and Coming Dance

Shelby Wilt from the Drama class commented on how much they were enjoying the new Drama teacher this year. She said that drama students will have several exciting opportunities this year which include:

- Shakespeare Festival in Utah
- Phoenix Festival – Musical Theater

Kristie Steele and Luis Hernandez from the Combs Marching Band updated the group on their activities.

- Recent competition – “Good” rating
- Upcoming Competition at Mesquite High School on Saturday, October 8th - performance at 2:45 pm

They said that for a first year competing marching band, this is a very good rating. They explained how Mr. Werner has taken the band so far in such a short period of time and that the group gets lots of practice time by playing at home football games. The marching band will still have an opportunity to make it to State at an invitational which they will be attending soon.

### District Information

- Combs High School:
  - Seminary Building

**Summary**

Gayle stated that there is a set date for a question and
- **Signage on Ironwood Road**

   Regarding some new signage for Ironwood, Gayle indicated that we are waiting for final approval from the land owner in order to have signage installed. The sign will provide directions to Combs High School.

- **Common Core State Standards**

   Dr. Barbara Remondini, Assistant Superintendent provided information regarding the new state standards, referred to as the Common Core Standards. Kindergarten and first grade teachers have begun implementing these new required state standards and all teachers are working on creating curriculum maps to assist in their planning and delivery of instruction. All teachers will be implementing the new required standards by 2013.

- **Staffing**

   Barbara Remondini spoke about staffing and class sizes and said that the process for staffing begins in February. Staffing is based on student projections and budget allocations. The district monitors student enrollment from that point on up until school opens. Based on the funding from the state of Arizona, the district staffed conservatively this year. Barbara reminded the group that class sizes are budget driven. At the middle school, the district hired two teachers who could help with interventions, supporting academic achievement. Parents asked if the interventions are graded or just reinforcement. Barbara said that the interventions are for teaching foundations of number sense.

   Parents asked if the district would consider adopting a “cap” on class sizes. Gayle said that she would take their suggestions and concerns back to District level for consideration. Gayle said that the district understand parents’ concerns. She urged the group to communicate with their Arizona State representatives, helping to put pressure on them to not cut school budgets. She added, we cannot make decisions on staffing until students are officially withdrawn and enrolled and attendance is confirmed.

- **Community Education**

   Kelly Bray, Coordinator of Community Education presented on the continued offerings from the Community Education Department which include:

   - Enrichment classes
   - Band programs
   - Sports programs
   - October Camp
She shared that Flag Football will begin after the October break and parents could utilize on-line registration.

**October Camp**

- Based on minimum enrollment
- Will be held at Ellsworth Elementary
- October 10th – 14th Monday – Friday of Fall Break
- Science themes and activities

October Camp offers childcare during Fall Break. This camp provides an affordable option for families and will focus on a science theme - it’s fun and academics combined. Kelly also spoke about facility rentals and asked parents to get the word out about hosting adult education classes in our district.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Future Agenda Items</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th at Ellsworth Elementary at 11:30 am</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Transitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 5th graders to middle school</td>
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<tr>
<td>- 8th graders to high school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jupiter Grades / Schoolmaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking Maps – update</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Curriculum - update</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Welcome Introduction and Remarks

Gayle Blanchard greeted everyone and started the meeting by having everyone introduce themselves.

### Review Purpose and Responsibilities of Council

Gayle reviewed the purpose of the committee along with the responsibilities of members in the Parent / Superintendent Council. She shared that she was proud of the accomplishments from last year, and proud of the commitment from families in the community. She stressed the importance of two-way communication between the district and the community and that the PSC is the vessel that provides that. Gayle expects that information shared will be disseminated back to the sites.

She indicated that the start of school year went smoothly and is proud that we will have our first graduating class in the Spring. She shared information that Mrs. Mayberry shared at a recent meeting with the San Tan Valley Chamber of Commerce which included the many academic opportunities for students at the high school. In addition she shared the District’s strategic plan – district goals – roadmap (which is posted on the District’s web page). We need to focus on what’s most important and our highest priority is student achievement.

### District Information

Karla Slovitsky shared information regarding the upcoming Maintenance & Operations Override and the decisions the Governing Board had to make. She stressed that reduction funding at the state level impacts all school districts.

The Governing Board made the decision to call for an override election at the July 13th meeting. Two questions will be on the ballot. She presented a PowerPoint presentation which was shared at the July 13th meeting (posted on the website, under the Business Department Section).

The PSC group is anxious to help get the word out to the community regarding the importance of this election and the need to vote.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Guest Speaker – Dr. Jan Langer – Former Superintendent for Combs 1997-2010</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
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| | • Historical Events  
| | • Growth in District  
| | • Unification vote in 2006  
| | • Past override support  
| | • Need for community involvement and support of two questions for November 8th Election  
| | 1) Continue 10% Maintenance & Operations Override  
| | 2) 5% K-12 Special Programs Override to focus on student achievement, instructional programs and materials |
| Final Thoughts | Gayle indicated she was thrilled with the positive conversation in the room.  
| | She asked the group to brainstorm some future agenda items and e-mail them to Nita. The next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28th at Combs High School. |