Paradise Valley
Unified School District

Paradise Valley Unified School District | School Council Minutes

School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 9, 2026

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Location: Desert Shadows Elementary School

Facilitator: Bryan Cunningham, Principal

Committee Members Present:

- **Support Staff Representative** – Patricia Noack, Administrative Assistant
- **Certified Staff Representative** – Shellie Sallas-Leveratt, 1st Grade Teacher
- **Certified Staff Representative** – April Padilla Gladden, Kindergarten Teacher
- **Certified Staff Representative** – Teresa Andreis, Kindergarten Teacher
- **Certified Staff Representative** - Katie Schmidt, Assistant Principal
- **Parent Representative** – Justin Rice, Parent of 2nd and 3rd Grader
- **Parent Representative** – Yadira Davis, Parent of 3rd and 5th Grader
- **Parent Representative** – Heather Villarruel, Parent of Kindergartner and 3rd Grader
- **Community Member Representative** –

Purpose: Provide a positive and safe school community, where all students obtain higher level, innovative, and career readiness skills through an integrated curricular approach.

Outcomes: All questions and concerns were addressed and positive feedback provided.

Agenda/Minutes

I. 3:30-4:30 Welcome

A. District and School Updates

1. Staffing Update - Mrs. Walter resigned from the 5th grade position due to family circumstances. We hired Dr. Culbertson and he will start on 11/13. He is meeting with students and families tomorrow. He has lots of experience and most recently as a principal.
2. PBIS Model School Ceremony - Program involves Superintendent Dr. Courson, our STUCO President, and an olympic gold medal winner all speaking. Suzuki strings will perform baby shark with our JAWS expectations and the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. A+ School of Excellence Update - The visit is 1/13-1/14. Is what you said in your application actually happening and does the school have the feel of an A+ school? This is what they are looking for during the visit. They will be visiting every classroom and talking with every staff member. Bill Burch, Blake from Heritage Church, and Jane from the Pathways will be our community members that they interview. Day 1 - They will watch drop off and pickup, STUCO will have a fundraiser, JAWS ambassadors will lead a school tour, will visit every classroom for about 15 minutes and will be watching for solid teaching instruction. They will watch Viz Kids after school. Day 2 they will attend the staff meeting, meet with Classified Staff, then a parent meeting, and a student meeting with 25 random students they have given a golden ticket to. We will not know until the mid to end of February if we get the recognition.
4. Letter Grade Breakdown - DSES got an A and were 9th in the state for K-8. Proficiency we got 29.04 out of 30. Growth (4th-6th) we got 47.55 out of 50. EL Proficiency we got a 10/10. Acceleration/Readiness we got a 10/10. Total points 96.59 + 5 bonus points= 101.59
5. Field Trip Fundraisers - Set a threshold for participation and if that isn't met then the money raised gets diverted to the student that raised the money. 8 out of 76 6th graders participated in the Dave & Buster's Power Card Fundraiser.
6. Beautification Day Ideas - January 9th - will really work to make sure the school is in excellent shape.

B. Tax Credit Approval - none

II. 4:30 Good of the order

A. School Council Member Statements - Tiny Trojans being piloted in Kindergarten

B. Public Statements - Do we know anymore info on the 3D printers? Testing was done at an elementary school and the air quality results were not good so using them is still on hold. One conversation was to host them at the high schools where they have more room and can keep them away from the students. Students would still have access to the Tinker Cad program but just have the high schools print them. Might see if the middle school could host ours. Still no ultimate decision has been made. 4th grade will still work on their invention convention projects in the spring. 3D prints of the inventions just might not be available.

The next meeting will be December 14, 2026

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.