

Family Engagement Team 25/26  
***Family Engagement Meeting***  
***Minutes***

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DATE: February 02 , 2026

TIME: 8:45 am

LOCATION: Room 5

Attendance:

Jeanette Apaez-Gutierrez- Principal

Karina Acuna – Family engagement representative (Facilitator)

Leslie Anderson-Ryan -Teacher representative

Bridgette Patterson - Parent representative

Faith Wagner - Parent representative

Lynn Wagner – Parent representative

Angelica Cota - Parent representative

Katherine Shooshtari- Parent representative

- 1. Call meeting to order 8:02am**
- 2. Call to the audience**
- 3. Reports**

**A. Facilitator Report**

### **a. Volunteers -Northminster & NAU AmeriCorps Seniors**

We are so grateful for our wonderful volunteers from Northminster and NAU AmeriCorps Seniors. From Northminster, Ms. Hom, Ms. Volpe (3rd grade), Ms. Krepps (1st grade), and Ms. Sarah (4th grade) provide dedicated tutoring support. Through NAU AmeriCorps Seniors, Ms. Theresa supports our kindergarten students, and Mr. Lenny works with 5th grade, helping with math and engaging students in dominoes and chess during recess for grades 3–5. Their time, care, and commitment make a meaningful difference in our students' learning and school experience.

### **b. Lunch Recess Activities**

We are excited to begin offering lunch recess activities and invite parents to join us as volunteers! Opportunities will include leading outdoor games, arts and crafts, board games, and puzzles. To kick things off, we will launch a Walking Club for Walk around Wednesdays where students can walk around the field (near the shaded solar panels). We welcome parent support with running a water station, helping students refill bottles, walking alongside them, and cheering them on. School staff and monitors will always be present alongside volunteers to help supervise and support students. This is a wonderful way to build community, strengthen family-school connections, and keep our students motivated and active.

### **c. Black History Wall / Dream Wall**

Our Black History Wall will highlight influential Black leaders along with brief stories about their impact and the movement, as well as showcase Black artists and cultural icons in America. The goal is to inspire students as they pass by the display each day. In addition, students from Ms. Izzy and Ms. Tracy's classes will participate by creating a project where they color a world and their hands to represent that kindness starts with us, in support and celebration of Black History Month. Students also drew their dreams for our Dream Wall to inspire the students to have their own dreams too.

### **d. Kindness Letters – Supporting Student Council**

To support our student council, parents helped write kind letters to ensure every student received a note on Valentine's Day. This thoughtful effort spreads kindness builds a sense of unity and helps all students feel cared for and included in our school community.

### **e. Love of Reading Week Readers**

For Love of Reading Week, we are inviting professionals and community members from across the city and district to read to our students. Guest readers will include representatives from nonprofit organizations, TUSD departments (Language Acquisition, African American Student Services, Native American Student Services, and Family Resource & Engagement), as well as the U.S. Air Force, Tucson Police Department, University of Arizona Public Health, Pima County Public Library, Pima Community College Women's Basketball, and University High School students. This experience provides students with meaningful exposure to a wide range of professionals and community leaders while promoting a love of reading.

### **f. School Quality Survey**

We are making strong efforts to ensure our School Quality Survey is successful. Flyers with QR codes will be posted around campus and shared online to make access easy for families. To increase participation, we will also promote the survey during upcoming events, helping us reach more families and encourage their valuable feedback.

## **B. Principal Report**

### **Behavior Management & Expectations**

We want to share with families that we have a clear plan in place to ensure consistency across our school when it comes to behavior expectations and consequences. This helps all staff follow the proper steps and supports a safe, structured learning environment for every student.

We continue to focus on encouraging positive behavior through our P.A.W.S. expectations, helping students understand what is expected of them and promoting a respectful, positive school culture. This quarter, we will build on that work while also placing an added focus on increasing student engagement and involvement in their learning.

### **Academic Update**

As a team, we remain committed to working together to ensure our school continues to thrive. By focusing on supporting student learning, aligning instruction, and taking shared responsibility, we are confident that our

consistent efforts will lead to meaningful progress and continued success for all our students.

### **Staffing Updates**

Please join us in warmly welcoming Ms. Karime Arellano, Preschool ExED TA, along with Ms. Cheyanne Velarde and Ms. Yatziry Ramirez to our campus! Cheyanne and Yatziry are Pathways to Teaching candidates and will be working with Ms. Tracy this semester—we're excited to have them with us.

We're also happy to share a new partnership with NAU AmeriCorps Seniors, bringing additional volunteers to support our students. Many of you already know Linny, who spends time with students during lunch and supports 5th grade math on Mondays and Fridays. Beginning next week, we will also welcome Theresa, who will be volunteering in our kindergarten classrooms.

### **C. Community Representative Report**

Terry Reed from Northminster Presbyterian Church could not make it for this meeting but Northminster Resources are available on our social media, flyers and by word of mouth.

-Northminster Presbyterian Church hosts a Food Pantry Distribution every Tuesday from 8:00–10:00 AM.

-Community Food Bank & Interfaith Community Food Services: From November 2025 through May 2026, families can receive free fresh produce at various locations across our community.

🌟 No documentation required

🕒 Morning pick-up times

📍 Multiple locations and dates available

This is a great opportunity to support healthy eating and connect with helpful community resources.

## **4. Discussion/Information Items**

### **a. TUSD Policies and Protocols on Immigration**

Ms. Apaez shared important information about how TUSD staff should respond if ICE agents are on district property and reviewed TUSD's commitment to ensuring that our schools remain safe, welcoming places where all students can learn and thrive—free from immigration-related investigations or enforcement.

Families were provided with a take-home document summarizing this information. Additionally, Community Rapid Response Team cards and ILRC "Red Cards" are available at the front office for anyone who would like a copy.

**b. Focus Group Meeting to follow 2.2.26@ 9:45am - Facilitator Jane Brown**

Thank you to Ms. Brown for accepting being the facilitator for the Focus Group. Focus Group will start promptly at 9:45am

**c. March Cafecito will be moved to 3.9.26**

Cafecito had to be moved from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. Thank you all for your understanding. All agreed.

**d. Math & Science Night Planning**

In collaboration with 21st Century and Site Council, our Family Engagement team is thrilled to host Math & Science Night for families to explore, learn, and have fun together!

Families can dive into hands-on math and science activities led by our talented teachers and staff. We'll be spreading the word far and wide with social media, flyers, and posters, so everyone can join the excitement. We're also partnering with Site Council to bring Mad Science to our event for a spectacular, interactive presentation! Plus, community members and local organizations will have tables to share resources and opportunities for families.

Some of our wonderful partners include the TUSD Catalina Family Resource Center, Tucson Police Department, and Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, among others. The choir will also perform!

- **Teacher Involvement – Sign up genius**

To encourage staff participation in the event, Ms. Karina will email teachers and staff to invite them to help during the event and send a sign-up genius. Ms. Apaez will also follow up in faculty newsletters.

**Teachers will have the option to either:**

Plan their own activity for their table, or

Choose from a list of pre-organized table activities that will be provided.

This gives everyone the flexibility to participate in a way that works best for them while contributing to a fun and engaging evening for our families.

**e. Workshops for parents**

Parent Vue and Parent Square workshops would be a great idea. Will work to ensure we have a workshop on this soon.

#### **f. New Ideas for second semester**

We had a brief discussion about upcoming events and will continue collaborating with all parties to ensure every activity runs smoothly and aligns with the school calendar and team plans. Exciting events on the horizon include the Volunteer Appreciation Reception, Earth Day, Talent Show, Field Day, PTO support, and Teacher support, among others!

#### **5. Action Item**

- a. Ms. Apaez-Gutierrez and Ms. Karina will work out the plan and structure for Math and Science Night and will share information with staff and ask for volunteers to set up a table.
- b. Set up a Sign-Up Genius and send Staff and promote online to parents
- c. Set up tablet and School Quality survey QR posters in cafeteria for Chilli Cook Off & Science Night
- d. Come up with a map for Math & Science Night for tables and Presenter Area
- e. Structure a plan for Walk Around Wednesday and volunteer lunch recess ideas
- f. We will also come up with parent workshops to help students with homework at home and how to understand Parent Square and ParentVue.

#### **6. Plan agenda for the next meeting**

- a. End of the year programs and events.
- b. Feedback
- c. School Updates
- d. Reflection and Celebration
- e. Community and Summer Resources
- f. Ways to stay Connected

Next Meeting 4.6.26

#### **7. Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourn 9:30 am