Verde Valley Board Advisory Committee

Yavapai College
Verde Valley Campus - Building M, Room 203
601 Black Hills Drive, Clarkdale, AZ 86324

Approved Minutes
January 21, 2015

VVBAC Members present: Bill Regner, Vice Chair; Carolyn Fisher; Randy Garrison; Amber Marchant-Lee; Leona Wathogoma (8:10 a.m.); Janet Aniol (8:20 a.m.)

VVBAC Guests present: Barbara U'Ren, Superintendent, Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District, David Lykins, Superintendent, Sedona-Oak Creek Unified School District

VVBAC Members absent: Paul Chevalier, Chair
DGB Members present: Al Filardo, VVBAC Liaison, District 3
College employees present: Linda Buchanan, Verde Valley Community Education Coordinator

Approval of Meeting Minutes
Carolyn Fisher moved, Amber Marchant-Lee seconded to approve the Verde Valley Board Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for December 3, 2014 as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Updates
Committee member reports on information/activities since Dec 3, 2014: Randy Garrison inquired as to next steps subsequent to VACTE/YCDGB joint Board meeting in 2014; Filardo clarified that YC agreed to conduct research to be completed by spring 2015. Data is being collected and analyzed, and future engagement will be scheduled. Vice Chair Regner questions whether Kurt Haskell of YC Regional Economic Development Center/Small Business Development Center will share data regarding study process? Vice Chair Bill Regner reopens matter of previously approved Dec 3 2014 minutes; makes motion; seconded by Garrison to amend previously approved minutes noting that Regner specifically requested Kurt Haskell present at Jan 7 (cancelled) meeting. Regner states that Verde Valley Executive Dean’s Advisory Committee (EDAC) member will be invited to report to VVAC on future agendas. Committee members expressed appreciation to Chevaliers for their hospitality at SU Jan 11 social at Chevalier residence/Sedona.

Verde Valley School Superintendents panel: Amber Marchant-Lee, Superintendent, Camp Verde Unified School District; Barbara U’Ren, Superintendent, Cottonwood-Oak Creek Unified School District; David Lykins, Superintendent, Sedona-Oak Creek Unified School District

Amber Marchant-Lee introduces panelists, and invites Barbara U’Ren to present demographics; C-OCUSD is now K-12 district allowing for possible expansion of IB programming. Planning for college needs to begin at pre-school. C-OCSD students generally have good access, but limited awareness of community college presence and opportunities. U’Ren questions how, as a district, community resources converge to ensure financial support creating opportunity for every child to seek higher education. Local school districts have high rate of free/reduced lunch program, representing families living below
federal poverty level. Suggestion: create community vision, financial support, build college presence in 5th – 8th grades focusing on student interest in future careers; encourage family visits to campus with YC mementos provided to visitors; coach families on financial planning in preparation for college; host non-traditional and correlated career days for boys and girls; expand Gear-up Program for 7th and 8th grade students; develop summer enrichment programs to create college-university awareness.

Randy Garrison stated desire for additional YC outreach and recruitment activities such as YC presence at 8th grade promotion ceremonies. Al Filardo shared recent data from “State with Worst Schools of 2015” report showing correlation between low-income families and low-achieving students.

Dave Lykins supports community planning process to build collaboration, recognizing importance of regular monthly meetings between K-12 districts and community college. Sedona has 49% free/reduced eligible student population. 85% of RRHS students enter post-secondary education; current university vs. community college bound students at 65/20 ratio, trending towards 50/35 ratio. Supports U’ren’s suggestion to include career days in elementary and middle-school grades, querying “how do we build partnerships?” Sedona has recently expanded dual-enrollment with YC. Lykins emphasizes importance of educators working with legislators to prioritize funding for public education; states Arizona is top state in nation for “most money taken away” from education funding. Lykins states legislators are prioritizing prison funding over education funding. Lykins believes in expanding leadership opportunities and responsibilities within education.

Amber Marchant-Lee states free/reduced population at CVUSD typically ranges from 70 – 80%. Yavapai College is lifeline to Camp Verde students. Believes there may be loss of communication between messages sent out by YC vs. “what is received” by students, families and greater community. Technological challenges with internet access is prevalent in Camp Verde community. Marchant-Lee states the CVHS enjoys positive relationship with YC recruitment and dual-enrollment; wishes for dual enrollment to remain tuition-free for secondary students.

Garrison requests explanation of dual-enrollment funding. Lykins states College receives tuition from school district based on dual enrollment; college-certified teachers deliver curriculum at high school campuses; students receive high school and college credit. Al Filardo states that college experiences revenue loss during dual enrollment, but program is of great benefit to students.

Garrison suggests YC establish learning center/lab in Camp Verde. Amber Marchant-Lee states that YC presence is missed in Camp Verde since closure of leased space several years ago. Committee and panel discussion ensues regarding college placement testing in Camp Verde. Janet Aniol states community need for learning center in Beaver Creek/Lake Montezuma communities. Carolyn Fisher states that retiree population is a potentially untapped resource with highly-qualified volunteers. Janet Aniol mentions restrictive limits on volunteer responsibilities.

Committee and panel discussion ensues regarding K-12 expectations for YC engagement. David Lykins states Sedona may be able to provide transportation for summer programming
on Verde Valley Campus. Lykins would like to create certificated program in Performing Arts at YC for SRRHS students. Hospitality and culinary and various tech programs are also desired. Barbara U’ren mentions obstacles between International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum alignment and YC. David Lykins states that SRHSS is “facility-rich” with financial Maintenance &Operations challenges. Summer transportation is a challenge for families in outlying regions. Panel agrees that opportunity for higher employment becomes the incentive for students to seek college education in specific career areas such as nursing and teacher certification. Barbara U’Ren states that Natural Resource Management is an emerging area of local employment. Al Filardo suggests VVAC develop data-driven discussion and planning. Filardo states that parents are key to directing students’ choice of enrollment. Randy Garrison states his concern that ‘VVAC information gathering’ may extend years without program-specific action. Panel and committee agree that access to current opportunities is of immediate concern.

Wrap-up: C-OCUSD has access but lacks awareness; plan needed to build awareness, beginning at elementary level. S-OCUSD wants to create presence on high school campus to heighten awareness and pursue Lykins’ Performing Arts & Visual Excellence (PAVE) dream; continue community dialog and identify action steps. CVUSD seeks to build parent awareness and confidence within families to explore and enroll in higher education opportunities; identify and take small action steps to narrow growing gap between access and awareness. All districts want to explore public transportation, including school district buses, to enhance access to campuses. Verde Valley Superintendents’ Chair David Lykins invites Al Filardo to attend monthly Superintendents’ meetings, which Verde Valley Campus executive dean, James Perey regularly attends.

Ownership Linkage
Seeking community input on higher education, economic, and cultural needs of the Verde Valley. Regner states that VVAC Chair and Vice Chair have differing opinion regarding Call to Public at VVAC meetings, which will be discussed at meeting (TBD) with DGB Chair McCarver and VVAC Liaison Filardo.

Future Meeting Schedule (8 a.m. at Verde Valley Campus unless otherwise noted)
Feb 4, 9 a.m.: Yavapai-Apache Nation, 2400 W. Datsi, Camp Verde
Feb 18: w/John Morgan, YC Career & Technology Education presenting
Mar 3: DGB invitation for VVAC to attend scheduled DGB meeting
Mar 4: w/ OLLI presentation
Mar 18: w/Steve Walker, YC Vice President/YC Foundation Executive Director presenting

Motion by Amber Marchant-Lee, seconded by Carolyn Fisher to approve meeting schedule as posted immediately above; motion carries unanimously.

Adjourn
Motion by Carolyn Fisher, seconded by Janet Aniol, to adjourn the Verde Valley Board Advisory Committee Meeting for January 21, 2015; motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.