

## **For Immediate Release: TUSD Supporters Call for Ethnic Studies Review Panel**

Tucsonans United For A Sound District join TUSD School Board Member Dr. Mark Stegeman and TUSD School Board member elect Mr. Michael Hicks in their separate calls for a review of the Ethnic Studies Curriculum and proposes the development of an Ethnic Studies Review Panel.

Tucsonans United For A Sound District (TU4aSD) offers a proposal for the Ethnic Studies Review Panel and urges the TUSD School Board to place the proposal on the Board's agenda prior to HB2281 taking effect.

TUCSON, AZ. (November 27, 2010)

TU4aSD proposes specific recommendations for the development of an Ethnic Studies Review Panel in response to the calls by both TUSD School Board Member elect Michael Hicks and TUSD School Board Member Dr. Mark Stegeman for a review of the Ethnic Studies classes, according to the procedure described in TUSD Board policy IJJ.

### Policy IJJ

The Board will approve the course of study, the basic text materials including digital materials for each course, and all units recommended for credit under each general subject title prior to implementation of the course. The Board will also approve and adopt all new text and supplementary materials.

Text material selection procedures shall provide for the appropriate involvement of staff members, students, parents and community members. Selection procedures must also include the availability of all materials in accessible format. These procedures may provide for the establishment of text selection committees. Recommendations from text materials selection committees will be forwarded to the Superintendent.

Text and supplementary materials for common schools (K-8) recommended by text materials selection committees will be placed on display in the District office for a period of at least sixty (60) days prior to the meeting at which the Board will consider their adoption.

The Governing Board shall prescribe for high schools up to five text and/or digital materials for each course and the teacher, with the consent of the Governing Board, may use any one of the prescribed text materials for the purposes of his/her course.

If the course includes a basic textbook and uses supplemental materials that have not been approved by the Governing Board at the time of approval of the course, a teacher may use the supplemental books with the approval of the Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer in the Department of Academic Excellence. Use of the supplemental materials shall be brought to the attention of the Governing Board during the school year in which they are added for ratification.

All computer software must be approved by the departments of Educational Technology and Technology and Telecommunication prior to purchase.

In a letter to the TUSD Governing Board, TU4aSD states, "The development of this panel is not a statement as to the value of the programs. The panel called for will be neutral and conduct the due diligence needed to reassure an anxious community. It is imperative that this panel be impartial with no stake in the outcome of their findings. Their work must be fair and comprehensive."

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