

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

Schools Committee Action Plan 2011-12

SWNI empowers citizen action to improve and maintain the livability of Southwest neighborhoods.

Schools Com. promotes the best schools for all students through strong neighborhood involvement

Action Item	Ongoing/ New & Lead	Other Committees	Status
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Hot Topics

“Good Ideas” Forum – creative ways the community can support our schools in a time of tight budgets	Ongoing Michael		Forum set up
State of Our SWNI-area schools	Ongoing Will		Survey sent to schools
Neighborhood Schools Survey – promote actively	Ongoing Will		Active
Emergency Preparedness Forum? – with Betsy Shand, Crime Prevention chair	Ongoing Will	Crime Prevention	Fall, Winter
Boundary changes ? e.g.Gray	New		On hold
Gardens and Sustainability – Green School Certification	Ongoing Ronda, Sarah		Active
NAs exempted from CUB fees	Ongoing Will	Crime Prevention	Active
Bullying – get neighborhood help	New Zahra	Crime Prevention?	Active

Communication

1. News Letter: SWNI Schools Communicator Publicize successes in the schools, issues, comments. Quarterly publication	Ongoing Will		Active, quarterly
2. Use SWNI website to publicize, promote school/Neighborhood connections – Schools Page w. school activities, Agenda and Minutes, links to PPS websites for SWNI Schools, current issues	Ongoing Will	Communications	Active
3. Arrange school visits for neighborhood residents along with sessions for community awareness of school system structure, testifying, getting info	Ongoing, Will, Sarah		As needed.
4. Promote school events at the neighborhood level (in the SW Neighborhood News) and neighborhood events to the schools (encourage partnership opportunities for community building events) Attend School events to promote SWNI	Ongoing Committee Reps		As needed

Advocacy

1. Multicultural effectiveness in local schools: review & publicize status of school programs, plan SWNI events, raise community awareness & support of cultures in area schools.	Ongoing Will, Jean		Active
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Collaboration, coordination

1. Develop NA liaison “ambassadors” to schools to promote closer ties, keep awareness of common needs	Ongoing Will		Fall 2011
2. 80+% for Education – explore potential interest, to involve the 80+% who don’t have kids in school	Ongoing Will		Active
3. Share agenda items via email with other SWNI committee meetings	Ongoing Will	All	Monthly
4. Recruit committee members from all NAs – Focus on schools (See outreach list) Esp. PTA’s, ASK FOR IT	Ongoing Will	NA chairs	Fall, 2011
5. Safer Routes to Schools – coord w. Trails, Transportation, Crime Prevention	Ongoing Will	Transportation, Crime Prev.	Review w chairs
6. Partner with schools to ensure school property remains open for public use –e.g. Smith, Stephenson, Jackson Smith School site	Ongoing Will	Parks	Review w Parks chair

On Hold – for future action as needed (coordinate w. other committees)

1. Review concerns about PPS surplus property policy changes. Work w. Land Use Committee	Held	Land Use	Check w LU chair
2. Encourage a good public process to dedicate open space to the City or Metro for ownership	Held	Parks	Check w Parks chair
3. Arrange school police visit to Schools Committee for forum on school safety, other areas, e.g. communications among schools. (Coord w Crime Prevention Committee)	Held	Crime Prevention	Check w Crime Prev char