

#33
MAY 10 2007

CITY COUNCIL MEMO MC07-042

DATE: MAY 1, 2007

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THRU: W. MARK PENTZ, CITY MANAGER 

FROM: MARIAN STANLEY, ASSISTANT TO CITY MANAGER 

RE: Resolution No. 4063, Authorizing Seton Catholic High School, serving the East Valley high school student population, to submit a grant application to the Gila River Indian Community's State-Shared Revenue Program in the Amount of \$1,500,00.00 for a Capital Campaign to increase access to Catholic and private education in the East Valley Communities.

Attached is the memo from Patricia Collins outlining the grant proposal Seton Catholic High School plans to submit to the Gila River Indian Community's State-Shared Revenue Program. Representatives from Seton Catholic High School will be available at the Study Session to answer any questions.

SE ON
CATHOLIC
High School

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 1, 2007

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICIA COLLINS, MS, PRINCIPAL SETON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL *P.C.*

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 4063, Authorizing Seton Catholic High School, serving the East Valley high school student population, to submit a grant application to the Gila River Indian Community's State-Shared Revenue Program in the Amount of \$1,500,00.00 for a Capital Campaign to increase access to Catholic and private education in the East Valley Communities.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1954, Arizona's Seton Catholic High School began as a school which primarily served Chandler youth, many from migrant and farming families, who were non-white citizens, and thus, were unable to attend local public schools because of segregation. In 1973, Seton Catholic became a diocesan school, operating under the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix.

In 1980, the building that housed Seton Catholic was mostly destroyed by a fire. The building was on Chandler Blvd., just east of Arizona Avenue. Seton families and students were determined to rebuild, and with help from the Diocese of Phoenix and the Chandler community, a new school was built at the present location, 1150 N. Dobson Road. The school has been at that location since 1981, where few improvements have been made to the school due to funding constraints.

The school presently serves a diverse student body of Catholic and non-Catholic young men and women from public and private schools across the East Valley and Maricopa. Students from St. Peter's Parish, located on the Gila Indian Reservation, and students from St. Anthony's in Casa Grande, are also being served at Seton.

The East Valley communities served by Seton Catholic have experienced unprecedented growth in the last decade. The City of Chandler, for example, once occupied 80 acres. It now encompasses 58 square miles and is home to 240,000 residents.

Despite Seton Catholic's efforts to keep up with the increased demand for its services, attendance has exceeded the maximum capacity of 500 students. Seton has grown tremendously. In 1990,

SE ON CATHOLIC High School

Seton had an enrollment of 196 students. By 1996, the enrollment had almost doubled to 385 students. Presently, and for the past 6 years, Seton's enrollment has been at over 500 students. The demand to attend Seton Catholic continues to grow. During the past several years, over 20 percent of all applicants were turned away due to space limitations. The 2007-2008 freshman class is at full enrollment, with a waiting list of over 50 students. Non-classroom space and temporary buildings are being used to accommodate the demand.

SETON STUDENTS' ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Seton has an outstanding educational record. The U.S. Department of Education reports that Catholic school graduates of every ethnic background choose a pre-professional college curriculum twice as often as public school graduates. And, 97 percent of all Catholic high school graduates pursue a post-secondary education. The academic success of students graduating from Seton supports these reports:

- Seton's Class of 2006 was awarded more than \$3.2 million in scholarships, with 98 percent of the class attending college.
- Seton Catholic had five percent of its 2006 graduating seniors chosen as National Merit Scholarship finalists. Two of those Seton finalists advanced to be designated Merit Scholars. There are 8,200 Merit Scholars designated annually across the United States.
- In 2006, 48 junior and senior students took Advanced Placement exams. 89 percent of them earned college credit.

In addition to educational excellence, Seton places a high value on community service. Last year, Seton students provided more than *6,500 volunteer hours* for community service projects, including a service in Agua Prieta, Mexico. The Agua Prieta trip is very diverse in the kinds of projects with which the students become involved. The students help the poverty stricken families by building homes, distributing food and clothing. Another community activity taken on by Seton students is regular volunteer work at Paz de Cristo, an East Valley soup kitchen in Mesa, Arizona.

For Seton to continue its legacy of quality Catholic education for families in the area, it must expand to meet the academic needs of the growing Southeast Valley. To do this effectively, the school must continue to provide and expand Advanced Placement and honors courses. It must improve technology resources and laboratories. It must expand athletic and fine arts facilities. And to fully live the Gospel challenge, it must have a place for all students to come together to worship.

Seton Catholic developed a three-phase Master Plan to address these issues and direct its future growth. This plan outlines the construction of new buildings and facilities in phases, so that the school is operational during the entire construction period. At completion, the school's facilities will have reached its desired capacity to serve 1,000 students.

SE ON CATHOLIC High School

Phase I was a resounding success with \$6,000,000 raised to purchase an additional 12.3 acres of land adjacent to the current campus for its expansion; build a chapel; and relocate the football field. Large grants for Phase I came from the Virginia G. Piper, Trusts, the Steele Foundation and affluent Catholic families who had a vision for Seton's future.

Phase II of the Plan, entitled *Inspiring the Future: Building for Excellence*, is currently underway, with a goal of \$5,000,000. This phase will fund a new two-story, 31,000 sq. ft. classroom building. This building will add 21 classrooms and upon completion, the school's facilities will have the capacity to serve 750 students. Significant donations have been asked from, or will be asked from, the Marley and Helios Foundations, the Dorrance Family Foundation and supporting Catholic families.

Phase III will fund the construction of a second classroom building resulting in a capacity to serve a student body of 1,000. Construction will also provide space for a state of the art library and media center, a new administration facility and a new cafeteria. A performing arts center is planned for the future. The cost of the entire project in today's dollars is \$28 million.

While the plan outlines "brick and mortar" activities, Seton Catholic High School's goal is to increase its capacity to prepare students in the Valley to become competent, conscientious and compassionate community leaders. Seton's mission is "to call upon its students to full participation in the community of faith in which Gospel values and Catholic Church teachings are integrated into the lives of its students. Central to this call is the challenge to all students to achieve superior standards of educational excellence so they will be fully prepared to spread the Gospel and to be contributing members of the Church and society. "

The Gila River Indian Community has invited Seton Catholic High School to submit a proposal to support this capital campaign.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Seton Catholic High School is requesting a \$1,500,000 grant from the Gila River Indian Community's state-shared revenue program, to be allocated over a five-year period. Grant funds will be used to fund Phase II of the three-phase Master Plan. Specifically, this grant will be used to fund construction of a new two-story, 31,000 sq. ft. classroom building, with 21 classrooms, and provide for improvements around the new classroom building.

PROPOSED MOTION:

Move that the City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 4063 authorizing Seton Catholic High School to submit a grant application to the Gila Indian River Indian Community's State-Shared Revenue program for the amount of \$1,500,000 for funding to improve education in the East Valley. Improved education has been identified by the Gila Indian Community's State-Shared Revenue programs as a focus area.

RESOLUTION NO. 4063

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHANDLER, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING SETON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY'S STATE-SHARED REVENUE PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000.00 FOR FUNDING TO IMPROVE EDUCATION IN THE EAST VALLEY.

WHEREAS, the Gila River Indian Community has a State Shared Revenue Program that funds public safety, transportation, health care, economic development and educational programs and has invited Seton Catholic High School to submit a proposal to support its capital campaign; and

WHEREAS, the receipt of Gila River Indian Community funds would enable Seton Catholic High School to construct new buildings and facilities in support of its educational mission; and

WHEREAS, Seton Catholic High School wishes to submit an application for \$1,500,000.00 to the Gila River Indian Community State-Shared Revenue Program to provide funding for its capital campaign.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Chandler, Arizona, that the Mayor is authorized to sign application documents necessary for the Seton Catholic High School funding request to the Gila River Indian Community, indicating that the Council is in support of this project to expand educational opportunities both for residents of Chandler and of neighboring communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Chandler, Arizona, this ____ day of _____, 2007.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing Resolution No. 4063 was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Chandler, Arizona, at a regular meeting held on the ____ day of _____, 2007, and that a quorum was present thereat.

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY