

All-district staff get together has some surprises

District staff got together in the High School Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, August 1 for an orientation/rally/in-service to help get them ready for the new school year. (School starts August 7.) There were a couple of surprises. First, State Superintendent Tom Horn was there and spoke briefly. He arrived on crutches saying he was in Havasu to do some water skiing, but had torn his hamstring. Since he could not ski, he decided to come to our meeting.



The second surprise came at the end of a presentation titled *Stumbling Blocks to Stepping Stones* by guest speaker Dr. Debra Peppers. Dr. Peppers is a retired teacher who now works as a motivational speaker. She has had a distinguished career, and is a member of the National Teachers Hall of Fame. Her well-received presentation was full of stories from her youth as a troubled, overweight teen and her many years as a classroom teacher, as well as specific advice for dealing with difficult students.

Teachers and school support staff do some of the most valuable work in the world, but sometimes it helps to have someone like Dr. Peppers remind you of how important you are. What was the second surprise? Dr. Peppers made donations to the Travis Sims medical fund (See "When bad things happen" story below.) and the K-12 Foundation.

Pictured- (left to right) Ken Danley, Karen Gifford, and Eddie Saeger go on stage with Dr. Peppers to take her "famous losers" quiz. Dr. Peppers read negative descriptive information that had been applied to famous and successful people at some time in their lives (Abraham Lincoln, William Faulkner, Thomas Edison, Lucille Ball, etc.), and they had to guess who the information applied to. Chosen for their intellectual magnificence, the three district employees guessed correctly every time (with help from the audience in one case).

Links

[Dr. Peppers in the National Teachers Hall of Fame](#)
[Superintendent Malay's remarks](#)