

9/8/08

Site council minutes

Attending: Ed Schwartz, Joel Domingo, Robert M. Huberth, John Miner, Lisa Calvert, Maria Gutierrez, Betsy Jones, Nicole Swedberg, Kellie LaRue, Deb Voss, Holly DeMaranville, Janet Kimball, Rebecca Rutzick, Nova Herzog, Judy Ruha, Karen Appel, Valerie Courtney, Rob Einaudi, Teresa Swanson, Crystal Okada, Ginny Allemann, Elizabeth Neuman, Marsha Schoene-Langohr, Rick Lemberg, Julie Bisson, Sandra Brettler, Joan Roberts

Principal's Report/John Miner

*We are at full capacity. All classes are at 25, more or less. Working to do more inclusion of our 4B students into the gen ed classrooms this year.

*Facilities: Much work done over the summer on the cabin—stairs/ramp/sound systems. More work to be done under the eco-grant they just received. About to get under way on work on the performance space. Ed Schwartz has begun the planning and work will begin this month.. Security upgrades have been done on the building in the north and south parking lots to discourage late night gatherings.

*Emergency supplies: John and Jenny went through all the supplies this summer and organized them in the east room of the annex.

*Staff development: NE Foundation for Children/Responsive Classroom—several teachers attended this training in August and are sharing what they learned with the rest of the staff.

*After school activities: John and Jenny have refined the form that needs to be used to reserve/request space for after-school activities. Site council would like to be more involved in knowing who is requesting space and this form will help streamline that process.

*Through the BTA levy (physical plant upgrades), we will be having some work done on the building next summer. The district will bring their proposal of projects to John, which he will bring to site council for review. The big effect this will have is that Kids Time may have to move out of the building for the summer. John will be exploring what the options will be. We have to give parents ample notice if Kids Time will move next summer.

Vice Chair/Julie Bisson

As part of our work to refresh our by-laws, we need to return to using the consensus model (as opposed to the parliamentary process) for decision-making. The consensus model is what is in our by-laws, we just need to settle on the exact process. Julie has been researching consensus models and presented a proposal for a formal consensus process. (Details are on the back of the agenda.)

The process is:

Proposals would be submitted to the site council Chair a week ahead and she would circulate to all voting members of the site council and post it in the newsletter.

The person submitting the proposal would attend the site council meeting

LEVEL 1: At the meeting, the Vice-Chair would read the proposal aloud and open the floor to questions and broad open discussion. A time limit would be assigned to the discussion.

After asking whether there are any unresolved concerns, we ask, "All who agree and consent?" "All who disagree with part or all but consent?" and "All who disagree and will not consent?" (If even one person is at the latter, then we don't have consensus and move to Level 2 discussion.)

*At this point Ed suggests that everyone present participate in the call to consensus. If the discussion moves to the next level, then just the voting members participate.

LEVEL 2: List concerns. Facilitator will group them, then move to Level 3.

LEVEL 3: Discussion to resolve group concerns, then call for consensus again. If no consensus, we restate remaining concerns, clarify them, discuss one concern at a time, then call for consensus again.

If no consensus reached at this point, we go to alternative closing options:

Send to committee

Stand aside (The decision is adopted with unresolved concerns listed.)

Declare a block (Facilitator can decide to pursue one of the other options at this point.)

Abandon consensus and call for a vote if the decision must be made at that time.

Call to consensus to adopt this formal consensus process as a decision-making process for site council with the addition of Ed's suggestion (that everyone present participate in the initial call to consensus) and Rick's suggestion (that we, as a last resort, can abandon consensus and call for a vote if the decision must be made at that time.) **Consensus reached.**

Action Items/Chair/Maria Gutierrez

After school drama classes to be taught by Meredith Berlin and Mim Turnbull, divided by age. Both have done after school drama classes before. They would like to do the classes on Tuesday/Thursday and have arranged with Kids Time to use the cafeteria stage. Cost is approximately \$8/class.

Nova raised the question as to whether anyone leading an after school program has to have a background check. John and Maria agreed to add the background check form to the approval process.

Call to consensus to approve the after school drama classes with the use of the new application for after-school groups, with the attachment of the background check form. Concerns raised to ensure that the background check form is a formal part of the process for all applications going forward. Agreement reached that the background check is essential and it will be attached to the drama application and all others. Call to consensus. **Consensus reached.**

Funding for email server/Joel: We are shifting to more electronic communication with parents and would like to move these communications to one of the professional platform services. This would help get past spam filters. Cost is \$10-\$15 per month. Would enable us to maintain a list that has names associated with the email address. We could then more easily move departing families off the list and wouldn't have to send out the September newsletters on paper.

Call to consensus to approve this email server. **Consensus reached.**

Linguistic Remedies Training/John: Staff would like to have the opportunity for training with Ashley for grades 3-5. Ashley can meet with this group of teachers and work with their classes 14 days this year in 5-hour sessions at a cost of \$2100, plus supply costs, for the school year. Funding source proposed to come from the underuse of ELOB-designated funds. John requests approval of spending \$2700 for this staff development.

Discussion: Important for parents to understand more about LR. Having someone model LR in the classroom is a powerful tool for the teachers.

Call for consensus to approve this use of funds. **Consensus reached.**

Room improvement requests/Maria: After fielding a request from a teacher for some money for classroom improvements, Maria proposes that we offer all the teachers an equal amount of money (suggests \$250) for classroom improvements. We need to work out where this money will come

from. Do we have enough reserves to meet this request? John will carry this discussion back to the staff to assess what the exact needs are. Perhaps the teachers can submit proposals. Robert will work to clarify what facilities funds we have, but says we could pull about \$4K without too much difficulty. Robert and Maria will discuss further.

Treasurer/Robert M. Huberth

Line 107/Savings acct: Seems high. John explained that it could be a combination of rollover from last year and payments for this year. We need to know what has been put on deposit for this year's kindergarten expense and whether all the expenses have been submitted for staff development from last summer. Robert and Nova will figure out exactly what's going on here.

Ed would like to see a breakdown of total savings so we have a clearer picture of exactly what we have on hand.

Diversity/Julie Bisson

Diversity committee will meet once a month this year; dates will be posted on the school calendar. They have a plan to teach the 4th and 5th graders to use the Persona Dolls to tell stories, and then to take those dolls into the primary classrooms to share the stories. Part of the primary focus is to help form bridges between the general ed and the special ed kids.

Communications/Joel Domingo and Karen Weisbard

Joel encourages all site council chairs to submit their information to the newsletter. All site council members will be part of the circ of the draft newsletter. Several people requested that Joel and Karen send out a reminder on Thursday mornings to get submissions in.

District Relations/Kellie LaRue

Northeast cluster overcapacity: Meeting next Tuesday at Roosevelt at 6:30 pm. It will be the ONLY meeting held this year in time to make changes for next year. We need as many parents as possible to attend.

Background: Four years ago, the district recognized that the NE cluster was in need of more school space, but due to political reasons, this never happened. Now all the schools are over capacity and the district expects an additional 300 children to be added to the cluster next year.

Three proposals for next year: (1) convert space to instructional use (courtyards etc) (2) add portables and (3) convert exceptionally large classroom spaces into two rooms.

The district has also said they want to create a new K-8 in the NE cluster. Our site is on the list as a possibility. Staff needs to begin discussions about this issue.

Hospitality/Holly DeMaranville & Deb Voss

Back to school picnic at View Ridge Park 12-2 this Sunday. Hospitality will provide treats!

Curriculum/Lisa Calvert & Nicole Swedberg

Liz will speak to the staff tomorrow about what they want to say at Curriculum Night about how the staff is implementing LR. It's important that it is clear to the parents that this is new to everyone and staff is just beginning to implement the program.

Fundraising/Betsy Jones

Walkathon date is set and the committee is working on it.

Green Grant for Cabin/Joan Roberts

We received a grant for an "eco portable". Installing skylights; installing a water retention system for bamboo, which will act as a carbon sink; painting a mural on the outside wall to act as a heat sink during winter; installing a photovoltaic array (solar panel) to generate energy. This project

has to be completed in the off-hours to demonstrate community involvement. The kids will be acting as tour guides throughout the process, demonstrating their knowledge of the process.

Additional Business/Maria

Who is handling childcare for site council meetings and other events? We need someone to be the contact person so parents know whom to call and so we know how many kids are coming. Emma Swanson will be the babysitter. Maria stepped up and will be the coordinator.

Auction parking space: We need to submit an article to the newsletter to remind parents not to park in the auction parking spaces.

Meeting adjourned.