

10/14/08

Site council minutes

Attending: Joel Domingo, Robert M. Huberth, Lori Fujimoto, John Miner, Lisa Calvert, Maria Gutierrez, Betsy Jones, Nicole Swedberg, Kellie LaRue, Holly DeMaranville, Janet Kimball, Rebecca Rutzick, Nova Herzog, Rob Einaudi, Karen Appel, Crystal Okada, Ginny Allemann, Marsha Schoene-Langohr, Julie Bisson, Rob Einaudi, Eyal Arian, Tad Deshler, Steve Chavez, Liz McCormack, Nora Scully, Sara Grow

Principal's Report/John Miner

Tutoring/coaching schedule is coming together should begin this week

Facilities: Annex music room/cabin work is progressing. BTX Levy work will begin day after school releases and staff can return in mid-August. Largest project will require removal of all furniture from all teaching spaces so they can replace the flooring. New windows in the annex.

Upcoming school events: Getting ready for Curriculum Night on Linguistic Remedies. Hopeful for large attendance so parents can learn about the core of that program.

October 28th will be the Town Hall meeting to discuss capacity. A public presentation to the board is scheduled for tomorrow night (10/15). Harium Martin-Morris will be attending the Town Hall. Again, hopeful for large attendance as this issue will affect our school significantly within the next two years. John has more information about this issue if you are interested.

Five other NE cluster schools received new kindergartens this year. John feels we won't dodge this again, as we did this year. Another issue is the building of a large low-income housing complex near Northgate. We hope to manage this process as well as possible. If we are proactive in our approach, we can have some level of control over what happens at our school. The district is very focused on repurposing available space as classrooms.

The district projects a \$25 million shortfall, plus a possible \$5 to 10 million loss of revenue from the state. Decisions still to come on cuts.

Professional development day focused on expeditions (resources and refinements) and work on the responsive classroom and linguistic remedies.

Staff Report/Marsha

School-wide recycling expedition is beginning. K-1st graders are sorting recyclables in the cafeteria. 2nd & 3rd graders are going to weigh and graph the materials. The 4th and 5th graders will make some recommendations about what we can do as a community.

Maria asked if someone on staff could put something together on this for the newsletter.

Julie and Maria are going to be working with several classrooms for Day of the Dead. They will create a shrine for the front hall (on election day) for a large display.

Action Items/Chair/Maria Gutierrez

1. After school activities:

Math Club/Eyal Arian: Meets in the library. Mainly focused on 5th graders but is open to 4th graders as well. First part focuses on offering new problem solving tools; the remainder of the time is spent preparing them for competitions. Built around working as groups to solve problems. (A problem Eyal is facing is that parents are not picking up their children on time. The permission slip the parents signed indicated that they needed to pick up their children on time. John will help

Eyal solve this issue.) **Call to consensus for math club to be an after school activity.**
Consensus reached.

Evening Boot Camp/Holly DeMaranville: Deb Voss and Holly auctioned off a boot camp and got a great response. They ended up continuing it on through the summer and the group would like to keep going through the winter, using the TC gym. Open to TC families/friends/teachers (for free!). **Call to consensus for the boot camp to use the gym.**
Consensus reached.

2. Communication:

Funding for Community Meetings/Karen Appel: In order to help parents be more involved/more informed about goings on in the school, the communications team proposes hosting some community meetings. These would allow parents to discuss any issues/concerns and ask questions.

One idea is to hold these before evening school events (with food). Concerns around this center on that (1) it makes for a long evening and (2) it may detract from the focus of the event.

The other idea is to hold grade-level potlucks to encourage parents to be each other's resources. Questions around this involve when is the best time to do this.

Action item involves getting funding for food and/or childcare for each event. Robert sees that there are some possibilities for finding funding in the budget. Communications requests an allocation of \$500 to enable them to plan the structure of these events. We'll table this until next month when we can discuss this in more detail.

Photo sharing/Tad Deshler: Concept is to find a mechanism to share the many photos taken throughout the school year. Photos can be uploaded to albums and then can be accessed by the community (a password would be required.) The photos can be used by classrooms, yearbook, auction slideshow, etc. The action item proposal is to create a Snapfish account. The password would be distributed to room parents, who could then share it with classroom parents. A concern was raised about parents who have not given permission for their children to be photographed. This would need to fall under the purview of the room parents. Suggestion made to have parents send all photos to room parents who would then review the images before uploading them.

One idea was to create a separate password for each classroom/album so there is more control over each album.

Maria will talk to office staff about how many parents have concerns about photos to get a sense of this. Suggests posting a brief explanation in the newsletter to have Tad receive comments before we move forward.

3. Staff requests:

Funding for room improvements: At the last meeting we discussed giving \$250 to each room for an improvement. The deadline to use these funds would be October 2009. **Request for consensus to give \$250 to each classroom (15 total) for improvements within a year.**
Consensus reached.

Treasurer/Robert M. Huberth

\$400 to hiring/recruitment appeared in Quick Books. Shouldn't be there; Robert will correct.

According to Robert's calculations, we cleared \$37K over what we budgeted. In light of that, John proposes we include library and other support rooms in the classroom improvement allocation just passed.

Robert would like to review this again with Nova. He can come back next month with a more definitive budget.

Fundraising/Betsy Jones

Walkathon: Happening on Friday. A special edition newsletter was sent this week.

Bazaar: To be held Thursday, December 11th. This year, Mary K is going to do a winter celebration sing along in the evening to bring more folks in. Staff should let Holly know who wants to do the pizza and bake sale.

Auction: Is pretty well staffed up now. First auction meeting has been held. Still looking for a site.

Grants/Robert Einaudi

Robert has set up a Wikispaces grants site to share information about grants. If you have information about grants, you can send that to Robert and he will post it. If you are interested, Robert can invite you to the site so you can have access to it. He will send invites to staff members so they can access the site.

Maria suggests a section in the newsletter where teachers can post smaller, more immediate needs so parents can donate.

Kelly notes that, given budget cuts, now would be a good time to go for grants.

Curriculum/Lisa Calvert & Nicole Swedberg

A flyer went home about curriculum night. Lisa and Nicole will connect with communications to do a special edition newsletter.

Tutoring: We have a final schedule for tutoring. All children have been assigned to tutors and we're ready to go.

Communications/Joel Domingo

Thank you to Kellie LaRue for helping the communications group get up and running for an all-electronic newsletter. There has been a lot of positive feedback from parents.

Parent Handbook: We are working on reformatting this in time for parent tours.

Facebook: Has been set up as another forum for communications.

Directory: Coming out next week!

Newsletter: New format has a standard template. The first half is all staff submissions; site council information follows; bulletin board-type items last. The goal is for all articles to be new.

Community meetings (from earlier discussion): Lisa raised the issue of needing to know exactly what the objective of the gathering is. (Questions & concerns or just community discussion) so we know who needs to be there in terms of an authority who can answer the questions/deal with the concerns. Concerns raised about childcare/need for adult supervision. Concern raised about conflicts with already planned classroom potlucks. Suggested that the idea should go back to the staff for further discussion.

District Relations/Kellie LaRue

We've been attending many meetings. We are in better shape than other schools in our cluster because we anticipated this issue last year. Kellie notes we need to continue with these efforts by planning what shape we want to take in the next five to ten years. The district has been pushing to move alternative programs, as they see them as more mobile. If Summit and AS1 are forced to move to the south end, we will see a definite change in the number of people who are looking at us.

Diversity/Julie Bisson

Diversity committee will be meeting tomorrow evening (October 15).

Hospitality/Holly DeMaranville & Deb Voss

Holly has a new "team" of 7th, 8th, 9th graders + one adult who is looking to do some babysitting. They are available for events. Keep them in mind!

Additional business/Maria

Maria is still working on parent group by-laws. She would like to have other people look at it so please let her know if you'd like to give some input.

Meeting adjourned.