

11/18/08

Site council minutes

Attending: Joel Domingo, John Miner, Lisa Calvert, Maria Gutierrez, Betsy Jones, Kellie LaRue, Holly DeMaranville, Janet Kimball, Rebecca Rutzick, Nova Herzog, Crystal Okada, Marsha Schoene-Langohr, Julie Bisson, Liz McCormack, Nora Scully, Lori Fujimoto, Todd Bohannon, Maria Callahan, Mary Schuneman, Liz Strausz, Susie Cantor, Deb Voss, Denise Gonzalez-Walker, Mari Brockhaus

Susie Cantor/Liz Strausz

Lice Issue/We are going to take a new approach to lice! Liz and Susie want to get a web site up to show what to look for; what to do when you have it (in a safe way); how to treat your kids and your house. Liz and Susie would also like to form a lice advice phone resource (with volunteer contacts in each class). They would also like to focus on lice prevention and create a culture of information within the school. Denise Gonzalez-Walker suggests that we might use best practices in terms of public health and work to improve on district policies. Denise (a public health professional) will work to help Liz and Susie.

Action Items

Todd Bohannon/Trip to the Amazon

As a fundraiser for the Todd's upcoming trip to the Amazon with middle school student, his group plans to offer babysitting on Saturday December 6th and Sunday December 14th for three hours each afternoon. (There will also be more dates throughout the year.) They will be using Todd's room and possibly Theresa's room. All money raised will go directly to the trip. School-age children only and there will be a limit on the number of kids. **Proposed: Request Site Council approval of this on an ongoing basis so that Todd's group is covered by our insurance. Consensus reached.**

Betsy Jones/Fundraising

In preparation for the annual appeal, the fundraising committee would like to print notecards to be mailed in advance of the appeal; also would like some as thank yous after the appeal. **Requesting approval of funds (\$225) to print 500 of each. Consensus reached, with one disagree but consent requesting that the committee try to get the printing donated.**

Maria/Chair

Additional \$2000 of John's facility funds requested for capital expenditures for resource rooms (e.g. library, art, resource room, OT/PT room, etc.). We can decide if we want to fund all rooms or just those who request it. Everyone would have through October 2009 to use it, so they could choose to use it after the work is done on the school this summer. **Requesting approval to make \$250 per room available through October 2009. Consensus reached.**

Maria/Photo sharing

Revisiting the discussion from the October meeting to set up Snapfish photo sharing accounts. A memo was sent out to teachers for review on the practicality of having a parent from each room review all images before posting to Snapfish. Joel raised the question of who will handle the archive? Should this be a committee position? How should the opening/closing of accounts be handled each year? We will table this until the December meeting.

John's report

School capacity issue:

John gave an overview of the issue (e.g. over-enrollment in the north/northeast cluster; under enrollment in the south) and also the related budgetary shortfall of \$24 million.

Board authorized the superintendent to explore closing schools. Also approved repurposing the Jane Adams building as a K-8. As a result of the imbalance of programs, the board made it clear that there will be some consolidation in the south end.

Guidelines for school closures:

Geographic needs in different parts of the city

Building condition

Assessing cost per pupil of education in each building (meaning smaller programs are more expensive)

Proximity (e.g. if they are closing a school they want to make sure that there is one nearby that is under enrolled)

Overall academic performance

Timetable: Timeline is very tight. Prelim proposals have already begun to be put together and these are changing almost daily. Looking at closing elementary schools and high schools.

- November 25th: prelim recommendations (will be pretty much the firm recommendation of the staff)
- December 3rd: recommendations will be discussed publicly at board meeting
- Dec 15, 16, 18: public discussions at affected schools
- Jan 6th: final recommendations announced by superintendent
- Jan 7th at Board mtg—capacity management motion will be introduced, followed by meetings
- Jan 26th: Board will vote

Impact on us:

1. Summit will leave our neighborhood and we will see some of those families looking at us. The district may choose to give some of the Summit families a preference to us.
2. As a result of budget difficulties, district will be assigning more students to each school. 25-26 in primary classes; 27-28 in intermediate grades. If things are more dire for state budget, this may change.
3. Would be meaningful to communities who are affected if we would reach out to them.

Additional note from Kellie LaRue: Next BTA levy (for remodels) will be coming up. Requests for these funds must be submitted by December 1st.

Next site council meeting is Dec 9th.

Meeting adjourned.