

5/12/09

Site council minutes

NOTE: Items attached to the agenda are in the minutes notebook in the library.

Attending: John Miner, Maria Gutierrez, Robert M. Huberth, Janet Kimball, Michelle Brown, Nova Herzog, Nicole Swedberg, Lisa Calvert, Julie Bisson, Holly DeMaranville, Deb Voss, Kellie LaRue, Chris Stewart, Nora Scully, Maria Callahan, Laura Reed, Sandra Brettler, Tamara Leonard, Linda Kjarstad, Amanda Thornewell, Rick Lemberg, Lori Fujimoto, Joan Sias

Introduction Items

1. Proposal 1: Bylaws updated version with Standing Rules

Maria has been working on the standing rules document. She will send out the draft and we will vote on it at the next meeting. Question: Has there been any follow up to the idea of sending this out to a non-profit for review? Yes. Maria has just been trying to get it into shape before it goes out for review.

2. Proposal 2: Fall after-school activities scholarships

Kellie proposes that we offer scholarships for site council sponsored after-school activities to any family that qualifies for free and reduced lunch. We currently offer scholarships only for activities during the school day. The difference between this and regular school activities is that these are purely voluntary. We fund much of this through grants so this would help with the documentation. We will vote on this at the next meeting. We need to think about how we would document this and how we would encourage more families who qualify for free and reduced lunch to complete the application.

Action Items

1. Proposal 1: Volunteer coordinator position

(Full proposal attached to meeting agenda) Proposal is to fund the volunteer coordinator position for \$5000 next year. Responsibilities would include creating and distributing the volunteer survey; collating the data from the survey; and distributing volunteer information to event chairs.

Discussion: Suggestion to add some more to the position description about implementing the results of the survey. Would this person track volunteer hours? Perhaps there are some different ways to track volunteer hours (perhaps with a quarterly survey).

Maria will write a more detailed job description and bring this back next month.

2. Proposal 2: Funding for tutoring program

(Full proposal attached to meeting agenda) Proposal to get \$20,000 from the parent group toward the \$30,360 budget of the tutoring program. Program plans for 30 hours per week, 30 weeks per year. Money is focused on bringing students up to grade level. The needs of kids who are working above grade will be addressed in an informal process through staff.

Discussion: Concern raised that there isn't enough planning time allowed for in the budget. Lisa responded that the planning allowance is slightly more than what teachers get and this will be something to make sure they discuss with the tutors throughout the year, along with the other feedback they request. Ginny Allemann, the program coordinator, will handle getting feedback from the tutors. Input that this is a critically important program to our community.

Consensus requested. Consensus reached.

3. Proposal 3: Scholarship addendum to the budget

From Rick: As a school, we've always gone on a lot of field trips and we've always said we would provide scholarships to any families that needed it. (This is essentially what is stated in our bylaws.) The staff would like to propose that if we run over budget in scholarships then that budget will be covered. Perhaps the money would be taken from savings but the staff needs to know that there is some sort of guarantee there.

Discussion: We need to establish some guidelines for this. While the teachers make every effort to evaluate this early, the situation can change, as it did this year.

Kellie suggested that we take a closer look at some of the classroom activities so we can apply for grants for them.

Maria suggested that we change the financial equation to help address the needs of each room for next year's budget. We need to evaluate what happened the last two years. We may also need to address how we handle financial aid requests.

Sandra clarified that the request is more for a philosophy statement that everyone can participate in all activities.

John suggested that we should get the volunteer coordinator focused on finding parent volunteers who can write grants, which would help scholarships.

Lori suggests that we put an item in the newsletter to remind parents to pay their classroom fees or request a scholarship from their child's teacher.

Proposal to make the budget \$12,000 (adding \$4000 to the current line item) for this year, based on the needs of last year.

Consensus requested: One (non-board member) consent but disagree. Would like to see real numbers before we move ahead. One (non-board member) who disagrees and does not consent. Feels that the teachers can limit the activities they do, bringing their annual plan in line with their actual budget. There isn't a policy defining how the teachers handle their classroom funds. **Consensus reached with voting board members to add the \$4K to the budget for this year. Further discussions to come.**

Principal's report:

We've hired a fabulous new kindergarten teacher who has a strong background in linguistic remedies. Debbie Kossman from Salmon Bay will be joining us in the fall.

Upcoming staff development will be focused on mathematics; how we align with state standards; and we will continue the conversation about a new math curriculum.

Orientation for newly assigned parents coming up on Monday, June 15 at 7:00pm.

Spring concert is June 9th.

Teachers need help packing classrooms on Saturday, June 13th from 10:00am to 1:00pm. An announcement will go out.

A special thank you to parents for all the wonderful treats during teacher appreciation week.

A first this week was that Sherri Carr, a board member, attended fifth grade presentations today and left very impressed, saying our fifth graders are well prepared for middle school. Michael DeBell will attend tomorrow.

Counselor position: John clarified that in this year's budget we were given a choice between giving a half time allocation to bring the library to full time or having both a half time librarian and half time counselor. Staff felt our program needs were best supported with a full time librarian. John is looking into perhaps a stipend position as a responsive classroom coach who could meet the counseling needs of individual children through that philosophy. He, and all staff, recognize that counseling is an important component to our program and will address that need.

Bell times: Will now be 9:10 to 3:15. If we continue to share buses with Wedgwood then the next year we would be 9:20 to 3:25.

Alternative schools audit: Principals will be meeting with the superintendent to discuss the place of alternative schools in the district.

Four or five staff will be attending responsive classroom training in California this summer.

Staff report:

Staff has been talking a lot about a new math curriculum and there will be more information about this soon. Also staff would like to roll over their staff development budget into next year. Will be an action item at next meeting.

Updates

Holly DeMaranville & Deb Voss

Volunteer recognition tea/coffee afternoon

Wed, June 17th, Holly and Deb are planning a volunteer appreciation tea/coffee from 3:30-4:30. Child care will be available. They would like some teachers to say some things about how they have used volunteers this year and how it has helped them. Perhaps teachers could have kids make some cards?

Michelle Brown and Chris Stewart

All-school audit/Support for District Policy C54.00

(Alternative school coalition statement attached to agenda.) Trying to develop a more proactive group representing alternative schools. One of the areas of concern is the blending of AS1 with the Summit population.

As a coalition, they would like to express support for District Policy C54.00, which was adopted June 2006. It says the district supports alternative schools and "confirms their commitment to academic achievement for all students by offering a system of traditional and alternative education within the SSD." It is a critical step forward that this policy exists as it could potentially help support us in any future disagreements with the school board. It is fundamental to our existence as an alternative school. (Full policy attached to agenda.)

A later report defined quality indicators and it was accepted in full by the director of academic instruction.

There are concerns about why this audit is happening and what the ulterior motives might be.

Call for consensus to support this policy statement. Full consensus reached.

Committee Reports

Ombudsman/Tamara

Has had much feedback from parents in support of finding a new math curriculum. Parents of third graders, in particular, would like to see a new curriculum in place this fall so those children can benefit from it for two years.

Treasurer/Robert M. Huberth

We will be voting on the budget next meeting. John asks if there is still ELOB money and if we are 8K in the black, then it might make our decision to consider a new math curriculum easier if half the cost was covered in this budget. There will be a finance committee meeting in the next two weeks to go over these numbers, open to any who wish to attend.

Point raised that given the budgetary uncertainties at the district level we may need to hang onto a cushion.

Point raised about evaluating priorities in terms of evaluating field trips etc. vs. instructional assistant time.

Scrip budget is under budget, both national and local scrip. Something Robert will have more information on next month.

Communication/Kellie LaRue (for Joel and Karen)

Proposing changing the newsletter to parent/committee info every week and moving staff and curriculum information to twice a month. This might make it more manageable for parents to absorb.

Chair/Maria Gutierrez

We still have open positions for next year: Vice Chair, Grants needs a co-chair, fundraising chair. We also need auction chairs, bazaar chairs

Meeting adjourned.