

SITE COUNCIL – April 14, 2008

Members present: Lauren Segal, Edie Chong, Carol Mullin, Melissa Anderson, Liz Libbey, Kirsten Moss, Lisen Stromberg, Lauren Janov, Gina Maya, Carol Piraino, Barbara Lindsay, Ann Kwolek O'Neill, Lucretia Lee

Guests present: Heidi Kerscher, Gale Heringer Brock

Gina moved that the minutes be approved with the addition that Lauren Janov and Lauren Segal were present at the March 10th meeting. Lisen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CELEBRATIONS

Edie reported that all 80 kinders enjoyed a trip to the Oakland Zoo, funded by “Just buy it”. Going on a school bus was the highlight of the trip.

Heidi noted that the 5th graders went to the symphony on a bus. Everyone dressed up for the field trip.

Lisen inquired about comments made by 3rd graders who said the 5th graders were “grounded”. Heidi responded to the question by relating that the fifth grade teachers were seeing some negative interactions which were not reflecting the WH way. As a consequence, extra recess was taken away to work on social skills; however, the fifth graders have since earned back their extra recess.

HOT TOPICS

Last Thursday there was a swarm of bees in the lunch area. The pest control man said there was no sign of a hive. Yard duty supervisors told the kids to go into building if they were allergic to bees. Gale handled kids in library. There was some confusion as to how students should come into the building.

Carol P. reported that the disaster drill went well. The drill included planned simulations and moving everyone into kinder yard to contain kids which would be the procedure followed during a real disaster. Teachers retook roll. There were some radio issues which need to be resolved.

DIFFERENTIATION FOLLOW-UP

Carol P. will discuss differentiation strategies with staff and come up with proposed changes. Scheduling affects ability for grade levels to have blocks of time for subjects at the same time and can impact being able to do flexible grouping across grade levels. When one grade level designates blocks of common time, their schedule can affect other grade levels. With 24 regular ed classes, scheduling has become difficult.

SITE COUNCIL

Melissa will chair next year's Site Council.

So far, we only have two parents who have submitted statements for Site Council openings which will be placed in the Wildcat. We need to fill one more slot. The deadline will be extended for the remaining open slot.

Tell Gina if you have suggestions for candidates.

It was suggested that we start earlier next year to recruit new members.

Diana Baker is taking care of teacher members – so far no one wants to leave.

Gale suggested that we could drop a teacher to achieve parity with parent members.

BUDGET

11th day allocation , SIP, PiE – income sources

Expenses – aides, literacy support, Junior Museum, Spectra, Noon Supervision, Perceptual Motor, Counseling

The Advisory Budget Group is working with the whole budget; Carol has ultimate responsibility; District – 10% less expected for 11th Day Allocation; SIP less 10%; PiE – status quo – in reality going up (salary schedule goes up).

Next Budget Committee meeting – 28th 3:15

10% cut – always changing due to amount of property taxes collected

Noon supervision – 1 hr. 15 minutes; longer than most schools because of our overlapping schedule; if cut to 55 minutes total, could cut expenses.

Spectra Art – right now twice a month; could go to once a month.

Perceptual Motor – only paying for 19.5 hours, but getting more hours than that.

If one less class next year – income and well as expenses change; however, the amount is negligible

Counseling – could cut one-half day; still would have district funded day.

Specials that don't require credentialed teacher: district music, P.E. and library; otherwise teacher has to be with class for other specials and does not count as "prep" time.

Schedule change proposal – shorten lunch time; make up by dismissing primary students an hour earlier on Wednesdays (15 minutes of primary lunch recess is teacher prep time). The longer primary lunch time originally instituted so dismissal time for grades 1-5 would be the same time. Schedule changes affect working parents; community benefit – can arrange playdates, exchange pickups every other week with any other parent.

Could schedule fee-based programs, clubs after school.

PiE benchmark study – less instructional time; day shorter.

Lauren S. – with flex grouping could eliminate aide for that time period

Melissa asked if Wed. 1:30 dismissal was for teacher meeting time. Carol P. responded that since all teachers get off on Wednesday at 1:30, the proposed 12:30 dismissal time for primary grades would help equalize prep time for primary grade teachers since 4-5 teachers have more release time.

Edie reported that kinders presently have a half hour lunch; shortened lunch time for multiple reasons – too long for kids, aide expenses, social, emotional issues (playground conflicts tend to increase at the end of long recess times)

12-12:40 lunch; 12:00-12:25 4/5 play, 12:25-12:40 4/5 eat; 12-12:15 1-3 eat, 12:15-12:40 1-3 play

Pros of 12:30 Wednesday dismissal – more enrichment opportunities, less cost for noon supervision, more useable teacher prep/meeting time, more uninterrupted learning time, fewer playground conflicts (maybe?).

Is this something we should pursue, for next year?

Can help differentiation and social emotional issues.

PTA could run after school programs or fund programs ; Kids Club; Jr. Museum classes; foreign language.

Special ed aides could work with kids – VTP bus kids – while they wait for the bus pick-up.

Crossing guard (city responsibility) issue would need to be addressed

Gina stated that we would need to give rationale, communicate the whole package, including curriculum changes behind schedule changes to parents.

Lauren J. – questioning mis-match of Jr. Museum lessons to curriculum standards.
Ann and Lucretia responded that most teachers work closely with Jr. Museum staff to develop lessons taught, utilizing their collections, materials, and instructor's expertise to enhance classroom science lessons which reflect curriculum standards.

Carol M. has problem with PTA funding homework club – benefits only a few students, not necessarily the ones who need it most.

STEPS TO RESPECT

Carol P. and Lucretia attended a presentation by the publishers of Steps To Respect which addresses the issue of bullying. The primary grades at Walter Hays have used the Second Step Program by the same publisher, which focuses on character education components and not bullying.

Skills and strategies to address bullying is different from other character education, conflict resolution programs because bullying is one-sided.

The whole school and community needs to be involved to address bullying issues.

Upstanders not bystanders – need to speak up.

Hoover and Barron Park are using the program and have seen positive results.

Same language for all the kids – should be district wide

Have not brought up the Steps to Respect program to teachers yet.

Program would require expenditures to purchase grade level materials (about \$700 per set) and training which could be done by Hoover and/or Barron Park staff or done district-wide if adopted by all PAUSD schools rather than by the publishers.

STRATEGIC PLAN

April 22nd 3-5 planned board discussion

School Plan – should do in connection with District Strategic Plan in September

Meeting adjourned 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia Lee