

# **Site Council Minutes**

## **September 16, 2009**

**Members:** Leslie Wang, Mary Bussmann, Heidi Kerscher, Helen Carnes, Abby Bradski, Rachael Shepherd, Jen Arnout, Irina Gorelik, Angie Cole

### **Welcome**

Review of Agenda  
Review of Site Council Norms  
Introduction of Members

### **Approval of the minutes from May**

Angie moves to approve the minutes. Rachael seconds. May notes are approved.

### **Structure & Purpose of Site Council – Mary Bussmann**

Equal number of parents per teachers – we don't have enough parents for an equal ratio, unless more parents join our votes need to match, so not every school member will be able to vote until then. If parents are interested in joining, please contact Mary Bussmann or Leslie Wang: [mbussmann@pausd.org](mailto:mbussmann@pausd.org)

*What makes an effective Site Council team?*

What are our goals, as a school?

Are there groups of students who are not being serviced, as well?

How can we use the budget effectively?

Which programs are effective?

Looking at the big picture of the school and it's progress.

*Budget:*

We are in tough times. Last year - \$42,000 allocation

This year - 12-14% less than last year due to the budget cuts.

SIP - .75 cents per student of about 500 students

District Office states – 494 as projected enrollment which means \$35,339, but we may go up since we added more students (current Hays enrollment is 530) but the 11<sup>th</sup> day allocation has not yet be finalized and neither has the state information so we are still waiting to hear for more information regarding budget.

We should be conservative and mindful of this state of economy. We may expect to hear about the budget in October.

SIP funds = academic improvements such as programs

Bond money = materials, like building

We have increased our class size, and normally we need to pay a penalty for going over the limit.

We are OK this year, but if things continue the way they are, especially since we are a basic aide district (we get a basic amount of money from the state – the rest of our funding is from our property taxes), our district is expecting 2% growth (each percent is about 1 million dollars) and the following year projection is for 0% growth.

The parents have really supported our schools and the teacher's union is meeting with the district – both ends are trying to make it work.

We have same aide time and increased Jr. Museum sessions for the upper grades (funded by PiE).

*At what point do we need to start adjusting, as a Site Council? It's unclear. But it's important for us to talk about our goals and expectations for our school and our community.*

Class Size Increase:  
Kinder\* 18 – 21  
21-22 students per classroom

\* disparity since some students have moved or gone back to their home school  
District prefers if students return to their home school.

### **Review of Goals & Groups from last year – Heidi & Leslie**

*Differentiation* – All teachers are modifying curriculum to meet the needs of all learners based on their learning styles, academic and social level. The methods are not always obvious.

*Social/ Emotional* – How is the child feeling within the classroom? Do they have self-esteem, friends, Character education, Jim Wilkens. Research has shown that when children feel safe, their neuro pathways are open to learning. IF they are worried, stressed, etc... there is an effective filter which starts to narrow down their pathways of learning because they are scared. So it benefits the children to feel safe and included. Important Skills to develop to help them move forward in life.

How can parents help at home? Discussed later today & check the Hays website.

*Green* – Educating the students about recycling – specific goals were using both sides of the paper, prepared skits for assemblies. Sustainable Schools committee that some teachers tried to join/ attend meetings. SmartBoards for reducing paper.

### *Safety*

Gates - gates near kinder playgrounds. All gates are locked at 8:45 – 2:30ish everyday so if visitors come they must come in through the driveway and check in at the office.

- Nut/ Allergies – Gene will come in to do a staff training.
- Parking Lot – Manners of drivers regarding language and announcements of parked cars on the curb during off-hours.

### **Survey – Mary Bussmann**

Traffic Safety

Bullying

- Social Skills for K,1,2 by Joleen Higgin & Laurie Shea
  - o Using story telling & role modeling, etc. for getting “on the same page”
  - o Parents are encouraged to attend a kinder lessons, if interested in the program
- Assemblies by Mary
- Steps to Respect Program
  - o Giving children language to solve problems
  - o Teachers send information home
- Many positive comments regarding campus supervision, however a few concerns regarding bullying. We are addressing these.
- Allergy concerns too – helping awareness in all, including parents, and helping students with allergies advocate for themselves
- Parent volunteers –
  - o Concerns regarding some parents being too demanding.
  - o **Volunteer Form – signing means confidentiality – regardless of how a child is performing (high, low), please do not share with other parents**
    - How do we dissemination this information to other parents, since so many of us have made comments – even positive comments – and not realized its affect.

### **School Improvement Plan**

*Single Plan for Student Achievement* – How far did we get in meeting the goals of the district? In the beginning of a school year, the district requests information from each site, test scores and how the staff will meet the goals of the district wide plan. Bill Garrison gave us good reviews.

ELL testing – parents can request to have their child opt out of testing.

VTP parents love being here, since their children are getting a great opportunity, however they don’t always feel included. We need to make an effort to include people.

Mary will present the new school year information to the board.

Our test scores have raised at Hays, and Mary appreciates the teachers effort.

### **Site Council Break-out groups for this year’s goals:**

Mary Introduction - We have a wonderful community of people who are talented, have resources, and time, so how do we make this environment meaningful and organic so we are living it everyday? Mary has spent a lot of time thinking about

this and aligning parent and teacher goals to say to our community, we are the models for our children. How we act, what we say, what we do is reflected in our lives. Teachers are held to a high standard, so how do we team together to make this a meaningful experience for children and branch out to all community members.

Book suggestion – Community Read?

*Possible Topics Include:*

- Walter Hays Way
- Lord of the Flies
  - o How to shape
  - o Playground
  - o Society
- Communication
- Conflict Resolution
- How to instill intrinsic motivation
- How parents treat their children
- How children treat their parents

Meeting Adjourned 5:31pm