

School Site Council Minutes February 9, 2012

Members Present:

Emily Morris, Dana Stuart, Tammy Holzer, Regina Huelsenbeck, Shannon Cary, Jennifer Marchese-Ernst, Tracy Nguyen, Jackie Zuzow, Brandi Nishnick,

Tammy Holzer called the meeting to order and the minutes were reviewed, there were no changes or additions. Tammy approved the minutes and it was 2nd by Shannon Cary.

PTA Report:

Shannon Cary was speaking on behalf of Maia Starling. The PTA has purchased books for each Village teacher to use in the classroom, this will help to promote the character counts and PeaceBuilder programs. They are looking for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for the new board for next year. The Stallion Sprinters could also use some more volunteers. There has been positive feedback on the Family Lunch Week, most like it because there is an option to choose any day that week, easier for scheduling and if one parent couldn't come that one day there are no hurt feelings. The RidgeRaising is coming up on 3/24 at Santa Luz it's an 80's theme and Eileen Johnson is chairing the event. It's an adult only event with a silent auction. Grade level baskets are auctioned off. Proceeds from the art projects and the ESC teachers are donated to DMSEF. Last day to order yearbooks at the reduced price is 2/10 after that date the price goes up to \$35. 28th is the general PTA meeting and the principal of Earl Warren will speak. 2/29 is Sammy's Restaurant night, 10 % of the proceeds go to the PTA. 3/2 the birthday of Dr. Suess there will be a read-in. 3/29 and 3/30 will be the performances of Beauty and The Beast. Tickets will first be sold to the performers and families, then to others. 4/20 PTA elections and Reflections Reception and the Spring Family Dance.

Principal's Report:

Enrollment: There are challenges with the enrollment, some schools are way under and some are way over or at capacity. There has been a group hired to do a 10 year assessment on the projected enrollment. Usually it is accurate within 2 to 3 years after that it depends on the economy and other factors. Here at Sycamore we have 2 ancillary programs that take up 9 classrooms (child care and preschool). With the current school boundaries we will be impacted and are in need of more classroom space. There has been talk of adding portable

classrooms or 6 additional classrooms and additional parking and moving the upper grade classrooms out to that area. There is an open house forum for questions and a discussion on possible scenarios on Monday February 13th at Sage Canyon. The goal is to get community input on facility use etc. The format will be stations for the different information. The board will discuss this information at the February 29th board meeting. This is important for this school site. The construction timeline is fall 2012/2013. There is also an agreement with the developer (Pardee) that there be space available at this school site for everyone living in Pacific Highlands Ranch.

District Technology Plan:

Part of the technology plan includes professional development, mobile technology and two schools are piloting programs for technology. Del Mar Hills is piloting the NetBook and Torrey Hills the I-Pad. The pilot is to determine which technology is better to use for students. Our school has been chosen to pilot the Chrome Book device, our students had already been using Google Docs to save their writing work and Jenn Oliviera is getting her certificate for Google so it was a perfect choice for us to pilot this program. The Chrome Book is a web based program and the district focus is on writing and preparing students to be ready for the 21st century. The books will be piloted in the 5th grade classrooms however next year they will probably be piloted in 4-6th grades. These books will be a curriculum tool to promote learning and because its web based you can share, revise, critique with other students at school and at home.

ESC Programs:

The ESC teachers are funded through the DMSEF. Science and Technology are full time, Art .5, Music .7 and includes after school band, PE .6. The certificated programs are based on enrollment . The goal is to have each family donate to the fund to support the ESC programs (100%), participation is the goal. There are some families that can't feasibly do this. The survey is going out to families to have their input on what's important to have as far as programs. We are the only school that has a band program in the district. Also the ESC programs provide the prep time that teachers are required to have during each day. In the past there have been phone-a-thons, and a tile campaign to try to reach this goal.

Site Plan Update:

Regarding School Climate, the Peace Builder program is in full swing, the Village leaders have new books to read to Villagers that deal with the these topics. The books were donated by the PTA. The themes each month are listed on the

school web site. There are crates in the office that have activities for the students to do during Village meetings.

Parent Education:

The action teams main focus is on how to build personal responsibility among students. For the parent education nights they have planned in April the focus will be Peace Building, and Character for the K through 3rd grade, and digital citizenship, cyber-bullying for 4th through 6th graders. The director of Technology will deliver the 4-6th grade talk.

Student Intervention:

Academic Learning Program- devotes extra time to students that are at risk. The funding for this program has gone away. Some SIP funds have been earmarked for this program to continue here this year 2 times a week. Now this year the teacher will be working with the students on the targeted areas of need not the ALP teacher. The ALP teacher will teach the other students in the classroom.

The kindergarten eligibility date will be pushed back by one month over the next few years. For 2012/13 you must be 5 on or before November 1st, 2014/15 5 on or before Oct 1st, and 2016/17 5 on or before September 1st. This will now be the education code in California. Kindergarten is more academic now and that is the reason for the legislation.

Global Achievement Gap:

A renowned educator wrote this book about how schools are not educating our students properly for the future job market and what they need to succeed in the future. There are 7 survival skills needed in the 21st century to succeed. This gap needs to be closed.

Tammy Holzer brought up something she had read on MSNBC about the “No Child Left Behind” legislation and how states are now applying for exemption from the program because the program isn’t working. Different ideas have been brought up to change the program.

Adjournment: adjourned at 3:57 by Tammy Holzer