

## Minutes SES Site Council Meeting 1/16/09

Site Council Members (those in bold were present): **Sarah Taylor (principal); Steyn Pearson (co-chair);** Michele Mei (secretary); **Beth Azar;** Cindy Ewers; **Jennifer Freda-Cowie;** Carrie McCoy (3-5 teacher rep); **Mia Meyer; Katherine Muller;** Elisabeth Neeley; **Alexa Pearson; Rebecca Wagner (K-2 teacher rep); Neeley Wells; Heather Wilson (neighborhood rep); Mia Yang; Jan Zuckerman (MS teacher rep).**

Community members present: Chena Mesling

1) Check-in

2) Agenda revisions/Facilitator/Time-keeper/Stack-taker established  
All agreed that Steyn would facilitate this meeting and all meetings to come this year. Alexa agreed to keep track of time and Mia Y. agreed to be stack-taker.

3) Approve/Revise old minutes (Nov.)

The group approved the November minutes without revision.

4) Curriculum Framework

- 1) update from Sarah and Alexa
- 2) establish next step

Much of the framework has been put up on the SES website for the community to view. Sarah and Alexa are still working on components and refining language. February will be the time for a last critical review. Sarah hopes to run it by Susan Byer at the Office of Teaching and Learning as well as SES's university mentors and other folks, including Bill Bigelow and Linda Christensen. Once that review is complete, she plans to submit it to the School Board for approval. Site Council members should contact Sarah if they want to be involved in the critical review.

### Action items:

- Send a message out to the SES community telling them that the framework is on the web for review. **Beth** will submit something to the Messenger.
- **Sarah** will have Kristy set up an appointment for her with Susan Byer at PPS.
- **Sarah** will invite others (including Dilafuz Williams, Bill Bigelow and Linda Christensen) to review the document.

5) Grounds

- 1) update
- 2) assign Point of Contact

Portland Parks has given Sarah the name of a contact person there. Sarah has the name in her office. PPS came out to review the situation. Sarah learned that only three other

schools have the same arrangement with Portland Parks: SES, Winterhaven and King. Everyone agreed that signage at SES is confusing and could be clearer. Sarah said that PPS seems to be rethinking all three of these relationships with Parks, but it's still unclear what will happen.

The Sunnyside Neighborhood Assn. (SNA) has given SES a written letter approving the 5<sup>th</sup> grade garden. SES now needs final approval from PPS. Steyn will take the lead on moving forward with this. Meanwhile, Mia Y. will encourage the 5<sup>th</sup> graders to write letters in support of this garden.

In terms of the relationship with SNA, Heather made the point that the SNA board was not thrilled with SES's request that the neighborhood be responsible for maintaining dog poop bags at the school. They asked whether students could be in charge of this with the neighborhood taking over during vacation times in summer and winter. Jan suggested that it could be the service learning project of several middle schoolers who live in the neighborhood and own dogs so that it's people who use the park taking responsibility for managing this issue. Once a program is established, an article in the SNA newsletter should appear.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Steyn** will contact PPS about the 5<sup>th</sup> grade gardens.
- **Mia Y.** will encourage the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes to write letters of support for the garden. Letter should go to Don Huld in PPS.
- Parents could be encouraged to write letters to ask for better signs. Letters would go to Brian Winchester at Portland Parks.
- **Mia M.** said she would work on making temporary signs for the grounds.
- Someone needs to help establish a middle school service project around dog poop bags.
- Once established, **Steyn** will work on an article for the SNA newsletter.

#### **6) Enrollment & Transfer**

- 1) Update
- 2) Review PPS 'Program Change Proposal Process'
- 3) Consensus check-in

Sarah got an email this week setting up a two hour meeting for her to talk with PPS about our enrollment change request. They had retyped the SES request, removing language related to sibling preference in any lottery slots. Sarah will send Site Council this PPS version to review. In addition, Steyn will scan and send out the original proposal as well as the flow chart of the Program Change Proposal Process. He asked that Site Council members review these documents and encouraged an email conversation to take place with questions and concerns BEFORE the next meeting.

Sarah emphasized that this is Phase 1 of this process and that Phase 2 would be run by PPS and would include public hearings.

At her meeting with PPS Sarah will emphasize that every neighborhood has a right to a school that teaches the PPS core curriculum and that the default should not be a focus option school. Also, that it is her opinion that PPS should create schools in walking distance to people's houses. She will also state that she thinks that people should choose SES, but that neighborhood families should have preference in that choice.

She also emphasized that this will not effect enrollment for next year. In fact, she needs to set her lottery numbers by next Friday. She's concerned that parents of siblings hoping to enroll next year in kindergarten have not (as asked) let the office know they're coming.

This led to a conversation about kindergarten round-up and ways to advertise it.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Sarah** will forward the PPS email to the Site Council.
- **Steyn** will scan and forward the original enrollment change proposal, Amy's data and the PPS flow chart to Site Council.
- Site council members will review all enrollment documents and do an email check-in.
- **Jennifer** will talk to Jane at the Belmont Library about announcing the kindergarten round-up dates at story times.
- **Jennifer** will find the K round-up signs and get them updated and hung.
- **Beth** will update the flyers and distribute them to the library and other local venues.
- **Steyn** asked that members submit changes to the enrollment survey sent around and said that he would make revisions.

#### **7) Old Business** (Item stays old business until completed)

- A) Action Items from last SC meeting (completed Y/N? if not, who & when?)
- B) 'New Business' items from previous SC meeting

##### 1) Jean's Farm lease proposal

A CSA has been established at Jean's Farm. The farmers will take care of farming and hold the lease to the farm. Part of the lease is that SES gets to use it as part of its curriculum. The SES sustainability coordinator will therefore be upped to 5 days a week for next year and will spend one day a week at the farm. Each class will get to the farm at least three times/year. Sarah shook hands with Steve (the farm's owner) on this deal. Sarah added that there is others areas at the farm (non farmland) that Steve has given to the school for its use with the students. Aaron will plan all the curriculum for the farm. Sarah will meet with 4-H about continuing our relationship for funding Aaron's position, including having them support his benefits.

##### 2) SNA relationship (see above)

##### 3) Kindergarten Roundup preparation (see above)

#### **8) New Business** (10 min)

##### 1) Establish process for meeting rescheduling, criteria for cancellation

Steyn, Sarah and Amy will be in charge of any needed meeting changes and will make decisions based on their best judgment. Jennifer asked that the 7am time be revisited. All agreed to try another time and settled on Mondays at 3:15.

- 2) Email discourse guidelines
- 3) Web site update suggestions

**The next Site Council Meeting was set for Feb. 9 at 3:15.**