

Minutes SES Site Council Meeting 2/16/09

Site Council attendees (members in bold): **Sarah Taylor (principal); Steyn Pearson (co-chair); 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);** Karen Shay; Sue Lyon-Myrick; Mary Grover

1) Check-in: Site council began with introductions and discussion of the pros / cons of the 3:15 starting time. Next start time 3:25.

2) Agenda revisions/Facilitator/Time-keeper/Stack-taker established Steyn facilitated. Mia Y. agreed to be keep track of time. Sarah took notes.

3) Approve/Revise old minutes (Jan.)
The group approved the January minutes without revision.

4) Curriculum Framework

1) Update from Alexa/Sarah

Much of the framework is on the SES website for the community to view.

- Met with Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) Feb. 3 to present framework. OTL was pleased with the work and suggested that we reference standards more.

- Gave OTL tour. Jeremy and Ginny spoke at the OTL meeting.

2) Establish next steps

- Will have re-read with Lewis and Clark and parent body.

-Need to send updated material to website

- Will send copies to board and Carol. Post of website after review.

5) Grounds

1) Update: Steyn talked to PPS liaison Marlys, reported a meeting to be taking place Wed. with PPR regarding signs and garden approval.

2) Mia made great signs.

3) Sarah will give garden design to Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

4) SC agreed we need to contact PPS school board if agreement with PPR and PPS doesn't improve/our requests for changes don't happen more swiftly.

5) Looking to engage SNA in Garden Day (1st Sat. March)

6) Enrollment & Transfer – following is a summary of discussions

1) Update - Sarah met with PPS district committee. Requesting more data regarding neighborhood enrollment after transfer date.

2) Made middle school poster for 6th grade outreach

- 3) Teachers announced they met about focus option school issue, specifically those in attendance don't believe SES is a true focus option. Teachers intend to continue fact-finding, discussing, and meeting.
 - 4) Sarah believes in a neighborhood set aside for all focus options
 - 5) Mia asked Jan if curriculum was being implemented and Jan said yes.
 - 6) Focus option means-
 - choice
 - choice for neighborhood
 - choice for non-neighborhood
 - 7) Concern that teachers are meeting separate from site council surfaced and brief discussion followed. Teachers said they began discussions when it became known environmental charter schools were being turned down by school board because of focus option already existed (SES).
 - 8) Neeley asked how we could protect neighborhood schools throughout this process. Recommended coming to PPS enrollment committee meetings –they are open to the public.
 - 9) K-5 needs are different than middle school. SC seemed to agree transfer seems more appropriate at middle age.
 - 10) Mia wondered if stricter threshold for id as proof of residence would help our situation.
 - 11) Jan said that the proposal submitted by Sarah was seen as a compromise by teachers.
 - 12) Conversation turned to idea of a 2nd environmental school and whether this would alleviate some of our current and projected future problems.
 - 13) Seems like lots of discussion to ensue:
 - Teachers meeting and bringing collective thoughts to SC.
 - Leadership team meeting to establish synthesis with SC and PTSA.
 - Site council decided to continue conversation of this subject within SC meetings while agreeing to move forward with 'proposal' with some noted reservations and without full consensus within SC. Jennifer proposed additional SC meetings to discuss this issue.
 - More parent meetings to come.
 - Communication with PPS after requested statistics are reported.
 - 14) There was a reaffirmation we would continue with the first proposal.
- 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 – more as the FTE assignments and budget discussions begin. –didn't discuss
- 8) **New Business** (10 min)
- 2) Email discourse guidelines – didn't discuss
 - 3) Web site update suggestions – didn't discuss
- 9) Meeting time and date: Monday, Mar. 9th @3:25