

Site Council Minutes

10/19/09

Attendees: Karen Miller, Mia Meyer, Mia Yang, Amy Kleiner, Diane Baker, Elisabeth Neely, Steyn Pearson, Jennifer Freida-Cowie, Meg Stalnaker, Cindy Ewers, Sarah Taylor, Rebecca Wagner, Beth Azar

Note: action items are highlighted

1) Membership

- a) Quick review of rules showed that for legal membership, teachers and parents need to be in equal number so that neither has majority over the other.
- b) Voting members agreed upon by the group:

Administrator: Sarah Taylor/ Amy Kleiner

Parents: Steyn Pearson, Jennifer Frieda-Cowie, Mia Yang, Diane Baker

Teachers: Rebecca Wagner, Frank McGowan, Karen Miller, Mia Meyer
- c) Meg Dorr was nominated by the group to be the classified staff member (Amy will check in with her).
- d) Rebecca volunteered to be secretary.
- e) Steyn was nominated and agreed to be chair.
- f) The site council will be taking applications for community member. It was suggested that a parent at the school who would also go to the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association (SNA) meetings would be an ideal candidate. (Mia Yang and Rachel Bloom were both mentioned as possible candidates)
- g) It was noted that the school is allowed to have a member on the (SNA) board? confirmed by a letter from the principal. (Steyn will look into the by-laws and check-in with Sarah)

2) Business From Last Year

- a) Sarah reported that curriculum and enrollment are both at the district level currently.
- b) Grounds: a report was received from Marlys Mock last week. It was agreed that a response should come from each of the stakeholders mentioned in the report.
 - 1. PTSA – Beth will bring to the board meeting.
 - 2. Administration- Sarah will work with leadership and craft a response.
 - 3. Site Council- Steyn will gather email input and craft a response.
 - 4. Sarah has requested an administrator's conversation, specifically with Winterhaven to seek input.

3) School Improvement Plan

The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the school improvement plan, specifically page 13, "family engagement action plan." There will be an online vote to approve the plan. Please send your vote to Sarah by Monday.

Writing and Math Goals

- a) How to help your student with writing and how to help during writing time in class, specifically when to intervene in spelling. Sarah will work with the teachers on a continuum by grade level. Amy will create a frequently asked questions sheet to handout at conferences.
- b) There was discussion over whether or not a family write night, parent education night, or volunteer training would be well attended and needed by the community. Sarah will include a question on the upcoming survey regarding evening education nights. Other topics on the survey will include: environmental focus, bullying, safety, homework, and whether parents feel welcome/ have opportunities to volunteer.

- c) There is the potential of organizing a family math night, put on by the seventh graders as a service project.

Possible Environmental Goals

- a) Sarah will investigate the heat in the building as a possible goal and research health issues related to turning down the heat. A wear a sweater campaign as a potential energy saver for the building.

- b) Elizabeth agreed to do a once a season "parent as naturalist" education event. It was suggested that this be an after school activity where children can come along, perhaps a guided walk to Laurelhurst. Back yard birding was of high interest. There was discussion of including a "what to do with kids that is environmentally friendly entertainment" section in the messenger. No one volunteered to write this.

- c) The survey will include a question about understanding the philosophy of site monitoring and the goals of environmental studies to determine if a parent education night is necessary.

4) Closing

- a) Jennifer noted that the goals of site council are around developing parent leadership and curriculum goals, and she would like to see parent education around how the school fits into the district structure.

- b) Sarah closed by checking in regarding process and climate of the meeting.