

McNear Elementary Site Council Minutes

September 19, 2011

In Attendance

Jason Fross, Jennifer Dunbar, Joanne Smaciarz, Shelley Kincaid, Suzanne Grey, April Citti, Suzanne Garcia, Jason Sutter, non board member Kate Boyd PTA Liaison

Jason Fross commenced meeting at 3:40
Corrections made to September minutes:

Minutes approved from May Meeting, Jason Sutter motioned, Shelley Kincaid seconded.

Joanne Smaciarz asked where \$8000 surplus from last year went. Jason Sutter confirmed it went to classroom technology - interactive whiteboard, document cameras and computers.

Year Round Schooling - the question was proposed last year and this year the focus will be on getting the information out, regarding year-round schooling, to the parents and then polling the parents. There was an informal poll of the teachers last year that showed 68% approval from the teachers but Jason Sutter said the polling wasn't complete (missing votes, votes other than yes, no response). Jason Sutter would like to re-poll the teachers for a more accurate count. The vote needs to be a 75% majority to pass with the teachers.

The Site Council needs to arrange an information night for the parents. Jason Sutter will ask the Principals from Cherry Valley and Penngrove (both year-round schools) to come and field questions about how their respective schools experience the year-round calendar. Also, have some McNear parents on the panel who have experienced both the traditional calendar and year-round calendar and may have children in both. They can address the pros and cons of year-round schooling and answer common questions and concerns.

The year-round school calendar is a modified 45/15

Tentative date for information meeting is October 3, 2011. There will be a two week window to poll staff and parents. Nov 1, 2011 is the due date to submit for the District, if the community agrees to pass the year-round schedule and start in July of 2012. Jason will discuss with Steve Bolman.

Survey after informational meeting. Parent community would need to pass by 75% to proceed.

Process is the following:

- Coordinate Information session
- Poll teachers and parents
- Tally Interest

Possibly move Site Council Meeting on October 17th.

Q: Anyone know someone who can video record the information meeting to put online for parents who cannot make it.

Principal's Report School Data Summary

Jason Sutter presented an over view of performance of Students star Tests from years ----- on both math and language arts. Includes the CMA - California Modified Assessment.

Comments: Overall scores are good. General student population performance strong. The EL and special Ed not served well. McNear School has had Special Day class which will impact the scores and outsiders may not see that.

McNear School has shown great improvement in the most challenged groups. Agree to focus on bottom percentile.

Q: Academic Mentors - when request went out last year only 1 person responded.

Jason Sutter partner with the PTA about academic mentors. Ask previous Academic Mentors why they didn't volunteer. Work the Kate Boyd (PTA Co-President) to create a description for what an academic mentor does - create some guidelines. Suzanne Gray suggests to use specific games and techniques to help follow through. Also Academic Mentors need to be outside of the class in order to maintain confidentiality. Also how to match up mentor with child based on teachers' description of the job. Have McNear Staff answer the question how specifically they would use an academic mentor. Jason Sutter Suggested using the Giving Tree (created by Community Committee).

Review of The Community Committee

Jason Sutter gave update. The Community Committee was created by the Site Council to identify the concerns of the McNear School Community. The budget for the Community Committee is annual \$550. The PTA had Betsey Fox come do a presentation of The Caring School Community program as an outgrowth of the Community Committee round table meetings and addresses the Social Emotional and Safe School portion of the 5 overall areas.

The Community Committee identified 5 areas of concern

1. Academic
2. Social Emotional
3. Safe Environment
4. Parent Participation
5. Communication

Community Committee projects/actions besides the Betsy Fox presentation, Wednesday envelopes have been initiated to streamline communication between school and parents.

Jason Sutter has noted an increase in email communication by teachers to parents. Increase in teacher communication.

Jason Fross commented that the Community Committee needs to get representation in every grade - has the group changed? Jason Sutter responded that the group does not have all grades represented but has facilitated school wide conversations through the round table. Jason Fross suggested we should get feedback form all grade levels and continue work on main themes. How to identify specific issues in grades and classes. The School Site Survey showed insights and issues by students.

The Site Council requests that the Community committee dive more into the survey and come back with their findings. Jason Fross proposed a motion to have the Community Committee review the SSC sponsored Parent and Student Survey. They may not change it but study the areas of strengths weaknesses and improvements. Motion passed by all attendees, no nays. Members of the Community Committee (on this date) includes Mary Beth Cohen, Janet Hayes, Brandi Gordon, Dan Noble, April Citti, Jason Sutter, and Anne Digges.

Jason Fross Adjourned meeting at 5:05