

Site Council Minutes

5/12/08

In attendance: Georgia Shimkus-Administrator, Shawn O'Connell-Teacher; Sue Race-Teacher; Sally Rath-Support; Deb Menendez-Administrator, Laura Albrecht-Teacher, Kathy Anderson-Teacher, Ana Murphy-Parent, Debbe Glass-Parent

Absent: Shaun Burns-Parent; Cindy Wagner-Parent

Facilitator – Georgia; Recorder – Kathy/Sally; Time Keeper – Shawn O'Connell

Minutes from last meeting/Agenda:

Motion to approve minutes from 3/31/08 meeting made by Sue Race; seconded by Kathy Anderson, motion passed 9-0.

Introduction of New Members:

Teachers: Kelley Schneider and Carla Fisher

Parents: Janet DeCero, Laurie Davis and Lori Rodriguez (not present)

School Update:

Pride in Learning Celebration was huge success and music performances helped add to the flow. Fifth grade musical is tomorrow during the day and an evening performance, including swing dancing. New air conditioning will be installed this month starting May 27th. Painting will not happen this summer, but funding has pushed this back. Monte Vista did have some major wallpaper repairs. Outside painting will proceed to cover up patching. New swings will be installed in time for the start of the new school year.

PIRC Survey Update:

AZ State Parent Information Resource Center. The organization asked for volunteers from schools to allow surveys and walk-throughs, which occurred at Monte Vista on March 3. A team toured our school, viewed artifacts and interviewed parents looking at our family-friendly environment. Each indicator was scored according to a rubric. We were rated on each category and a handout was given reporting the results. Our overall rating was Emerging at 2.75. School communication examples were shown, such as classroom newsletters, our webpage, as well as letters that have been sent to families regarding various situations that needed to be communicated. We were given recommendations for improvement, which included increased website accuracy, curriculum outlines to be provided to parents, and an enhanced school calendar to reflect school events, activities, and other important school information.

Parent Survey Data:

We did not receive a high percentage of responses; Less than 50% of our families participated in the survey. It was determined that the Site Council needs more visibility so the community has a better understanding of the Site Council's role in the Monte Vista Community. 183 respondents were recorded. The majority of the feedback was very positive.

It was suggested that we offer the Parent Satisfaction Survey online, so parents could respond online. Members agreed that families would respond to the online survey more than turning in a paper survey.

There is a plan to provide more bully prevention services starting next school year. There is a student behavior survey that will be filled out by students this week to help collect data that will help put effective services in place for the start of the coming school year. The bully prevention services would include all members of the school community and involve educational strategies that would be useful for bus drivers, teachers, students, etc.

Parents were positive about student safety, curriculum appropriateness, teacher feedback. Georgia emphasized the importance of increasing the percentage of families that respond to the survey to accumulate more data. There was brainstorming regarding ways to motivate families to turn in more surveys. Some schools tie in the parent survey to parent/teacher conferences.

Tax Credit Budget:

Balance: \$22,423.09. That is the unencumbered balance. \$25,000 is in the account, with some outstanding commitments still to be paid out.

The by-laws were changed to reflect the verbiage regarding allocating the percentage of remaining funds for the next school year that had been agreed upon at the last meeting.

Part of the benefit of committing 50% of remaining funds for the next school year would help the enrichment classes to start earlier.

Sue Race asked for a commitment for \$1550 for author visits.

Enrichment classes and prevention services, field trips, math club, tutoring, Art Masterpiece, Club Pride, Project Alert, Exchange City are all items that were funded with Tax Credit funds this year. Shawn O'Connell pointed out that with fewer 5th grade students enrolled next year that should significantly decrease the cost of Project Alert and Exchange City.

Enrichment Classes would start with \$2500; Tutoring was budgeted \$5500 last year.

In order to commit 50% or less, we need to stay under \$11000 total commitment for start-up for the coming school year.

\$3000 Prevention Services

\$1550 Author Visits

\$2500 Enrichment Classes

\$2500 Math Club

Kathy Anderson made a motion to approve the above amounts for start-up commitments for tax credit funds for the 2008-09 school year. Sally Rath seconded the motion.

Next Meeting:

First meeting for upcoming school year:

Two dates were proposed: August 18th or 25th; Site Council members agreed on August 25th at 3:30p.m.