

Site Council Minutes

Kennedy Middle School

April 16th, 2009

Meeting convened by Charlie Smith, Principal.

In attendance: Michelle Bierman, Greg Harrowe, Janell and Kaycee Schoellhorn, Chris Belonger, Tommy Morrow, Yvonne Twedt, Jeremy Cohen and Cecilia Sloan (Recorder)

Charlie welcomed all Site Council members along with Lisa Christon who attended as the person interested in serving as our sixth grade representative.

There were no minutes taken at the February 18 meeting. Our March 19 meeting was cancelled because of the changes in our staffing due date to the district, as dictated by the uncertainty of our funding at the time. It was planned that our Site Council was to review our staffing as it went in to the district.

It was proposed by Michelle Bierman and seconded by Janell Schoellhorn that Cecilia Sloan be our recorder.

Old Business:

Review Parent Surveys:

Site Council reviewed the Parent Surveys (sent out in the fall) and the related graphs. Approximately 80 surveys were returned and, because they were returned as anonymous, it was not possible to know if a survey represented a family with one child or more than one child at the school. Some of the items discussed included the area of homework, how much is given, and the ways it can be used to teach/reinforce skill building, organizational skills, and follow through for our students. The frequency and amount of time required for homework varies by individual student and by individual teacher. Also, some parents are finding their ability to support their student's homework completion more and more difficult. The surveys were most likely done by our most active parents. We are finding a big divide on who has or does not have computer access. We have had discussions on ways to help those parents who do not have computer access by providing computers and training for them at the school. We will need to focus more time and attention on our PTO/Booster club. Often when parents find their child has reached the middle school they perceive that their participation is not needed/wanted. Since this is not true, we need to do a better job at making sure parents know they are most definitely needed during the middle school as well as the elementary years. Michelle would like to see Kennedy improve in the area of bullying/harassment and Charlie would like us to focus more on after school programs. The main purpose of our survey was to get a read on our school from the Kennedy community. Greg Harrowe suggested that we put the survey results on the Kennedy website.

Update School Mascot:

Names submitted for consideration include: Sharks, Explorers, Nutria, Volunteers, and Rushing Rivers. Jeremy Cohen will submit these names to the staff for a vote and will then submit the top 2 names to our students for their vote.

School Improvement Plan:

Charlie has suggested that we delay formally writing our school goals as the current school board's goals are changing to include instead numbers and percents around closing the achievement gap for students of color. Nancy Jo White, our current Student Achievement Coordinator is looking at how these students can be supported. As a group, these parents struggle as their students fall out of the achievement gap range. As a school, we are being asked to zero right into that group. It has become clear from the board that we must make progress in math (defining the cultural diversity piece while moving along. We must define what has been done and establish goals. Although all of this is not currently neatly documented in a color coded, data driven paper report, we are currently working through this while relying on lots of people to assist in many ways and provide input. A realistic time to develop and publish this report in paper form would be the beginning of the 2009-10 school year. If we were to continue with our current document that was completed at the end of 2006, we would be going backwards, since we have accomplished all the goals listed in that document. We will need to work out and establish a brand new baseline, keeping in mind that we are currently doing the work to improve our school, even though we do not have the finished document in place.

New Business:

Approve 6th Grade Parent:

The Site Council approved the acceptance of Lisa Christon as our 6th grade representative. Lisa will check with her son Jimmy who may also apply to be our student representative.

Review and Discuss Staffing Plan for 2009-2010 → moved to the next meeting.

Review and Discuss School Safety Plan → moved to our next meeting.

Our next Site Council meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2009, from 3:40-4:40 pm.