

Site Council Meeting Minutes - October 15th, 2008

Members in Attendance:

Charlie Smith (Convener), Greg and Iao Harrowe, Janell and Kaycee Schoellhorn, Tommy Morrow, Jeremy Cohen, Yvonne Twedt, Chris Belonger and Cecilia Sloan (Recorder)

Members Absent:

Michelle Bierman

Information:

Carl Hermanns from the Superintendent's Office gave us a short overview of the Local Option Levy Renewal property tax that will continue to provide money for 4J school operations. The current levy expires in 2010, and was first approved by voters in 2000 and renewed in 2004. Ballot Measure 20-137, on the November 4, 2008 election ballot, would renew the levy at the same tax rate for another five years, through June 2015. The district expects the levy to generate between \$15 to \$17 million per year.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 17 meeting were read and approved with the following correction:

Greg Harrowe asked that we add a warm and inviting stickie note to our web page which is user friendly and gives immediate access to the date for the next and future meetings, as well as a call for the agenda. We will ask Will Seltzer, our web master, to make this addition.

Old Business

Name of New Kennedy Mascot

We will again be working on coming up with a new mascot for Kennedy, thanks to Jeremy Cohen, who has volunteered to coordinate the process and make it happen for us. We will include lots of student input/involvement this time making sure that our choice is middle school friendly but also viable over time. Jeremy will spark the discussion with the staff regarding the process for selection and will bring this all back to the Site Council.

Kennedy electives teachers will now give their students pass/fail "A" grades. Some teachers will choose to use the letter "A" grade and some will not. The "A" will reward those students who are doing exceptional work and the pass will help students who have a difficulty with an elective in that they will not be penalized with a low letter grade.

Kennedy School Improvement Plan

We continue to update and work on our School Improvement Plan. We are also beginning to create a Kennedy responsibility grid which details who is responsible for areas of decision making. The staff will meet at our annual DAC Day retreat on October 24 and is planning to come up with a beginning draft on that day. This draft will be taken over by a small group of staff and will be brought back to our staff and Site Council.

Michelle Bierman will bring harassment/bullying data to a future Site Council meeting.

Students in our computer labs are no longer encountering as much interference from the new District 4J security protocol.

Charlie will connect with Corey Hoogendoorn regarding student murals and a student hand painting project. It is Mr. Hoogendoorn's plan to start with a mural in his room.

New Business

Greg Harrowe submitted a copy of the Chapter 329 – Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century: Educational Improvement and Reform, 2007 Edition. He would like our Site Council to be aware of this information and to discuss how we address it. Greg has also asked that the Council be working toward ever increasing parent participation in our Council. Charlie Smith reminded us that there are formal and informal venues for parent participation, and we should all be aware of the benefits in our contemporary society of making these informal gatherings available and useful for our parents. In order to attract more parents to the Site Council, we will add a call for the agenda to our web page along with the dates of our Site Council meeting.

New John F. Kennedy Opinion Survey / New Draft

We are looking for ideas on how to best send this survey out to parents as well as how to be sure we get lots of them returned. One idea was to mail the survey to parents and ask them to return it on the afternoon/night of their parent/teacher conference. Greg Harrowe volunteered to enter the comments/responses into an Excel spreadsheet. Charlie will keep the Site Council updated on where we are with the survey.

Meeting Minutes

Janell Schoellhorn discussed the format of our Site Council Meeting Minutes, as they were very detailed (probably more than in the past). She asked if anyone in the Site Council was interested in continuing in this detailed format by volunteering to record the minutes for future meetings. Cecilia Sloan will continue to record and transcribe the Minutes of the Site Council Meetings.

Charlie requested that our November 19 meeting be moved to November 20 and that the Site Council look at the possibility of moving our future meetings to Thursday from 3:45 to 4:45 pm.

Agenda for November 20 Site Council Meeting

1. Review and approve minutes from the 10/15 meeting
2. Establish whether or not we have a quorum present
3. Old business
 - Naming of a new Kennedy mascot
 - Kennedy School Improvement Plan/Kennedy Responsibility Grid
 - Michelle Bierman to bring harassment/bullying data
 - Proposal for a student hand painting project/student murals with Mr. Hoogendoorn
 - John F. Kennedy Parent Opinion Survey
4. New business
 - New 6th grade parent and student representative for the Site Council
 - Moving future Site Council meetings to 3:45 – 4:45 pm on the third Thursday of the month.

A Call for the Agenda

Please send agenda items to Charlie Smith, Convener via email---smith_ch@4j.lane.edu
The Next Meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2008 from 3:45-4:45 pm in the Kennedy Library.