

Polaris at Ebert Collaborative School Committee  
Minutes May 2, 2016

**1. Call to Order**

- Marisa Hudson-Arney - parent (co-chair)
- Jennifer Reynolds - parent
- Michelle Higgins - paraprofessional
- Catherine Forington - teacher
- Anne Sterrett - principal

**2. Principal's Report**

- Universal Improvement Plan:
  1. District wide, early literacy and "whole child" goals will be chosen for 2016-17 school year.
  2. Anne requested input from CSC on "whole child" values and priorities
  3. The CSC offered ideas about service learning, curriculum options and other "whole child" priorities
  4. Anne will work with staff and SLT to determine how we will craft our UIP goals
- Staffing:
  1. Kendall Finch has been hired to be a first grade teacher.
  2. Carlos Medina will be moving to Centennial Elementary. Anne will be interviewing this week for a new FM.
  3. Para-professionals: Pam plans to return. We will hire two positions over the summer.
- Budget and Staffing:
  1. Things worked out to have the school psychologist 3 days a week. Anne clarified for the committee the main functions of the school psychologist (affective needs of the whole school; small group support; contribute to classroom cultures; support IEP support). CSC suggested asking for a Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday schedule to avoid too many Monday holidays.
  2. We will have our health-tech five days a week and the school nurse one day a week.
- Professional Development Priorities:

1. This summer, DPS professional development will happen for the UIP goals of early literacy required by the whole staff. Anne is working on developing a way to personalize this learning for our school.
2. GT Institute will also be required for the whole staff
3. Genre study training will happen throughout the year to support our literacy goals (since we are not working with the other DPS literacy curriculum "Engage NY / EL")
4. Training in whatever whole child initiatives will also occur throughout the year next year.

### **3. CSC Elections**

- Messages have been sent out to request parent candidates for CSC next year
- In tandem with the wide-spread messaging, face-to-face conversations will elicit candidate
- May 13 submittal date was chosen for putting names in
- Faculty / staff nominations will also be requested by the same date.
- Committee discussed the options for a community member (pros and cons and requirements)

### **4. SLT elections**

- Elections will be organized for new members, if needed. It's unclear if it's they are annual positions or bi-annual positions. Union rep (non-elected), primary person, specials person, intermediate person and one appointed "at large" person and Anne.

### **5. Advanced Kindergarten issues**

- Marisa reflected concerns from the parent community about the decision to not automatically move children from Adv Kindergarten into first grade here. Also, some families may not stay in ADK next year because they won't be guaranteed to stay at Polaris.
  - The committee discussed the issue at great length. Anne will contact the GT department with our questions and keep the communication open and positive.
- **Next Meeting - Tuesday, May 31 7:45 a.m.**