

CSC Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 6, 2017 4 p.m.

Present: Marisa Hudson-Arney (parent); Peggy Batchelor (parent); Anne Sterrett (principal); Jessica Rogers (teacher); Corina Hall (DPS Financial partner); Lee Cooper (DPS Instructional Superintendent); Tim Kirkland (PTO Rep.).

Discussion

Budget discussion:

1. Corina led budget discussion:
 - Categories of money
 - GT – money – magnet qualified kids get this money;
 - Performance allocation – for being a green school
 - Mill levy funding – specific requirements
 - School reserve – flexible money from district; we didn't purchase curriculum so we have this money.
 - Art & Music – mill levy money continues on forever.
 - Mill levies go on forever unless revoked or changed by vote.
 - Tutoring – can spent on general funds and will be spent on Katie Ray here – tech teacher
 - Whole Child funding – mental health support. Mill Levy funding. Lisa 3 days/week.
 - Non-salary budget. From Mill Levy for supplies and books.
 - Supplies – Jessica and Anne feel like it is adequate money.
 - Summary tables and graphs.
 - 13% non-salary expenses
 - Increased enrollment for next year – by 3 students; 339 – 2nd = 26; 1st = 25; 3rd = 27; about the same for 4th and 5th grade;
 - Early literacy specialist: paid to go to meetings to see what they teach; Kendall Finch did this role this year; DPS would like this to be rolled into TLC.
2. Results of Para Survey sent to Teachers
 - Anne received good comments from the teachers on the para survey.
 - Her goal for next year: Make sure paras aren't scheduled during planning/specials.
 - Most people have paras in the morning.
 - Goal is 3 hours/day in primary.
 - Ellen has more paratime in KG.
 - Paratime decreases as the kids get older.

- Some teachers are less impressed with the skills of the paras this year.
 - Comments indicated a preference for people that want to be a teacher. Good comments from teachers.
- Paras typically work with small groups OR they work with large groups while the teachers work with the small groups.
- Hired a new para to take Michelle's place.
- Good for hiring purposes to know what the goal is.
- UNC – Center for Urban Education. Relationship.
- Goal: 8 or 9 paras – same classroom hours.
- Anne – thinks it is such a value for parents and teachers. Asking teachers to personalize education and keep it joyful – having the extra person really helps the kids. Touch base with every child.
- Anne – make sure that the new hires understand our school culture; what are our core beliefs around expectations; consequences rather than punishment. What works for our school; happy place. That continues going forward.
 - TLC Model: Catherine Forington – work with teachers in building; new teachers; paras.

3. Math Curriculum

- Peggy - Surveyed as many teachers as she could regarding the math curriculum – Math in Focus.
- In general, the feedback was pretty positive. No math curriculum is a silver bullet. The longer you spend with it, the better you get to know it and you know where the holes are you need to fill in.
- Experience – math in focus is good at rigorous instruction.
- Jessica – agrees with Peggy. Now that we've been able to accelerate, it has been great. Learning how to persevere. Headed in the right direction. The more you teach, the better you get at it. Go deep in the 3rd grade math in focus. Every unit focuses on real world problems.
- Training for new teachers?
- New edition for Math in Focus. Training teachers on how to use all the bells and whistles of Math in Focus.
- Teachers want to learn about newest edition of math in focus.
- What about the new kids? Jessica – they may have skipped 2nd grade math. But they are doing well.

4. New CSC member – Marisa will add something to the ePost to solicit submissions.

5. Polaris at Ebert – Anne put in the name change request with DPS. Lee says they will get approval to change the name. School can change that. DPS can change the signage on the building. Change to Polaris Elementary.
6. Next meeting – Whole child curriculum. Revised SPF.