

MINUTES FOR ROBERT E. WILLETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE
COUNCIL AND POSITIVE CLIMATE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Public notice having been duly posted as required, the second meeting of the 2009-10 school year was called to order at 4:03pm in the Staff Room at Robert E. Willett Elementary School.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Heidi Perry, Tracy Kaplan, Kim Mann, Rick Blacker, Chris Weber-Johnson, Laurie Kurth, Christine Firpo, Leora Gershenzon, Mike Nolan, Jaana Remes and Laura Averett. A quorum was present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by T. Kaplan at 4:03pm. Roll was taken.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

The council was asked to review the minutes from September 16, 2009. There were no corrections to the minutes. R.Blacker moved to approve the minutes as written. J. Remes seconded. All approved.

4. Committee Reports

R. Blacker attended the district level E.L.D. Committee Meeting. The district will try to include a program which analyzes the language patterns children go through as they learn.

5. Site Update

H. Perry is still reviewing STAR data for individual students. October 19 begins Save a Gallon contest. Students log onto "save gallon.org" to log alternative transportation miles. There will be prize incentives all academic year. A new report card is being introduced. Teachers will use it "next trimester if not sooner."

H. Perry has asked Associate Superintendent Clark Bryant if Willett could use the \$9828.00 remaining in the budget on a Math Specialist. H. Perry would like to hire a M.S. 5 days a week but expects to get 3 days per wk, 3 hrs per day. This would leave about \$1800 in the budget. A candidate could be placed quickly. T. Kaplan and H. Perry have been reviewing the budget.

Math support target students will be recommended by teachers. The math support goal is to increase basic number sense and basic fact knowledge and to increase CSTs. H. Perry has had math support at all the other sites she's worked. She feels not having a school M.S. in recent years has taken its toll. In regards to the new Everyday Math program: will it be helpful having math pull-out in a year when teachers are still learning the new program? H. Perry answered the M.S. would only be dealing with (pulling out) basic and below proficient students. Could we "piggy back" an intern with the math support person to bolster the program's effectiveness? This was met with support and comments that interns would not take away from the budget.

M. Bernard requested funding for 4 more hrs per week to assist the Reading Program, costing approximately \$2000. The program is serving 72 students in 2009-10, plus ELL, vs. 90 students in the 2008-09 Reading Program. M. Bernard is also down one paraeducator from 2008-09. There are 17 additional students who could be helped. She would like to monitor their book selections but cannot without another qualified adult. There was a request for clarification regarding Reading Program pull-out. Some students had been pulled out of class during math which was a problem. M. Bernard was adamant that she be informed when this occurs as she will "stop it immediately". M. Nolan shared, from his family's experience, the Reading Program is very effective.

6. Site Plan Review

H. Perry walked the committee through the draft of the School Plan for 2009-10. In the draft H. Perry and T. Kaplan have updated the goals based on the school's current budget.

H. Perry wants math proficiency increased to the highest API in the district. R. Blacker noted for math, some 5th graders appear to have "finally got it in 6th grade". There was a question regarding how the new math program may affect proficiency numbers at year's end.

CELDT was not included in the draft. ELAP has entire budget available. A decision needs to be made

how to use the remainder of SLIB grant. For ELD, H. Perry wants kids to increase their proficiency. She noted students at our site tend to learn English quickly. For English Language Arts, a purchase was made from EIA funds. Willett went in with Pioneer Elementary halving the cost to approximately \$550. The order should be received in November.

2nd graders had the biggest drop in Math and English. Further discussion of possible causes is needed to help resolve the issue. H. Perry looked at individual students in the basic and below proficiency level. What can be done to improve their areas of strength? She thought there may be the same trend this year. As an overflow school, kids from other schools or other districts may affect results. Students who have attended Willett since kindergarten appear to be ahead of some student transfers.

T. Kaplan expressed she is not comfortable that the Site Plan draft is skewed toward academics. The funds need not be spread evenly but that the plan is "ripe to doing something for School Climate". J. Remes reminded the committee the PTA can fund the Intramural Program. This program has been very well received by students.

R. Blacker made a motion to hire a Math Specialist 3 days a week at 3 hrs per day with 1 hr for prep time. Additionally, he moved to approve M. Bernard's request for an additional 4 hrs of support. J. Remes seconded. All were in favor. H. Perry believes a candidate for M.S. can be placed in a couple of

weeks.

H. Perry will revise Site Plan draft. The draft must be approved at the December 2, 2009 meeting.

7. School Climate

a. Create student survey for December release.

Heidi Perry will ask Student Council to draft questions. The committee brainstormed ideas for school climate questions. Some thoughts: rephrase questions (at 2nd grade "are you comfortable with...?" vs. "do you like...?", for 4th - 6th, "how do you feel about...?"). Also, questions regarding bullying or being bullied may help identify potential issues. Questions regarding homework. For upper grades designing questions with end result in mind. Topics may include: safety in class, on the playground; swearing; friendship issues; feeling respected, seeing respectful behavior on playground. Possible responses offered: students "strongly agree" through "strongly disagree". Use 2- 3 Likert scale. An opportunity at end to express feelings not addressed in questionnaire.

H. Perry would like committee members notes.

M. Nolan attended Coordinating Council of Site Committees. There is still a struggle to breach the achievement gap between white/Asian students and Latino/Black students. Elizabeth Fong and Mariah Mallet(?), Davis Senior High students in Social

Justice class, made a presentation addressing how views/opinions of race get programmed at the preschool age.

8. Adjournment

R. Blacker moved to adjourn meeting at 5:45pm. C. Firpo seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned.