

Willett School Site Council
October 19, 2011
Minutes

In attendance: Heidi Perry, Christine Firpo (convening), Michelle Agnew, Cynthia Carter Ching (recording), Barbara Archer, Stephen Bristow, Laura Averett, Paula Badham, Kim Foerster, Leslie Whiteford

1. Order and Roll

3:59pm Christine Firpo called the meeting to order.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was entered.

3. Previous minutes

Heidi moved to approve the minutes of the previous September meeting (with two minor typo corrections), Stephen seconded. Minutes were approved.

4. Board of Education Visit

Gina Daleiden talked about the parcel tax renewal and presented an overview of what Measures Q and W fund, a history of the measures, and the renewal process. Both measures will be combined into a single measure this year on the ballot, and the board will be investigating via polls whether there is any voter tolerance for increasing the bond and by how much or extending the term. Heidi asks the board to investigate what the cost would be to add four 50% counselors for each elementary school site. Seniors over 65 can vote yes without paying, if they apply for an exemption. Barbara asked if the board wants a Site Council endorsement, similar to PTA endorsements—since teachers sit on Site Council, this is probably not allowed since staff is on the council and it is a part of the school. Ballots will be sent to registered voters on February 3rd and are due back March 6th.

5. Committee Reports

a. SPAC: Heidi Perry summarized a SPAC committee report from Elizabeth, as well as providing her own information from a district report. The Superintendent reports a good start to the year with a decent balance, but its reserves are low, so outcomes are bleak. Brief discussion about the difference between fund balance and cash reserves. IOUs from the state have resulted in the district having to borrow money. Secondary school concerns about whether teachers are using ParentConnect consistently. We are not sure what will happen with a current bankruptcy litigation with the company (Zangle). Depending on the outcome, Willett may need to go with a new SIS. There are no plans to reduce the school year next year, in terms of instructional days. Parents expressed a concern in secondary about consistency of course offerings and instructional equity, with many students receiving outside help & tutoring for courses like algebra. SELPA (Special Education

Local Plan Agency) does mental health services for special education students, but districts now have to take that over and provide their own services (no more automatic third party) and take bids on providers—Yolo County Mental Health has provided this service in the past but did not bid, and thus all new mental health services will come in and this results in some upheaval for long-term client-counselor relationships. Davis Schools Foundation made a 120K grant to the district – this is for para-educators only, no flexibility at site level for usage of funds.

b. GATE Advisory: Michelle Agnew. All classes at 4th grade at all sites are full, with a waiting list of 34 students. Only two students on the waiting list at 7th grade. There has been a narrowing of what is accepted from outside evaluation (i.e., other than paper/pencil OLSAT). 68K is budget for GATE – just for management and Sac State testing, not teacher salaries. District homework policy survey came out at the end of the year last year, also again in fall, as a result of low participation in the spring. Staff want the policy to be meaningful and have a purpose. Mrs. Cook from Willett talked about the importance of study skills as a homework management strategy. GATE testing in 3rd grade isn't announced, and there is some concern about that, whether students are taking the tests seriously or understanding their importance. Discussion ensued about the way Davis does GATE and the extent to which there might be stratification problems that result.

c. ELAC & PTA: Michelle Agnew. Julie Cuetara presented that she wants to produce a yearbook. Fun run update: many last-minute registrations, some confusion as to the start time (1pm). Book fair is November 14-18 during conference week. Unfundraiser has brought in 23K so far, but checks have stopped coming in – we are 22K short of the goal (45K). Auction will take place to bring in more revenues, March 17. CDC will provide babysitting. Lamppost Pizza brought in \$300 for Family Food Night. Caffé Italia is next week, all day on Tuesday. Buckhorn tri-tip sales are in November. Innisbrook resulted in around \$700 revenue for school (\$1500 in sales). This is lower than in previous years, but it was a quiet sale, so that was to be expected.

6. Site Update

- 48 kids are running for student council. 4th-6th grades will vote.
- Traffic is still an issue. Parents are still parking in the white zone, red zone, u-turns in the middle of Sycamore, etc. When the police are there and handing out tickets, unsafe behavior decreases, but when the police aren't there, it's bad again. Sometimes we get a motorcycle officer, sometimes a squad car. Teachers are advised to not engage parents, because parents have been rude when asked to follow driving rules. Could this be an issue that the PTA takes up, so it doesn't become staff vs. parents? Barbara Archer is going to take it on.
- Reading Together: 5th-4th graders tutoring 3rd graders, will start soon.
- Our math specialist is up and running with groups, going well so far.
- Many activities are in full swing: Chess Club, Math Club, Challenge Club (running), Afternoons with T, lunchtime with Julie in the computer lab. These are all ways of

connecting kids to the campus. Kim Foerster is doing parent group for parenting skills one day a month.

- Outdoor Ed is finished fund raising, but the total cost is still 10.3K short. Individual donations are way down (only about 25 parents so far), and other funding at the school site is on hold until Heidi can figure out how much of the general site budget will have to be used to cover the difference. Site Council parents are encouraged to remind friends with older students to donate if they were planning to do so.

7. Site Plan Update

a. Review Plan. Heidi opened up SPARCS on the overhead and walked the council through the site plan pieces that are up on the website. Goals up now are: Improve English proficiency of student identified as ELL, increase school connectedness and safe environments, increase proficiency in English/Language Arts (for all students), increase Math proficiency (for all students). Council members are advised to keep these priorities in mind, particularly as we may have budget cuts or measures that sunset without renewal. Heidi's goal for any additional revenue (from DCF or whatever) is for a para-educator in math under Jack Dapkewicz.

8. School Climate

a. Climate Student Survey was administered last spring. Open-ended responses are recorded and numerical results tallied. Last year's council looked at the results and changes were made. Our council will look at this in the spring.

9. Closure

Stephen moved to adjourn the meeting, Michelle seconded. Christine adjourned the meeting at 5:27pm.