

Addison School Site Council Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2015
3:00 - 5:00 pm - Library

In Attendance: Amanda Boyce, Nikki Davidson, Carol Miller, Joy Frick, Kelli Tomlinson, Greg Wolff, Pat Gibbs, Victoria Lukanovich, Lyoti Nadhani, Irene Wong, Peter Phillips, Joy Frick, Jennifer Schlage

Absent: Lina Castenada

Welcome and Introductions: Amanda Boyce called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm, introductions were made by the group.

Teacher Updates:

Nikki Davidson - Adding kinesthetics into the classroom in 5th grade. Lots of movement integration. Nikki attended a session at Theatre Works. Piper is coming in next week to work w/ the faculty and infuse some of the exercises into their lessons.

New Curriculum adopted: Readers Workshop, a follow up to Writers Workshop part of the Lucy Caulkins program. This is being implemented across all grade levels.

The students are excited about reading and finding new books to read. Students brought in their favorite book and shared why they love that book. The aim is to get excited about reading everyday and reading across genres. Faculty took part and shared a design thinking activity: the marshmallow building challenge. Goal is to incorporate design thinking in to the curriculum. Kids built a structure to get the marshmallow structure as high as possible. Finished w/ a TED video on the subject. Six teams of four in each classroom.

Can you give an example of project based learning in the curriculum? (Question from Greg)

First grade example: Three versions of "Billy Goats Gruff" then the students build a bridge in teams.

Carol Miller - Readers Workshop and Advanced Writers was offered to faculty just before school started. First and Second grade in Reading and 3rd and 5th in Advanced Writing. Wonderful opportunity. Focus to empower children to go more in depth with their reading. What does that look like? How to adjust lessons to use different types of work. Very concrete examples. Empower children to compare and thoroughly understand what they are reading. Allow children to linger with a book. Go back and go more in depth. Grocery store analogy. When you get to the candy section you want to hang out and stay. Teacher modeling and student practice in a pair and then independently. Staff is looking at the connections between the Reading Workshop and Writers Workshop.

Also excited about having time in grade levels to have time for different strategies. Let's talk about rocks for example.

First Day of School - Great first day energy.

Landscaping in the kinder area - are there plans for this? Lack of shade. Cones are marking a hazard in the grass.

Blacktop was slurred the week before school started, unclear what the plans are for the landscaping. Amanda agreed to look into this.

Greg Wolff: Food - popsicles on the first day brought up by some Kindergarten parents. Connection between food and the gatherings. Too many sweets?

Question regarding project based learning adding that to the curriculum. We lost our design space this year. Do we have room for this somewhere in the future?

Jyoti: Coloquial language at school. "Ugly" kids playing. She has heard mostly negative terms used on campus. Kids are impatient and like using "cool" words that are usually negative

Irene: Transition to kindergarten went very well. Good opportunity to build community.

Principal Update:

Parking

Sept 15 six month city parking pilot program begins. We have 60-70 staff members who come to the school for possibly longer than 2 hours. \$233 per person for the 6 month period. District is working on behalf of the city.

The school is looking into day passes for faculty and staff. Should we buy passes for all faculty and staff? A portion and see how bad it is? Will be an ongoing issue that will come up again and again. It was agreed that the district will continue to work on this issue and we will monitor it as the program begins. It may be that because we are on the boundary of the program we made be able to accommodate at least the early arrivers (teachers and full day staff) on Lincoln and Webster south of Lincoln.

Potential Large Capital Donation.

A phone call came from the district in the spring. An anonymous private donor would like to make a major gift to Addison for capital improvement. If we were to dream big, what would we do? A \$25,000 grant was made by the donor to study this. Amanda has met with the faculty and staff and a small committee to study this. The same architect who designed Duveneck and Fairmeadow campus has been engaged. Amanda will continue to collect input until mid-September. A final proposal will be made the to the potential donor in mid-November.

Top priorities that have been identified so far:

maintain and expand field space

MP room that can accommodate everyone.

better lighting/ ventilation

flexible learning spaces

design/ creative spaces

get rid of portables

more administrative space

Input from Site Council

ground this opportunity in the "why" of our priorities

Bob Golton is the contact at the District for this opportunity and the Board has accepted moving forward. Lisa Gelfand (architect) has met three times since May with our Addison stakeholders and will continue to so. Key concern so far has been what is the best learning environment for students.

Next steps for this project: Calendar a few dates and other school visits. Architect is coming to a staff mtg on Sept 9th. Survey and get input from students. Next site planning committee is Lisa Gelfand, Carol Miller, Cindy Ando, Kisa Young, Bob Golton and Joy Frick is on Sept 16th. Amanda will get input from parents and others between now and then.

Site Council Input on this opportunity:

Prototype class room. We need flex space moving forward. Would be great to get the students making designs and involved in the process as stakeholders as well. Turn them into 3-D prototypes. 3D design program. Project based learning opportunity as part of the planning, design and construction.

Opportunity to reframe the conversation. What are we trying to achieve? We know as a community we want regardless of if the funding comes in. Not what should the building look like, but what do we want for our school?

Define your objectives first and then compare the designs against that. All function driven.

Dormers for more light into the classrooms. Room 1 should be the model for all of the classrooms. No fluorescent lights.

Alt School, GMS, Nueva are schools we should look at as they have all spent time on these various considerations with Alt School and Nueva having new campuses. All places to visit for classroom prototype. Important considerations: air, light, color, furniture.

Next Site Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10th from 3:00-5:00 pm in the Library. Meetings will held on the second Thursday of the month from 3:00-5:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.