

Addison Site Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 8, 2015
3:00 – 5:00 - Library

Present:

Kelli Tomlinson
Jyoti Nadhani
Peter Phillips
Greg Wolff
Irene Wong
Amanda Boyce
Nikki Davidson
Carol Miller
Lina Casteneda

Absent:

Pat Gibbs
Victoria Lukanovich Hurd

Kelli chaired the meeting as Pat was absent.
Kelli called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm

Nikki moved to approve the minutes. Lina & Greg seconded the motion. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

BUDGET REVIEW:

Amanda handed out a copy of the Site Council budget.
Amanda reviewed and recommended that the SSC approve the outlined technology program expenditures for:

Writing: Write Type Gr K-2
Reading: Reading A-Z (Raz Kids)

Greg asked how are we monitoring the efficacy of the various programs we are using? In addition, how are we vetting and evaluating all of the various new programs (000's) so we understand if they will meet our needs?

Our school based technology TOSA and the district technology group provide some vetting/evaluation. Currently, the teachers are dealing with many new programs and activities, Amanda suggested this would not be a good time to revisit the two suggested programs, but agrees there needs to be feedback to understand if the chosen programs are meeting the needs of the teachers/students.

Action Item: Amanda to follow-up and understand where the funding is coming from for the 'Type To Learn' program – district of site level?

In addition, gather feedback on how well the program meeting the needs of the students/teachers – are they using it or another program?

Amanda made a motion to approve the two technology items, Greg and Jyoti both seconded the motion. The motion as passed.

SITE PROJECT UPDATE:

Currently have \$25K grant for prelim plan / design. The 4th meeting with various parties occurred on Wed Oct 7th. Small teams have looked at four different schools for ideas. Visits were made to Duveneck and Fairmeadow, these schools recently were updated and were worked on by the architect working on the Addison project. The other two schools were outside the district: Girls Middle School (GSM) and Nueva lower and middle schools.

A recommendation from GSM is to work with, Architects of Achievement (AoA), Victoria Bergsagel (principal, see attachment for bio) as a consultant to the current architectural firm enlisted by the district. Funding for the consultant would have to come from the school or school donors, it was agreed going back to the anonymous donor asking for more money would not be appropriate and the district has no funds either.

Amanda made a motion to allocate \$2K for an initial engagement with AoA to assist in the development of the architectural presentation to the anonymous donor. Irene and Greg seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

SPSA:

Amanda asked to postpone finalizing the SPSA as she has not met with the other elementary principals (a meeting is scheduled in the next few days) and wants to have that meeting to gather more input before finalizing goals.

A quick update on thoughts for the various goals though:

- Reading and Writing: the Reader / Writer TOSA is working with the teachers to have them adopt a common model to use.
- Math: Amanda is meeting with district data person (Chris) to work through numbers to understand what would be reasonable math achievement goals for the various grades.
- Social and emotional: teachers will establish a meaningful connection (e.g. know 3 items about a child) outside of their classroom by end of the 2015 calendar year.

Additional recommendations:

- have students get to know 3 teachers (not their own) so they have more than one adult they feel comfortable with going to should the need arise.
- Teachers should rotate their monitoring positions during recess to be exposed to more kids; currently, teachers stay in same location and see the same kids.
- document strategies which are being done to connect with each student - like lunch bunch, etc.
- have buddies ask each other which adults they know as part of their getting to know one another.

DISASTER DRILL:

A message will be sent to parents about Disaster Drill for Tuesday Oct 13th. It will suggest parents drop by so staff can test the procedures.

SSC members are encouraged to observe / monitor and take notes

PRINCIPAL UPDATE:

Staff development tomorrow (Friday Oct 9th) – teachers can sign up for various sessions offered throughout the day.

TEACHER UPDATE:

Carol: 1st gr getting ready for Halloween, getting to know all of the students and establishing coordination between the teachers.

Nikki: 5th grade embroiled in Balclutha this week and for next few. Doing book clubs, evaporation in science, Native and American history.
Lee Mitchell going on paternity leave for 6 weeks, will start next few days or week
Custodial update: locking gates over weekend appears to reduce some of the broken bottles and other vandalism that has been occurring
Telling dog owners their dogs need to be on leash
Amanda spoke to Ron Ellis (district person) about having someone present on weekends to interact with and remind people their dogs need to be on leash. No final decision has been made yet if this person will start at Addison.

PARENT UPDATES:

Greg attended and sent around notes (see Appendix A) on two recent meetings he attended: Challenge for Success, Sparking Creativity, Imagining Tomorrow's Schools
Enrollment Management Council (EMC) focus group – a district meeting to discuss enrollment and new campus needs. Decision, enrollment is leveling out and there is no need for a new campus as once thought. But the group is exploring other teaching options within existing campuses.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Appendix A

Challenge Success event: 'Sparking Creativity: Imagining Tomorrow's Schools'

Play, Passion, and Purpose -- Those 3 P's were my big takeaways from Tony Wagner and the Challenge Success event last Friday night at Stanford. Tony is a former educator and now a education fellow / resident expert at Harvard's Innovation Lab. His book "Most Likely To Succeed: Preparing Our Kids for The Innovation Era" stands a very good chance of sparking and marking a fundamental shift in what society asks schools to do (the associated documentary Most Likely To Succeed was screened at Gunn last year and began a process that led to the current consideration of a 3rd, project based high school by the Enrollment Management Committee of the school board. More on EMAC below.)

Tony's core message was that intrinsic motivation matters most for success and life. Behind every great innovator he studied (including many well known to the valley) there was a common thread -- one adult, usually a teacher, who really connected with that person as a child to ignite their passion. In most schools, those teachers were the outliers, the ones who did things "different." In a few schools (such as High Tech high and others) those teachers were the norm. Focusing the learning environment around play, passion, and purpose and embracing the appropriately "different" teaching styles creates an environment which fosters those strong bonds between adults and children which will lead to more innovative, internally motivated students who have deep experience in collaboration (and the rest of the 4C's) and are best suited to thrive in a world where knowledge is free but skillful problem solving in complex domains is highly valued.

Obviously there's much more depth and practical information behind this movement. (They are supposed to send me a link to the video for the full event which I'll share in addition to the sites below.)

<http://challengesuccess.org/>

<http://tonywagner.org/>

EMAC focus group

3 key learnings:

1) primary school enrollment is predicted to level off, high school enrollment will continue to grow a bit (over 2k / high school) but current capacity should be sufficient to handle load for foreseeable future so enrollment pressure by itself would not necessitate a new campus at this time.

2) Nevertheless the board is considering a wide range of possibilities such as new choice school(s), choice schools within existing schools, a new, smaller high school (or possibly 6-12) organized around project based learning or other approach that addresses needs not currently met by Gunn/Paly, etc. Our particular focus group pushed very hard for expanding Middle School options (to create more intimate experiences for all students and respond to the unmet needs evidenced by observation that many girl students opt for private middle schools).

3) Any new schools would likely not be online until 2019 at earliest (and they are still a very long way from even recommending a new campus much less starting the process to design and build one). However, other changes such as additional choice programs and other ideas to improve the experience and create additional options for students / families are likely to come out of this process and be put in place much more quickly.

Addison school design suggestion

Should we consider including a parent project room as part of the new school design? This suggestion has come up from multiple people in two different contexts.

First, in the course of discussing the above with local parents several suggested that parent involvement in real world projects that included students would be a win all around. The design sessions with Stuart were a great example of how this might work and, from my experience and everything I've heard, were a

great success. At the challenge success event I also bumped into a Barron Park parent who talked about how incredibly great the maker space was for their school and how it was really driven by the passion and interests of the parent/person who set up and runs the space. It's become a kind of hub for both students and parents. In looking at how to support parent involvement in these kinds of spaces it was suggested that parents could be explicitly invited into an associated space that supports their projects.

Second, I've been involved with multiple parents who work part time on projects from home or coffee shops or similar venues. Many of these parents also put in many volunteer hours at the school. They were saying how great it would be if there were a space near the school that they could use. One explicitly talked about an alternative to the lunch tables that are often used for volunteer meetings.

My first reaction was that having a space for parents associated with campus would obviously never work. But on the other hand, this is really an out of the box idea that could generate a lot of social capital and increase the potential for meaningful adult-student interactions as well as increase trust amount adults in the community. Turns out there's also precedent for parent centers on campuses (including LAUSD, though admittedly those centers generally target a different population but nonetheless they do provide a space on campus with computers and other tools available specifically for parents.) I'm still not sure about this whole concept of a space for parents on campus but thought I would pass it on to this group.

Apologies for the longish email but wanted to share these notes before the memories faded. Happy to discuss in detail if there's interest.

Cheers,
-Greg